

LIFE GROUPS – LEADER OUTLINE
Sunday Sermon Notes – Discussion – Application
Esther 5

What If Getting Everything You Want Isn't Enough? (POWER OF INFLUENCE)

STARTER QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

- What's something you once really wanted but discovered wasn't as satisfying as you expected?
- Have you ever achieved a goal only to find yourself wanting something else afterward?
- If you could change one thing about your life right now, what would it be?
- Describe a time when you followed a plan that was determined by your will rather than God's Word.

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER – Esther 5

- Have each group member read a couple of verses that will be covered during the study time.

PRAY FOR THE TIME TOGETHER IN THE WORD

- Invite someone in the group to open the study time in prayer.

HIGHLIGHTS and OBSERVATIONS OF THE TEXT

- What risk did Esther take when she approached the king, and how did he respond? (v. 1–2)
- What did the king offer Esther, and what does his response reveal about the favor she received? (v. 3)
- What did Esther request first, and whom did she invite to the banquet? (v. 4–5)
- When the king again offered to grant her request, what did Esther do? (v. 6–8)
- What does Esther's willingness to wait suggest about her approach to this difficult situation? (v. 6–8)
- Why did Mordecai's refusal to honor him overshadow Haman's wealth, family, and promotion? (v. 11–13)

FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON – Reflect and discuss the main points

- What stood out in the sermon to you and why?
- How can we ensure we're discerning God's plan for our lives rather than devising them from our wills?
- What is the difference between patiently pursuing a wise goal and simply chasing immediate gratification?
- What is the difference between saying Christ is important and being fulfilled in Christ?
- How does trusting Christ change the way we respond when our plans are delayed or our desires go unmet?
- What does Haman teach us about the danger of allowing one unmet desire to overshadow the blessings we already have?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE THIS WEEK – PERSONAL APPLICATION

- If God did not give you that thing, would you still believe that He is good and that Christ is enough?
- What's it look like to pursue God's purposes without making our happiness dependent on an outcome?
- Is there an unmet desire in your life that is overshadowing the good things God has already given you?
- When someone overlooks, criticizes, or fails to appreciate you, how much does it affect your joy?
- What practical difference would it make this week to believe that Christ is your greatest treasure?
- What is one thing you want so badly that you are tempted to believe you cannot be happy without it?

CLOSE YOUR TIME IN PRAYER TOGETHER FOR ONE ANOTHER

- As we close out this study, spend some time sharing with one-another prayer requests for where you feel the Lord has been speaking to your heart about what might be a needed change in habits, thoughts, or attitudes as it relates to our walk with Christ.