

## Dig Deeper @Home – “Coincidence?”

### Complement to lesson on 05/31/2020 – “Overwhelmed by Grief”

#### ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What’s your favorite dessert?
2. Would you rather travel 50 years into the past or 50 years into the future? Why?

#### MEMORIZE – Esther 4: 15-16

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

#### READ Esther 4

##### Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What sticks out to you in this passage? What did you like? What didn’t you like?
  - a. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
2. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
3. In Esther 3:7 we are told that Haman “disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone.” Instead, Haman wanted to “destroy all the Jews.” Why such deep seated hate for the Jewish people living in the kingdom? Look up the following verses which will give some historical background.
  - a. Exodus 17: 8-16
  - b. 1 Samuel 9:1, 1 Samuel 15
  - c. Esther 3:1, Esther 2:5
  - d. What light do these verses and accounts shed on the relationship between Haman and Mordecai?
4. Read Proverbs 24: 10-12. How does this relate to Esther 4? More to the point, how does this relate to your life? In what situations is the LORD calling you to intervene in the areas where you live, work and play?
5. In light of these revealed truths, what changes might you need to make, and how do you feel you are being called to put this into action?

## **Experiential activity – Fasting, Praying, Waiting & Acting**

Today is the Day of Pentecost. A little less than 2000 years ago, a group of Jesus followers were huddled together in a room surrounded by fear and uncertainty. In chapter 4 of Esther, Jews all over the kingdom were filled with fear and uncertainty in the wake of the decree calling for their annihilation. In response, the people of God fasted and mourned. The disciples were gathered devoting themselves to prayer and waiting on God.

We all face uncertainties right now, especially in light of COVID-19 and decisions that are completely out of our control. Take time this week to fast, pray and wait on the LORD. Spend time in God's word (maybe the book of Philippians or 1<sup>st</sup> Peter). As you fast, pray and wait on the LORD, spend a considerable amount of time listening and writing. What is God saying to you? What is the Holy Spirit teaching you in the midst of all this? Who is Jesus calling you to reach out to? What situation is God calling you to step into in a way that requires Him to show up? After spending time praying, listening, and writing, put into practice what Christ is calling you to do. Share your experience with 3 other people and tell all about what God did as you fasted, prayed, waited and acted.

## **SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)**

Waiting Here for You - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em8EAHrW9fY>

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrJ3WKNeRA>

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

## **Sending prayer based on the lesson:**

May the Love of God, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And as you go in the communion of the Holy Spirit, may you affect and infect the places where you live, work and play with the love of God and the grace of King Jesus.