

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: How many hours of sleep do you need each night?

Question: What helps you sleep the most?

- A hard day's work
- An easy day of fun
- Reading
- Music
- When its time to sleep, its time to sleep
- Other: _____

Read Esther 6:1-13

A Sweet Providence from God

"That night the king could not sleep..." vs 1

What night is the author referring to? What is going on that night? (See Esther 5:9-14)

Question: What does the king do with his sleepless night? What does he learn? Why is this important?

Mordecai's life is in danger. He is unaware of Haman's gallows. He doesn't know that Haman is going to ask have him hanged. Esther doesn't know any of this either. Both of them are ignorant of the threat yet the Lord takes care of Mordecai by keeping the king from sleep.

How does this sort of providential care from the Lord make you feel?

- Safe
- In Awe
- Secure
- Makes me wonder what I should do
- Other: _____

Question: Can you think of a time in your life when God provided for you before you even knew you had a need?

How does the Providence of God help you face anxiety or fear?

A Cruel Irony for Pride

There are ironies everywhere in this passage. What ironies or reversals do you see in this section of scripture?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" (vs 6)

Question: What do Haman's thoughts reveal about himself?

- He thinks a lot about himself.
- He probably gives good birthday presents.
- He's a proud man
- He likes to help other people when they are feeling down.
- Other: _____

What does Haman ask for from the king? (vv7-10) Why are these things so important?

Question: What does Haman's pride ultimately get him? What sort of warning does this give to us?

What does Mordecai's humility bring him?

How do you normally feel when you are not recognized for a good deed or for good work?

Question: In your life right now, where can you see the Providence of God at work?

- Where I live
- My career
- My relationships
- My football team is terrible, but I'm not too worried about it. Is that what the question is asking?
- Other: _____