

### 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

How I've grown:

- I've conquered my fear of overindulgence.
- I lay on the horn or scream—never both.
- My inner child can beat up your inner child.
- I don't care what others think...Is that okay?
- I've reclaimed my victimhood.
- I finally bought a smart phone.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What national day of celebration do you enjoy the most? What makes it so special?

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Besides your birthday, which event in your life is an annual personal day of celebration? Why?

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### Read Esther 9:16-10:3

### We Feast to Remember

Question: Purim is a national Jewish festival that is still celebrated today. Why is that? How was it established? Where did it get its name?

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Why is it important for us to remember what God has done for us in our lives? Why do you think we tend to forget?

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How I can maintain an attitude of gratitude:

- Realize God has a purpose I may not understand.
- Choose to grow through the experience.
- Ask God for help to overcome my trouble.
- Focus on what I have, not what I don't.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Something I'm thankful for:

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Is there an event in your life that has gone from sorrow to joy? How do you remember this event?

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Purim is a day for giving to one another and to the poor. What prompts you to give to others, especially the poor?

- Tragedy
- Christmas
- A good commercial
- Guilt
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **We Feast to Look Forward**

As we read the accolades and accomplishments of Esther and Mordecai, there is a sentence that is out of place - the king has raised taxes (vs 10:1). Why do you think the author mentions this?

- He was angry about high taxes.
- The King was still in charge even though Esther and Mordecai have power.
- It's a cue for us to look for a better King.
- He wanted to get us angry at taxation without representation and have a tea party. Oh, wait, that's not in there.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: How does looking forward to Christ's return help us for today?

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### **Work It Out!**

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

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