

INTRODUCTION: 2020 was an unprecedented time. A “once in a lifetime” series of events that turned our entire world and current way of life upside down. Through all the chaos, we might wonder if God is at work and what our proper response should be. The book of Esther echoes many of these current cultural themes, and that is why it is the focus of our summer sermon series. By studying Esther, we want to ask hard questions, to be inspired when we find ourselves in places or positions we didn’t seek, and to feel encouraged when we aren’t sure we have what it takes to succeed. And we want to be reminded that God is still at work in the cultural chaos, accomplishing His good purposes today.

CENTERING: Take a moment to center yourself for communion with God.

READING: Esther Chapters 1 & 2

REFLECTING ON SERMON & SCRIPTURE:

- Has there been a time in your life when you wondered where God was or if He were paying attention? How do you respond when God seems absent?
- Looking back at those moments in your life, what do you think God was inviting you into as it pertains to your walk with Him?
- When life seems chaotic and challenging, how can you lean on your community for support in seeing the ways God may be at work?
- Spend some time reflecting on what may seem currently or in the past was a “for such a time as this moment” in your life. Share as you feel led.

PRAYING:

Esther 4:14 NIV: *For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. **And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?***

Spend some time in prayer over our country, our city, and for each other as we navigate this time and space we are living in. Please also keep Jim and Seth in prayer as they prepare to travel to Beirut.