

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: Book of Esther

REFLECTING ON SERMON & SCRIPTURE:

- Think of a time as a child when you discovered something you believed to be true was not true (i.e. the tooth fairy). How did you feel when you found this out?
- As an adult, give an example of a time when you were so convinced of something and then changed your mind.
- In your life with God, how have your beliefs and understandings about the Gospel changed from the time that you first decided to follow Jesus? What is different? What led to the change?
- How do you feel when you are categorized or judged based only on assumptions? To whom do you do that?
- “Proximity undermines prejudice.” Where have you seen this to be true in your own life? Are there people whom you would benefit from getting to know better? Who are they?

PRAYING:

Spend some time sharing prayer requests within your group. Please take some time to pray specifically for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and Haiti for protection, mercy, healing, and comfort.