

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 (Character focus: Mordecai)

REFLECTING ON SERMON & SCRIPTURE:

- Share a story time during which God was weaving things together on your behalf.
- As people of God, we are invited to be agents for God’s work here on earth. Looking at the role Mordecai played in God’s redemption of his people during the time of Esther’s reign as queen, what attributes of Mordecai’s character do you see as an emulation of Jesus Christ? How can these attributes help to push through barriers of fear, doubt, insecurity, or worry?
- Just like the leaders in the story and in our current time, we need one another in our walk with God. What are some ways your community can lock arms with one another in this journey? How can you and your community attune yourselves to what God is doing and the ways God may want to use you to be an active participant to His work?

PRAYING:

Spend some time sharing prayer requests within your group. We are living in challenging and uncertain times. Spend some time praying for our local and national leaders, our nation, our community, and one another. Remember that even in the midst of uncertainty, God is always at work!