**The Book of Esther**

Daily Devotional Week 1

**Day 1: God's Presence in the Shadows**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:7-12**

Psalm 139 assures us that God is always present, even when we cannot perceive Him. His unseen hand is at work, orchestrating events for His purposes, just as He did in the story of Esther.

* Reflect on a time when you felt God was absent but later realized He was working behind the scenes.
* How does the assurance of God's constant presence impact your current circumstances?

Prayer: Lord, help me to trust in Your presence even when I cannot see it. Open my eyes to recognize Your hand in the ordinary moments of my life. Amen.

**Day 2: God's Plan in Motion**

**Scripture Reading: Esther 1; Romans 8:28-30**

The events in Esther 1 set the stage for God's greater plan, reminding us of Romans 8, where God promises to work all things for the good of those who love Him. His plans are always in motion, even when hidden from our view.

* What are some areas in your life where you struggle to see God's plan?
* How can you remind yourself that God is working all things for your good?

Prayer: Father, thank You for working all things for my good. Help me to trust in Your perfect plan and timing. Amen.

**Day 3: God Uses the Faithful and the Flawed**

**Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

God chooses the weak and flawed to accomplish His plans, so that no one may boast before Him. This truth is evident in the story of Esther, where God uses both the faithful and the flawed to fulfill His purposes.

* In what ways can you allow God to use your weaknesses for His glory?
* How does knowing that God uses flawed individuals to accomplish His purposes affect your trust in His plans?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for using both my strengths and weaknesses for Your purposes. Help me to surrender all of myself to You. Amen.

**Day 4: Trusting God in Silence**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:8-11**

Isaiah 55 reminds us that God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours, and His word will accomplish what He desires, even when He seems silent. This encourages us to trust in His unseen hand, as demonstrated in Esther's story.

* What situations in your life require you to trust God despite His apparent silence?
* How do you typically respond when you feel God is silent, and how might you respond differently in light of Isaiah 55?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach me to trust in Your higher ways, even when I cannot hear Your voice. Strengthen my faith in Your promises. Amen.

**Day 5: Seeing God's Hand in the Ordinary**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-34**

In Matthew 6, Jesus reminds us not to worry, for God is in control of even the smallest details of our lives. This truth is mirrored in Esther's story, where God works through ordinary events and people.

* What ordinary aspects of your daily life might you overlook as opportunities to see God's hand at work?
* How can you cultivate a mindset of gratitude and awareness to better recognize God's presence in the mundane?

Prayer: Lord, help me to see Your hand in the ordinary and to trust You with every detail of my life. May I seek Your kingdom first in all things. Amen.