**Small Group Bible Study**

The Book of Esther

Part 1

**Summary of Key Points of the Message**

God's Plan is Already in Motion: Even when unseen, God's plan is unfolding.

God Works Through Both the Faithful and the Flawed: God uses all people to fulfill His purposes.

When God Feels Silent, He is Still Moving: God's providence is often hidden, working through ordinary events.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, thank You for Your constant presence in our lives, even when we cannot see it. Help us to trust in Your hidden work and to remain faithful and watchful for Your guidance. Open our hearts and minds as we study Your Word today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Opening Question or Icebreaker Question**

Have you ever experienced a time when you couldn't see how things would work out, but later realized that everything fell into place perfectly? Share your story.

**Bible Reading with Questions**

**Esther 1:1-22**

Take a moment to read the chapter slowly. Notice what stands out, what feels strange, and what’s *not* said.

#### **1. Where’s God?**

* Esther 1 doesn’t mention God at all. What do you think that tells us about how He works?
* What might this silence reveal about God's methods and timing?
* What part of Esther 1 feels the most confusing or human-driven?

#### **2. Broken Pieces, Bigger Plan**

* How do Xerxes' pride and Vashti’s defiance unexpectedly move the story forward?
* What does this say about God using imperfect or even ungodly people in His plans?
* Can you think of a time when something frustrating or unfair turned out to be part of God’s greater work?

#### **3. Faith in the Shadows**

* Re-read verses 10–12. Everything feels chaotic and human-driven. Where might God be at work *behind the scenes*?
* How does trusting God’s faithfulness help us when His presence isn’t obvious?
* Esther doesn’t enter the story until chapter 2. What does this delay teach us about waiting on God or trusting Him through confusing seasons?

**Romans 8:28-30**

* How does this passage assure us of God's sovereignty and purpose in our lives?
* What does it mean that God works all things together for good for those who love Him?
* How can this promise encourage us when we feel God is silent?

**Isaiah 55:8-11**

* How do these verses reshape the way you view God’s silence or hiddenness in Esther 1?
* What’s the difference between trusting in what you see and trusting in God’s higher ways?
* How does Isaiah 55:11 encourage you when God’s plan feels slow, unclear, or unfinished?

**Additional Questions Relating to the Message**

* How does understanding God's providence change the way we view our circumstances?
* Think about a past experience where you later saw God's hand at work. How can recalling this experience strengthen your faith in His ongoing work in your life today?

**Additional Scriptures**

* **Romans 8:28** – God works all things together for good.
* **Psalm 121:3–4** – He never sleeps or slumbers.

**Prayer Prompt**

*God, help me trust You when I can’t see what You’re doing. Remind me that Your ways are higher and Your plans are already in motion—even when they unfold in the shadows.*