**Small Group Bible Study**

The Book of Esther

Part 3

**Key Points from the Message**

* The world needs people who seek and hear God's voice
* Prayer shifts our focus from self-ambition to kingdom ambition
* Esther's response to crisis was to seek God first through prayer and fasting
* God-sized movements begin with prayer
* True faith says "yes" to God without conditions, not "yes, if" or "yes, but"

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, help us learn from Esther's example of seeking You first. Give us hearts that are willing to put aside our own ambitions for Your kingdom purposes. Guide our discussion and help us apply these truths to our lives. Amen.

**Icebreakers Question:** If you could have a direct phone line to any person (living or historical) for advice in tough situations, who would you choose and why?

**Bible Reading & Discussion**

**Read Esther 4:12-17** & **Esther 5:1-8**

* What was at stake for Esther in this situation?
* How did Esther prepare herself before taking action?
* What does her statement "if I perish, I perish" reveal about her faith?
* How did her approach to the king demonstrate both wisdom and courage?
* What can we learn from her strategic patience in not immediately making her request?

**Read Daniel 2:14-23**

* How did Daniel respond when faced with a life-or-death situation?
* What similarities do you see between Daniel's response and Esther's?
* What was the outcome of Daniel's prayer?

**Read Acts 4:23-31**

* What did the early church do when faced with persecution?
* What specific things did they include in their prayer?
* How did God respond to their prayers?

**Additional Discussion Questions**

* Why do we often pray as a last resort rather than a first response?
* What's the difference between "yes, if" faith and unconditional "yes" faith?
* How might our decisions be different if we consistently sought God first?
* What prevents us from having the kind of bold faith that Esther demonstrated?

**Application Questions:** Identify one area in your life where you've been saying "yes, if" or "yes, but" to God. What would it look like to shift to an unconditional "yes" in that situation? What specific steps can you take this week to seek God's guidance through prayer in this area?

Remember: "Prayer is the catalyst that shifts self-ambition to kingdom ambition." Consider making a commitment to pray first and react second in all situations this week.