

NOTES & QUOTES

Character

S K E T C H E S

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 5
JUNE 3, 2018

CONNECT (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. In chapter 4, Mordecai is despondent with grief - weeping and wailing publicly. How do you normally express or process grief (quiet tears, open spigot, seeking counsel, in community, going it alone)?
2. In chapter 5, the king promises to give Esther whatever she asks for. If you could ask the prime minister to do one thing and know that it would be done, what would you ask for?
3. In chapter 6, Xerxes is restless at night. For you, what's the secret to a good night's sleep?

THRIVE (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

4. Read Esther 5:1-8. These events come, "on the third day" (v.1). What is the significance of the third day (4:15-17)? Why is this relevant to what Esther is about to do and connected to what God is doing behind the scenes?
5. What might be the purpose in Esther's delaying tactics in giving her request to the king: Fear? Wisdom? Teasing?

6. Read Esther 5:9-14. Despite all the honour he receives, notice what infuriates Haman the most (see 3:2-6)? How is the proverb "pride cometh before the fall" displayed in Haman's life?
7. Read Esther 6:1-14. In contrast to Haman's pride, what does Esther's and Mordecai's humility bring them?

COMMIT (BE ON MISSION)

8. Is there an appropriate way to receive and respond to success and honour? In looking honestly at your life, are you content to do your good work quietly, knowing that God sees and will reward?
9. Pride is described as having either an overinflated or an inferior view of self. How does pride sneak into our lives and relationships in subtle ways? How does Jesus help us learn to walk in humility?

Ponder, Pray or Memorize this week

"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24