

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## Esther 4:1-5:14

**Ice Breaker:** What is an evidence of grace you have seen this week?

**Ice Breaker:** Was there a pivotal moment in your spiritual walk with the Lord that you can clearly see the Lord's hand behind?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What has happened in Esther 1-3? Briefly recap the storyline. Who are the main characters and what do we know about them?
2. **Read Esther 4:1-3:** Why is Mordecai mourning and in sackcloth? Where is he mourning and why might he be making a public display of his mourning? Who else is mourning with Mordecai?
3. In times of distress or trouble, how have you cried out to the Lord? What things might you encourage a friend to do who is experiencing distress? Why is repentance and turning to the Lord a key aspect of this?
4. **Review Esther 4:4-17:** What happens in this part of the story? Summarize briefly.
5. Why has Esther kept her true identity hidden all this time? Why does Mordecai say that that is no longer possible? Why is Esther hesitant to appear before the king?
6. What steps of spiritual growth do we see Esther take in this passage? How will these steps serve her in the rest of her story?
7. Why is Esther's willingness to give her own life such a powerful moment in the story? In what ways is it similar to Jesus' act on the cross? In what ways is it different?
8. Why is it such good news that God uses flawed people in his grand plan? What situations in your life have you, in the past or even in the present, listened to the lies of the devil who says, "You're not worthy to be used by God." How ought we to respond to this lie?
9. **Review Esther 5:** Summarize briefly. How does Haman reveal his folly in this text?
10. Our world is filled with powerful men, fully of folly. How do you see through the folly of the world and of men and cling to Christ? How does your heart respond to the unknown or the uncertainty of our world (loss of job, changing relationships, the 2024 election, etc.)?