

# Community Group

Week of November 6

## Esther 4:6-5:2

Today's big idea: Prepare to Leave the Comfort Zone

- Think about the last big trip you went on. How did you prepare for the trip, what did you do, and how far out did you start?
- Risk is required to leave a comfort zone. Which Community Group Guidelines best create a safe space where you can risk being vulnerable with the group?

## Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Esther.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Esther 4:6-5:2 in the Bible.
- What were ways in which Mordecai displayed fear and faith?
- What were ways in which Esther displayed fear and faith?
- What was the fasting and prayer designed to accomplish?

## As We Go

- Would you say that your life is controlled more by comfort zones or taking risks for the Lord? Why?
- What are the potential costs of staying in our comfort zones?
- What can you do to prepare for the risk that you need to take?
- Share prayer requests with one another and also pray for the gospel of Jesus Christ to motivate us out of our comfort zones.

## Announcements:

- Sunday 11/6 at 10am – Free Coffee with the Annual Report! HFC Vision Conference Q&A in the lobby (with Pastor Tim)
- Sunday 11/6, 11/13 and 11/20 – Discipleship Training (contact Naomi)
- Wednesday, 11/9 Chili Cook Off and Annual Business Meeting (7pm)
  - 5pm – set up / 5:30pm dinner / business meeting 7pm
- Faith Promise – We Serve Opportunity – Child Evangelism Fellowship Breakfast 11/11 (contact Naomi)



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## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

### **Confidentiality**

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

### **Don't Rescue & Don't Fix**

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

### **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

### **Use Humor Responsibly**

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

### **Give Everyone a Chance to Share**

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

### **Use "I" Statements**

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

### **Fight for Relationship**

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.