

## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Esther 1 & 2. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging/encouraging? What strikes you as you read?
2. What do you do when you feel like God isn't listening to you, or when you feel like God isn't doing anything necessary in your life?
3. What is something in your life that you look back on & say, "I never saw that coming"? Was it a positive or negative experience? Where was God in that moment?
4. Think about the characters in the story so far...King Xerxes, Queen Vashti, Mordecai, Esther. What do you know about their motivations or aspirations?
5. Xerxes lived for his possessions, passions, & pride. How does 1 John 2:15-17 warn about the danger of living for this world & what it has to offer? What warning is also found in Proverbs 16:18-19?
6. The main "character," God, is doing what at this point? What does that suggest? How will this influence the rest of the narrative?
7. Every decision has consequences. How have your decisions affected the future directions & outcomes in your life? Are there decisions you would "unmake" if you could, or choose differently if given a chance? What do you think would happen?
8. What is at stake in this part of the narrative? Why would a government establish a law that cannot be repealed? How is that a dangerous way to proceed?
9. Esther had to struggle with what it means to live faithfully in a pagan culture. What does it mean for you to live faithfully in a post-Christian culture? (where most Australians & the surrounding culture **not only** *don't share* your faith **but** *live & act contrary* to it)
10. In worship we noted that Esther is not the "winner" of a "beauty contest," but the favoured of all the King's sexual slaves taken by force to replace his Queen. What sort of courage & faith is required of Esther in these circumstances?
11. Esther has almost no control of her circumstances, but never forfeits her dignity or integrity. How do you see yourself, being fashioned with inner security & strength for those circumstances beyond your control?
12. What do you hear God calling you to do as a result of this part of Esther's narrative?

# Living Water Fellowship

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION    BREAKTHROUGH (RED ROCKS WORSHIP) -- CCL Licence 384660

### WELCOME & PRAYER:

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**SONG:**                    Only a Holy God

**BIBLE PRESENTATION:**                    Esther 1 & 2

### FAITH CHAT:

1. Share a time in your life when you felt God was missing in action or absent.
2. Share a time when you were certain God was active in the ordinary events & circumstances of your life.

**THE MESSAGE:**                    *GOD'S SILENT SOVEREIGNTY: WHEN GOD SEEMS ABSENT*

**OFFERING SONG:**                    *Jesus your Blood and Righteousness*

### PRAYERS:

### THE COMMUNION:

*Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship during Communion: VIDEO – SO GOOD TO ME -- CCL Licence 384660*

## GO IN HIS POWER

### THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God, the Father the Father is with you  
even when you are unaware.**

**Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SONG:**                    Desert Song

## SHOW HIS LOVE