9-WEEK STUDY ON THRIVING IN EXILE

WEEK 7

Exile: God is Working

Esther

WEEK 7

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Book of Esther Secondary text from this week: Romans 8:28

Read ahead for next week: Matthew 22:15-22, John 17:15, Romans 13:1-7

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To understand that God is working even when we can't see it

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you had a time machine that only worked once, what point in history (or future) would you visit, and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. What stood out to you about Pastor Doug's message on Sunday?
- 2. Pastor Doug mentioned that God is never explicitly mentioned throughout the book of Esther, but His evidence is everywhere. What are some examples of God working in the story of Esther?
- 3. Esther is one of many stories in the Old Testament where God uniquely placed one of His people in a position of influence. Can you think of any similar stories from the Bible? What do these stories tell us about the sovereignty of God?
- 4. Haman is an archetypal "villain." What characteristics make Haman the villain of the story? Do you ever see those characteristics in your own life? Explain.
- 5. Think about Esther's rise form insignificance to prominence. How do you think going from a low position to a position of authority could change how you view the world?
- 6. Read **Romans 8:28** together as a group. What does this verse tell you about coincidence? What does it tell you about God's providence and sovereignty?
- 7. Pastor Doug reminded us that "God is working even when we don't see it." When you think about that truth, how does it make you feel? Skeptical? Uncertain? Confident?

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WEEK 7

PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray for each other's worries, concerns, and challenges.

Pray on your own: Thank God that He is working even when you don't see it.

ACTION STEPS

Think about the position you're in, the relationships you have, and the talents, gifts, and resources available to you. Now, write down what you think God might be doing in and through those things?

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