

Discussion Guide

Use the following questions for your Community Group discussions. It is not required that all will be used. Be sensitive to the flow of conversation and the leading of the Holy Spirit.



Part 3

Icebreaker: What are some takeaways from today's "Teach" session? *[Zoom participants can type in chat box or share.]*

If not mentioned, please share the following highlights:

- "You can be a part of God's plan. Remember he opens doors. He elevates. His providence brings it all together in His timing.
- Bitterness will take us to a pace beyond rationale.
- What the enemy means for evil God will turn around for good.
- Hatred will be punished; God is sovereign.

DISCUSSION

1. Today we were reminded once again of the providence of God. The world often refers to providence as coincidence. How is providence different from coincidence? *[God is sovereign, all-powerful, which makes him in complete control over all. Coincidence suggests things happen by chance.]*
2. What are some examples of God's providence in the book of Esther? *[Persia needing a queen (for Esther to eventually take her position); timing of Esther coming into her position as queen right as the decree to kill all Jews was issued; Haman preparing gallows for Mordecai only to be ready at the time to be used to hang Haman; Mordecai had some type of position or favor "within the gate" so that he was able to know of the plot to harm the king and that leads him to be elevated by the king in the end, etc.]*
3. Esther called a fast as she prepared to fulfill her role in God's plan by approaching the king. Why is fasting important to believers today? Discuss the role of fasting in the life of a believer.
4. Discuss what is meant by "bitterness will take us to a place beyond rationale."
5. Pastor said, "The enemy's attack on us is a tactical tool for our future deliverance." Recall how God turned around the enemy's tools and situations in Esther for His good. How has God turned things around for good in your life? Are there situations now that you are waiting for God to turn around? Can we pray about them together?

DEEPER DIVE

Pastor offered this question for us to consider: "How much of Haman is in me?" Discuss as desired AND consider prayerfully in your devotional times at home the following subquestions:

- Do I desire to control others?
- Do I feel threatened when others don't appreciate me as I think they should?
- Do I seek revenge or desire retaliation against others for my sake?

LEADERS: Please share your group's testimonies and/or plans with Shalon Clevenger, Group Team Lead [groups@abundantlifebaltimore.com; Slack #small-groups, 443-309-1429]