

LifeGroup Curriculum | Culture That Looks Like Jesus

OPENING SUMMARY (3 sentences)

In the story of Esther, we've seen a woman whose **identity was rooted before her position**, whose **mission was revealed through obedience**, and whose **impact flowed from faithfulness rather than force**. Esther didn't chase influence—she lived with wisdom, humility, courage, and discernment, and God used that posture to save an entire people. Her story shows us that **God shapes culture through character**, and that lasting impact always flows from how we live, not just what we believe.

KEY SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: *Esther 4:13–16, Esther 5:1–8, Esther 7:3–4, John 10:11, Philipians 2:3–4, James 2:1–4, Ephesians 4:25, John 1:14*

**PASTORING > PRESENTING, HUMILITY > RIGHTNESS, PRESENCE > PREFERENCE,
CLARITY = KINDNESS, GRACE ≠ COMPROMISE**

PORCH TALK

(Intentional, relational, identity-level)

Conversation Starters (choose 3–4):

- When you think about church culture, what has shaped you more—what was taught or how people treated you?
- Where do you see culture shaping people more than position or title?
- Which Culture Code feels most natural to you right now? Which feels most costly?
- How do you think the way we live together affects whether people feel drawn to Jesus?

Does anyone remember our five Culture Codes?

Reference Scriptures: *1 Peter 5:2–3, Ezekiel 34:11–16, Proverbs 11:2, James 1:19–20, 1 Corinthians 9:19–23, Philipians 2:4, 2 Timothy 2:24–25, Jude 1:3–4, 2 Timothy 1:13*

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LIVING ROOM

(Scripture + Culture Formation)

1. PASTORING > PRESENTING

Read: John 10:11

Esther Lens: Esther 4–5

Truth:

We're not performers—we're called to lead, love, and lay our lives down like Jesus.

Esther Connection:

Esther carries the weight of her people long before she speaks publicly. She listens, fasts, prays, and positions herself to serve rather than to be seen.

Discuss: What's the difference between presenting well and pastoring well? Where are you tempted to manage appearances instead of genuinely caring? Who is a living example of Pastoring > Presenting in your life?

2. BEING HUMBLE > BEING RIGHT

Read: Philippians 2:3–4

Esther Lens: Esther 5:1–8

Truth:

We choose people over arguments and posture over position.

Esther Connection:

Esther doesn't accuse, demand, or force outcomes. She approaches power with humility and trusts God with timing.

Discuss: Why is humility often harder than being right? Where do you feel the need to defend yourself instead of trusting God? Who has shown you humility that shaped your faith?

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3. PRESENCE > PREFERENCE

Read: James 2:1–4

Esther Lens: Esther 4:13–16

Truth: The gospel is undermined when preference replaces presence.

Esther Connection: Esther steps out of comfort and identifies fully with her people. She chooses risk over safety and presence over self-preservation.

Discuss: What preferences make it harder for you to be fully present? How does choosing presence reflect Jesus more clearly? Where might God be inviting you to show up differently?

4. CLARITY = KINDNESS

Read: Ephesians 4:25

Esther Lens: Esther 7:3–4

Truth: Truth spoken with love protects relationships and honors God.

Esther Connection: When Esther speaks, she is clear, honest, and courageous. She doesn't exaggerate or avoid—she speaks truth for the sake of others.

Discuss: Why do we often confuse silence with kindness? When has someone's honesty been a gift to you? Where might clarity be the most loving next step in your life?

5. GRACE ≠ COMPROMISE

Read: John 1:14

Truth: Jesus was full of grace and full of truth—never one without the other.

Esther Connection: Esther honors authority while refusing to abandon conviction. She embodies wisdom, courage, and faithfulness under pressure.

Discuss: Where do you feel tension between grace and truth? Why is it tempting to lean toward one and avoid the other? What does faithfulness look like in complex situations today?

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AFTER GLOW

(Reflection + Prayer)

Reflect:

- Which Culture Code is God highlighting for you right now?
- How might living this code shape your identity more deeply?
- How could this way of living impact others around you?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to continue forming a Jesus-shaped culture at Legacy—one that reflects His heart through humility, presence, truth, and grace.

LEGACY CHALLENGE — LIVE THE CULTURE

This week, **don't just talk about culture—practice it.**

1. **Choose ONE Culture Code** that feels most costly right now.
2. **Take ONE intentional action** that reflects that code.
3. **Pay attention** to how obedience shapes your heart and affects others.
4. **Be ready to share** where you saw God work through simple faithfulness.

Final Reminder:

Esther didn't change history by chasing influence.
She lived a God-shaped culture—and God multiplied the impact.

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