

**TOP
SECRET**

Growth Group Opener:

**Which is harder for you: being patient or being courageous?
Why do you think that is?**

Read Esther 5, 6, 8 on your own and ask someone in your small group to summarize the story.

How do you typically define courage?

How does Esther both challenge and affirm this definition?

How does Esther embody both gentleness and boldness in this story?

How or where do you see God at work in each character in this story?

How did God turn this story in Esther in unexpected ways?

When has God turned your own story in ways that surprised you?

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What does this passage teach us about God's timing?

Is there a difficult conversation or step of obedience that you've been delaying?

What practical steps could you take to cultivate a deeper trust in God in your life?
How might you further develop the kind of courage Esther displays when God calls you to act?

What do we learn about God in the story of Esther?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, you are good, kind, and faithful. Thank you for always working in our lives, even when we have no idea how the situations we find ourselves in will turn out. Help us to trust your providence, and give us both boldness and gentleness that come from knowing all things are in your hands. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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