



The Pursuit of Happiness Leaders Tips Small Group Questions

Commit to Growth

Read Esther 5

1. **What risks does Esther take in this part of the story (v.1-8)? Look back at Esther 4:15-16. What enabled Esther to face the risk of going to the king without being summoned?**

Esther not only risks going before the king, but delays answering him twice. Esther also risks the plight of her people if she dies. Esther is able to be courageous because of the fasting (& prayers) of her people.

2. **The Queen asked Haman and the King to attend a banquet. Why on earth do you think she requested Haman's presence?**

This was all part of Esther's strategy. Discuss your theories as to why.

3. **What do you learn about Haman's character in verses 9-14? Contrast his character with that of Esther's?**

Haman was a man who measured his worth and determined his happiness by his power and influence over others. He was

controlled by anger, bitterness and pride. Esther had courage, humility and patience. Esther risked everything for God and her people and Haman only acted out of evil and self-interest.

4. **Where in your life do you see the qualities of Haman and the qualities of Esther?**

Personally reflect on the differences in Q3.

5. **What do you learn about the pursuit of happiness from this text? Give examples.**

Refer back to the "Happiness Lies" and unpack why they are lies from the text.

6. **Of the four "happiness secrets" that Pastor Rick referred to in his message, which one do you most need to adopt in your life right now?**

⇒ **Happiness Secret #1:** Showing respect and humility before others are counter-intuitive paths that lead to joy.

⇒ **Happiness Secret #2:** Only the gifts of love and friendship bring lasting happiness

⇒ **Happiness Secret #3:** Happiness is a slow-growing plant; those that try to rush it will only kill it

⇒ **Happiness Secret #4:** The Bible never teaches us to seek happiness; it teaches us to seek God—in whose presence is fullness of joy.