

Use the following growth group discussion questions to deepen your relationship with God, his Word and others.

BREAK IT OUT:

1. What's the biggest, most lavish party you have attended?
2. What got your attention or surprised you in Sunday's sermon?

TALK IT OUT:

3. The book of Esther has been called the "godless book" because God's name is never mentioned. Where can you find God's supernatural blessings in the story anyway?
4. What do you learn about God through his providential care of the Jews outside of the Promised Land?
5. How do we see God's providential care when we feel unsafe, when we face uncertainty or when we feel distant from God?
6. Queen Esther was willing to risk her life to save her people. Can you share a time when you took a risk to do what was right?
7. How does the Lower Story of Esther fit into the covenant that God made with Abraham (*Genesis 12:1-3*)? How does it fit with God's Upper Story of redemption?
8. What would it take for us to step out in faith the way Esther did?

WORK IT OUT:

9. As a result of this sermon, where do you need to trust that God is calmly in control?
10. How can your growth group help you in this journey?

GOD IS IN CONTROL

20/31 in the series The Story
April 2, 2017 • Pastor Robb Williams

Esther remains one of the most beloved books in the Bible. Set in the 5th century BC, it conveys a courageous story of the salvation of God's people. Each year these 10 chapters of Esther are celebrated during the Jewish holiday of Purim (*which just took place March 11-12*). This morning we will celebrate Purim and find comfort in God's control over all our fears and uncertainties.

1. **The incredible story of Esther** - (*Esther 1-10*). Esther is a beautiful story of God's hand in the details of life.
2. **The most joyous Jewish holiday** - (*Esther 9:22*). Purim means "lots" or the "throwing of dice." It seems like life is by chance, but God is in the "lots."
3. **Purim's beautiful application** - (*Proverbs 16:31, Romans 8:28*). No matter the issue...illness, aging, poverty, loss of job, loss of home, family breakdown, loneliness, wayward children, depression...God is in control.

Application

Even when God seems far away and absent,
He remains calmly in control.

**NEXT WEEK • 21/31: THE STORY
REBUILDING**