

# HIDDEN GOD

A SERIES IN ESTHER

## SERMON TEXT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

June 14, 2020

### INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Expanding Your Bubble** || As we have been allowed to expand our "bubble" of people, you may want to consider starting to gather together physically as a Community Group. Make sure to physically distance and provide a way to let people who are not comfortable meeting together still be part of the group. Please be sensitive to your individual group members comfort level with this. If Zoom meetings are still needed, keep going! The important thing is to keep connecting people.
- **Daily Devotions** for our Esther sermon series || Dive into the sermon text during the week to prepare your heart and mind for the weekend sermon at [northview.org/esther](http://northview.org/esther)
- **Northview Cares** || An initiative to get everyone involved! We want to offer assistance to those in our community who are seeking to get help or give help at [northview.org/northview-cares](http://northview.org/northview-cares)

#### KEEP MEETING TOGETHER - BUT ONLINE!

In the days ahead, we want to encourage you to 'not neglect meeting together' (Hebrews 10:25) even if we cannot physically gather. Our Community Department has shared some great resources which give instructions on how to connect people online. You can access this information at the link below:

#### **How to Host a Community Group Online**

It provides step-by-step directions for setting up groups via Google Hangouts and Facebook Messenger, as well as guidelines for Online Etiquette.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Content:** Pray for God to use His Word to do the work of "rebuking" and "correcting" His Church (2 Tim 3:16). Ask God to reveal our sin to us through His truth and to equip us to put it to death.
- **Connect:** Pray that God would open doors for us to meaningfully share our lives (joys, troubles, hopes, etc.) with one another even with government restrictions being what they are.
- **Care:** Pray that we would be reminded of the wonderful example of loving one another that we have in the life of Christ. Ask God to help our church see the ways that we can be more loving toward one another and toward our neighbours.
- **Commission:** Pray for the people of our Church! That together we would succeed in the part of our commission that is "teaching [disciples] to obey all that [Christ] commanded." (Matt 28:20)

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## OBSERVATION

*This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book.*

1. Read Esther 5:1-14.
2. What stands out from this text? What seems important to notice?

## INTERPRETATION

*This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative.*

1. "On the third day," Esther approaches Xerxes. Notably, in the biblical narrative, Israel is regularly delivered after three days.
  - a) Skim Genesis 22:1-19. How is God's deliverance given after three days?
  - b) Skim Jonah 1:17-2:10. How is God's deliverance given to Jonah after three days?
  - c) Read Hosea 6:1-3. How is God's deliverance spoken of in these verses?
  - d) Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. What has Jesus done in accordance with Scripture?

2. Compare Haman and his rage against Mordecai with Ahab, one of Israel's kings.
  - a) Read 1 Kings 21:1-16. Why is Ahab angry with Naboth?
  - b) How does Ahab respond to Naboth's refusal?
  - c) How are Ahab & Haman's attitudes similar?
  - d) Contrast Ahab & Haman's attitude to that of Paul in

## APPLICATION

*This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.*

1. God has promised to deliver His people ultimately from sin and death, but also delivers people from current situations, too.
  - a) How have you seen or experienced God's deliverance in trying times?
  - b) When is it hardest to trust that God will deliver you?
  - c) How can you grow in your trust that God does deliver?
  - d) Where do we place our hope even when we aren't delivered from our current circumstances?
2. Even when God doesn't deliver His people, they are still given reason for contentment.
  - a) Where do you find contentment?
  - b) Do you find yourself longing for more? Why do we struggle to find contentment in our current situations?
  - c) How does knowing Christ help us find contentment amidst our present circumstances?
  - d) How can this contentment lead to sharing the good news with those who don't yet know?