

# HIDDEN GOD

A SERIES IN ESTHER

## SERMON TEXT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

June 28, 2020

### INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Northview Reading Plan** 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** "Hey, Neighbour" Food Drive
  - || Pick up brown paper bags from the **Downes Road Campus** between **10:00am - 12:00pm on Saturday, June 27**. Give these bags to your friends, family, and neighbours and challenge them to fill it up for those in need!
  - || Collect the bags the following weekend, and drop them off at the **Downes Road Campus** on **Saturday, July 4** between **10:00am - 12:00pm**.

Let's help bring hope to every home in Abbotsford.

[northview.org/northview-cares](http://northview.org/northview-cares)

*\*The Mission Campus will be participating in a Mission-focused food drive soon! Stay tuned for more details!*

### KEEP MEETING TOGETHER

We want to encourage you to continue meeting together! As you feel comfortable, consider expanding your bubble and gather together physically. The summer months might be an ideal time to gather and watch the service together on a patio or balcony. Please continue to be sensitive to your individual group members' comfort level with this. If online meetings are still needed, keep going! The most important thing during this season is to keep connecting!

#### MEETING IN PERSON

Make sure to maintain social distancing in your gatherings, and provide a way to let people who are not comfortable meeting in person still be part of the group.

#### MEETING ONLINE

Instructions for how to connect online, online etiquette, and games to play together can be found on our website. You can access this information at the link below:

**How to Host a Community Group Online**

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Content:** Pray that we would see God's providence working in the difficult times of our lives as much as the easy and enjoyable times. Ask God to use you for His good purposes just as He used Esther.
- **Connect:** Pray for our Church as we make plans to gather in person at our different Campuses. Pray that people would be able to connect well despite the continued restrictions around physical distancing and gatherings.
- **Care:** Pray for our care department and all the work they are doing to help those who have had particularly difficult times during Covid-19. Pray that God would hold firm the marriages, families, and friendships in our church.
- **Commission:** Pray that God would continue to present our church with new ideas and opportunities to see healthy local churches flourish across BC and even around the world.

# SERMON TEXT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

### 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 7:1-10.
2. What stands out from this text? What seems important to notice?
  - At Esther's second banquet, the king again offers to give Esther whatever she asks up to half the kingdom.
  - Esther asks for Xerxes to save her and her people's lives.
  - Esther reveals to Xerxes that Haman was plotting against her and the rest of the Jews.
  - Haman begs Esther for his life, but from Xerxes perspective it looks like he's trying to molest her.
  - Xerxes has Haman impaled on the post which Haman set up to impale Mordecai.

### INTERPRETATION

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

1. Esther tactfully tells Xerxes of what Haman has plotted without directly telling that it is Haman. The prophet Nathan does something similar with King David.  
Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13.
  - a) How does Nathan confront David of his sin?  
*Nathan tells David a story to help him see his own sin.*
  - b) How does David respond to the story Nathan tells him?  
*David condemns the rich man and says he ought to be put to death.*
  - c) How is Esther's strategy similar to Nathan's?  
*She tells Xerxes of what is happening without blaming Haman, but the situation makes Xerxes rage and demand to know who it is that condemned Esther and her people.*
2. Esther identifies herself with her people, Israel, when she is asking Xerxes for his favour towards them. She trusts in God's promises to save his people.  
Read Genesis 12:1-7.
  - a) What promises does God give to Abraham?  
*God promises to bless him, bless others through him, give him descendants, and give him a land.*

- b) How is Esther putting faith in the promises of God when she pleads for her and her people to live?

### 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. Esther winsomely presents her case to Xerxes which helped him to see what's been happening right in front of his nose the whole time.
  - a) How can we winsomely engage with people who don't believe so they can come to see the futility of their beliefs?
  - b) In what ways is Christianity a better way to view the world than other religions or ideologies?
  - c) How does the Holy Spirit help us in engaging with those who do not believe (cf. Luke 12:1-12)?
2. Esther trusts in the promises which God made to Abraham to still hold true. These promises are still true today for the people of God through Christ, in whom all the promises of God are 'yes' (2 Cor 1:20).
  - a) What are some of the promises that God makes to his people?
  - b) In the midst of uncertainty, what promises of God give you hope?

Spend time in prayers of thanksgiving for God's promises and our hope therein; pray also for the Holy Spirit to guide our words and conversations to winsomely engage others with the gospel.