

# HIDDEN GOD

A SERIES IN ESTHER

## SERMON TEXT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

July 5, 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

#### **Abbotsford**

|| Collect the bags this weekend, and drop them off at the **Downes Road Campus** on **Saturday, July 4** between **10:00am - 12:00pm**.

#### **Mission Campus**

|| Pick up brown paper bags from the **Mission Campus** between **10:00am - 12:00pm** on **Saturday, July 4**. 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 **Mission Campus** on **Saturday, July 11** between **10:00am-12:00pm**.

Let's help bring hope to every home in Abbotsford and Mission.  
[northview.org/northview-cares](http://northview.org/northview-cares)

### 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 have a deeper understanding of the decree for life which God has placed on all those who call upon His name. Ask God for a deeper joy in the salvation which He has provided.
- **Connect:** Pray for those who are not currently connected in Christian community. Amidst covid, summer, rainy weather, and life situations, getting connected is hard.
- **Care:** Pray for your ability to care for those within your own spheres and bubbles. Pray that God would enable you and the others in your group to bear one another's burdens with joy.
- **Commission:** Pray for those who do not yet know the good news of Jesus Christ in your neighbourhoods, workplaces, families, friend groups, and beyond. The gospel is for all people from every tribe, nation, and tongue. Pray for people to engage in gospel-centred missions where they are at.

# SERMON TEXT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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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 8:1-17.
2. What stands out from this text? What seems important to notice?
  - *Esther is given Haman's estate which is then handed to Mordecai along with Xerxes's signet ring.*
  - *Esther pleads with the king for Haman's plan to be overruled.*
  - *Esther pleads on behalf of her people*
  - *Xerxes allows Mordecai and Esther to send out an edict with his seal upon it—an edict which cannot be revoked.*
  - *The Jews were granted to ability to protect themselves against anyone who opposes them on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.*
  - *Mordecai is given the royal garments to wear.*
  - *The new edict brought joy and celebration across the kingdom.*
  - *Many people became Jews because of their fear of the Jews*

## INTERPRETATION

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

1. Two irrevocable decrees are given in Esther, one which leads to death (3:12-14), and this one which leads to life. This mirrors the predicament we all find ourselves in.
  - a) Skim Genesis 3. How is the situation here similar to that of the edict in Esther 3?  
*Both have decrees which result in death, among other things*
  - b) To whom does the curse from Genesis 3 apply?  
*It applies to all people, men and women.*
  - c) How does Jesus reverse the curse?  
*Jesus bears the burden of our sin and dies in our place that through him we find life.*

2. "Many people of other nationalities became Jews..." The prophets and authors of Scripture often spoke of the nations coming before God to worship.

a) Read the following passages:

- 1) Isaiah 2:2-4
- 2) Jeremiah 3:17
- 3) Zechariah 8:22-23
- 4) Psalm 67

b) How does the image given in these passages reflect that of Revelation 7:9-10?

## 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 delivers his people from the decree of death with a decree of life for those who believe.
  - a) How did God rescue you from the decree of death?
  - b) What temptations are there to go back to the things which bring death?
  - c) How does Christ bring true freedom from death?
  - d) Do you ever struggle to trust Christ for freedom from sin and death? Why?
2. God will bring people from all tribes and nations together to worship him.
  - a) How might the Lord be working in your neighbourhood to bring peoples from all nationalities to worship him now?
  - b) What role might the Lord be preparing you for to share the good news with your neighbourhood?
  - c) As a group, how can you support and challenge one another to reach out to peoples from all nations with the good news?