



## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of April 15th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

### Get Started:

Who are two or three people who have had a shaping influence in your life?



### **UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word**

Read aloud the passage for the week: Esther 4:11-16. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Read it one more time together. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. What do you notice about our passage? What questions do you have after reading the passage?
2. Describe Esther's initial reaction to Mordecai's instruction (we read of his instruction in verse 8). How would you depict her "faith" at this moment? When did you similarly respond to a difficult task? Or to God when He clearly revealed a plan of action for you?
3. How does Mordecai respond to Esther (verses 13 and 14)? How do you think this message might have influenced Esther to act?
4. Although Esther and Mordecai are the focal players in this story, how does Esther involve the community in her decision and action? What difference does this "community action" make in the final outcome? (Read Esther 9:20-22.)
5. Even though God is not mentioned by name in the book of Esther, how do you see God at work in Esther's story?
6. Where has God placed you? (Where do you spend your time? Who do you spend your time with?) How has God put you in a position of influence? In what ways do you embrace this role as an influencer? In what ways do you resist or discredit this role?

Going Deeper: What word, phrase or thought from today's passage or from our time together is God lifting up as significant for you? How does it speak to a current situation in your life? How is God inviting you to respond?



**Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)**

Is there someone in your life who models what it means to be an influencer for God? What do you notice about his/her life?

Look around you this week for a person you can encourage to be an influencer for God. Be especially aware of those who seem "unlikely" to fill such a role.



**IN: Connect with Each Other**

Divide into groups of 2 or 3 to encourage each other and describe how you see the power of influence in each other's lives. Spend some time sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.