

## Session 4 Leader Guide

The God of Great Turnarounds - ESTHER 6:12-9:1

### READ

Ask one person to read the following passage, and then discuss the questions that follow.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6: 10-12).

What does it mean to be "strong in the Lord" and in "his mighty power"?

Paul says we don't battle against flesh and blood but against authorities and unseen powers. How could knowing this help reframe what you're struggling with right now?

### WATCH

Play the video segment for session four (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts, questions, or points that stand out to you.

Haman, who wanted to kill a Jew for not falling down in his presence, was caught falling down before a Jew. Don't you love the ironies in this story?

Our God is a just God. Nothing escapes him.

When we pray, we engage the power of God against the devil. When we worship, we do what Satan himself did not do: we place God on the throne.

# Journey CHURCH

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Do Hamans and Hitlers, lynch mobs and vigilantes, get away with murder? The Bible's answer is a resounding no!

The day is coming when God will forever balance the scales of justice. Until then, you and I are to partner with him in the pursuit of what is right.

Keep employing the weapons of prayer and worship. Keep trusting God. Your story is not finished. You may be just a day away from a game-changing turnaround.

## DISCUSS

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just heard and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. Read Esther 7:3-4. How do you think Esther felt in this moment? What risk was she taking? Why was she will-ing to take it?
2. What does Haman's fate tell you about the character of God?
3. Do you personally believe this about God? Why or why not?
4. What Haman-like situation in your life are you waiting for God to resolve? What has this waiting felt like for you?
5. What are you called to do while we wait on the Lord's justice? What does-or could-this look like in your own life?
6. How did the Jews' fate change in this part of our story? What does this tell you about the potential for your Haman-like situation to turn around?

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## **RESPOND**

Return to the Respond section that you completed in session two and give any updates to the group. Have you found a way to partner in God's work of justice in your community? If so, how? If not, what obstacles are you facing? How could you work together to overcome them? Write down one or two action items that could help you make progress this week.

## **PRAY**

Have someone from the group close your time in prayer, thanking God for the turnarounds that he has already brought into your lives and asking him to continue to work in the situations where a turnaround is still needed. Write down any prayer requests the group has, and pray for those needs during the coming week.