



The Gospel in the Life of Esther

Discussion Questions

Date: July 19, 2020 | **Scripture:** Esther 1:1-22

1. Read Esther 1:1-22. What stands out to you?
2. The concept of providence can elicit a number of different reactions. How would you describe your understanding of providence? How does it make you feel?
3. Providence is God's unseen hand that rules all things according to his good purposes. Which aspect of that definition is hardest for you to believe?
4. Read Romans 8:28-30. Romans 8:28 has often been used insensitively in the midst of suffering or pain. What hope does the verse provide? What is the basis for such a hope?
5. Tracing the line of providence is difficult in the moment, but fruitful in hindsight. Looking back in your own life, how can you see God's hand? Think particularly of his presence in the ordinary.
6. How might you use this theme of providence in ministering to those who don't know Jesus? This is a nuanced question – it is often insensitive to tell others, "Everything happens for a reason." Discuss how you might talk with others in different situations about providence.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 2:23-25
- Psalms 145
- Acts 2:14-41
- Romans 8:26-30
- Ephesians 1:15-23

Listen to the Esther worship playlist on Spotify

Reach out if you need assistance during this time:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

You can also find additional resources on our website.