



A Sleepless Night

Session Six

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Look Back at Last Week

- Pastor Beth Case, when preaching on Esther 5, said that, “Wisdom takes time. It sacrifices self and promotes others. It leans on community, but is not afraid to stand alone.” React to this. Agree? Why or why not?
- Pastor Beth also said that, “The way we invest our time leads to our formation. With time we either feed folly or grow wisdom.” Describe how you are using your time.
- Finally, Beth asked what season we are in: First Day (betrayal, suffering); Second Day (God seems silent, uncertainty, lack of direction); or Third Day (hope, rejoicing)? Where do you find yourself today? For what reason?

Read Aloud

Passage for this week: **Esther 6:1-14**

Head (15–20 Minutes)

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR’S MAIN POINTS

1. What caused the king to remember Mordecai uncovering the plot after such a long time?
2. Why did Haman suggest the honor that Mordecai received?
3. How did Haman respond after honoring Mordecai?

Heart (15–20 Minutes)

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

1. Haman’s idea of the highest honor is based on the assumption that he is the recipient. How does your understanding of God impact the way you seek to honor Him?
2. From Jesus’ teaching to his death on the cross, Christ exemplified sacrificial love to give us honors we could not earn and do not deserve. How does His work impact how you love and honor others around you?
3. This passage starts with a sleepless king. What does King Xerxes do with his time of sleeplessness? When you have insomnia, what do you do?

Hands (10 Minutes)

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Mordecai went from wearing sackcloth to being adorned in robes and paraded through the city. How do the sequence of “coincidences” in the passage relate to the “coincidences” that you see God orchestrating in your life?
- Think about and discuss moments throughout your life where you experienced God. How did you feel in those moments? As you recall these moments, pray to be reminded of ways you will honor God’s Word in light of what He’s done.
- Read out loud to your small group a Psalm that is meaningful to you, and explain why it is meaningful to you. Challenge yourself to read 3 Psalms a day until you’ve read the whole psalter. Notice how God’s work is remembered in many different ways.

Reaching Outwards: Investing in Your Neighbors

- **Ministry Partner Back-to -School Drive** - One of FPC’s Ministry Partners, The Landing, serves adults and children who are sex trafficking victims. The Landing is hosting a drive to ensure that every child survivor has their needs met to go back to school feeling confident and prepared for the new school year. To make monetary donations for shoes and uniforms, go to Back to School 2024 at thelanding.org.
- For information about FPC Mission Partners and additional volunteer opportunities go to fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities.

Reaching Beyond

- **Post-Alpha Groups** - The second Post-Alpha group meeting was June 20. The next one is July 25. Pray that those who come feel welcome and continue their interest in and commitment to the gospel. Pray that those with unresolved questions about Jesus would sense His love and draw close to Him. For additional information, contact Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach at epaulpeter@fpchouston.org.
- **Egypt Missions Partners Vision Trip - June 21-July 2** - FPC is visiting Global Mission Partners from Bridges of Hope (Here I Am Conference) and Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo. Prayers for continued smooth travel, for special times with partners and opportunities to encourage them, for good health and stamina through the long days, and for an overall joyful time with our global brothers and sisters. For updates contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at mweir@fpchouston.org.