

Esther

This three week series focusing on the book of Esther reveals God's providential hand working behind the scenes in a story of banquets and bureaucracy, plot twists and conspiracy. Esther calls us to trust that God is overcoming evil and rescuing the world - through us - for His purposes; even when it's hard to see Him.

Week 3: Flip the Script (Drew Ritchie – July 28)

1. In this message, Drew explained how Esther risked her life to save the Jews from Haman's plot, and ultimately, Haman died on the same pole he intended to use on Mordecai. With that in mind, can you think of a time in your own life when you witnessed or experienced God flipping the script in a difficult situation? What did you learn about God and yourself?
2. **MOVE 1: Esther's Story.** Look back at **Esther 5-7**. What stands out to you the most? Follow up: How did Haman's plan to destroy the Jews set the stage for his own downfall in the story of Esther? What does this tell us about the nature of God's justice?
3. **MOVE 2: A BIG Theme in Scripture.** Drew mentions that *"on the road the Enemy takes to hurt God's people, he meets his own demise."* How does this theme play out in the story of the Exodus? In Paul's life? Follow up: How can these scriptural examples encourage you when you face challenges or opposition?
4. **Read Colossians 2:15.** How did Jesus' death on the cross, which seemed like defeat, actually become a triumph over evil? How does this challenge our understanding of victory? Follow up: Drew said, *"God takes the enemy's best shot and flips the script."* How might this perspective change the way we view challenges or persecution in our own lives?
5. **MOVE 3: If we believe God flips the script...** *"If we trust that God flips the Script... then we walk the way of the cross."* Discuss the 2 teams mentioned in Revelation - *the one that looks like it's winning and the one that looks like it's losing.* How does this relate to our current world? How can we stay faithful when it seems like we're on the "losing" team?
6. **Read Philippians 2:6-11.** How does Jesus trust that God flips the script? What does it mean to live the way of the cross in a world that often values power and self-interest? How can we demonstrate this in our daily interactions?
7. How has this series on Esther challenged or changed your perspective on dealing with adversity and trusting in God's providence? In what specific areas of your life do you need to trust God more and allow him to flip the script? Spend some time praying for each other.

