

The Plan

24. The Holiday
(Esther)
February 20, 2022

Story Coordinates (Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-11)

People (Who is the story about?)

Place (Where is their home?)

Presence (How can they meet with God?)

Purpose (What did God tell them to do?)

The Story

- Some of the Jews are still _____ where they put _____ . (1:1-3)
- Some of the Jews are _____ to _____ God. (2:5-7, 10-11)

- Someone _____ to God's command _____ with the Jews. (1 Samuel 15:2-9)
- The Jewish people _____. (3:1, 2-7)
- The Jews show a _____ of _____ on _____. (4:15-17)
- God _____ the _____ and _____ His people. (Esther 2:17-18, 6:1-2, 8:15-17)

The Moral of the Story

- The _____ of living in the world and not being of the world is _____.
- Ultimately, God has _____ for His people. We are invited to _____ in this _____.

Spoiler Alert:

- Jesus is the perfect example of living for God in the world.

Small Group Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Have you identified with characters from either of the previous two weeks? Why?

2. Into the Bible (Read John 17:13-19)

- Jesus' prayer over his disciples is rich and intimate, what stands out to you from this part of his prayer?
- What does the gospel message and obedience to the gospel message do to how you are viewed in the world?
- Jesus prays that God would protect the disciples. What do the disciples need protection from and what do we need protection from? How are they the same or different?

- Is there something specific in this prayer that you need prayer for?

3. Going Deeper

- How does Satan use this "tension" we are in between the world and following God to trip us up and cause us to stumble?
- When it is hard to determine the "right" answer in a situation, what can we do? What can we call back on?
- How does being an active participant in God's plan comfort you? How does it embolden you? How does it inform your way of living? Or, how should it do these things?

4. Prayer

- If someone voiced a prayer need in the "Into the Bible" section, pray over that. Otherwise, pray for strength, boldness, and protection in the world.