

# groups

Study Group: Leader Guide  
2 Samuel 16:15-23 & Esther 4:1-17 – January 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

## CHECK-IN

An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.

## STUDY

Main Topics: Choices, Trusting God, Unresolved Conflict

Read 2 Samuel 16:15-23

- What was Ahithophel's role within the royal palace and what was significant about his family?
- Why did Ahithophel betray David when Absalom rebelled against him?
- What were the sins that Ahithophel pursued in this story? (bitterness, deception, withholding forgiveness, pride)

Read 2 Samuel 17:14 & 23

- What can we learn from God's intervention here?
- What other examples can you think of in Scripture where somebody pursued sin leading to their destruction?

Read Esther 4:1-17

- What was at stake for Esther and her people? (Esther 3:12-14)
- What obstacles or temptations did Esther have to overcome?
  - How did she do it?
- What were some promises or examples from Scripture that Esther could depend on during this time?
- How did Esther's reaction to her situation differ from Ahithophel's?

## APPLY

- The way to kindle one's relationship with God is often by everyday decisions made again and again. What are some everyday but concrete decisions you could make to further kindle your relationship with God?
- Why is unresolved conflict so dangerous?
- When in your life have you had to obey God before knowing what the result of your obedience would be?
- Where has God uniquely placed you to share about who He is, perhaps for "such a time as this"?
- Neither Ahithophel nor Esther could change the circumstances they were in, but both chose different ways to react to them. What is it that gives us hope when we face pain, threats, or danger we never expected?

## CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?

## Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

## What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 1 of 3 categories: Study, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at [bocacommunity.org/groups](http://bocacommunity.org/groups)