

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

ESTHER 2:19-3:15

GROUP BUILDER

Do you have friends whose customs are different from yours? Share your growing experience as you bridged those differences.

REFLECTION

How were you encouraged or strengthened in your resolve to stand and not bow to pressure during this weekend's message?

DEEPER (large group)

Read the story of Haman's father Agag in I Samuel 15. What influence did Agag's death have on Haman's interaction with the Israelites? How did King Saul's failure to obey effect the story of Esther?

When you have been faced with conflicts of conscience how have you responded? Would you still respond in that way?

Read the following verses : Exodus 14:13-14; Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 12:7; I Corinthians 15:1-2; I Corinthians 15:13; Ephesians 6:11. Discuss how these verses may define our daily walk with God.

APPLICATION (in groups of 3-4)

Do you sometimes struggle to stand firm in your faith when challenged? What helps you to overcome that struggle? Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

Pray for each other that you will be clothed in His strength so you can stand firm.

What steps will you take this week to strengthen your walk?

Meditation in the Bible; daily prayer; receiving encouragement from others in your circle of friends; yielding to Jesus daily for His strength.

ALERT!

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and electronic devices. We record our services (both video and audio) so others can enjoy the message via the web site. THANK YOU for helping us provide a quality experience for all.

A NOTE TO PARENTS WITH SMALL CHILDREN

We suggest that children attend their age-appropriate classes during the main service. We view the service as a time for parents to be refreshed. If your child needs you, the number on your child's check-in tag will be displayed on the sanctuary monitors. **If you do have your child with you, please sit near a door so you may exit at the first sign of playfulness or fussiness.** This will be greatly appreciated by those seated around you. A video feed is located in the café and the nursing-mother's room, for your convenience.



Smoky Hill Vineyard

Real Life · Real Community · Real Mission



May 2, 2010

REFUSING TO BOW

Take a Stand – Book of Esther Study

SHVchurch.org

FLOW OF SERVICE

- **MUSIC** Expressing our love to God. Feel free to stand or sit.
- **GIVING** Honoring God through our tithes and offerings.
- **TEACHING** Discovering 'Real Life' through God's Word.
- **ACTION** Responding to God.

20050 East Smoky Hill Road, Centennial CO 80015 | 303.690.2520

Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | **Service Times** Sundays 9:00 & 10:45 am

NEED TO KNOW...

FREE STUFF!

If you are visiting today, we invite you to pick up a free Vineyard worship CD at one of our Info Desks. Thank you for joining us!

MESSAGE CDs

Make sure to get CD's from recent messages in the bookstore. **\$3 each.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAPTISM

Baptism is an awesome way to publicly identify with Christ. It also enables you to follow the direction Jesus gave his disciples in following Him, and be empowered to live the way He's called us to live. If you have not been baptized since becoming a follower of Jesus, our next baptism is scheduled for May 16 (classes on May 2 & 9). Please sign-up on the bulletin insert or at an Info Desk. Questions? Call Cindy at 303.328.3472.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WISH LIST

We would love to have you donate gently used books, toys, and wagons for our classrooms. Please bring any of these items to the Children's Ministry area or contact Emily.Kilburn@SHVchurch.org or 303.690.2520.

JARS OF CLAY

Smoky Hill Vineyard will be partnering with Extreme Productions for a Jars of Clay concert at SHV on May 10 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 General Admission and \$25 for Gold Circle, on sale in the Bookstore, Sundays ONLY. To purchase online visit <http://www.shvchurch.org/events/jarsofclay.html>.

PRAYER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

SHV will be a local host site for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 pm. Join us for an evening of praying together for our nation and

PODCAST/VIDEO OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Download the podcast or video of today's message to your iPod or computer. Go to SHVchurch.org.

EAR PLUGS

If the volume of worship is beyond your comfort range, we have complimentary ear plugs available at the Info Desks.

community.

SHV STUDENTS: MAKING THE MOVE!

SHV Students is moving from Wednesday nights to Sunday nights starting this summer! Our last Wednesday night is May 26 and our first Sunday night is June 6. Doors open at 7:00 pm and activities go from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. High School meets in the Café while 7th /8th Grades meet in the Youth Room. Mark your calendars and bring a friend!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Parents: Registration for Vacation Bible School is available at SHVchurch.org! VBS will be held June 21-25 at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for ages three and up. The cost is \$20 per child, not to exceed \$50 per family. For more info, please contact Cecilia.McMurray@SHVchurch.org or call 303.328.3480.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Join us for "Experiencing God's Love" on May 21-22 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Join us as we explore the many aspects of experiencing God's love. Sign-up at the table in the west lobby or SHVchurch.org for details and online registration.

MESSAGE NOTES

REFUSING TO BOW

Take a Stand – Book of Esther Study

THE MAIN CHARACTERS

- Xerxes
- Vashti
- Esther
- Mordecai
- Haman

2:19-23

- Mordecai _____ the king
- He served without a motive of _____

3:1-5 NIV

After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

- Not based on _____ but on _____
- _____ is revealed when everybody else bows to what is _____

Personal Application

3:6-15 The evil plot is hatched

REFLECTION & RESPONSE