

## GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

ESTHER 4:1-17

### GROUP BUILDER

When have you found yourself in a position where taking a stand meant going against the grain? What was the result?

### REFLECTION

How was your definition or perception of taking a stand challenged or confirmed during this weekend's message?

### DEEPER (Large Group)

How have you shown your readiness to do God's will in an unappealing time? Have you had to make difficult choices in order to do His will? Share the experience and what you learned.

What do you think prompted Mordecai's crying and penitence? (verses 1-3).

Discuss verses 15-16. What do you think of Esther's decision? Have you ever fasted or known anyone who has? Share your experience, or ask a question about fasting.

Read the following verses: Joshua 24:14-15; 2 Chronicles 20:15-18; Job 42:1-6; I Corinthians 16:13; Lamentations 3:59. How do they provide encouragement to take a stand?

### APPLICATION (In Groups of 2-3)

Is God calling you to make a difficult decision for Him? How are you responding to the challenge?

Does it require faith to obey when God asks for your obedience? Do you experience a struggle between your will and God's plan?

Pray for each other that God's will be done and for the strength of conviction to take a stand. Ask the Holy Spirit for faith; Repent of any resistance to His will; Determine to go forward with Him no matter what the cost. Praise Him for His grace and mercy.

### 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



Happy Mother's Day!  
May 9, 2010

TAKING A STAND  
*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

### JARS OF CLAY

Smoky Hill Vineyard will be partnering with Extreme Productions for a Jars of Clay concert TOMORROW NIGHT at 7:00 pm. Ticket are \$15 General Admission and \$25 for Gold Circle. Tickets are on sale in the Bookstore TODAY or online at <http://www.shvchurch.org/events/jarsofclay.html>

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

SHV Kids is growing. There are many opportunities available to join in leading the children to Jesus. We encourage you to join us in making a difference in the life of children. For more information, visit our table in the Café or contact Cecilia at 303.690.2520 or [Cecilia.McMurray@SHVchurch.org](mailto:Cecilia.McMurray@SHVchurch.org).

### SHEEP DOGS

If you are interested in becoming part of the SHV Security Team, now is your chance. Training is coming soon. If you want more information, contact Scott at [shvsheepdogs@gmail.com](mailto:shvsheepdogs@gmail.com).

### PODCAST/VIDEO OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Download the podcast or video of today's message to your iPod or computer. Go to [SHVchurch.org](http://SHVchurch.org).

### EAR PLUGS

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

### SHV STUDENTS: MAKING THE MOVE!

We are 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 online at [SHVchurch.org](http://SHVchurch.org)! VBS is June 21-25 at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for ages three through fifth grade. The cost is \$20 per child, not to exceed \$50 per family. For more information, please contact Cecilia at [Cecilia.McMurray@SHVchurch.org](mailto:Cecilia.McMurray@SHVchurch.org) or call 303.328.3480.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

Last chance to register 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. Registration ends May 14. Sign-up in the west lobby, or visit [SHVchurch.org](http://SHVchurch.org) for details and registration.

## MESSAGE NOTES

### TAKING A STAND

*Take a Stand* – Book of Esther Study

*Esther 4:1-11*

*Esther 4:12-16 NIV*

*When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."*

*5:1-8 Approaching the King*

### REFLECTIONS ON THE STORY - TAKING A STAND

- Moving from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ follower
  - Identification with covenant community at the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Taking a stand \_\_\_\_\_ her people
- God can use an \_\_\_\_\_ woman placed in \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances
  - Esther shows us a \_\_\_\_\_ woman is far better than a \_\_\_\_\_ woman who is unresponsive to God...
  - There is a reason for the \_\_\_\_\_ you have

### RESPONSE

- Where is God calling you to take a stand?
- 3 days of fasting and prayer together May 24-26
- The importance of character – "for such a time as this"