

“Walking by Faith”
Esther – The courage of faith

Courage because of God’s providence

God speaks, and yet sometimes seems silent

“Ignorance of providence is the ultimate of all miseries; the highest blessedness lies in the knowledge of it” (Calvin)

God’s providence in the story of Esther:

- “And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (4:14)

- The movie director

- Learning to rely on God during the tough times, and remembering His faithfulness – “I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” (4:16)

Courage because of God’s salvation

Jesus’ prayers that seemed unanswered, yet God was at work

God “did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)

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Digging Deeper Questions for Small groups or personal reflection

Courage because of God’s providence

Have you been through periods of your life when God seemed distant and silent?

Have you ever been able to look back and see God’s hand at work in your life in ways that you couldn’t see at the time? What conclusion did you/can you draw from this?

God is not explicitly mentioned in the story of Esther, but how can you see Him at work throughout?

How did Esther learn to rely on God’s providence? How did it give her courage to act?

How should the truth about God’s providence guard us against being paralysed by fear?

Have you stepped out in faith, not knowing exactly what the outcome might be, but trusting God to work in that situation? Or how might you?

Courage because of God’s salvation

How did Jesus rely on the Father in the midst of silence and uncertainty?

What should the cross make us confident of?

What difference will that make to your life and our lives together at PBC?