SHADOW MOUNTAIN
SMALL GROUPS
Sermon Questions

The Feast of Purim
ESTHER
Esther 9:17-10:3

Getting Started

1. What's one dish, tradition, or moment from Thanksgiving that you cannot do without? (Examples: the green bean casserole, the family football game, the pie debate, the one relative who always carves the turkey.)

2. Think of a time when you went through something hard and then celebrated afterward. What made the celebration feel so sweet? (Finishing a long project, recovering from an illness, surviving a move, a team finally winning.)

Digging Deeper

As a group, read Esther 9:17-10:3 aloud (1-2 verses per person).

1. Now, read Esther 9:17-19. After the battle, the Jews "rested" and made the day one of feasting, joy, and giving gifts to one another. Why do you think their first response was to rest and share a meal together?

2. Read Esther 9:20-22. Mordecai says these days were when "sorrow turned into joy and mourning into celebration." Why is it important to name what God turned around, and not just move on?

3. Read Esther 9:22 and 9:28. The celebration was meant to be remembered "in every generation" and passed down to families. Why do you think remembering matters so much to God's people, and how have you seen traditions carry faith forward?

4. Read Esther 9:22. Along with feasting, they sent portions of food to one another and gave gifts to the poor. Why do you think generosity was built into their celebration?

5. Read Esther 10:1-3. Mordecai rises to great honor, but the author's highest praise is that he "worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all." What does this say about how to carry blessing and influence?

Applying the Message

1. Read Psalm 103:2. Esther's people marked their rescue so they wouldn't forget it. What is one thing God has brought you through or given you this year that you want to remember, and how could you mark it?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 9:11. Esther's people shared food with friends and gave to the poor. Who is one person or family (member) you could include, encourage, or bless this Thanksgiving season, and what is one simple thing you could do?