

# The Gathering Community Group Guide

## Brave // Week 6 // Stop fighting God

Paul Jenkins

May 17, 2015

Esther 6

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.**

### Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

#### Message Summary

In part 6 of our series in Esther, we walked through Esther Chapter 6 and saw 3 themes very clearly:

1. **The sovereignty of God:** Simply put, the sovereignty of God means that he reigns over all and is always in control. It can sometimes be hard to see it as we move forward in life, but his sovereignty is so clear when we look back on our lives and see how we got from where we were to where we are.
2. **The pride of man:** You would think that mankind would recognize the power of God and quickly bow to it, but all of us have lived long enough to understand that the pride of man blinds us to what we really need. Many of us can relate all too well to Haman's overinflated opinion of himself.
3. **Our greatest failure:** Of all the ways that we can fail (and there are many – YouTube is FULL of "fail" videos!!), perhaps our greatest failure is refusing to yield to such a sovereign God. But the flip side of that is also true: our greatest success is uniting with a God who never fails!

#### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What, if any, is your takeaway from this week's message?
- Proverbs 16:18 is probably the most famous and most quoted Bible verse about pride. Read it and talk about ways that you've seen the truth of this proverb at times in your own life.
- Paul listed a lot of negative effects that pride can have on us (it blinds us, it intoxicates us, it puts God against us, it squeezes God out of our lives, it divides us, deceives us, and inflates us). Which of these stands out to you? Why?
- Read Romans 12:3. Now read Isaiah 6:1, 5. How does seeing God help us to "not think of ourselves more highly than we ought?"
- Paul mentioned that God's sovereignty is hard to see going forward but easy to see looking back. Why do you think that's the case? When you look back, where are some places you see God's sovereignty in your own life?
- Have someone read Psalm 2. Notice that verse 12 says to "kiss the Son." We often shake hands as equals, but in the day this was written, a kiss was a sign of honor to someone with greater authority. Close your time praying one-sentence prayers that honor God and his sovereignty.