

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer

2. Welcome any newcomers

3. Read Esther 2:19-23 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, Esther 2:19-23

September 21, 2014

Title: Leaving a Legacy

Twenty-five years ago today, on September 21, 1989, Hurricane Hugo slammed into the South Carolina coast at Charleston harbor. Those of us who were here at the time will never forget that chaotic night, the weeks-long power outage, and months of clean-up and repair. Meteorologists, with their weather radar and computer models, are good at tracking a hurricane, but their predictions are imprecise and they don't know its prime cause. One theory, called "the butterfly effect," suggests that something as inconsequential as the flapping of a butterfly's wing could have a ripple effect that weeks later spawns a violent storm. In fact, mathematicians have always sought to find order in the chaos and apparent randomness of nature.

As we look at verses 19-23 of Esther 2, we see something as seemingly random as Mordecai overhearing a plot to assassinate the king having a ripple effect that determines the entire course of human history. In the hurricane or in the redemption of mankind, look for the hand of God, who in His sovereignty, directs both the winds and the acts of men and women to achieve His purpose. He brings order out of chaos, and to those who remain faithful, he gives a straight path.

Question: There was a time when it was fashionable to leave an epitaph on a person's tombstone—a kind of summary statement of the person's life. In Bible names we find meaning that describes a person's character. Barnabas meant encourager, and he was given that name because encouragement was his legacy. Take a few minutes to think about a single statement that you would like to be your epitaph. Jot it down and share the legacy you hope for with the group.

Question: What Bible characters can you think of whose legacy turned on a single event? **Facilitator:** Let the group brainstorm for ideas, but if they bog down, suggest Adam (Romans 5:12-21), Rahab (Joshua 2, Hebrews 11:31), also

Hebrews 11 is loaded with the names of people whose legacies were formed and transformed by faith.

Question: If you are concerned about your legacy—and you should—what's best: Work hard to create your legacy? Live your life and let the legacy chips fall where they may? Or cooperate with God by faith and allow Him to create your legacy? **Facilitator:** Suggest Proverbs 3:5-6 as a tool to create a legacy.

Question: If someone you know—maybe it's you—has made a mess of his or her life and fears that will become their legacy, how would you counsel them to change direction? **Facilitator:** In Christ we have redemption. A man known as a thief hanged from a cross at Calvary, but by his faith in Christ we see him with the Lord in Paradise. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 and Philippians 3:12-16 speak of redemption and reconciliation to last a lifetime.