

Workshop Title: "You are an influencer...It's in your walk and in your talk"
Scripture References : Esther Chapters 3, 4 & 5. Esther 7:1-6
Workshop Instructor: Georgia Hill, Pastor of LifeChurch Riverside of Detroit, Michigan

Workshop Focus: God has need of you,NOW! Our present circumstances invite us to radical Christian witness. Esther demonstrates the power of faith, courage and truth-telling. She refused to keep her faith - or her true identity - under a bushel. Esther stepped out in faith bravely on behalf of her people.

Objectives: Participants will be led through a process of critical engagement of the text to discern:

- 1) the methods used by Esther and Mordecai to advocate for their people; and
- 2) how these methods can provide spiritual power for the challenges that we and our communities face.

1. Key point: God saw the evil and oppression against the Israelites. Exodus 3:7
 - People of faith are compelled to open their eyes to the reality of forms of evil against ethnic groups even when the evil has legal sanction.
 - Haman's attack against the Jews was rooted in pride. Esther 3:2-6
2. Key point: Public lament is absolutely necessary. Esther 4:1-3
 - Communities of faith, and individuals, have sounded the alarm in the past about evil and injustice and we must continue to do so.
 - Speaking truth to power is risky business. Esther 4:13-16
 - Modern day examples: Shaye Moss & Ruby Freeman testify before the U.S. House Select Committee on the January 6th Attack of 2021. (See A Cloud of Women, chapter 7, by Georgia A. Hill and Diane Proctor Reeder for a discussion of Moss, Freeman & Esther.)
3. Key point: Be who you are called to be! Col. 3:3
 - You may experience pressure to be other than who God created you to be.
 - Beware of identity theft!
 - God gives 'necessary grace'. Esther, as her authentic self, had an open door to the King. Esther 5:1-3 And so do you.
4. Key Point: The LORD has need of you...for such a time as this!
 - Truth-Walking: How are you walking in the truth of who you are?
 - Truth-Telling: What is the message that God wants you to share?
 - What are the resources that you are uniquely positioned to share?
5. Key Point: Like Esther, you too are dependent upon prayer as you influence others.
 - Prayer Disciplines: Spiritual Power & Sanity Preservation. Amen! Esther 4:16; James 5:16.