

**Title: Hidden:Mordecai**

**Text: Esther 4:12-14**

**Date: February 7, 2021**

### **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. The long snapper plays an undistinguished but important role on a football team. Thinking of the various affinity groups you are associated with (i.e. family, school, church, hobby, social media, etc.), how do you occupy a similar position within that community? How does this make you feel?
2. Think of different people around you who model the gift of caregiving for another person in need. What makes them stand out? What may help them from becoming fatigued or exhausted?
3. When have you found yourselves in a potential ethical dilemma where you had to weigh your action from different perspectives? What was the issue? What were the competing concerns? What did you finally decide to do? What was the outcome?

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. This week's focus is on the person of Mordecai, the older cousin of Esther. Review the various incidents throughout the book where Mordecai is presented with a decision to make. Even though Mordecai's faith is not explicit or obvious, what may have guided his actions? How did his choices put him at risk? How were his acts of faith directed outward - toward those around him? Looking at Hebrews 11:1, how did Mordecai's actions reflect the essence of faith?
2. Read Esther 4:12-14, the only words of Mordecai recorded in the book of Esther. What is unique about this particular moment of time? What had happened previously and what could possibly happen in the future? What does Mordecai encourage Esther to see and consider? How was God involved in and through Mordecai and Esther for the welfare of their people?
3. Later in the book, Mordecai is influential in preparing the Jews against hostile adversaries around them. The celebration of Purim has become an annual remembrance of deliverance. What is remarkable about how God used ordinary people for this purpose?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Taking a look at your personal situation and setting, how might God be placing you in the position to help others do what they are not to do themselves? How is God asking you to encourage others to do what they can?
2. What is one area where you are feeling torn and conflicted by? What makes this so troubling and difficult? What do you sense is God's prompting and leading for you? How can others be praying for you?