

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of November 14-20, 2021

“THE GOD OF TURNAROUNDS”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Can you share a recent “aha” moment (positive or negative) in your life? How did it come about?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Esther 7. (It is suggested that you read the chapters before the small group session.)

1. It would be fair to assume that Esther’s heart was pounding during this second banquet. Can you show evidence that she came prepared? How about Haman? Considering what he went through that day (chapter 5), what do you think were on his mind?
2. Reread verse 4. What explanation did she give for her request? What were some of the implications of this statement as far as Esther is concerned? For Xerxes?
3. Telling the truth about ourselves can cost us and make us vulnerable. Someone once said, “Sometimes you simply decide that people are worth telling on yourself.” Is there any area in your life that you would like to share to the group about which you currently need encouragement for?
4. We miss the force of Xerxes’ answer in verse 5. The Hebrew would’ve been abrupt, short, confused, like stammering, like someone who is completely surprised and couldn’t express his thoughts well. What does this say about Xerxes? Have you ever been caught by surprise (in a negative way)? How did you handle the situation?
5. What does the words of Harbona indicate about the kind of man Haman was and his reputation? How does a Christian draw the balance of being genuine and at the same time being careful about our reputation?

6. It took time for Esther to stand up and identify herself as a Jew. Some have criticized her for not being as bold as Daniel. What are your thoughts about Esther up to this point in the story? Has your perspective of her changed? Would you consider her a hero? In what sense?
7. Think through your current station in life. How can you be a better example of Christ both in your words and actions to those around you? How can you make a difference in the areas of influence you have for godliness, and to reflect Christ in all you do? How can you start doing that this even this week? Share your thoughts with your group so you all can encourage each other in this.

8. NEXT STEPS

God can turn around any situation. He is the only one who can make the valley of trouble into a door of hope.

- I will entrust my plans to the Lord.
- I will entrust my situation and the outcome to God.
- I will hold loosely to my worldly treasures and use them as God wants.
- I will trust in God’s justice and in his power to turn things around.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you be constantly aware that God is able to reverse whatever situation in your life (whether positive or negative) and that you grow in trusting him.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

November 15	Esther 7:1-7; Proverbs 11:7-14
November 16	Esther 7:8-10; Genesis 45:4-8
November 17	Ecclesiastes 11:1-10
November 18	Psalms 13
November 19	Revelations 2:12-17
November 20	Psalms 30
November 21	Psalms 147