

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of November 21-28, 2021

“IN THE END, GOD WINS”

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.

What particular aspect of the story of Esther really grabbed you during the 5-week series?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Esther 8-10. (It is suggested that you read the chapters before the small group session.)

1. After more than two months, Esther once again risked her life (8:3). What do you think compelled her to do so? What possible reasons could she have given *not* to risk her life again?
2. Esther pleaded to an earthly king by interceding for her people. Do you share Esther's heart? Who are the people that you petition before God's throne of grace and intercede on their behalf?
3. What do you observe about Mordecai's counter-edict (see also Esther 3:13)? We read that the people responded with gladness (8:15-17) as this would be the first time in the book where we see a joyful reaction. Do you think the Jews were "counting their chicken before they hatched"? Was the outcome really guaranteed?
4. We often let opportunities to do God's will slip rather than taking specific actions to do so. Esther had this chance with the king and she did not let the opportunity pass by. Derek Prime said, "Today is a day never to be repeated. Let us live for God!" How and in what areas can you make renewed efforts to do so?
5. What do you think about the Jews' victory? What did the they *not* do although the king's verdict allowed it? Unjust treatment is hard to bear and they did not deserve Haman's decree against them. Why shouldn't they retaliate?

6. Mordecai establishes Purim as a day of celebration for the Jews. How does his decree contribute to the significance of the victory as a work of God's hand? The author of Esther emphasizes how important it is to observe the celebration of Purim in every generation. What might be an equivalent celebration for Christians? Why is it important to celebrate such events and pass them on to the next generation?

7. Esther and Mordecai play a prominent role in God's plan for the Jews, although they are by no means perfect in action or motive, are not even particularly religious on the surface, and certainly do not qualify for any specific religious office such as priest or prophet. What does this say about the role of laity in the church today? What does it say about *your* role in God's plan?

8. NEXT STEPS

In the end, God wins!

- I will entrust my life to God who is both gracious and just.
- I will live a life of faith and not of God-replacements.
- I will live in view of God's victory.

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 God will give you perspective to live life in view of Christ's victory on the cross!
- 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 22	Esther 8:1-10
November 23	Esther 8:11-17
November 24	Esther 9:1-10
November 25	Esther 9:11-16; Romans 12:19
November 26	Esther 9:17-32
November 27	Esther 10
November 28	Jeremiah 2:9-13