

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 10-16, 2023

“FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”

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's something you find incredibly beautiful that others might consider ordinary?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Esther 4:1-16

1. What is Mordecai's response to the news of Haman's plan to annihilate the Jews? What do his actions in response to the threat against the Jews show you about this man? How do you respond to emergencies?
2. What factors might have contributed to Esther's reluctance? Can you relate to her internal struggle? What do you think influenced her change of heart? How can a Christian find courage to act in the face of fear or uncertainty, especially when there may have significant consequences?
3. Mordecai urges Esther to take action and reminds her that she might have been placed in her position “for such a time as this.” What does this phrase mean, and how does it apply to Esther's situation? What is the significance of recognizing God-given opportunities and acting decisively when they arise?
4. Fasting and prayer play a significant role in this chapter. What do these actions symbolize, and how do they prepare Esther for her role in the unfolding events? Have you ever fasted? What was your motivation for doing so? What was the result?
5. In Esther 4, the Jewish community comes together in unity and solidarity. Reflect on the importance of unity and support within the church. How can unity and a sense of belonging strengthen individuals in times of crisis or adversity?
6. The Book of Esther does not explicitly mention God yet the hand of God was at work throughout the story. Can you think of moments in your own life where you've sensed God's guidance or intervention, even if it wasn't immediately obvious? Share this to the group.

7. How does Esther 4 resonate with your own current journey of faith? What personal lessons or insights can you draw from the narrative?

8. NEXT STEPS

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)

- I will depend on God's sovereignty.
- I will trust God even in times of grief.
- I will spend more time in prayer and fasting.
- I will seek to be obedient to God-given opportunities in my life.
- I will celebrate God's faithfulness.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

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

- Pray to have a trusting heart in God's sovereignty.
- Pray to be sensitive to God's opportune timing.
- Pray for a heart that desires and seeks to wait on God.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

September 11	Esther 4:1-16
September 12	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
September 13	1 Peter 3:13-18
September 14	Zechariah 7:1-10
September 15	2 Timothy 4:1-5
September 16	Luke 1:5-17
September 17	1 Peter 2:1-10