

Esther: Made for This Moment

“Stepping into a Difficult Conversation”

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Lord for blessing us to be a part of this amazing community in this specific cultural moment. As we seek to listen and obey the Lord, pray that the Holy Spirit would open our hearts to the spiritual emptiness and sin around us so that we might become his instruments of change in our community. Finally pray for the strength and boldness to obey the instruction of the Lord!

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into our third week of our series titled *Esther: Made for This Moment*. Pastor Danny pointed us to Esther 5 — 7 in order to discuss how Esther allowed the space for God to move as she approached her difficult confrontation with the king. Pastor Danny summarizes the main plot of the story to show how Esther used time to her advantage to elevate the stakes of the conversation and allow God to supernaturally move! In the way, Pastor Danny challenges the church to prepare well for any tough confrontation, give God the space to move, trust that God will give you the correct words, and surrender the results of the conversation to Him.

“The most important part of a difficult conversation is the part God plays in it!”– Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: *Review Esther 4:13-14; Matthew 5:13-15:* Last week, the discussion revolved around God wanting to use you as a humble world changer as you engage with your specific situations. What developments have occurred over the last week as you have observed your situation and prayed that God would lead you through it?

- *Read Esther 4:15-5:8; Matthew 6:5-18, 7:7-12; Philippians 4:6:* Pastor Danny points out that right before Esther decides to act on behalf of an entire people group, she engages in 3 days of prayer and fasting in order to create space for God to speak into her circumstances. Based on the scriptures we have read so far, what have you seen about Esther's approach to her situation that you would like to adopt? How can you begin to pray for the specific people that are involved in your situation that you have identified? In your experience, how has God moved in tough circumstances when you have engaged in prayer and fasting?
- *Read Esther 5:9—6:14; Genesis 17:1-8; Matthew 23:11-12; Hebrews 9:14-15; 1 Peter 5:6-11:* Next, Pastor Danny shows us how Esther allowed the Lord some time and space to move behind the scenes. Specifically, the Lord moves to exalt the humble and bring down the wicked in order to rescue His covenant people. What are the specific ways that the Lord has moved in Esther's story up to this point that have stood out to you and why? As you reflect on your own situation, what are the ways that you feel the Lord has been aligning events within your circumstances? What is the next step of humble obedience that the Lord is calling you to make?
- *Read Esther 7:1-10; Exodus 34:5-10; Joel 2:12-14; Matthew 10:16-20:* Finally, Pastor Danny emphasizes the Lord's blessing over Esther's situation because she stood up for her people with humble obedience and courage. In your circumstance, do you find yourself in a season of waiting on the Lord or obeying Him and confronting the situation head on? How does Esther reveal the balance between passively waiting on the Lord and actively obeying his commands? What is the next step of humble obedience that you can take?

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for orchestrating the circumstances surrounding Esther in order to prove that God has plans to rescue His people! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to open our eyes to the community around us and nudge us in the direction of obedience when opportunities to speak the truth of the gospel arise!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- **Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that they would experience an opportunity to stand up for the gospel in their sphere of influence!

-**Encourage your group to be a world-changer right where they are!** What will be your "world-changing moment?" Be ready to share your opportunities next week!

-**Engage in a fast from food with 3Crosses on TUESDAY!** Continue to remind yourself that fasting is to long for our heavenly home, loosen the grip of sin, express a need to God, and anticipate God's movement! We can become like Esther who was propelled into an opportunity in her community to show God's power through fasting and prayer!

- **Sign-Ups for the New Community Group Season begin August 25th!** If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org