

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAY 30/31, 2020

WHEN COURAGE IS REQUIRED – NOW WHAT?

ESTHER 4:8-16

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below. links to videos or resources are underlined

*Links to videos or resources are in blue and underlined.

FOR STARTERS

1. What's the best example of courage you've seen in a play or movie?
2. The story we're looking at comes from the book of Esther. It may be a good idea to watch the Bible Project's excellent [6-minute summary of the story](#) to orient your group to its structure and themes.
**Pro tip: remember to click the "share computer audio" box if you're using Zoom.*

DIGGING IN

1. Read the "conversation" Esther has with Mordecai in 4:8-16.
 - a. What must Esther do on behalf of her people?
 - b. How does she respond?
 - c. What do you notice about what real courage looks like in these verses?
2. Read John 15:12-13.
 - a. Do you see any parallels between Esther and Jesus?
 - b. How is Esther's courage the same as Jesus'?
 - c. How is it different?

3. Read Acts 4:13.

- a. What are the things people noticed about Jesus' disciples?

- b. How do you think they had been changed because of Jesus' courage on the cross?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. How has Jesus' courageous sacrifice affected you? Have you seen it make you bolder?

2. How have you seen small, and seemingly trivial acts of courage in Jesus' name make the world a better place for those who are vulnerable?

3. Is there anyone who is vulnerable in your life? How would God have you stand up on their behalf?

GOING DEEPER

1. Read through the entire story of Esther in one sitting. It should take about 30 minutes. How many times do you see God mentioned? What does this tell you about the way God worked in Esther's story and in our lives?

2. **Read, meditate on and memorize this Scripture:** "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13

PRAYER REQUESTS

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