

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"QUEEN OF COURAGE: ESTHER" JULY 24 & 25

SERIES OVERVIEW:

You are NOT disqualified from real life with God, even though life is messy. Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking we are beyond hope when we find ourselves battling the same sins and temptations. Having a clear understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus means that we are forgiven, walking in grace and NOT perfect. We are a work in progress, and so are the people around us. As we learn to know God better and better, He equips us with everything we need to live in His will and be pleasing in His sight. (Hebrews 13:21)

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER:

About 2 minutes


Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:


About 1 minute to read

Ofentimes we find ourselves shirking our responsibilities to stand up for what is right. It can be scary to, "love mercy, act justly and walk humbly with our God". It's easier to just not do it. As followers of Jesus we are called to be ambassadors for Christ representing His Kingdom and Truth to the world, and standing in the gap for the poor and oppressed. Esther is a powerful example of a person finding themselves in a situation they did not ask for or even want. Yet with great power comes great responsibility.



July 24 & 25, 2021

If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" - Esther 4:14 NLT

Reflect 

Read the full passage in your Bible - Esther 3:5-6; 4:1,9-14.
What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might God be calling you to repent of or realign in your life?

What would acting upon this or obeying God look like? Be curious...and then do it.

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met. How do you see God at work in these circumstances?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the **Discussion Help sidebar** to encourage deeper discussion.

Read also Ephesians 2:8-10. What "good things" do you think God planned for you to do during this time and place?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 3 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps suggested. Discuss next time what the Lord revealed to you in this reflection time.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out

God has called you to a special place of representing Him and His love. This week identify situations, relationships or responsibilities that are difficult for you. Write them down and pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you and give you resolve to push through any resistance, and find joy in being obedient to the Lord.

Pray

Talk to God about why you are living at this time in history. What is his calling on your life?

Ask God to show you someone or a situation that he is calling you to speak up for. Maybe it's for the poor, the oppressed, or the marginalized. Ask him to lead you.

Thank God that his Spirit, His resurrection power is living in you.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Share prayer requests and pray for each other in a circle prayer praying for the person on your LEFT. The leader or apprentice can open and close the prayer time.