

SERIES : “Running With the Giants” : Week 02

Week 02 : Esther

Take a few moments to check in —

As you reflect on the events of the past week, how would you encourage each other to pray for our community, nation, and world?

Discussion Questions:

[1] Two questions: Why do you think we’re so wired to be inspired, to be motivated by greatness? Also, who are some of the more inspiring people you can think of?

[2] Read this out loud together as a group —

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” [Hebrews 12:1-2]

What blessings do we experience when we “throw off everything that hinders?” Why is it so challenging to “run with perseverance” as we follow after God? Shouldn’t it be easy?

[3] There’s lots to cover in the story of Esther — King Xerxes, Queen Vashti [a queen who loses her throne], Esther [the orphan girl who becomes queen and saves the day], Mordecai [a stubborn yet dedicated man of God], and of course, Haman [the villain].

What part of the story stuck out to you most during this week’s message?

[4] Read Esther 1:10-12 together.

What do you admire most about Queen Vashti’s convictions? Digging deeper, have you ever been asked to compromise your faith or Christian values? How did that go for you?

[5] Ok, let’s review — Esther becomes queen, her uncle Mordecai gets a job at the king’s gate, and Haman becomes chief-of-staff. What character qualities do you most admire about Esther or Mordecai? What drives you nuts about Haman?

[6] Have you ever been prompted to speak up for another person or for an injustice? Did you do it, and if so how did it make you feel? What was the outcome?

[7] Pastor Steve said, “The real tragedy for Christians is not so much the sins they commit, but rather the life they fail to live and the opportunities they turn away from.”

What would the world look like if more Christ-followers fearlessly engaged the opportunities in front of them?

[8] Read Esther 4:15-16 together.

God put Esther in her position for such a time as this, and she literally said, “If I die, I die.” As you think about where God has positioned you and the people he’s positioned you around, how would you say you’re doing at handling those opportunities?

[9] Read Proverbs 3:5-6 together.

What encouragements in this scripture line up with the story of Esther? Digging a little deeper, what encouragements line up with the unfolding story of your own life?

Wrap-Up:

Pray with each other about your responses to these questions —

Is there someone or something you need to speak up for? Is there something significant enough happening in your life that you would call for a time of prayer and fasting? Are there even greater ways God wants to use you with the people he’s positioned you around?