

Esther Part 3: Courage

Discussion Theme: Courage

Purpose of Discussion: to recognize the situations in which God has placed you to do his will and commit to acting with courage and integrity in those situations.

1. Theme Question for Discussion...

- ☆ Think of a time when you struggled to do the right thing. What was the outcome? How did it affect you?

2. Read Esther 5:1-8 (p.301)

3. Discussing the text

****Heads up: It is interesting to note that Esther had already prepared the banquet before she asked the king and Haman to come*

- ☆ What did Esther do to get ready to see the king?

- ☆ In what way did the king show his approval to Esther?

- ☆ How did Esther show that she believed the king would accept her invitation?

- ☆ What was Esther's strategy for pleasing the king?

4. Redirection

Courage is a character trait that all of us desire to have and display in our lives. We like to think that when faced with a dangerous or difficult task or situation, we would courageously come through. However, courage is not an easy thing to possess. One of the major reasons why people compromise their convictions and beliefs is peer-pressure, and we all know that giving in to peer pressure is not courageous at all - especially when we know that giving in will compromise what we believe is right.

As Christians we are constantly put in positions where we need courage to act as God desires us to act. People may make fun of you for your beliefs and pressure you to join them in something you know is wrong. Making a decision to honour God with your life takes a whole lot of courage and refusing to compromise the kind of life God wants you to live can often leave you feeling left out. But making wise choices always works out for your benefit and following God's desire for your life is always the wise course of action. In the end God will bless you for your choices and you will possess that rare character trait that all of us want - courage!

We can take a page out of the lives of Esther and Mordecai and act with courage even when it may be our lives that are at stake.

5. Digging Deeper

****Key thought: Even though Esther had a strategy, she trusted God to work out the details*

- ☆ What do Esther's actions reveal about her faith in God?

- ☆ How did God honour Esther's faith and courage?

- ☆ Are there areas in your life where you have given in to peer-pressure and have compromised what you believe is right?

- ☆ What is keeping you from living courageously? How can you overcome these obstacles?

- ☆ Do you have a strategy for overcoming peer-pressure? If so, what is it? If not, what steps can you take to have a strategy that works?