

FUSION Q's... Esther Part 7: Our God Saves

Discussion Theme: God's Faithfulness

Purpose of Discussion: To recognize God's faithfulness in our lives and discuss how God's faithfulness convinces us to trust in him.

1. Theme Question for Discussion (5 min)

- ☆ What does God being faithful look like?
- ☆ How can we be sure that God is faithful?

2. Read Esther 8 (whole chapter)

3. Discussing the Text (5 min max! - easy answers)

- ☆ How were Mordecai and Esther rewarded by God through the actions of the king?
- ☆ What did the king's new orders allow the Jews to do?
- ☆ Why didn't the king just cancel his previous order to annihilate the Jews?
- ☆ God's compassion for the Jewish people was expressed in his faithfulness to them on many occasions throughout history. Explain how God was faithful to Esther, Mordecai, and the Jewish nation in Esther's story.

4. Redirection

I think sometimes we credit God for being faithful only when he does what we ask him to do. But what about the times when he doesn't do what we ask? Is God still faithful then?

During Esther's time, the people of God were displaced and felt abandoned by God as they were forced to leave their homes and live in a foreign land - away from the temple (where the presence of God dwelt) and away from the rest of their people. I am sure that there were many times when the people wondered if God was still faithful. However, one of the main themes in Esther is that God primarily works behind the scenes, and that nothing humans do can derail his overall plan. This makes it hard for us to trust God because we must trust him through faith due to the fact that we cannot see what he is up to. So, even though he may not grant our requests when we pray and we may

not understand what he is doing, we can trust that he knows what's best for us and that he's working things out for his glory and our benefit.

Rom 8:28... And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

5. Digging Deeper (20-30 min)

Leader's key thought: *Keep referring back to God's faithfulness. He will always work things out for the good for those who love him.*

- ☆ After going through the book of Esther, what are your main take-aways from the story and or talks?
- ☆ Why is it important to believe in God's faithfulness?
- ☆ How does knowing that God is faithful affect the way you involve Him in your life?
- ☆ Giving your life completely to God can be a scary thing because we often are not sure what he will do with it. What things are hindering you from giving every part of your life to God (your friends, your struggles, your family situation, your relationship with your parents, your future, etc.)?
- ☆ What difference does it make in your life to know that you can completely trust God with every part of your life?
- ☆ How can you overcome some of the fears that may be holding you back from trusting God completely with everything?