

life group study guide

June 21, 2015

Storytellers: Everyone Has a Story, Is Yours Worth Telling?

Esther Seeks God and Throws a Party

BIG IDEA: Seek God's wisdom for each chapter of your story.

READ: Esther 4:15-17

"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him."

Q: Have you ever faced something in your life so overwhelming that it drove you to drop everything and immediately seek God?

Q: Have you ever fasted? What did you fast? Share that experience with the group and how it impacted your life?

Q: What does fasting do to our flesh? How does it remind us of our humanity? Why is that important?

Commentary: We define sin as "doing bad things," but the root of sin is not about our moral actions, it's about who is at the center of our lives. It's about who we worship. When seeking wisdom for each chapter of our stories, our first endeavor should be to remove "idols" and place God back in central control of our lives. In that way, prayer and fasting are much more than a laundry list of our requests, they are idol-crushing practices.

Q: Do you find prayer to be a "re-centering" force in your life? Why or why not?

Q: What "idols" do you find regularly need to be crushed?

Q: If wisdom for our actions is rooted in the centering of our heart around God, how might have Esther's prayer and fasting impacted the decisions she had to make? Can you relate to something personal in your own life?

life group study guide



READ: James 1:5

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

Commentary: There is a difference between asking God for wisdom and asking God to do what we want. Prayer and fasting is a method of reconciling the two.

Q: I find myself problem solving until I run out of options, then I ask God. If God promises wisdom, why don't we ask for it more quickly and more often?

Q: Queen Esther needed wisdom, but she also needed courage. Do you find that prayer and courage connected? Can you give an example from your life?

READ: Esther 5:1-8

Q: Do you find it odd that Queen Esther didn't ask her real question of the King at the first banquet? Why do you think she asked them to return again the next night?

Q: Is God-given courage and wisdom devoid of fear? Can you share an example from your own life?

Q: Talk about a time in your life when you prayed, fasted, sought God's wisdom and will, and felt His leading....but things still didn't go well. What did God teach you?

Q: Talk about a time in your life when you sought God's wisdom and He showed up in ways that you could have never imaged or anticipated.

Q: On the whole, what do you think the story of Queen Esther tells us about God?

life group study guide