

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

citygroups

Spring 2022

Week of February 20th

Studies in Esther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Young Professional Gathering: Feb 28th, 6:30. Please RSVP on the church website
- Student Ministry Camp Sponsorship Opportunity: visit citychurchtallahassee.com/camp for an opportunity to help support the cost of camp
- Equip classes: Sunday nights starting at 5pm

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Esther 9:1-5; Esther 9:20-22

Supporting Texts: Galatians 5:22; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

MAIN IDEA: God's faithfulness is shown to the Jewish people in the story of Esther and can still be trusted today.

OBSERVE

God's faithfulness is shown in the sudden change of outcome for the Jewish people in Esther chapters 8 and 9. Haman's plot has been revealed and Esther and Mordecai's courage is rewarded with favor from the King and deliverance for the Jewish people.

Read Esther 9:1-5

How is this record of events different from what Haman had planned for that day?

Read chapter 9 verses 10, 15 and 16, What important detail did the author mention about the Jews' behavior? *They did not seize any plunder of the people they defeated.* And, why does this detail matter? *(Their focus was on God's deliverance and faithfulness to save their lives. They were defending themselves not waging war for profit).*

Read Esther 9:20-22

Why did Mordecai tell the Jews to celebrate? *To remember the faithfulness and deliverance of God.*

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INTERPRET

God's faithfulness was shown to the Jews in the story of Esther, and the people are instructed to commemorate and remember this faithfulness. In what traditions, ordinances or practices do we commemorate God's redemptive plan at work in his people and remember God's faithfulness to us? *Baptism and Lord's Supper*

Read Hebrews 10:23

How does God's faithfulness give us unwavering hope? *God's faithfulness is based on his character which is unchanging. He is faithful and cannot be unfaithful so our hope is sure.*

RESPOND

God's faithfulness means we can trust him in our lives because he is true to his Word. Do you consider faithfulness an attribute of God's that you can seek to reproduce in your own life? *When we put our faith in Christ and our hearts are changed by the gospel we not only receive eternal life, we also receive the indwelling Holy Spirit, and he produces the fruit of faithfulness in our lives.*

Read Galatians 5:22-25

As followers of Christ we are called to be faithful as He is faithful. How can we live out ordinary everyday faithfulness?

APPLY

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

In a broken world how can we trust in the faithfulness of God to strengthen us to the end and keep us blameless?

How can we be faithful students of his Word so that we are enriched in speech and knowledge?

How can we remind ourselves, as the Jews did during Purim, of the times that God has been faithful to us?