



## Part 3: Feeling Hopeless is not Being Hopeless

### Esther 3

1. Name a recent situation where things seemed to be going great, and then took a sudden turn for the worse.

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- a. Why is it helpful to embrace that life in a fallen world has *plenty* of bright AND dark days?

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2. Describe what is it like to *feel* hopeless?

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- a. What tempts you to feel hopeless for a moment? For a season?

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- b. Why is it critical to discern the difference from *feeling* hopeless and actually *being* hopeless?

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3. Read Esther 3:1-5. What occurs between Mordecai and Haman here? Why?

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- a. Why should we not get caught up with questions about Mordecai and Esther's character in the book of Esther?

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- b. How are Mordecai and Esther presented by God throughout the book of Esther?

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- c. How has King Ahasuerus and Haman been presented in Esther so far?

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4. Read Esther 3:6-15. Who is Haman like from modern history? Why?

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a. Why trappings of pride and arrogance can we avoid by observing Haman?

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b. What do we learn about governmental laws that systematically oppress people here?

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c. Why does this situation feel so hopeless?

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d. Why would the disciples have been tempted to hopelessness once Jesus had been crucified? What changed to put all our feelings of hopelessness in perspective?

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5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10. What do we learn about God's role in situations that feel hopeless?

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a. How has God used temptations to feel hopeless to get you to a *better* place spiritually?

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b. Write down what feels uniquely overwhelming in life right now.

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c. What does it look like to set your hope in God in your mindset?

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d. What practical steps will you take toward FULLY hoping in God this week?

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