

Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 2, 2022

Esther 8:15 – 9:17 – Courage, Confidence, and Joy

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Can you share a time you were in a bad storm or natural disaster? Did you have any warning? What were your thoughts/emotions as you went through that?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

MAIN POINT

Though we face challenges and battles in life, we can still have courage, confidence, and joy as we follow the Lord.

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

- What are some thoughts/emotions you experience when you feel like a challenge, difficulty, or problem is about to show up in your life?

Read – Esther 8:11-17

- This new law did not stop the attack against the Jews, still they responded with JOY and GLADNESS. Why do you think they reacted like that?
- Can you share a time you were able to have JOY and GLADNESS, even during a challenge, difficulty, or problem?

Read – John 17:14-18

- What clues can we glean from these verses to show us that our lives as followers of Jesus are not always going to be super easy?
- How do you handle people who hate you? Do you get mad, sad, etc.?

- What purpose does Jesus share as why He wants us to stay here in this world where some people hate us?
- How can we share our faith with people who hate us?
- What can make it difficult to grasp the reality of the spiritual realm?
- What do you think of when you think of spiritual warfare?
- Can you share a time you feel like you experienced spiritual warfare? What happened? How did you handle it?

Read – Ephesians 6:12-13, Colossians 2:15, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, and 1 John 4:4

- What encouragement do these verses give us regarding our ability to wage war in the spiritual?
- Why do you think Christians are sometimes afraid of Satan or Demons?

Read – the second part of Esther 8:17

- Why were the Persians converting to Judaism?
- What do you think might have happened if, instead of having joy and confidence, all the Jewish people got really scared and worried?
- How can our confidence as Christians, specifically during challenges and battles, be a strong witness to unbelievers around us?
- What advice would you give someone who is struggling to have confidence to face the challenges in their life?

Read – Esther 9:1

- What does this show us regarding what our God is able to do?
- Can you share a time in your life when you thought something bad was going to happen, but it ended up that the **OPPOSITE OCCURRED?**

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Take some time to share some of the current or future challenges that you are experiencing in your life and commit to pray for each other regarding these things.