

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 08

GLIMPSES OF GOD

Let's Talk

Have you ever felt like God was absent? If you look back at that time now, how can you see the way God was sovereignly at work the whole time? Talk with your group about your experiences of God's great faithfulness.

Let's Study

Read Esther 9 in two different translations.

Read v.1a, 17-19.

How do different translations state the date of the decree and celebration? Are there any interesting study notes about this in your Bible? Why do the Jews at Susa celebrate the festival one day later than the rural Jews?

Read v.1b.

How does the wording among translations add dramatic effect when describing the events?

Read v. 3.

How do the king's nobles and officials react to the decree, and why?

Read v.6-10,15-16.

Why do the Jewish people not take any plunder when they kill their enemies (v.10,15,16)?

Read v.11-14.

Why is it necessary that Esther has Haman's 10 sons killed? What further request does she have for the king about this?

Read v. 23-27.

Why is the celebration called 'Festival of Purim'?

Read v. 29.

Queen Esther wrote another letter putting the queen's full _____ behind Mordechai's letter. What is the significance of this word? Why does it validate the first letter? How does being under the _____ of Jesus Christ validate us?

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Lets Apply

In a single day Susa and all the king's provinces were claimed by the sovereign hand of God. Imagine this eight-month period of waiting to see how God would deliver his people; little did they know at the time that the Almighty God was working to settle a centuries old spiritual battle.

As we learned on Sunday, part of trusting God is waiting. Very often we want things done instantly, but God is working on the big picture, bringing all things together for ultimate good.

"The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait on the Lord quietly." (Lamentations 3:25-26)

In seasons of waiting, God asks us to draw closer to him so that we may experience the amazing blessing of knowing him and his faithfulness. Jeremiah was confined in the courtyard of the guard when the word of the Lord came upon him with this message:

"This is what the Lord says, the Lord who made the earth, he who formed it and established it, whose name is the Lord – 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'" (Jeremiah 33:3)

As we wait on God to work out that insurmountable struggle in our lives, can we use this time to call on him for his great wisdom and eternal vision?

The end of an oppressive era is reason to celebrate and remember what God has done for His people. What is something that God has done for you that you can celebrate? How can we celebrate and honour what God has done together?

Let's Pray

God, thank you for your kindness and grace towards your people. Thank you for delivering us from evil and for caring for us. We ask that you would remind us of all of the good that you have done, so that we may celebrate and honour you, and share your goodness with those around us.