

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 03

GLIMPSSES OF GOD

Let's Talk

What type of shows or movies do you enjoy watching? In your opinion what makes a great story?

Let's Study

Read Esther 3:1-6.

The book of Esther is a tv-like 'mini-series'. Who is the new individual introduced in these verses? What do his actions tell you about his character? About how he feels towards Mordecai individually? And about how he feels about the Jews?

Read Exodus 17:8-16.

Haman is an ancestor of the Amalekites, a large nomadic tribe who had invaded the people of God just after their exodus from Egypt. Who specifically is Amelek in a never ending battle against (see verse 16)?

Read Esther 3:7-11.

What is a 'pur'? Pastor Jon explained the purpose of using the pur was to search the gods for permission. How does this impact your understanding of the source influencing Haman's plot?

What does this chapter add to your picture of King Xerxes?

An 11-month delay was secured 'by casting lots' which would put the destruction of the Jews just before the passover; a most important religious celebration. What is the significance of this?

Read Esther 3:12-15.

What would you imagine the Jews were feeling/thinking as they were given almost a year's notice of their pending annihilation? What do the rest of the people think about the decree (see verse 15)?

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Lets Apply

Think of some whose customs are different from yours. How does that affect your fellowship? Do you build on the similarities, or bridge the differences? Why?

Re-read Esther 3:13 and compare Haman's plot to Satan's plot for humans in John 10:10. How do you see spiritual warfare playing out in Esther Chapter Three? In what ways or areas of your life have you been experiencing spiritual warfare lately and how can your group help encourage/be there for you in the current battle you are facing?

Think about how you will apply what you're learning. Has God asked you to do something? Is there a sin you're hiding? A backdoor you've yet to close?

Let's Pray

FWatch the video Praying for the Persecuted Church with 24/7 Prayer Movement's Pete Greig.
<https://youtu.be/Nny-6hoLSjU>

"Persecution is any hostility experienced as a result of one's identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians."

<https://www.opendoorsca.org/get-involved/pray/>

Lord, we pray for the people of your church who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for the pastors working to support the people. We pray for politicians and peacemakers who have the means to effect change. Amen