

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 06

GLIMPSSES OF GOD

Let's Talk

Many people struggle with sleeping, especially when we are distracted by things like technology, our to-do list, and stress. What is your solution when you can't sleep? Can you think of some examples in the Bible when people have trouble sleeping?

Let's Study

Read Esther 6:1-3.

Imagine if you were a king and couldn't sleep. Why would you want to read the record of your reign during this time?

King Xerxes discovers that there is an injustice in the book. What is it? Can you think of other examples in the Bible where the king can't rest until he has ensured justice?

Read Esther 6:5-9.

What do you think is the irony of the king unintentionally concealing from Haman the identity of the "man the king delights to honour"?

Haman thinks this man of honour should wear the king's robe. What is the significance of wearing a royal robe?

Read Esther 6:10-14.

Discuss with your group what emotions Haman might have experienced during the parade in celebration of Mordechai.

Read Esther 7:1-4.

Describe Esther's request in your own words. What unique gifts and abilities does she use in this moment to persuade the king?

Read Esther 7:5-6.

How does the king react to Esther's petition? How would you expect?

Read Esther 7:7-10.

Is there another Bible story this scene with Esther on the couch reminds you of?

How do you feel when reading what happens to Haman?

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Lets Apply

Read Proverbs 16:18 and 1 Peter 5:6.

We see that God's justice always prevails, and that He uses those whose hearts are willing to accomplish His mighty plans.

In what areas of your life have you seen God's amazing work since handing them completely over to Him? In what areas of your life is God still asking you to humble yourself?

It's important to understand how God designed us uniquely for His purposes. Like Esther, God has given each of us special gifts and abilities. Spend a few minutes chatting in your group about what unique gifts, skills, and abilities each of you have (including spiritual gifts – think back to the sermon series in January 2019) and help each other identify some of these.

Let's Pray

Dear Lord God,

Thank you for the lessons you are teaching us through the story of Esther. Thank you for your faithfulness and your promises. Thank you for this small group where we can share so openly in your name. Forgive us, Lord, for the areas in our life that we are keeping from you. Help us to humbly identify them and hand them over to you completely God, for we long to see your work in our lives and in our church; we long to be near to you, our Redeemer. In the name of Jesus, Amen.