

Dig Deeper @Home – “Coincidence?”

Complement to lesson on 05/17/2020 – “Caught in Between”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Who’s your favorite super hero? If you could have the same powers as one superhero, who would you pick and why?
2. Ever find yourself “between a rock and a hard place?” How did you decide what to do?

MEMORIZE – Esther 4: 15-16

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

READ Esther 2: 1-18

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What sticks out to you in this passage? What did you like? What didn’t you like?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
3. Mordecai tells Esther to keep her true identity hidden (v.10) This may remind some of Abraham telling Sarah to say she is his sister in Genesis 12: 10-20 & 20. Compare and contrast these situations.
4. Esther seems caught in between two realities so much so the author shares both of her names.
 - a. When have you felt caught between following Christ or following culture?
 - b. Have you ever followed culture only to think it somehow disqualifies you from following Christ or being able to lead others to follow Him? How so?
 - c. Perhaps after reading chapter 2 you wonder how God can still work through the shocking and troubling choices of Esther and Mordecai. Spend time reading 1st Timothy 1: 12-17. What does God have to say about this?
5. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
6. In light of these revealed truths, what changes might you need to make, and how do you feel you are being called to put this into action?

Experiential activity – Lost and Found

Living in counties that are still under stay-at-home orders can have us feeling “caught in between.” In times like these, when so much is out of our control, we can enter a state of learned helplessness and find ourselves giving up self-control. Taking time to answer the following questions can help us to overcome this and carry on. If you are doing this with younger kids, allow them to draw their answers.

1. In the midst of the stay-at-home orders, what have you lost? (write down and share aloud)
2. How are you coping with these losses?
3. In the midst of the stay-at-home orders, what have you found?
4. Concerning the ongoing stay-at-home orders, list the things that are outside of your control
 - a. Allot a specified time (5-10 minutes) “worrying” or complaining about these things...then move on
5. List the things that you can control today
 - a. Prioritize any activities you list, create action plans, start accomplishing

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

King of my Heart - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jkMng2Hfzo>

O Praise the Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>

Amazing Grace (My chains are gone) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Amazing Grace - Mennonite Hymnal 242

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

As you go, go with the presence of the resurrected Christ, go with the power of the Holy Spirit, go with the Word of God dwelling in you richly, go with the love for one another, which Christ commands, and the love of God, the joy of the Holy Spirit, & the peace Christ gives will be yours. Amen.