

Session 5 Leader Guide

Remembering God's Faithfulness - ESTHER 9:2 - 10:3

READ

Ask one person to read the following passage, and then discuss the questions that follow.

23 The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it) in remembrance of me.)) 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

What did Paul say was the purpose of partaking in communion or the Eucharist?

What does it mean to "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"?

WATCH

Play the video for session five (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts, questions, or points that stand out to you.

Seasons of struggle can be treacherous for the human heart. When times are tough, we are sitting ducks for discouragement and defeat. Despair can be a dangerous season. But it can also be a developing time. Tough times can make us bitter or make us better.

Where God is small, problems are large. A wimpy God makes for a wimpy heart. But a great God makes for a solid saint. So let God be big. Believe that he is big!

We all suffer from spiritual amnesia. We forget that God can make beauty out of ashes, joy out of mourning, an army out of a valley of dead bones, and rejoicing out of sorrow.

Journey CHURCH

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The Christian version of the Persian miracle involves not Esther in Susa, but God's Son buried in a tomb. Just as Haman declared a death sentence on the Jews, so Satan declared a death sentence on the Source of life himself.

The God of great turnarounds performed his greatest work on Easter Sunday. And just so we would never forget this moment, Jesus gave us our own Purim celebration.

Never forget that the God of great turnarounds is the God who holds the future in his hands. For followers of Christ, the future is filled with victory from horizon to horizon.

DISCUSS

Take a few minutes with your group members to discuss what you just heard and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. Read Esther 9:20-22. Why did Mordecai call his people to commemorate these days?
2. What is the significance of the word Purim?
3. How did this difficult season for the Jews make them better instead of bitter?
4. Read Luke 22:19-20. How does the celebration of Purim parallel the remembrance that Jesus called the disciples to observe during the Last Supper?
5. When has a difficult season made you better instead of bitter?
6. What do you remember about this time that gives you hope for a difficult season you're in now or could be sometime in the future?

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RESPOND

Close this study by reflecting on the difficult seasons you have been through in the past year. How has God compelled you to step out of your comfort zone? What are some of the key decisions you have made? How have you seen God at work to create turnarounds in your story? What acts of his faith-fulness do you most want to remember moving forward?

PRAY

Close your time in prayer, thanking God for the ways that he has led you during this study. Share any prayer requests and review how God has answered past prayers during the five weeks that you have met together. Use the space below to re-cord any new requests, and be sure to pray for these needs and for your fellow group members in the coming week.