

It comes back to story

Esther

Week 15
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Called to Greatness (Esther 10)

INTRODUCTION

God's story for humanity will be a good one...but the question really is, "what type of story are you living?" We are all in a story but are our lives something that would inspire us?

DISCUSSION

If you look at your life and the story you are living... if you saw someone who was living your life would it inspire you?

EXPLANATION

Take a quick moment to think of all the magazines, books, tv shows, and music you let influence your life... whose story are you actually letting adjust our compass?

What type of story are you living based upon what influences you?

APPLICATION

If someone made a movie about how you treat your friends would people assume it was a good or bad character?

If someone made a movie about how you treat your boss or coworkers would people assume it was a good or bad character?

If someone made a movie about talked to your spouse the way to talk to yours, would people assume it was a good or bad character?

Is your life about Jesus' story or your own?

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1 Chronicles 16:9
Esther 1:1
Genesis 41:43
James 1:2-4
James 2:1
Genesis 37:9

Genesis 39:6-7
Romans 12:3
Philippians 2:3-8
James 1:2-4
Matthew 25:21

Psalms 9:1; 71:24;
73:28; 75:1; 105:2;
107:22; 145:4-11; 63:7

Week 15 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



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1 Chronicles 16:9 "Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts."

Esther is all about story. Esther's story, Mordecai's story, Haman's story, Xerxes' story, and really a call to our own story as well. Esther is the story of man's craziness and God's faithfulness. If you asked Esther and Mordecai in the midst of their story what was going on, they would be freaking out and not knowing fully "what was going on."

Esther 10:1-4 (The Epilogue)

In the end you see how God's providence changed everything. You see that God's good was done in spite of those who stood against Him and those who claimed to stand for Him. The Hebrew word used here is TOV, it means everything good, in the broadest sense possible. That which is beautiful; that which is attractive; that which is majestic; that which is useful; that which is profitable; and that which is morally right are all *tov*.

God's story for humanity will be a good one... but the question really is, "**what type of story are you living?**" We are all in a story, but are our own lives something that would inspire us?

In order for a story or a human life to be meaningful, you need the same things:

- You need a lead character - ESTHER.
- You need an ambition – SAVE THE JEWS.
- You need conflict and hard times - THEY WILL BE SLAUGHTERED.
- You need resolution – JEWS WERE SAVED.

Story is powerful and is one of the ways we learn most of what we know. Scripture, from beginning to end is narrative after narrative... when God finishes one story, He picks another.

God stories are like a compass to show us what is good and bad, what is worth pursuing and what is not, God's story adjusts a compass in our brain. *Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*



God has given us great freedom, but it is as if our freedom has paralyzed us and we don't want God to give us freedom, we want Him to give us the 5 things we have to do. But God says "be creative, run with your dream, glorify me, make a great story."

- "I want my kids to love God and love me" – Good story, how do you now get there?
- "I want my wife to know the love Jesus has for her by how I love her" – Good story.

At times this can be very hard as God longs to grow you through trial. Too many times Christians say "we were going to do this thing but God closed the door." Sometimes God wants you to work for it and kick down a door, and work through fear *James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

God has a great story, all through scripture people tell the story, He tells people to tell the story (1 Chron 16:9; Psalm 9:1, 71:24, 73:28, 75:1, 105:2, 107:22, 145:4-11; Is 63:7) so we don't forget what we are called too. It's about Jesus, His call, His story, and what we will do while in it... what will you do? Will you live in fear or will you do something scary and begin to live a better story?

