

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

May 15, 2022

TALK

Start a conversation with your group.

- Finish this sentence: The most courageous thing I've done recently is _____.
- If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future or in history would you visit?

SCRIPTURE

Esther 1:4-12, 19-20

4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. 5 When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa. 6 The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and other costly stones. 7 Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality. 8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink with no restrictions, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

10 On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas— 11 to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. 12 But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

19 "Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she. 20 Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest."

Proverbs 11:1-6

1 The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

Matthew 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father[a] is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—

comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Proverbs 16:18-19

18 Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed
than to share plunder with the proud.

Ephesians 1:18-20

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

SHARING

- How does the King misuse his authority and power? How should we treat those we have authority over?
- How do you respond when suddenly you find yourself in a compromising situation?
- Someone in a position of power and influence presses you to engage in something that goes against your values, and what God has created you to do. How likely will the way you handle the situation be influenced by pleasing others or choosing what you think is best for you?
- Where are people experiencing abuses of power – in your community, your church, your country, the world?
- The king lived for possessions, passions, and pride. What does the Bible say in warning about the danger of living for this world and what it has to offer? Why does humility matter?
- Why are wealth, prestige, power, and possessions so attractive to us? Sometimes we want to display what we have to other people. What provokes this?
- In what ways do you find yourself living for the things of this world rather than living for God's kingdom?
- If we, the church, are the bride, how do our words and actions reflect on Christ's image to the world?
- What does it mean to live faithfully in a post-Christian culture?

APPLICATION

Commit to a step and live it out this week. Here are some examples:

- Take some time for confession. Think about the areas in your life in which you have been prideful, or you have mistreated others, or your priorities do not line up with God's. Ask God to change your heart to align more with His.
- Spend time cultivating an attitude of humility: spend time listening to others, ask for help when you need it, seek feedback from others, be grateful for what you have, admit when you're wrong, be generous with what you have.
- Write down 5 things you are grateful for each day.
- Join a LifeGroup to learn more about Jesus and how he calls us to live our life.

PRAYER

Father, forgive us for we tend to live in pride rather than humility. We pray that You would highlight to us what it truly means to live a humble life, and that our own worth would be revealed by Your light. Help us to be a witness to others of your greatness, faithfulness, and love, amen.