



## Week One | Past | 09.25-26.2021

**Grow Deep Conversation Questions:** Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

**Message Recap:** Some of us are stuck in our past, consumed by our present, or overly focused on our future. What if we allowed TIME to be something that we give to God instead of our circumstances.

### » Opening (3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
  - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
  - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

### » Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What was your peak moment in high school?
- Digging Deeper: What made this such a special moment in your life?

### » Observation | Recap Esther 1-3; Read Esther 1:1-4, 10-12; 2:1-4, 15-18; 3:7-11; Romans 8:1-4 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

### » Key Principle | Your past can align you rather than define you. (12 minutes)

- The circumstances of this story feel so different from our lives today but what are the cultural tensions you feel as a follower of Jesus from the world around us?

### » Are You Living FOR Your Past? | Reread Esther 1:1-4, 10-12 (12 minutes)

- How can your 'peak moments' in your life distort who you are and how you should respond like Jesus in this moment of your life?
- How is King Xerxes living in his past? How did this mentality affect him and those around him?

### » Are You Living FROM Your Past? | Reread Esther 2:1-4, 15-18; 3:7-11 (12 minutes)

- How can you end up carrying trauma from your past into future decisions and assumptions?
- What burdens are you carrying from your past? How are these weighing you down?

### » Are You Living WITH Your Past AND Jesus? | Reread Romans 8:1-4 (12 minutes)

- Read Romans 8:1 outloud together. What does it mean that "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?"
- What are the ramifications when we don't fully understand or live out this truth?

### » Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- What needs to come out of the checked bag of your past so that it can fit into your present and be a part of the kind of legacy God wants you to live and leave behind?
- Close by praying for each other, asking God to help you process places in your past that are continuing to affect your present.