



## Week Two | Present | 10.02-03.2021

**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 personal item do you carry with you when you fly?
- Digging Deeper: What are the “must-have” items in your personal item? What makes them that important to you?

### » Observation | Recap Esther 4-7; Read Esther 4:1-3,13-14,16-17; 5:5-10; 6:13b

(15 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 | Carry Less, Live More.

(15 minutes)

- Where have you placed your energy, time, and money? What does that say about your present priorities?
- Haman lived a life in the present that was focused on the wrong things, what did he prioritize most?

### » Only Bring What You Need | Reread Esther 4:1-3,13-14,16-17

(15 minutes)

- What do we know about the circumstances surrounding the Jewish people in the Persian Empire (look back at chapter 3)?
- How do Mordecai and Esther respond? How might you have responded in a similar situation today (probably not life and death, but a moment when you have to take a stand and step outside of cultural expectations for the good of others)?

### » The Vessel Matters | Reread Esther 5:5-10

(15 minutes)

- Why would Esther have been hesitant to enter the king's presence? What does she do to prepare for this encounter?
- Describe a time when your ambition was too big for your character? What happened in the end?
- What could have happened to Esther if she had not taken time before going to the king? What happens when we want God to give us more than we are ready for and attempt to override Him by cutting corners?

### » Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- Look at Esther 6:13b. What is revealed about God in this verse? How have you noticed God's “silent presence” in the book of Esther?
- What might you need to do to live more intentionally in your “present” moments?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30. What can you let go of and let God carry?
- Close by praying for each other, asking God to help you release the extra weight so you can show up and engage now.