



Week Three | Future | 10.09-10.2021

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 is your preferred travel bag? A suitcase to check? A backpack or personal item under the seat? Or a carryon that you place in the overhead bin? Explain why that's your favorite item.
- Digging Deeper: Do you look forward to the future or dread it? Why do you think that might be?

» Observation | Recap Esther 8-10; Read Esther 8:1-2, 15-17; 9:11-13, 20-22; 10:1-3

(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 | Are you dreaming or dreading your future?

(12 minutes)

- Esther shows us what enduring under pressure looks like. What would have been the most difficult things for you to do in her story?

» Waiting is Different Than Denying | Reread Esther 8:1-2, 15-17

(12 minutes)

- What is a practical way you can release control of your future without ignoring it altogether?
- How do you see God working through Esther, even though His name is never mentioned? How might God be silently working in your life?

» Our View of the Past Shapes the Future | Reread Esther 9:11-13, 20-22

(12 minutes)

- How can God's past faithfulness let you dream about the future in His hands rather than dread about it in yours?
- What was the significance of the Feast of Purim? In what ways have you been able to celebrate even the most difficult moments?

» You Can Flourish in Exile | Reread Esther 10:1-3

(12 minutes)

- Have you ever felt like an "exile" in a "foreign land?" What caused you to feel so out of place? How were you able to flourish there?
- What are the challenges you face that require the most trust and patience in your life right now?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What are the ways that you can anchor moments of God's faithfulness in your past not just traumatic events that trigger you?
 - 1) Write them down 2) Make up holidays/calendar them 3) Create visual reminders
- Close by praying for each other remember the ways God has been faithful in your past, your present, and trust Him with your future.