



### THE BIG IDEA

Godly people can help us  
with our questions.

### THE BIBLE

Esther 2-4; 1 Kings 19:1-18;  
Hebrews 10:24-25

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### QUESTIONS:

- Do you know the future?
- How does not knowing the future (especially during this period) make you feel?
- What causes you anxiety? What comforts you?
- How can we help one another during this period?
- The future and direction of your life is largely unknown – and that can be scary. What if you make the wrong decision? How do you figure out where God might be leading you?

#### ACTIVITY | Virtual Escape Room

- Let's see how good we are at making decisions. In this game, there is an escape route, but we're going to have to find it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) with the sound on and have students vote on which decision to make.
- Sometimes life feels like a series of decisions that all seem dangerous and scary. Today we're going to look at several people who had questions about where God was leading them, and what they did about it – starting with me.

**SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

#### QUESTION:

- Have you ever felt unsure about a decision you needed to make or a path you wanted to take? Let's talk about it.
- What helped you make the decision and or find peace for the path ahead?

#### SCRIPTURE | Esther 2-4

- Before the story of Esther begins, here's what you need to know . . .
  - There was a powerful king of Persia named Xerxes. Xerxes did not follow God, but there were many Jewish people in his kingdom who did.



- One day, Xerxes got drunk and angry at his wife, Queen Vashti, because she refused to parade herself in front a bunch of rulers Xerxes wanted to impress with her beauty.
- Xerxes threw Vashti out of the palace and began a search for a new wife. He was determined to find the most beautiful girl in all of Persia to be his new queen – whether that girl liked it or not.
- **READ ESTHER 2**
  - If you were Esther, how do you think you would have felt about being forced to marry someone – especially a king who had a history of mistreating his wives?
  - If you were in Esther's situation, do you think you would you have doubted or questioned God? Why or why not?
  - It might sound good to be a queen, but how was Esther's situation dangerous?
  - How did Esther make decisions?
- **READ ESTHER 3**
  - How did Esther's situation become even more dangerous?
  - If you were in Esther's position, what questions might you be asking God?
- **READ ESTHER 4**
  - What did Mordecai ask Esther to do?
  - Why was Esther hesitant to do what Mordecai asked?
  - What do you think you would have done if you were Esther?
  - What did Esther decide to do?
- Esther made a difficult choice in a time of uncertainty, and she saved the lives of God's people as a result. But did you notice something interesting about the story of Esther? God is never mentioned – not once, in the whole book!
  - That doesn't mean God was absent from the situation, even if God's name was absent from the book.
  - I'm guessing Esther probably went to God in prayer when she was deciding what to do, but all we know for sure is that she sought the advice of a godly person.

### **SCRIPTURE** | 1 Kings 19:1-18

- Now let's take a look at one of the greatest prophets in all of Scripture – a man named Elijah.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read 1 Kings 19:1-18 together. Have students discuss each question in their groups.*
- Elijah had just performed a miracle to show how powerful God was, but right after it happened, his life was threatened, so Elijah panicked, ran away, and hid in a cave.
  - If you were in Elijah's position, what questions do you think you would have been asking God?
  - What did Elijah say to God?



- What did God tell Elijah to do?
- Why do you think God's instructions in verses 15-18 are important?
- God's instructions to Elijah may seem like irrelevant or boring details at first glance, but they're actually really important.
  - God told Elijah to get connected with a support system — a group of people who could help him.
  - Even though Elijah had been comforted by God directly, God knew Elijah needed other godly people to help him carry on.

### GODLY PEOPLE CAN HELP US WITH OUR QUESTIONS

- When we're experiencing confusion, uncertainty, or fear, it's easy to question what we're supposed to do next and why God isn't making our path clear.
- Scripture never promises that God will directly tell us what to do next, but the stories of Esther and Elijah show us that we need godly people to help us figure things out sometimes.
- So how do we make decisions when we're not sure what God would want us to do next? We get a support system — because godly people can help us with our questions.

**NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

### REFLECTION | Phone a Friend

- There used to be a famous game show called *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. When contestants got stuck on a trivia question, they could "Phone a Friend" to ask one person they trusted for advice.
- Those contestants probably had a few of different categories of people on their "Phone a Friend" list — like the history buff, the pop culture expert, or the sports fan. So let's think about the different categories of people we might want as our "Phone a Friends."
  - **CHEERLEADER:** Who do you go to when you need a dose of encouragement and positivity? Who can you always trust to give you a pep talk?
  - **COUNSELOR:** Who always gives you great advice? When you're in a dilemma, have questions, or don't know how to move forward, who do you trust to help you take a next step?
  - **COACH:** Who can always motivate you to keep making progress on your goals?
  - **MENTOR:** Who is an older person who has an ongoing relationship with you, who makes you better, and who you trust enough to share details of your life?
  - **PASTOR:** Maybe this person has the official title of "pastor," or maybe they don't — but who is guiding and advising you in your faith, and helping you develop a deeper relationship with God?



- **CONFIDANTE:** Who would you trust with your deepest secrets? This should be someone who is safe, trusted, and wise.
- **PRAYER SUPPORT:** This could be one person or a group of people who you can always trust to pray for you.
- **Who did you choose for each category?**
- **Why did you choose each of those people?**
- These people won't guarantee we'll always make right decisions when we're uncertain where God is leading us, but they'll at least make good decisions easier to make.

### **DON'T BE AFRAID OF YOUR QUESTIONS**

- As we close out this series, I hope the main things you take away from this series are . . .
  - That you don't have to be afraid of your questions or doubts, because God can handle them.
  - That you feel safe enough to voice your questions and doubts here, or with at least one person you trust.
- When you have a question or a doubt you need to process, I hope you know that we love you and are always here for you.

### **DISCUSSION**

- **What is one takeaway from today's lesson?**
- **What are some situations where someone might feel confused about where God is leading them?**
- **In the past, when you've felt unsure about what to do next, how did you decide what to do? What was the result? What about now?**
- **Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How can we put this passage into practice during times of doubt, uncertainty or confusion?**
- **Which of the following things are you pretty good at? Which do you need to work on?**
  - Surrounding yourself with godly people.
  - Being a godly influence in someone else's life.
  - Both.
- **What's one-way today's conversation is going to change the way you see your own doubts or questions?**
- **What's one-way today's conversation is going to change the way you see others' doubts or questions?**