

La Novela de Dios

Episode 8 – I'm Me For a Reason?



group discussion flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Sometimes, we can use our power to help someone else."
- Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."
- Illustration(s):
 - Spider man "with great power comes great responsibility."
- Video Clip Suggestion(s):

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
 - Choices:
 - Esther 2:1-17**
 - Esther 3**
 - Esther 4:1-15, 7:1-10**
 - Commentary:
 - Esther 2:1-17** — At this time, the Jews are still living in the land of a foreign king. This king, when he was unhappy with his wife, banished her and started looking for a new queen. One of the women he picked was Esther, a Jew. She found favor with the king but had to keep her ethnicity a secret for fear of discrimination.
 - Esther 3** —Haman, one of the King's advisors, is angry because Mordecai will not worship him. In his fit of rage, he manipulates the king into ordering that all of the Jews should be annihilated. He uses the fact that they are different to make the King afraid of the Jews. The King agrees to kill all of them.
 - Esther 4:1-15, 7:1-10**—Mordecai realizes that God has put Esther in this position so that she can help her people. She is afraid, however, that the king will be angry with her. When Mordecai reminds her that she could do something great, she does the courageous thing and stands up for her people. She recognizes that God has made her uniquely for a purpose, and that includes her ethnic identity.
- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:
 - "What do you think this passage teaches us?"
 - "What can we learn about God or our response to God?"
- How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Sometimes, people in power can use their power to help someone who is not in a position of power?"
 - Esther was just a normal Jewish girl. She probably did not come from a family of wealth or power. But one day, she was chosen as a contestant on "Persian Idol". And with the crown that was placed on her head came an incredible amount of power and influence of her society.
 - At this exact time, her people were in need. Because they were different, the King's advisors were using fear to make him want to get rid of them. Esther is very afraid to say something to the king, for fear that he would be enraged and have her killed or vanished. But then she is reminded that God might want her in power at exactly this time so that He could use her to rescue his people.
 - And so we can see that God continues to rescue his people. Sometimes he uses people who are afraid or who feel unworthy, but in the end, He always rescues them. Just as Esther was made queen at just the right time to save her people from injustice, God will someday send the ultimate rescuer, who will come at just the right time to save His people from sin.

apply that to life

- State the main lesson:
 - "Sometimes God puts us in a position of power because He wants us to use our power to help someone else." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
 - Esther had the power to help her people, but was afraid to approach the king, and afraid to admit who she was. Have you ever felt like you'd rather hide than do the courageous thing?*
 - Graduating from college often brings a lot of power in society. What are some ways that you think the Lord will use this power in your future? How can you be a part of helping those who aren't in power?*
 - What are some situations you're in right now that you think God might want to use you in a specific way?*
 - "What is one action you can take this week to do the ultimately courageous thing to help those around us?"*

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

- pray**
 - Pray for wisdom.
 - Pray for group members.
- connect**
 - Think of a good personal example to share.
 - Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

- hear**
 - **Esther 2**
 1. What do you think it felt like for an ordinary Jewish girl to move into the palace and become queen?
 2. Why did she hide her ethnicity? What do you think that was like for her? Have you experienced similar feelings?
 - **Esther 3**
 1. What was it that originally made Haman angry? Why did he decide he wanted all of the Jews killed?
 2. Why was the king so easily convinced that this was a good law? What were Haman's arguments?
- Esther 4:1-15, 7:1-10**
 1. Why was Esther afraid? Do you think her fears were legitimate?
 2. What was Mordecai's argument to Esther? How did he address her fears?
 3. What does Mordecai say will happen if Esther chooses not to help her people?
 4. Esther is the only book in the Bible that doesn't explicitly mention God. Even though we don't see His name, how can we still see His hand in this story?

notes & preparation checklist

- apply**
 - Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
 - Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
 - Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

- tell**
 - Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
 - Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

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