

When Purpose Hides- Week 2

Life is shifting, disorienting, confusing. It's not what you expected. So what do we do when purpose hides?

Conversation Starter: Pick one of the questions below to get started-

- If you could change one thing from your childhood, what would it be and why?
- What is the oddest food combination you've eaten that you enjoyed?

Discussion Questions:

Question 1: Who is someone you know who has overcome difficult odds and accomplished something extraordinary?

Question 2: Describe a time when a troublesome circumstance brought about something good in your life?

- **Read Esther 4:10-17**

Question 3: God uses messy people and less than perfect circumstances to bring about good in this world. Most of the heroes in the Bible have a ton of baggage in their stories or surrounded by desperate situations. What were some of the realities for Esther and Mordecai that surprised you?

Question 4: In your dark and difficult seasons of life, when you are near the bottom of your "U," what makes it difficult to trust that God is still working?

Question 5: In his message, David shared, "we don't have to feel good to trust there is good coming." Why can trusting our emotions be so dangerous when we are at rock bottom? How can we believe in God even when things look grim?

- **Read Isaiah 43:1-3**

Question 6: Even when life is tough, God is near. Esther followed God one step at a time was used to save a nation. Small steps can lead to significant breakthroughs. What is your next step in your current circumstance?

Next Steps:

- **Cry out to God:** Your Heavenly Father is crazy about you! Remember, the presence of pain does not mean the absence of love. In good times and bad, call out to Jesus because he cares for you.
- **Commit it to memory:** In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Paul, a man who was no stranger to tough circumstances, reminds us that our troubles are light and momentary compared to eternity. Write out that verse this week and commit to memorizing it. When problems strike, it will help you keep perspective!

Prayer:

God thank you for working in every circumstance and choosing to use us even though we don't measure up to your standard. Help us to trust you even when we can't see the outcome. Please help us change our outlook and believe that you will work out our trials as only you can.