

DISCUSSION GUIDE

POWER + GLORY

SESSIONS 6-10

SESSION 6 - AHAB & ELIJAH

TO BEGIN

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

What's your favourite spectator sport? How competitive do you get?

DIGGING DEEPER

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

As Israel is led by Ahab, one of the most evil kings they've ever had, the prophet Elijah appears in our story. God tells Elijah to go first to Kerith Ravine, and then to Zarephath, which is in the heart of the land in which the worship of the idol Baal had come into Israel. After announcing to King Ahab that a severe drought was about to begin, the prophet Elijah left Israel. Now, approximately three years later, Elijah returns and God displays His incredible power by answering Elijah's prayer.

Together, open your Bibles and read from 1 Kings 18.

Picture yourself on Mount Carmel . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about?

- Does God show power today? In what ways has God moved in mighty and miraculous ways?
- What convinces you that God is more powerful than anything else?

Picture yourself as Elijah . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about? How do you relate to Elijah?

What impresses you the most about Elijah in this duel?

- Have you ever wanted to follow Elijah's example and boldly ask for a public miracle in Jesus' name?
- What would it mean for you to follow Elijah's example of taking a risk?
- Which of the people in the story do you most identify with? Is it Ahab? Elijah? Someone else?
- How does this story apply to your life? What will you do about it?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

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SESSION 7 - NAAMAN & ELISHA

TO BEGIN

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

Have you ever seen a miracle? What is a miracle to you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

The account of the healing of Naaman's leprosy is a lesson in the unexpected nature of God's grace and mercy to even our enemies. Naaman was a foreigner, the leader of the Syrian army, the enemy of God's people. Even so, God did a miracle for an outsider.

Together, open your Bibles and read from 2 Kings 5:1-14.

Picture yourself as Naaman . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about? How do you relate to Naaman?

- How would you feel knowing that you held a position of power and yet you suffered from a skin disease that was out of your control?
- Have you ever felt frustrated that there was something in your life you couldn't fix or make better? How can these situations be beneficial in our relationship with God?
- What seems to bring about the change in Naaman's attitude towards God?

Picture yourself as the servant girl . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about? How do you relate to the servant girl?

- How do you perceive her relationship with God? How do her actions remind you of what Jesus did for us in the gospel?

Picture yourself as Elisha . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about? How do you relate to Elisha?

- Which of the people in the story do you most identify with?
- Is your faith stronger today than it was one year ago? What keeps us growing stronger in our faith?
- What do you struggle with the most? Is it fear? Anger? Pride? Resisting God?

God loved Naaman even though he was not from the nation of Israel. For the prophet of the Lord to heal the very person whose job it was to oppress the Israelites seems outrageous. Yet this is our God. He is generous with His grace, pouring out upon those who are underserving, you and me.

- How does this story apply to your life? What will you do about it?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

SESSION 8 – XERXES & ESTHER

TO BEGIN

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

Tell of a time that you were afraid to speak up for what you believed in and did.

DIGGING DEEPER

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

As followers of Jesus, we get to be a part of God's plan to redeem the world in which we live. Often, we need help from others. In our Scripture reading, Mordecai helps Esther discern God's calling for her life. He challenges her to rise to the calling. If Esther doesn't rise to the occasion, she may be missing the very reason that she is on the earth. She has come to the point in her life that is for such a time as this. This is her moment.

Together, open your Bibles and read from Esther 4:1-17; Esther 7:1-10.

One of the most popular verses in Esther is 4:14.

- How does this verse make you feel? Have you ever felt that you were in the right place at the right time and that you were asked by God to do something? What did you decide to do? What was the outcome?

Picture yourself as Esther . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking

about? How do you relate to Esther?

- Esther fasted and prayed. What spiritual practices or disciplines do you engage in regularly to show your dependence on and respect for God?
- What qualities of Esther are admirable to you? Why?

Picture yourself as Mordecai . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about? How do you relate to Mordecai?

- Who is a Mordecai in your life? Who is the spiritually wise person who knows you and helps you discern God's activity and calling in your life, and who loves you enough to challenge you?
- Who are you a Mordecai to?
- Have you ever decided to do something that you were initially scared to do? What gave you the courage to do so?
- Which of the people in the story do you most identify with?
- How does this story apply to your life? What will you do about it?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

SESSION 9 - ARTAXERXES & NEHEMIAH

TO BEGIN

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

Share a highlight from the past week.

DIGGING DEEPER

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

The book of Nehemiah is about courage and a new beginning for God's people. Nehemiah followed the faith of his ancestors and was given a place of high duty within Babylon. Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king. A cupbearer was an advisory position with great authority. For Nehemiah, news that Israel was in suffering caused a strong response. Though he was far away, Nehemiah felt connected to the land from which his people had come. He wanted to do something for Israel.

Together, open your Bibles and read from Nehemiah 1-2.

Picture yourself as Nehemiah . . .

What emotions or feelings come to mind? What are you thinking about? How do you relate to Nehemiah?

- Nehemiah acts with boldness. Are you bold like Nehemiah? Where in your life do you need to be bold like him?
- How do you normally approach prayer? How can we learn to pray without ceasing? How can Nehemiah's prayer challenge us to pray differently?

Nehemiah had the respect and trust of King Artaxerxes without compromising his commitment to God. How can we do the same with those who are in positions of authority over us?

- What are some kingdom goals that you might hesitate to commit to because of difficulty?
- How does Nehemiah's example challenge you to think or act differently as a follower of Jesus?
- How does this story apply to your life? What will you do about it?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

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SESSION 10 - JESUS THE KING

TO BEGIN

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

If you could move to any country, which country would you choose?

DIGGING DEEPER

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend service?

Together, open your Bibles and read from John 19:1-37

There is nothing pleasant or attractive about an execution. They still happen even today. In Jesus' day execution was designed to be public and painful. The account of the crucifixion is often difficult to read. It's important to remember that Jesus' laid his life down willingly. It was part of his plan of redemption, a plan that included you and me.

Three groups were involved in Jesus' death—the soldiers, the Jewish leaders and Pilate.

- How would you characterize each one's attitude toward Jesus? In what were their attitudes toward Jesus similar to those of men and women today?

The disciples are not mentioned at the crucifixion; they were probably not there.

- When it comes to publically following Jesus, under what circumstances are you tempted to respond in the same way the disciples did?
- What feelings do you think Mary had as she watched her son

die? How do you feel when you think about how Jesus died for you?

- Why was it so important for John to establish the certainty of Jesus' death?
- When, and how, did Jesus' death on the cross begin to make a difference in your life?
- What aspect of Jesus' death has made the deepest impression on you, and why?
- Why is Jesus' death on the cross the most amazing display of power?
- Which of the people in the story do you most identify with?
- How does this story apply to your life? What will you do about it?

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS

Spend some time praying for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

