

Discussion Guide

Use the following questions for your Community Group discussions. It is not required that all will be used. Be sensitive to the flow of conversation and the leading of the Holy Spirit.



Part 1

Icebreaker: Share an Easter highlight. It can be from your personal family experience, one of the Hope is Alive services, or a revelation, inspiration, challenge, etc. that you encountered during this time.

DISCUSSION

1. When or How has God's providence been evident in your life *recently*? [*Pastor defines providence as "absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about His purposes, God sees to it that it happens."*]
2. When have you been reminded of God's sovereignty? [*Pastor compared providence with sovereignty and offered this definition: God's sovereignty is His right and power to do all that He decides to do*] [E.g., I prayed this _____, but God knew better and answered this way _____]
3. Can you remember a time in your life when God was preparing you? What things surprised you as you lived out that season of your life?
4. Pastor taught that favor isn't always what we may see as good. Favor can be uncomfortable at times. Discuss favor as you have seen or experienced. You can discuss in terms of the story of Esther or another Biblical figure, or provide an example from your own life or the life of someone you know. [E., Bible— Joseph and Pharaoh, Moses and Pharaoh, etc.]
5. We often say, "all in God's timing" or "God is right on time". Then again, we can be found crying out, "When, God?" or "How long?", even "Come quickly!" How do we really view God's timing? [*perfect, inconvenient, a mystery, unclear, too long, too short, etc.*]
 - Have you ever pushed ahead of His timing or fallen behind? Share your story of how God helped you recognize his timing. Were you able to "adjust" your timing to His? What did it cost you? How did it end up for you?

DEEPER DIVE

1. Consider Pastor's final remarks: What is happening now is setting up the narrative for God's plan of deliverance...not just the story of Esther, but for us, now...and the kingdom to come.
2. Question: Discuss some things that are *happening now* that help you relate to this statement. Reflect on your own thoughts, actions, reactions, emotions during this time. Are they in line with God's providence, sovereignty, and tapestry of deliverance?

LEADERS: Please share your group's testimonies and/or plans with Shalon Clevenger, Group Team Lead [groups@abundantlifebaltimore.com; Slack #small-groups, 443-309-1429]