

Growth Group Discussion Q's

May 17, 2026

- **Fun Discussion Starter:** What is a memory from your childhood that you still reflect on with fondness today?

“Everyday Ordinary or Sacred?” – The Book of Esther

In the book of Esther, the author wants the reader to wrestle with two questions:

1. Where is God?
2. What is in control of the things I cannot control?

Taking a pause from the narrative, we took a look at one reflection from the story of Esther this Sunday. Is God in the sacred spaces only or is he found in the ordinary as well?

It is common to see that time spent worshipping, or serving or praying to God is a sacred pursuit. But what about the rest of the time that is occupied by work, hobbies, sports, school or my morning commute? Is God in these ordinary spaces of our lives?

Compare the Story of Esther with the story of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple by Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemia. One takes place in exile while the other takes place in the promised land. One story is filled with references to God, worship and faith. In the other the name of God is absent. Yet these two stories are happening simultaneously.

- When comparing these two stories, how does the occupation, marriage and choices of Esther and Mordecai reflect God's interaction with his people compared to the interactions of God with the Jews who returned to Jerusalem?
- Is God just as present in your worship and prayer as he is in your day-to-day ordinary activities?
- How can a believer posture their heart and mind to see God in the ordinary and make it sacred?

Consider and discuss the implications of the following scriptures:

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) — 9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV) — 3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV) — 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Ephesians 5:15–17 (NIV) — 15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.