

Growth Group Discussion Q's

May 31, 2026

- **Fun Discussion Starter:** What is something in your life that you are proud of?

In the absence of God, who is in power?

The writer of Esther masterfully draws the reader to ponder an important question: If God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, who is in control?

The candidate he wants us to examine is King Xerxes himself, whom the story reveals that though he is the most powerful character of the story, he is deeply flawed.

As you examine the vices of the king revealed in the story, discuss among the group:

- (1) how these are revealed by the narrative itself
- (2) how they are indicative of corrupted humanity who has rejected the rule of God
- (3) how, if we are honest, these vices that show up in our own fallen nature

The Flaws of the King

- He is entitled – The King believes that he deserves whatever he wants, how he wants it, and when he wants it.
- He is vengeful – The King is swift to severely punish anyone who defies or even displeases him.
- He is self-indulgent – there is no pleasure that the King denies himself to the point of excess
- He is dominating – He leads through fear of punishment or promise of reward
- He is indifferent – When Haman suggests the annihilation of an entire people group, Xerxes gives no protest
- He is foolish – in his drunken or enraged state, he makes impulsive decisions that he later regrets

The Virtues of Jesus

If the flaws of corrupted humanity result in pain, regret and frustration, how do the virtues displayed in Jesus' life provide an answer for any human longing to be restored to God's ideal state of righteousness?

- Jesus was humble – Though he was God, he humbled himself to take the form of man...” (Phil 2:6-7)
- Jesus was just – instead of meting out immediate punishment in anger, Jesus provided a way of forgiveness and mercy (2Pet 3:9)
- Jesus was Self-disciplined – instead of masking sadness, disappointment or loss with self-indulgent pleasure, Jesus trusted in his heavenly Father to sustain him and find peace.
- Jesus was a servant – He did not use his power to force submission but rather humbly served people to meet their basic needs in love

- Jesus was love – Instead of indifference, Jesus lovingly spent time with the poor, the sinners and tax collectors to provide hope and healing.
- Jesus was wise – Jesus displayed great and sometimes surprising wisdom as he lived his life for the will of his Heavenly Father