

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## **PRAY** TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, we invite You into this time and into every part of our stories. As we reflect on Esther and the “do it afraid” moments we heard about, soften our hearts to recognize the crises and opportunities You’ve placed before us. Give us courage to move from comfort to obedience, and to trust that You are good even when we feel afraid. Use this conversation to show each of us a clear next step, and surround us with the kind of community that helps us actually walk it out. Amen!

## **ICE** BREAKER

Reflecting on Paul’s fundraising journey (he and a team completed 7 marathons in 7 days on 7 continents), share a time when you did something so difficult that you weren’t sure how you were going to complete it.

## **SERMON** OVERVIEW



**SCAN FOR**  
**SERMON CLIP**



**SCAN FOR**  
**SERMON CLIP**

This week, we are joined by Paul Hurkman, Executive Director of Venture (a Northview’s Global Mission partner), who takes us into the heart of the book of Esther, where we discover that biblical courage isn’t the absence of fear—it’s following God even when we’re terrified. Through Esther’s story, we see a young queen facing an impossible decision: risk her life to save her people from genocide, or remain silent in the safety of her palace. What makes this narrative so compelling is how relatable Esther becomes when we strip away the royal pageantry. She’s hesitant, afraid, and argumentative—just like us when God calls us to difficult things. The message reveals a four-step framework that guided Esther from paralysis to purpose: recognizing crisis, seeking counsel, engaging community, and taking courage. What we realize is that in her example, we are also invited to ‘do it afraid.’ The gospel itself embodies this principle—Jesus gave up the comfort of heaven to serve us. Now we’re called to move from comfortable to less comfortable on behalf of others.

## **READ** SCRIPTURE

**ESTHER 4, PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

## **CONNECT** RELATIONALLY

- 1) Esther had to decide whether to risk her safety to save her people. When have you faced a decision where following God required giving up comfort or security for the sake of others?
- 2) Who is a “Mordecai” in your life—the wise counselor you can turn to when facing difficult decisions? Share a time when you received good, Godly advice from them. What was the advice, and how did it help?.
- 3) Mordecai told Esther that if she remained silent, she and her family would perish. How have you experienced spiritual apathy or “dying” when you’ve avoided doing what God was calling you to do?

**GROW  
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Esther was hesitant, reluctant, and afraid yet still became a heroine who saved her people. How does knowing that biblical heroes struggled with fear encourage you in your own spiritual journey?

5) The sermon defines courage in the Bible as trusting God in the face of fear, through obedience, moral fortitude, and acting to protect others. What's the difference between waiting until you're not afraid versus doing it afraid?

6) What does Mordecai's counsel ("who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this") reveal about God's sovereignty and our responsibility in moments of crisis?

**LIVE  
GENEROUSLY**

7) Paul emphasized the power of corporate prayer and community support when facing difficult decisions. Who are the people in your corner that you can rally to pray for you as you face your next big step? How are we as a group doing at this currently? How can our group practically improve in supporting one another?

8) The sermon emphasized how the Bible is constantly challenging us to consider, "Are we willing to give up something of ourselves (time, comfort, resources) so that others can thrive?" What tangible ways are you being called to make sacrifices, to move from comfort to discomfort on others' behalf?

9) Paul invited people to "do it afraid," sharing examples like running the world race for anti-trafficking, stepping into foster care, and taking faith steps such as joining a group or having a hard conversation. What is one "do it afraid" step you will intentionally take in the next month, and how will you ensure you follow through?

**TAKE  
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please answer this statement:  
I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

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Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY  
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE  
TOGETHER**

**Ascent 121** - One of our local mission partners, Ascent 121, is actively working to combat human trafficking in central Indiana. They offered one of their staff or volunteers to come to your life group to lead an exercise designed to help you all learn more and better understand the life of someone who has been impacted. Learn More - <https://ascent121.org/raise-awareness/>