

LEAD SHEET

LIFE IS NOT A GAME : WEEK 1 THE CHALLENGE MARCH 12, 2017

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

If you want to know God better, give back to Him!

GETTING STARTED

- How many of you are risk-takers?
- What's the biggest risk you have ever taken? Were you scared? Why/why not?
- How many of you like to play it safe? Why is that?

As you've probably caught on by now, we're going to be talking about taking a risk today. Today, we're going to discuss how life is a great challenge, a challenge that God wants us to accept.

Turn to the Old Testament book of Esther.

DIGGING IN

Read Esther 2-7

(If your group did their PowerUp they should be familiar with these passages from this past weeks reading. Adjust this according to your groups needs. If you need to read the whole thing, that's fine! If you can just go through selected passages, that's ok as well. Simply ask them to summarize what happens in each chapter. This exercise will take up 10-15 minutes, but is well worth it.)

Let's review what we've learned:

- Mordecai is Esther's cousin.
- They are Jewish and were brought to this area to be put in captivity
- Esther is selected by the King of Persia to be queen
- A man named Haman is plotting to have the Jews wiped off the map
- Mordecai learns of this plot and tries to convince Esther to do something
- Esther accepts this challenge and exposes Haman's plot
- Haman is killed; Mordecai is honored; Esther is a hero

Discussion Questions:

1. What was Esther's challenge in these verses? (To make a request of the king on behalf of the Jews.)
2. Esther decided to take a risk, what negative outcome could she have encountered?
(She could've been banished or killed.)
3. Esther was put on earth and given the challenge of saving her people. How would you have felt in her situation?
4. What do you think you would have done? Why do you say that?

Have the students read Esther 4:14-15.

MAKING IT REAL

It is one thing to imagine being in Esther's shoes. The reality is, you face similar situations every day. You might not be in a situation where your actions could save or condemn an entire people-group, but God puts us in all kinds of situations where our willingness to take some risks for Him really matters.

When those situations arise, ask yourself what Mordecai asks Esther in 4:14, "Who knows that you were not made for such a time as this?"

General Discussion:

1. How can following Jesus be a challenge? What do we have to lose by following Him?
2. With any risk there are things to be lost but also things to be gained. What do you have to gain by following Christ?
3. What have you been put on earth to do?
4. What challenges are before you that require taking some risks for God?
5. What are you willing to give up in order to have a relationship with Christ?

Read Mark 8:36

Jesus says we should risk everything in order to know Him, because there is nothing else worth having if we don't have Him in our lives. I want you to think about that today. Some of you are willing to risk your safety for an adrenaline rush. Some of you are willing to risk relationships for your own popularity or advantage. But life's not a game where we try to satisfy our own desires. It's a challenge that God has given us.

What are you willing to risk for Him?

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for your group to all be willing to take risks for God in the week ahead.