**Esther**

**Week 1**

**Downloads**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)**

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.  “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

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**Day 2:** **Psalm 46:10 (VOICE)**

Be still, *be calm, see,* and understand I am the True God. I am honored among all the nations. I am honored over all the earth.

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**Day 3:** **Isaiah 45:15**

Clearly, you are a God who works behind the scenes, God of Israel, Savior God. Humiliated, all those others will be ashamed to show their faces in public. Out of work and at loose ends, the makers of no-god idols won’t know what to do with themselves. The people of Israel, though, are saved by you, God, saved with an eternal salvation. They won’t be ashamed, they won’t be at loose ends, ever.

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**Day 4: 1 John 2:15-16 (TPT)**

Don’t set the affections of your heart on this world or in loving the things of the world. The love of the Father and the love of the world are incompatible.

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**Day 5: 1 Peter 2 :11-12 (TPT)**

My divinely loved friends, since you are resident aliens and foreigners in this world, I appeal to you to divorce yourselves from the evil desires that wage war within you.  Live honorable lives as you mix with unbelievers, even though they accuse you of being evildoers. For they will see your beautiful works and have a reason to glorify God in the day he visits us.

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Bob asked a couple of questions in the intro to his sermon. Please share your answers with your group. “Is it winter where you are? Do you feel trapped in what seems to be a dark gloom? When was it that you realized that your life may not be going the way you had planned?”

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2.Read Isaiah 55:8-9. How does this verse apply to the story of Esther?

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3. Why is there no mention of God’s name in the entire book of Esther?

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4. Where do you see God at work in this first chapter of Esther?

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5. Read Genesis 12:3. How would God bless the world through Israel? What does God want from us along this same pattern?

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6. What was the timeout God placed the Israelites in? Why did they remain in Susa? How do we err in a similar way?

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7. How does the world lie to us?

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8. How do God’s people live in a godless society? Do we blend in and assimilate? How do we become billboards of God’s message?

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9. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What does it mean for you personally to stand out and realize that you were made for this moment? How will you live that out this week?

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