

R U N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

CHETS TOP 5

Shoes for Haiti
Now - May 16th

Beach Baptism
April 25th • 5:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible
School Training
May 2nd • 5:00 p.m.

Family Dedication
May 8th • 5:30 p.m.

High School
Graduation
May 2nd • 9:45 a.m.



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Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Jeremiah"

FOCUS: to examine how, for forty years, Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed the word of the Lord to people who would not listen.

"To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it." Jeremiah 6:10 (NIV)

1. How did Israel's punishment fit the sin? (Jeremiah 5:18-19)
2. What was Israel's prevailing attitude about God? (Jeremiah 5:22)
3. Which of the following characterizes your current attitude about God?
 - a. Ho hum...
 - b. I rarely think about God.
 - c. God is my good friend.
 - d. I profess a strong belief in God but my actions don't necessarily match up with what I say.
 - e. I agree to pray about something but I'm not convinced God could or would do anything about it so I rarely follow through.
 - f. I stand in awe of his great power and might.
4. What were the characteristics of the people condemned by Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 5:26-29)
5. What horrible and shocking thing had happened in the land? (Jeremiah 5:30-31)
6. How is this like our world today?
7. What was Jeremiah's warning for the people of Jerusalem? (Jeremiah 6:1-3)
8. According to God, why must the city be punished? (Jeremiah 6:6-7)
9. What do you think is meant by the symbolism of "gleaning the vine?"
10. What kind of response did Jeremiah get to his prophecies? (Jeremiah 6:10)
11. Have you ever spoken a message about God and received a "we will not listen" response from the hearers? Have you ever dismissed a message that could have been a word from God for you?
12. Why are some people offended by what the Bible says?
13. Have you ever received a word from your minister and rejected it because you did not want to do it or because it was inconvenient for you?

Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:103-105

<u>April</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Proverbs</u>
25	Joshua 13:1-14:15	Luke 16:1-18	50:16-23	12:4-5
26	Joshua 15:1-63	Luke 16:19-17:10	51:1-5	12:6-7
27	Joshua 16:1-18:28	Luke 17:11-37	51:6-9	12:8-19
28	Joshua 19:1-51	Luke 18:1-23	51:10-13	12:11-12
29	Joshua 20:1-21:45	Luke 18:24-43	51:14-19	12:13-14
30	Joshua 22:1-23:16	Luke 19:1-27	52:1-9	12:15-16
1	Joshua 24:1-33	Luke 19:28-48	53:1-6	12:17-18
2	Judges 1:1-2:23	Luke 20:1-19	54:1-7	12:19-22

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

Esther - 1 Corinthians 1:27

To examine the life of Esther and be challenged to be available to God in order to impact his/her world in the coming week.

MONDAY - APRIL 26, 2010

Read Esther 1:1-2:23 God's Providence and Protection

1 This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, [a] the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush [b] : 2 At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, 3 and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present. 4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. (not all verses printed due to space)

- The word providence means "to see beforehand". In this passage we begin to understand how God prepared "beforehand" because of what He "saw" for His chosen people to be saved. Over what kingdom does Ahasuerus reign?
- Vashti is the Queen. What does Vashti do to fall into disfavor with the King?
- Who is Mordecai? As a Jew what is Mordecai's place in the kingdom?
- What relation is Esther to Mordecai? How was she chosen as Queen?
- No one knew Esther was a Jew. Why not?
- What plot did Mordecai learn about as he sat within the King's gates?
- Who did he tell about this plot? What happened because of this information?
- How is God working in your life? What reservations do you have about your own abilities?

TUESDAY - APRIL 27, 2010

Read Esther 3:1-15 Grave Danger

1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. 2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. 3 Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" 4 Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. 7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the pur (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on [a] the twelfth month, the month of Adar. 8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents [b] of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please." 12 Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. (not all verses printed due to space)

- Who is Haman?
- What did the King command concerning Haman?
- What did Mordecai do that enraged Haman?
- What did Haman determine he would do because of Mordecai's actions?

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 28, 2010

Read Esther 4:1-17 Mordecai's Plan

1 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. 2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. 3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 When Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. 7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to urge her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. 9 Hathach went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, 11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king." (not all verses printed due to space)

- What message does Esther send to Mordecai when she learns why he is mourning in sackcloth and ashes?
- What message did Mordecai send back to Esther?
- Reread Esther 4:14. The last phrase of this verse implies God's providence "to see beforehand" and preparation for this moment in time.
- How does Esther respond to what Mordecai said?
- What could happen to Esther if she appeared before the King without being called for?

THURSDAY - APRIL 29, 2010

Read Esther 5:1-7:10 Haman's Plan Backfires

1 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. 2 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. 3 Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." 4 "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him." 5 "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. 6 As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." 7 Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: 8 If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question." (not all verses printed due to space)

- What happens when Esther appears before the King? What does Esther ask of the King?
- What do Haman's wife and friends encourage him to do to Mordecai in Esther 5:14?
- Why do you think the King could not sleep? Could it have been God's "providence"?
- What did the King discover while reading during his sleeplessness? Esther 6:1-2
- What happened to Haman because of his conceited idea that the King was referring to him as the one to be honored?
- Haman was furious because he had to honor Mordecai in this way. What did he determine to do the next day?
- What did Esther request of the King that led to Haman being hanged on the gallows intended for Mordecai?

FRIDAY - APRIL 30, 2010

Read Esther 8:1-10:3 God's Protection and Favor

1 That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 2 The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate. 3 Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. 4 Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him. 5 "If it pleases the king," she said, "and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces. 6 For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?" 7 King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have hanged him on the gallows. 8 Now write another decree in the king's name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring—for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked." 9 At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai's orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. [a] These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language. 10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king. (not all verses printed due to space)

- What happened to Mordecai?
- What did Esther request of the King concerning the death decree of all Jews?
- Reread Esther 8:17. What happened among the people of Persia because of what had happened with Mordecai and Esther and this new decree saving the Jews?
- Reread Esther 10:2-3. Would you have thought that the results found in these verses could have happened?
- Read 1 Cor. 1:27. God really does use the foolish things to confound the wise.