

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- When was the last time you pointed out something that no one else was seeing? How long was it before others began to see it? What did you have to do for them to see it? Maybe in a moment, what you were trying to point out was gone. What were the emotions everyone was feeling?
- Slowly read Esther 3:1-5, verse by verse. What do you see? Put yourself in the shoes of the main characters of the story. How do you feel?
- What do you do with a story like that? Do you see any similarities between this and what we are hearing about Ukraine? How do you stay aware of what is going on in our world without becoming anxious? Do you have any go-to passages that give you balance, comfort, strength, and/or a voice to speak up?
- Review each of the 5 "See *the...*" statements. How are we responsible to see the persecuted-the canceled? How are Christ followers to interact with those we disagree with and yet remain loving? Who have you seen described like Esther 3:8 ERV? How are we to respond when others are trying to cancel us, as Christ followers?
- Do you believe there is actually a real being (Satan) who is the enemy of our souls? What do you know about him? How do you live a guarded life as he looks to devour? Do you see the real timeless battle that continues today? How do you hold onto the return of Christ, when He will set everything right?
- How do process and live out the tension of 1 Peter 2:13 and Acts 5:28-29? Can you think of any current situations where you have to wrestle with it? How amazing is Esther 3:12's connection with the Exodus' Passover? Why should that give us hope today?

Next Steps: How do you see yourself in the story? What is the rhythm of life described in James 4:7-8? What steps can you take to make it your own?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



Cancel culture is the modern social attitude that controversial speech or behavior must be punished through public shaming, silencing, boycotting, firing, bankrupting, de-platforming, etc. The result is that the offender's influence, presence, and/or reputation is "canceled out."

Esther 3:1-15 NIV page 345

What do you do with a story like that?

1. See the persecuted – the canceled.

⁸...there is a certain group of people scattered among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom. They keep themselves separate from other people. Their customs are different from those of all other people. And they don't obey the king's laws. It is not right for the king to allow them to continue to live in your kingdom.

Esther 3:8 ERV

The value of a person
can be communicated without
affirming a view or behavior.

2. See the enemy of our souls.

¹²Our fight is not against people on earth. We are fighting against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness. We are fighting against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³That is why you need to get God's full armor. Then on the day of evil, you will be able to stand strong...

Ephesians 6:12-13 ERV

⁸Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy, and he goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to attack and eat (devour).
1 Peter 5:8 ERV

3. See that the battle is real
and timeless until it's won.

⁵Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish.
Esther 2:5 NIV

¹⁰The king slipped his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, archenemy of the Jews.
Esther 3:10 MSG

Exodus 17:8-16

¹²When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. ¹³So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. ¹⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "...I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven."

Exodus 17:12–14 NIV (see 1 Samuel 15:2–3)

Revelation 20:10

4. See the Unseen Sovereign.

³³People might throw lots to make a decision, but the answer always comes from the Lord.
Proverbs 16:33 ERV

²¹To the Lord, a king's mind is like a ditch used to water the fields. He can lead the king wherever he wants him to go.
Proverbs 21:1 ERV

1 Peter 2:13 held in tension with Acts 5:28–29

¹²Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned.... Esther 3:12 NIV (also see Leviticus 3:15, Exodus 12:21–22)

Passover begins the Exodus when God delivers
on His promise to redeem His people from the
captivity of Egypt after 430 years of a seemingly
unseen sovereign.

³¹So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose?
³²If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? ³³And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen?
Romans 8:31–33 MSG

5. See your part in the story.

⁷So give yourselves to God. Stand against the devil, and he will run away from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. You are sinners, so clean sin out of your lives. You are trying to follow God and the world at the same time. Make your thinking pure.
James 4:7-8 ERV

Bottom Line:

The "Unseen Sovereign" is seen
when our eyes are open.

Resources for this message include messages from North Coast Community Church, University Reformed Church and various articles including sources such as Christianity Today Magazine.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps,
consider using the Think It Over section on the back.