



BRAVE CONTINUES - *esther*

Connect Study 24

Esther (3): *If I perish, I perish*

'When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish'
(Esther 4:16 NIV)

Esther faced a huge challenge of faith when she learned that her people were under threat and Mordecai asked her to go to the king. Her response 'if I perish, I perish' did not come out of fatalism, presumption or self-pity but rather demonstrated a determined 'but if not' faith that we also see in Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

What is 'but if not' faith?

- **'But if not' faith faces the facts**

Read Daniel 3:13-18 and Esther 4:11. What were the facts that had to be faced in each situation? Discuss what you need to face the facts on in your life.

Read Romans 4:19, 20. What facts did Abraham face? What was his attitude and what can you learn from him?

- **'But if not' faith deeply trusts**

Read Daniel 3:17 and Esther 4:16. How do we see where their trust lay?

'But if not' faith makes God the hero of our story. In what ways can we make God the centre of our story? Who do we run to first?



- **'But if not' faith is committed to doing what is right**

Read 2 Timothy 4:7. What are your non negotiables in your faith?

Share a time when you drew a line in the sand as Esther did. What did that look like? What was the stand that you needed to make?

Read Daniel 3:25 and Esther 5:1,2. Discuss the result of their 'but if not' stand.

Prayer: Pray for each other that you will have 'but if not' faith that faces the facts, deeply trusts and is committed to doing what is right.

Nation Builders

At the start of the year we have the opportunity as Connect Group to set the Faith Goal for what we are believing to give towards Nation Builders. Nation Builders is the Missions Giving of Hillsong Church. Together as Connect Groups we are believing for UNUSUAL things to happen. Take the time during your next meeting to inspire your group to set a Faith Goal for 2015, and let's believe together for our Nation Builders to spark UNUSUAL miracles!

PASTORAL CARE

We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time.

Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

