

**Where is God?**  
**God is at Work to Deliver His People**  
Brad McConnaughey // November 8, 2020  
Esther 8-10

**Big Idea: God is at work to deliver His people and accomplish His purposes.**

1. **Look for God at work in your circumstances.**
  
2. **Believe that God is a work even though you can't see Him.**
  - A. **Sometimes we will see God's deliverance in this life.**
  
  - B. **Sometimes we will not see God's deliverance in this life.**
    - (1) **God will punish sinful people.**
  
    - (2) **God will save and reward those who believe in Him.**
  
3. **Remember and celebrate the deliverance that Jesus accomplished on the cross on your behalf.**
  - A. **Look over your past with gratitude.**
  
  - B. **Acknowledge the present with celebration.**
  
  - C. **Face the future with confidence.**

## Sermon questions

Our series in Esther is called “Where is God?” because God is never mentioned in the book, which invites you to become someone who looks for where He is at work, even when it isn’t obvious.

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Where do you see God at work in chapters 8-10 of Esther?
2. God’s judgment on His enemies is a central theme in these chapters. Read **Romans 2:8-9**. How do you respond to the truth of God’s judgment? Encouraged? Distressed? Confused?
3. The story of Esther is the backstory for the Jewish feast of Purim, which celebrates God’s deliverance for His people (**Esther 9:20-32**). How can you **grow** in remembering and sharing with others what God has done for you as a follower of Jesus?

4. There are some difficult texts in these chapters (see **Esther 8:11; 9:5; 9:13; 9:16**). As followers of Jesus, who teaches us to love our enemies (**Matthew 5:44**)? How do we handle these aspects of the book of Esther?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In Esther, political power is both opposed to God and used by God for good. What can we learn from this story that helps us navigate our current political climate?

## **Read the Bible this year**

Pastor Brad encouraged us to read the Bible in 2020. Here's some help getting started. Each day this week read from the Old and New Testament. Or, if you prefer, read just from one testament. Enjoy!

- **Jeremiah 20-21; 2 Timothy 4**
- **Jeremiah 22-23; Titus 1**
- **Jeremiah 24-26; Titus 2**
- **Jeremiah 27-29; Titus 3**
- **Jeremiah 30-31; Philemon 1**
- **Jeremiah 32-33; Hebrews 1**
- **Jeremiah 34-36; Hebrews 2**