



# 4

Our God Is Close



HOW CAN I  
HAVE THE  
ASSURANCE  
THAT GOD  
IS NEAR?

## The POINT >

We can be confident knowing God is always at work, no matter our situation.

### > ESTHER 2:8-9,15-18; 3:8-13; 5:7-8

<sup>8</sup>So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. <sup>9</sup>And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem.

.....  
<sup>15</sup>When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. <sup>16</sup>And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, <sup>17</sup>the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup>Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

.....  
<sup>8</sup>Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces

of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them. <sup>9</sup>If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries." <sup>10</sup>So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

<sup>12</sup>Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. <sup>13</sup>Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

.....  
<sup>7</sup>Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is: <sup>8</sup>If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."





# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

The fear of public speaking is called glossophobia and affects about 77 percent of the population.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

We can have full assurance Jesus is always near and working because of who He is and His love for us.

When I was younger, I had to speak in front of a large group for the first time. I was terrified. I kept thinking, “Why me?” I didn’t feel qualified, confident, or ready, but someone I trusted encouraged me to step up anyway. So I did it—scared, unsure, and shaky. But something unexpected happened: God gave me the strength I didn’t know I had. And afterward, I realized that stepping into something hard was exactly what I needed to grow.

In the story of Esther, we see a young woman faced with something far more intense—risking her life to speak up for her people. She didn’t volunteer to be queen. She didn’t ask to be caught in a life-or-death situation. But God placed her there for a reason. We see how Esther’s position, her courage, and even her fear all became part of something bigger than herself. When the threat against her people rose, she didn’t run. Her story reminds us that even when we don’t understand why we’re in a certain place or season, God is already at work, and He may be calling us to trust Him and act.

## ESTHER 2:8-9,15-18

**1** Like Esther, have you ever been placed in a situation that felt random or out of your control?

**2** How might God be using that exact place to prepare you for something greater?



*When life gets tough, will you lean into fear or lean into faith?*

*#BSFLStudents  
OurGod*

## ESTHER 3:8-13

**3** When you're faced with unfair treatment or pressure to compromise your values, how do you respond?

**4** How do you typically react when it feels like evil or injustice is winning?

**5** How can you trust that God is still present and working, even in silence?

## ESTHER 5:7-8

**6** Where in your life might you need to slow down and trust God's timing?

**7** Where in your life do you need to choose wisdom over impulse, even if others don't understand it?

**8** How can Esther's humble boldness shape the way you approach difficult conversations or decisions?



# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*We can have full assurance Jesus is always near and working because of who He is and His love for us.*

When we tell students things like “God is near,” remember that it may not make much sense to them. Why? Because how does the God of the universe come near to us personally? But He does. In this lesson, we get a front-row seat to watch God move and work in Esther’s life in situations she didn’t even sign up for or see coming. And the promise? God is near. Students need to be reassured God is near and is never surprised by what surprises us.

## >CHRIST

**9** Esther stepped into risk and sacrifice to intercede for her people, not knowing the outcome. How does her courage point you to Jesus?

**10** Even when God’s name isn’t mentioned in these chapters, His presence is undeniable. How does that encourage you to trust that Christ is at work in the quiet, hidden parts of your own story, even when you can’t see what He’s doing?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

**PEOPLE**

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD



## > COMMUNITY

---

**11** How can you create a culture where prayer is a priority, especially when facing challenges?

**12** How can you know when to step out of your comfort zone to stand up for justice and righteousness?

## > CULTURE

---

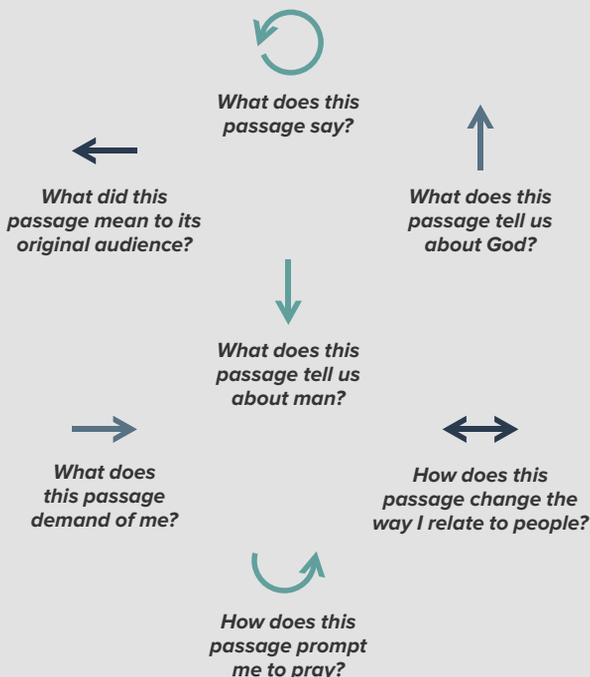
**13** How can you shift your perspective to trust that God is always working behind the scenes for our good, even when we can't see the results right away?

**14** How can you encourage others in a society that often seeks control and immediate answers to trust God's timing and have confidence that He's working, even when it feels like things are out of our hands?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One ROMANS 8:28

Sometimes life can take a turn we don't expect or even make things feel out of control in an instant. Things can happen that seem confusing or even unfair to us, and we wonder how anything good can come from them. From the smallest inconvenience to the biggest problem, we often feel that things are unfair. However, even in those moments, God is at work in ways we aren't even aware of. He knows the big picture, and He knows how to turn even the most difficult of situations into something meaningful. What may feel like a huge setback to our plans could actually be part of something much bigger than we could imagine for ourselves.

Sometimes we're asked to do something out of our comfort zone or to step out in faith without knowing what's next. It's in those moments where it's really easy to feel afraid or unsure of what's going on. What's amazing is that God can use our trust and obedience, no matter how small, to make a big difference in our lives and the lives of those around us. He doesn't ask us to fix anything—just to be willing to do what we're asked and trust Him. He works all things together for a greater purpose, for His purpose, into something we could never come up with on our own, but it's always worth it if we trust Him.

- **What do you think it means that God works for good in everything that happens to us?**
- **How can we trust that even the tough times can lead to something good?**



## Day Four

# PSALM 33:10-11

---

Schedules are important. They allow everyone to remain on the same page and accomplish things together. Some people don't make any plans, and some people make a lot of plans. Sometimes it seems like those who plan a lot have a lot of control. But no matter how strong or smart we think we are, it's actually God's plan that works the best in our lives. He knows everything that's going to happen from beginning to end. And this is good news when the world feels uncertain or out of control because we can find peace in knowing that God is steady and His purpose never fails.

God isn't surprised by anything that we or anyone else does. While human plans can fall apart, His plans are always good, always right, and always happen the way He intends them. That means we don't have to be afraid when things don't go the way we expected because our expectation and our perception of failure differ from what God knows is about to happen. We can trust that God is still working and that His purpose will last through every change and challenge, which allows us to rest in that truth.

- **What do you think it means that God's plans always stand firm, even when other people's plans don't work out?**
- **How can knowing this help you trust God more in your own life?**

## Day Five

# PSALM 27:1

---



Some of us get an adrenaline rush from getting scared, and others of us don't like being scared. Sometimes fear tries to take over—whether it's fear of the unknown, of failure, or of what others might think. But we don't have to live in fear, because God is always our strength regardless of the situation. He helps us see clearly, and He gives us the courage to keep going. In a dark room, we often stand still because we don't know what's around us. Fear is like that. It prevents us from moving because we don't know what's going on. But God will always help us move forward if we trust Him! God is always our safe place, and He is always the One we can run to in every situation, good or bad. When we feel weak, He gives us strength. When we feel alone, He reminds us we're not. Knowing that He is always with us helps us face each day with confidence and assurance that He will do amazing things. We can walk forward boldly, without fear, not because everything is easy, but because He is holding us through it all.

- **What do you think it means for God to be your light and salvation?**
- **How does knowing God is with you help you feel brave in difficult situations?**