

“In *Crossroads*, Jodie Niznik guides us through the lives of Esther and Jonah and shows us that we, like they, have been called by God for good work that he has prepared for us to do. Niznik encourages us to respond to God by taking a courageous next step to follow him wherever he leads. Each week is filled with outstanding biblical teaching as well as opportunities to consider how these truths apply to our lives. I especially appreciate that Niznik incorporates spiritual practices that enable us to delve deeper into our relationship with the Lord and grow to know, love, and trust him more. This study is a needed invitation to be daringly obedient to God’s call on each of our lives.”

SISSY MATHEW, spiritual formation and teaching pastor  
at Irving Bible Church

“Jodie’s Bible studies are some of my favorite resources! Her insightful and practical application of Scripture keeps her studies at the top of my list. Anyone who uses this Bible study will feel closer to God and better understand his truth.”

KAT ARMSTRONG, preacher, author of *The In-Between Place*,  
and cofounder of The Polished Network

“From time to time, we all stand at crossroads, big ones that alter our life’s direction and small ones that keep us on God’s good path or divert us onto painful detours. Esther and Jonah stood there too, and each responded differently, teaching us valuable lessons for today. Niznik’s fresh approach tells it like it really was . . . and is. For example, she nixes the common Cinderella fairytale version of Esther’s life. Instead, she reveals the real story behind this sex-trafficked orphan who braved her vile situation to save her people. Each weekly lesson includes a practice session to help us apply gleaned wisdom for navigating our own crossroads. Jodie’s studies move us toward transformative biblical literacy and an action-packed faith that lives what’s learned. I trust her studies and you can too.”

SUE EDWARDS, professor at Dallas Theological Seminary  
and author of the Discover Together Bible Study series

“Every follower of Jesus comes to defining moments of deciding either to follow the whispers of God or to ignore that voice and go our own way. With tremendous skill and insight, Jodie Niznik digs into two remarkable Old Testament stories—Esther and Jonah. This study will stretch and challenge you as Jodie guides with wisdom and practical application each step of the way. I deeply value how Jodie refuses to simply fill our minds with information about the Bible—she consistently pursues the ‘So what?’ question so we are stirred to action.”

NANCY BEACH, leadership coach with the Slingshot Group  
and author of *Gifted to Lead*

## REAL PEOPLE, REAL FAITH BIBLE STUDIES

*Choose: A Study of Moses for a Life That Matters*

*Crossroads: A Study of Esther and Jonah for  
Boldly Responding to Your Call*

*Trust: A Study of Joseph for Persevering  
Through Life's Challenges*

— A —  
REAL PEOPLE  
REAL FAITH  
BIBLE STUDY  
— —

# CROSSROADS

*A Study of Esther and Jonah  
for Boldly Responding to Your Call*

**JODIE NIZNIK**



*Crossroads: A Study of Esther and Jonah for Boldly Responding to Your Call*

© 2021 by Jodie Niznik

Published by Kregel Publications, a division of Kregel Inc., 2450 Oak Industrial Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in reviews.

Distribution of digital editions of this book in any format via the internet or any other means without the publisher's written permission or by license agreement is a violation of copyright law and is subject to substantial fines and penalties. Thank you for supporting the author's rights by purchasing only authorized editions.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked NLT are from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

#### **Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Names: Niznik, Jodie, 1973- author.

Title: *Crossroads : a study of Esther and Jonah for boldly responding to your call* / Jodie Niznik.

Description: Grand Rapids, MI : Kregel Publications, 2021. | Series: Real people, real faith Bible studies | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020045986 (print) | LCCN 2020045987 (ebook) | ISBN 9780825446733 (print) | ISBN 9780825477232 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Vocation--Biblical teaching--Textbooks. | Bible. Esther--Textbooks. | Bible. Jonah--Textbooks.

Classification: LCC BS680.V6 N59 2021 (print) | LCC BS680.V6 (ebook) | DDC 248.4--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020045986>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020045987>

ISBN 978-0-8254-4673-3, print

ISBN 978-0-8254-7723-2, epub

Printed in the United States of America

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 / 5 4 3 2 1

# CONTENTS



*Why Esther and Jonah and Why Now?* 11

*What to Expect in This Study* 13

1. Esther Becomes Queen 15
2. Edict of Death 34
3. Facing the Crossroads 51
4. The Great Reversal 71
5. Resisting and Running 88
6. Praise from the Depths 106
7. Jonah's Obedience and God's Compassion 125
8. Our Ninevites 144
9. You Are Called 165

*Acknowledgments* 185

*Notes* 187

*About the Author* 191

# WHY ESTHER AND JONAH AND WHY NOW?



At first glance the books of Esther and Jonah don't seem to go together. They are two separate books about two different people written about three hundred years apart. Esther is the story of an unlikely orphaned girl who becomes queen and through her bravery saves the Jews, her beloved people. Jonah is the story of a reluctant prophet who ran from God but then eventually conceded to God's will. He was also called to save an entire group of people, his enemies, the Ninevites. Esther's bravery is easy to admire. Jonah's running is easy to condemn.

While Esther and Jonah endured wildly different circumstances and had distinctly different callings, they were both providentially born in a certain time and place in history. They were carried through unique experiences and given specific gifts. And then God placed each of them at a crossroads and asked them to fulfill an assignment that only they could, but God also gave them the choice to bravely obey . . . or not.

This wasn't just true for Esther and Jonah; it's also true for you. You, too, have been called by God to do good work that he has already prepared for you (Ephesians 2:10). He has given you gifts and skills. He has brought you through experiences, both good and bad, and he has placed you in this time and space in history. All of these factors point to the fact that there is work not only that you have been called to do but that only you can do. And now you stand at a crossroads. What will you choose?

I want us to study Esther and Jonah together because not only have we been called and chosen by God, but we also have a little bit of Esther and Jonah in each of us. There are days when

we make bold, brave, and admirable decisions to follow God's leading like Esther did. And then there are days when we run the other way like Jonah did. Even though they lived centuries ago, their lives have much to teach us about following God's calling on our lives today.

My prayer is that through this study of Esther and Jonah you would know the deep truth that you are chosen and called. I'm also praying that God would reveal a next step for you to take along his chosen path for you, and that you would have the courage to take it. Just like Esther and Jonah, you have been called to do good work. As you stand at your crossroads, may you follow him boldly and bravely on the journey.

—Jodie



# WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS STUDY



## Practice Sections

Each week our lesson will start with a short practice section. The word *practice* is simple and to me expresses the idea that we are just trying something out in our relationship with the Lord. We are practicing. This section will also be a place for us to reflect on the truths we are learning and bring them into our lives in a new way. These practices won't take huge amounts of time, but they may require some planning. Therefore, we will start each week's lesson with the practice section, read it through, and then make a plan to try the suggested activities.

You may discover something you really love in these little sections—something that brings new life into your relationship with the Lord. You may also discover that some of these exercises will take effort. Some may be hard for you to do and others may be easy, even fun! But all of them will help you stretch and grow. Growth almost always brings the spiritual fruit of a changed life. For me, that makes any effort totally worth it. I hope you agree. I'm actually guessing you do. Otherwise, you wouldn't be starting this study.

## Pacing Your Study

Each week of this study includes a practice for the week, an introduction to prepare you for the material, and three study sessions. You are welcome to tackle as much of the week's material as you would like on any given day. However, I suggest giving yourself five days to complete the week's work, and I have marked the sections accordingly. If you break it into these chunks, the study

shouldn't take you more than thirty minutes to do each day. However, if you are a researcher or extensive reflective thinker, you may want to set aside more time for each day's study.

In general, you will find the days broken down as follows:

*Day one* will be reading about and planning for the practice activity.

*Days two through five* will be Scripture reading and answering the questions in this study guide.

If you start running behind (we all have those weeks), you may have to pick and choose which questions you want to answer. My advice is to make the Scripture reading your first priority. Then if you have time, scan through the questions to see which ones you want to answer.

As is usually the case, the higher the investment, the greater the return. When we collaborate with Jesus by inviting him into our lives and spending time with him, we experience life transformation. As your life is transformed, you will find it looking more and more like the life God designed you to live. So make every effort to arrange your days so that you can regularly spend time with Jesus.



WEEK 1

# ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN



## Day 1

### *Practice—Noticing Our Unseen God*

Each week before we start our lesson, I will offer an activity to help you take another step in your relationship with the Lord. These brief exercises take head knowledge you are learning from God's Word and move it into heart knowledge.

I know it can be really tempting to skip these if you feel pressed for time, but can I encourage you not to? Sometimes these short activities are exactly what our soul needs. Often they take very little time and just a bit of intentionality.

This week we will engage in a practice to help us notice our unseen God. As you'll discover, God is the unseen main character of the book of Esther, and he is also the unseen main character of our lives. Because he is unseen, we can easily miss him even though he's still there and still working. He's often working through the ordinariness of our lives. Most of the time it isn't through miracles, as we might recognize them, but through the seemingly mundane things.

For example, just a few minutes ago I needed a quick sunshine

break, so I headed out to the backyard. There I found a beautiful and perfect tomato ready for me to pick off one of our vines. Yes, I know, it's just a tomato, and it was supposed to grow because my husband planted it and tended it. But in that moment as I crouched by the vine, I paused and noticed. It led to a brief holy moment that pointed me to the creator of all creation. I noticed my unseen God, and I marveled at him and his provision for me.

Now it's your turn to do some noticing. Take a few minutes before you start each day's lesson to write down three to five instances where you noticed God over the last twenty-four hours. I recommend that you think through your day chronologically, starting with waking up in the morning. Ask the Lord to help you notice him. It might be through a coincidence, a circumstance, something in nature, someone's kindness, an answered prayer, or something else. Write down what you notice and then praise him for how he was present in your day.

Here's a little prayer you can pray to help you get started: "Lord, help me notice you. Spirit, guide me to see where you are and how you have been working in my life. Thank you that you love me enough to be in my moments and days even when I don't notice you. Help me to notice you now. Amen."

What are three to five ways you've noticed God was present in the last twenty-four hours?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## PRACTICE REMINDER

Pray and ask the Lord to help you notice three to five places where he was present over the last twenty-four hours. Write them below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



## Day 2

### *How Did We Get Here?*

**The Book of Esther**

**Author:** *Unknown*

**Date Written:** *Unknown, but sometime after 460 BC and likely before 200 BC*

**Purpose:** *Esther was written to remind the Jewish people who remained in exile that God had not forgotten them.*

Before we start our study of Esther, we need to understand a little bit about the background and history of the book. I know some of you just perked up when I said history and the rest of you

scanned down to see exactly how long this history lesson would be. I'm part of the scanning crowd, if it makes you feel any better, so I'll keep this brief. Before we can start to understand any book of Scripture, it's important to know a little bit about the audience it was written to, when it was written, and why.

So, let's start with some historical background. About a thousand years before Esther's story began, God made a covenant (called the Mosaic covenant) with his people, the Israelites, through Moses. This binding and holy promise essentially said that if the nation of Israel followed the laws and commands of God, he would provide for them and protect them. If, however, they didn't follow his laws and commands, then he would allow their enemies to attack and scatter them (Deuteronomy 28:15, 64).

If you know anything about biblical history concerning the nation of Israel, you know that the Israelites were an on-again, off-again people. When they were off, which was frequently, they wandered away from God, even going so far as to worship other gods. And yet God was patient. Exceedingly so. He would lovingly pursue them until they would eventually repent and return to him. This wandering away from and returning to God repentance cycle repeated again and again . . . for about eight hundred years.

Until one day, near 586 BC, the Lord allowed the consequences of their disobedience to unfold. This quickly became one of the darkest hours and lowest moments for the nation of Israel. The powerful, fierce, and unrelenting Babylonians overtook the city of Jerusalem and exiled the Jewish people, scattering them throughout the land, just as Moses had said would happen. Esther's family was moved to the city of Susa (modern-day Iran). During this time, the Babylonians also destroyed the holy temple. To the Israelites this destruction was devastating because it represented God's very presence with his people. The Israelites saw, in a physical way, that God had removed his hand of protection from them and had left them on their own. This leaving, of course, was symbolic. God never fully left his people. He was always willing and wanting to take them back. But near

586 BC the nation was left scattered and wondering what would be next.

About fifty years later, a new king came to rule over Babylon. He favored the Israelites and allowed them to return to their homeland, Jerusalem, and begin to rebuild. Many Jews returned home, but others, like Esther's family, had established new lives and, understandably, decided to stay in their new cities.

Near 485 BC (another fifty years in the future), we find ourselves in the story told in the book of Esther, which is set in the city of Susa. Susa was the hub of the Persian Empire, and the home of the powerful King Xerxes. Xerxes wasn't just any king—he was probably the most powerful man, and one of the wealthiest, alive at the time. This meant everything, including people, was at his disposal. King Xerxes was also an overindulgent, impulsive, prideful people-pleaser. Sounds like a great leader, doesn't he? And this is where Esther, our unlikely hero, lived.

Understanding this history is important because it points to one of the major themes of the book of Esther: Has God forgotten his people? Other books of Scripture written around this same time—1 and 2 Chronicles, Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra, and Nehemiah—address this question toward the Jews who had returned to rebuild their lives in Jerusalem. These books reminded them that their God is a covenant-keeping and faithful God, in spite of their inability to keep the covenant or be faithful. The book of Esther addresses this question toward the Jews who were still in exile, reminding them that they too were still held by God in his covenant and faithfulness. They had also not been forgotten.

A quick read through Esther reveals something very interesting:



Depending on your Bible translation, King Xerxes may be referred to as King Ahasuerus. This is because his Persian name was actually Khshayarshan, which when translated into Hebrew becomes Ahasuerus and when translated into Greek becomes Xerxes. Since we're primarily using the NIV translation in this study, we'll use King Xerxes, the NIV's name for him.



there is no mention of God in the entire text. In fact, Esther is the only book of Scripture that doesn't explicitly mention God. The absence is glaring. Where is he? As you will see, he is actually everywhere. He is the unseen main character who orchestrates every moment, every twist, and every "coincidence."



"When we speak of God's providence, we mean that God, in some invisible and inscrutable way, governs all creatures, actions, and circumstances through the normal and ordinary course of human life, without the intervention of the miraculous."

Karen H. Jobes<sup>1</sup>



This points to another one of the main themes of the book: the providential care of God. *Providence* simply means that God is working in our normal lives, providing care and provision even when we can't see him. He is in control; he always is. Many believe the purposeful lack of mentioning God is part of the genius behind Esther, because even when he isn't named, he is still there. He is unseen but holding everything together. This is true for our lives as well.

As we tackle the book of Esther, it's important to remember that it is a story. Like any story it has a narrative arc—a beginning that sets the stage and introduces the characters, a middle that is full of tension and drama, and an end that brings resolution. Because the book of Esther is short, I want us to read the whole story before we start to dissect it. It should take you less than thirty minutes to read all 167 verses, and then just think, you can brag to your friends that you read a whole book in one sitting today.

If you don't have time to read the whole book in one sitting, try googling "Esther audio Bible" and let someone read it to you.

Read or listen to the entire book of Esther. Write down anything that stands out to you or that you have questions about.



## PRACTICE REMINDER

Pray and ask the Lord to help you notice three to five places where he was present over the last twenty-four hours. Write them below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**Day 3***Setting the Stage*

*Read Esther 1:1–12.*

1. What do you learn about King Xerxes in these verses? (Consider the banquets, the opulence, summoning the queen, and his response when she didn't come.)



4. The consequences for Queen Vashti refusing to go before King Xerxes were risky (verse 19). Have you ever refused to do something that resulted in costly consequences? Describe what happened. Would you make the same decision again? Why or why not?



Queen Vashti was summoned by seven servants of the king to be presented to hundreds of entitled and powerful men who had been getting drunk for days. The queen was vastly outnumbered on all fronts. I wonder if, in the moment, disobeying the king seemed like a far safer option than entering that room.



*Read Esther 1:13–22.*

5. The king's advisors recommended King Xerxes take decisive and bold action. What were they afraid might happen (verses 17–18)? Why do you think they feared this?

As a result, the king issued an edict that deposed Vashti of her queenship and banished her from ever seeing the king again. This edict also impacted every woman in the kingdom as it proclaimed that every man ruled over his household (verse 22). This edict was supposed to command women to respect their husbands (verse 20).

6. Read Jesus's words in Matthew 7:12 and 22:39. Based on this and other things you know of Jesus's teachings, how do you think Jesus would advocate for us to earn another person's respect? How does this contrast with how Xerxes was trying to gain respect?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Think of someone you greatly respect. Why do you respect them? Does this align more with Jesus's words or the king's advisors?

## PRACTICE REMINDER

Pray and ask the Lord to help you notice three to five places where he was present over the last twenty-four hours. Write them below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



## Day 4

### *Mordecai and Hadassah*

*Read Esther 2:1–7.*

Later the king's anger subsided, and he realized what he had done and that he needed a new queen. This is where we meet Esther. There are a few things to note about her before we get too far into her story.

First, Esther was an orphaned Jewish girl with no power, no standing, and no rights. She was essentially a nobody, at least to the king and anyone else with power or standing. And yet, as we

will see, Esther was also a woman called by God to save an entire nation. She prevented a genocide. She protected the lineage of King Jesus. She wasn't a nobody to God, and she teaches us that when our God moves, nothing can stop him.

Second, Esther was a trafficked woman. She was a woman taken against her will to be used at the whim of someone more powerful than she was. This should make us sad, angry, even sick. It should also provoke us to rise up to remember and fight for those impacted by similar atrocities today. Anyone who tries to pass this off as a love story or beauty pageant is missing the point.

Finally, Esther was an image bearer of God. While the unspeakable was happening to her, God didn't turn away. He was with her, and honestly that's hard to reconcile. But he was there. She was still his beloved, and he helped her rise up in the midst of it all to follow him for a greater purpose. Esther is, in many ways, my hero. I don't want her story—none of us do—but I want to be more like her. She was brave and bold. She kept her eyes set on God. She didn't let the personification of evil destroy her. I can't wait to meet her in heaven and give her a big hug, to cry righteous tears with her, and to celebrate victory with her.

This is our Esther. Let's dive in and learn from her.

8. Describe how the new queen would be selected. As a woman, how do you feel about the king's plan?

9. According to verses 5 through 7, what do you learn about Mordecai? Why do you think the author of Esther makes sure we know these details about Mordecai?

10. According to these verses, what do you learn about Hadasah (Esther)? Why do you think this is important?



“In Hebrew narrative the physical attributes described when a character is first introduced is of special relevance to his or her role in the story. By describing Esther’s beauty, the author is aligning her with the women already mentioned in the story, beautiful queen Vashti and the beautiful young virgins, thus creating a certain expectation for how Esther will fare in the Persian court.” Karen H. Jobes<sup>3</sup>



*Read Esther 2:8–14.*

11. Do you think Esther had a choice in going to the king’s palace? Why or why not? Regardless of whether she had a choice, how did she seem to act once she got there (verse 9)?



Mordecai forbids Esther from revealing her nationality or family background. The text doesn’t indicate if King Xerxes would have cared that she was Jewish. In fact, it only seems to point out that he held shallow standards of beauty, pleasure, and submission as his criteria for the new

“The verb [*taken*] does not suggest ‘anything unpleasant’, but it is impossible to know whether she went without reluctance. It is questionable whether any woman could exercise the right of choice in the face of a royal order.”

Joyce G. Baldwin<sup>4</sup>



queen. However, even if it didn't matter to him, it mattered to those around him and apparently Mordecai knew this.

The other thing that is interesting to note about Esther keeping her identity a secret is that it also means she no longer followed the Jewish dietary laws. The text tells us that Hegai, who had charge of the harem, provided her with special food. We have to assume that it was not in compliance with Jewish regulations. Why would it be? After all, he had no idea she was Jewish. Daniel, another famous Bible character, when faced with a similar situation, refuses to eat food that isn't in compliance with the dietary regulations. The Lord blesses both Esther and Daniel in these very different circumstances. I love that there isn't always one right answer. To me this emphasizes the importance of our relationship with God. We need to continually seek him and what's best in each situation. God asked Daniel to refrain from eating the rich foods offered him, and through the counsel of Mordecai, God asked Esther to blend in. Both were following God's best in their specific situations.

12. How do you think Esther was able to keep her identity a secret? Are there people in our society who hide their nationality and family background today? Why do you think they do this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Think back over your life. When have you hidden or been tempted to hide something about your identity (race, age, birthplace, family of origin, personality traits, vocation, etc.)? Describe the situation and why you felt you needed to hide.



14. Xerxes, as a king, had a distorted view of Esther's dignity and worth, but this is not how God, our heavenly King, viewed her or how he views any of us. Compare Xerxes's view of Esther with God's view of Esther by filling in the chart below.

King Xerxes's View	God's View
Esther is a commodity with the sole purpose to serve my desires and whims.	Ephesians 2:10 Esther is:
Esther's body is only for my pleasure.	1 Corinthians 6:19 Esther's body is:
Esther should give herself for me.	Romans 5:8 Esther, I will:
Esther needs to fight for a place in the palace.	Philippians 3:20 Esther is:

15. Go back to the chart you just filled in and read God's truths again, but this time put your name where Esther's is. Do this slowly and prayerfully, asking the Lord if you have a distorted view of yourself that he needs to correct with his loving truth. Is there one truth that stands out to you? How does this truth combat a distorted view you may be holding?

---

PRACTICE REMINDER

---

Pray and ask the Lord to help you notice three to five places where he was present over the last twenty-four hours. Write them below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



## Day 5

### *One Night with the King*

*Read Esther 2:15–18.*

At this point in the story, four years have passed since Xerxes banished Vashti. Esther won the favor of Hegai, the king's eunuch in charge of the harem, and made the choice to follow both his and Mordecai's advice to prepare for her time with the king. The beauty treatments were meant to be preparation for marriage, but as Joyce Baldwin noted in her commentary, "For the majority what awaited them was more like widowhood than marriage."<sup>5</sup>

Only one woman would become queen. The rest of the women would become concubines, mistresses to the king, where most would likely be forgotten.

16. According to these verses, what happened to Esther and why? What were the reasons Xerxes chose her over the other women? How do you see this same thing happening today in our world? How can this distort women's value and worth?
17. Esther was made queen instead of Vashti. How did King Xerxes celebrate? What do you think it was like for the people in the kingdom?
18. Knowing we can't really put ourselves in Esther's shoes since she lived in a day and culture so different from ours, and since the text doesn't give us any clues about how she felt about being selected as queen, I'd still like to invite you to take a moment to consider everything that has happened to her up to this point. Write down what you think she might have been thinking and feeling about becoming queen, both good and bad.



“The king’s generosity even touched the common people. . . . It’s likely that taxes were canceled, servants set free, and workers given a vacation from their jobs. [Xerxes] wanted everybody to feel good about his new queen.” Warren W. Wiersbe<sup>6</sup>



19. Providence, one of the key themes in the book of Esther, is God’s active and intimate involvement in sustaining our world and providing for the needs of people, especially those who follow him in faith, even when we don’t clearly see his involvement. Looking back over this week’s lesson and the verses we covered, where do you see the providence of God in action?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
20. How does understanding God’s providence impact how you will follow him the next time you find yourself at a crossroads and feel led to follow God in a new direction?

## PRACTICE REFLECTION

Look back over your notes from this week's daily practice of noticing God presence and provision.

1. How do the things you noted reveal the providence of God in your own life?
2. What stands out to you about how God provided for you this week?