

THINGS TO FIGHT FOR

Effective Influence | Selections from Esther



Questions for Study and Group Discussion

1. Share about someone who has had a positive influence on your life. How did they influence you? What about that individual (their character, habits, example, etc.) made them someone you wanted to listen to?
2. In what ways are you *“positioned” to have influence*? Consider the different spheres of life you’re involved in: home / family life; friendships; church; work; and any others.
3. What do you want your legacy to be with those you can influence? (To help with this, imagine what you’d want people to say at your funeral. This can help you identify the legacy you want to leave behind you.)
4. Think back to the sermon or anything else you may know about the book of Esther: How does Esther show us the importance of effective influence? Explain your answer.
5. Read the following passages from Esther, where we see one or both of the two main characters (Esther and Mordecai) modeling effective influence. After each passage, summarize any insights about effective influence:
 - Esther 2:8-17
 - Esther 4:12-17 (A little background: in Esther 3, the king issues an edict to destroy the Jews – Esther and Mordecai’s people. This edict is what prompts the conversation between Esther and Mordecai in Esther 4:12-17.)
 - Want to see how things play out? Read Esther 5:1-8 and Esther 7:1-10. How is Esther’s courage displayed in these passages?
6. Why is effective influence worth fighting for? What happens if we DON’T fight for this?
7. What are the biggest challenges to fighting for effective influence? Work as a group to identify at least 4-5 challenges.
8. Which of these challenges have you faced personally, as you think about having effective influence? How were these challenges handled?
9. What practical steps do you need to take this week to have (and grow in) godly, effective influence? How can you help each other with this as a group?