

# SONQUEST

## Devotional Guide

September 2-4, 2011

### WARNING:

The following is only for those who are serious about using the upcoming weekend to make real changes in their walk with God and their relationships with others. Reading on will likely get the attention of the Enemy, and will make you a target of the evil one who wants nothing more than for you to go to SONQUEST and return the SAME person. You have been warned.

### COUNTDOWN TO SONQUEST . . .

In a few days, we will be together as a group. We will be away from many of the temptations that make your Christian walk a challenge. We will be in a world that is very different from the one you will return to on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. At SONQUEST, we will have nearly 40 waking hours with God and with each other. To prepare your mind and heart for this holy time, please use this guide and work through it over the next several days.

For each day there is a short text for you to read and some short questions for you to answer followed by a prayer for you to pray or an action to take. You will also be challenged to identify those areas in your life that need to be brought into the light for closer examination.

Make notes to yourself on this sheet or in a journal and bring it with you this weekend to use during times of reflection. No one has to see this page except for you . . . unless you choose to share it, so be honest with yourself and God as you think about these things.

**If you CHOOSE to share your heart, you can join the conversation by going to FACEBOOK and looking up: "SONQUEST". Look for the official SonQuest "The Outsider" logo and join the group and check back each day of the week leading up to SonQuest!**

During the next four days, God will open your heart to the message He has for YOU and only YOU as you go to meet Him. There will be over 1500 others who are struggling with many of the same things as you may be dealing with, but God wants to work in YOU. Each year at SONQUEST, our prayer is that you will LEAVE changed, but this year we want you to ARRIVE changed . . . and prepared to GROW.

In case your youth leader did not read this personal note from me to you in class on Sunday, I have copied it for you here!

*“Dear Person Who is About to be at SonQuest Again, I am sending you this PERSONAL note . . . just to YOU. I can’t wait to see you again, Person Who is About to be at SonQuest Again! It has been so long since we last saw each other. As a matter of fact, it might be that you did not come last year, and I have you confused with my good friend, Person Who Came to SonQuest Last Year. In that case, consider this a personal note to YOU, my NEW friend. Since we are close, I will call you Person Who is About to Attend SonQuest for the First Time.*

*As you might or might not know, our theme for SONQUEST this year is based on the study of the journey of Esther. Her story is one that is full of Hollywood like, jaw-dropping turns that are full of irony that rival ANY good movie. While, it’s true that nothing explodes or turns into a robot (or a vampire), and there is an absence of boy wizards, cowboys, aliens, or sinking ocean-liners, the characters in this story are rich and intriguing. IT is easy to get caught up in this story, and it is one of the real “page-turners” in the Bible that always leaves the reader wondering ‘What will happen next?’. . . and Esther never saw it coming.*

*. . . and unlike Twilight, THIS is a story that a guy does not have to be embarrassed to admit he likes. Yes, it is a story about a woman. Yes, it is often used to talk about true beauty, and yes, there are tons of bible studies for girls based on this woman who would be queen, but the other main character rivals Obi Wan Kenobi in his wisdom, guidance, and strength. Mordecai may not wield a lightsaber, but this man of integrity is a character study ANY guy of ANY age needs to dive into.*

*We will be spending the weekend up to our necks in this story. Okay, that MIGHT have been a poor choice of words based on how things turn out, but hang in there . . . because it’s going to be awesome. SonQuest is full of teaching, praise, fellowship and the occasional opportunity to make a video of your youth group doing something crazy in the lobby of the hotel that you can post to YouTube, but THIS year, allow God to encounter those of you who see yourself on the OUTSIDE looking IN. I know that you might be saying, ‘God can’t use ME.’ If that is you, then prepare for YOUR story to take an unimaginable turn . . . one that . . . right now . . . you don’t see coming. See you soon!”*

*Your Close and Personal (and maybe facebook) Friend,  
Person Who is Speaking at SonQuest*

Please see the DEVOTIONAL GUIDE on the NEXT PAGE.

Use a separate page if you would like to journal your answers, prayers, etc.

## **MONDAY:**

**Read: Esther Chapters 1 & 2**

1. LAST YEAR at SonQuest, we compared life to a Roller Coaster as we learned to enjoy "The Ride". THIS YEAR, we turn our attention to the story of Esther whose own life is about to become somewhat of a roller coaster. Write down ONE way in which YOUR life has taken an unsuspecting turn in the last 365 days.
2. Write down ONE way that you have been put in a position of leadership or influence that you might not have expected.

## **TUESDAY:**

**Read: Esther Chapters 3 & 4**

1. Mordecai pushes Esther to play a part in this unfolding drama, but she is unwilling to do so. Why do you think she is reluctant to get involved and to cease being an "OUTSIDER"?
2. **Write down TWO things** about your spiritual life that were true of you a year ago at this time that might not be true today.
3. Think of ONE person who has strengthened your walk (i.e. who has "been your Mordecai") this past year. Take time now to send them an e-mail, call, or card sharing with them what they have done for you AND asking them to be praying for your weekend at SOINQUEST.

## **WEDNESDAY:**

**Read: Esther Chapters 5 & 6**

1. Write down one time when you felt led by God to intervene in a situation of great consequence. What happened? How did it turn out? What happened to YOU in the process?
2. What is one situation you are going through NOW where you think that God might be calling you to get involved? Why might you be reluctant to do so?
3. The King could not sleep and sent for his journals where he was reminded of what Mordecai had done for him. Who is someone that has helped you in a significant way whom you might have overlooked? Take the opportunity NOW to get on Facebook or to send them a text letting them know that you have NOT forgotten what they meant to you.

## **THURSDAY:**

**Read: Esther Chapters 7 & 8**

1. Can you identify one person or group who needs YOU to speak up for them?
2. Take a moment and pray that God will use you to be an advocate for them.

## **FRIDAY:**

**Read: Esther Chapters 9 & 10**

1. You are likely hours away from getting on the bus/van. Write down ONE statement that you have been challenged by from your journey through Esther this week. Ask others on the bus to share theirs! Your heart is ready. Pray that your ears may be opened to what God will try to say to YOU this weekend. See you in a few hours!