

QUESTIONS JESUS WANTS TO ASK YOU

DISCUSSION GUIDE 1

ABOUT THIS SERIES

You have questions about Jesus, but have you ever considered that Jesus has questions for you?

In the series *Questions Jesus Wants to Ask You*, we'll take the questions of Jesus out of the first century and apply them to our own lives. As each question comes alive through discussions and prompted reflection times, you'll discover answers only you can give.

ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for your group | <input type="checkbox"/> Read through the Discussion Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean meeting area | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Crack front door |

OPENING (10 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: For today's icebreaker, let's ask—

FROM PRESCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL, WHO WAS YOUR BEST TEACHER? WHY?

After a brief discussion, say: Sometimes a teacher is great because they know a subject well and can make the complicated simple. Sometimes a teacher is great because they see something in us that we didn't see in ourselves. Coincidentally, Jesus is a great teacher for these very same reasons.

In our series *Questions Jesus Wants to Ask You* we're making ourselves students (disciples) of the rabbi Jesus and answering the questions he asks to see what he wants us to learn. Today, we're going to look at three of those questions. Class is in session!

Let's begin with a quick prayer and then we'll get into today's discussion.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer, asking God to bless your time together.

WHY DO YOU DOUBT? (10-15 MIN)

After a prayer, say: The first question of Jesus we looked at in our series (after Easter) was a question he asked during the famous account of walking on water.

CAN SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 14:25-33 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: During the sermon on this Sunday, we learned when the questions Jesus asks seem obvious, it's because he wants us to dig beneath the surface of the question to discover a deeper truth. Here, Jesus asks this question to make us aware of our limitations as

sinners and his power as God. In other words, we doubt what God can do because of sin. It's not a sin to doubt, but doubt is a result of sin.

HOW DOES IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK OF SIN IF YOU EXPAND THE DEFINITION BEYOND SOMETHING YOU DO TO ALSO BE SOMETHING YOU HAVE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? (10-15 MIN)

After a discussion, say: Our next question comes to us when Jesus heals a blind man.

CAN SOMEONE READ MARK 10:51-52 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: Another obvious question, "What do you want me to do for you?" Everyone knows what the blind man wants, but Jesus is getting to a deeper reality. First, there's the big question—

IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, IF JESUS ASKED YOU THIS QUESTION TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

After a discussion, say: Sometimes God answers "not yet", other times he says "I have other plans", other times he answers with an immediate "yes". But, regardless of the answer, this question reveals another truth—that God is for you. He's not against you, he's not ignoring you or apathetic to you. He asks this question so we remember God is for us, even when it doesn't feel like it.

We'll make sure to include these prayers in our closing prayer time. But let's wrap up with our third question.

WHY ARE YOU AFRAID (10 – 15 MIN)

CAN SOMEONE READ MARK 4:35-41 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: Here's a third obvious question that points to something deeper. The disciples aren't afraid of the wind and waves, they're afraid the wind and waves are going to kill them.

On Sunday, we expanded "fear" beyond phobias and into worries and concerns like paying the bills or staying single or our kids wandering from the faith.

QUICK ANSWER—WHAT PHOBIAS DO YOU HAVE?

IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHAT ARE THE FEARS YOU HAVE BEYOND THE PHOBIAS? WHAT MAKES YOU WORRY AND KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT?

After a discussion, say: On Sunday, we talked about how all of our fears fall into one of five categories: loss, isolation, worthlessness, pain, or death. So, you aren't afraid of paying the bills, you're afraid of the loss of your home. Or you aren't afraid of being single, you're afraid of isolation or worthlessness.

But Jesus addresses each of those five fears. He came to give to our loss, connect to our isolation, add value to our worthlessness, comfort to our pain, and life to our death.

THIS IS A DEEPER QUESTION, BUT I THINK WE CAN UNPACK IT—HOW DOES CATEGORIZING OUR FEAR LIKE THIS CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT JESUS?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: It's amazing what we can learn through the questions of Jesus. We're going to close our time with prayer, making sure to pray about our fears, our doubts, and what we want Jesus to do for us.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS?

Host, after taking prayer requests, close the group in prayer.