

March Bible Reading Discussion Questions

March 6 - Week 9 – Questions to Consider

Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite card, board, or video game?

New Testament

Matthew 18 ~ Mark 9 ~ John 7 ~ John 8 ~ John 9

1. How is “greatness” or “success” defined in your family, workplace, or culture? How does Jesus define “greatness” in Matthew 18:1-4?
2. Read Mark 9:33-37. How does this help us better understand humility?
3. When you read Matthew 18:8-9 about taking sin so serious, how did it affect you? Do we take sin serious enough? Why or why not?
4. Why is forgiveness so hard? Who is the hardest to forgive? Why? What is the biblical process of seeking reconciliation in relationships according to Matthew 18:15-20? Do we follow this process? What happens when we don’t?
5. Read Matthew 18:35. Why is forgiveness so important? How does this compare to when Jesus finishes the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:14-15?
6. How did Peter get it wrong on the Mount of Transfiguration in Mark 9? How did the Father correct and refocus him? How do we similarly get distracted by the world around us and need refocusing?
7. Why do you think Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as “living water” in our hearts (John 7:38)? How does this describe your own experience of being indwelt by God the Holy Spirit?
8. What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus’ word (John 8:31-32)? “Hear the words of God” (John 8:47)? “Keeps my word” (John 8:51)? Why is it so important?
9. Why do the Jews try to kill Jesus after he says “before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)? Can you think of other ways Jesus claims to be God in His words or actions?
10. When Jesus is asked about why a man was born blind, what is His answer (John 9:3)? How is this helpful to think about with other born differences in people?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

March 13 - Week 10 – Questions to Consider

Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite TV show ever?

New Testament

Luke 10 ~ Luke 11 ~ Luke 12 ~ Luke 13 ~ John 10

1. What do you think it would've been like to be a part of the first 72 disciples sent out two-by-two into every town before Jesus (Luke 10:1)? Would verse 3 have encouraged you? What does verse 11 mean? How might it apply today? How is verse 16 empowering?
2. If we have spiritual successes, what is our ultimate focus of rejoicing to be (Luke 10:20)?
3. What are some of the ways the world around us answers the question about "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25)? How do people try to justify their salvation?
4. How does the parable of the Samaritan demonstrate true love (John 10:29-37)? Who is our example of true love? How does this parable show us who are neighbors are? Who do you find challenging to love? Why?
5. Where do you find yourself to be tempted towards busyness, anxiety, and worry like Martha (Luke 10:40-41)? How does your schedule or decisions need to change to be more like Mary (Luke 10:39, 42)? Why is Mary's choice so necessary according to Jesus?
6. Read the Lord's prayer (Luke 11:1-4 or Matthew 6:9-15). Where are you currently praying similar to this prayer? What focus in your prayer life might need to be added or adjusted?
7. Why are we blessed when we "hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28)?
8. Why are we sometimes tempted towards hypocrisy (Luke 12:1)? How do we avoid and protect ourselves from that temptation?
9. What does it look like to live a life that acknowledges Jesus? To live a life that denies Jesus? Why does that matter eternally (Luke 12:8)?
10. What is coveting? How can we guard ourselves better "against all covetousness" (Luke 12:15)?
11. Why does Jesus command us not to be anxious (Luke 12:22-34)? What is the solution to worry?
12. When Jesus answers a question about deaths by accident and by evil, how does He redirect the conversation? Why? (Luke 13:1-5)
13. How is the description of Jesus and salvation helpful to you understanding your relationship with God? To Understanding His love for you? (John 10:1-18)

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

March 20 - Week 11 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was the best book you ever read?

New Testament

Luke 14 ~ Luke 15 ~ Luke 16 ~ Luke 17 ~ John 11

1. Why does Jesus often reply to His enemies' attacks with a question? (Luke 14:6) How might that be helpful as a witnessing tool for you?
2. How might Luke 14:21 change our approach to evangelism and missions?
3. Why does Jesus describe the life of a Christian in such serious terms? (Luke 14:25-33)
4. Why does Jesus use the parable of the lost sheep, coin, and son? Why do we sometimes lose our joy in witness? Why do we sometimes give up and lose our urgency or focus? How can we sometimes be like the older son who grumbles and complains? (Luke 15)
5. Read Luke 16:10. What has the Lord entrusted to you? How are you managing it and using it? How can we be more faithful in how we manage and use our: finances, time, relationships, physical health, or mental health?
6. Read the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. When the rich man finds himself in Hell, what is his first request? What is his second request? Why does Abraham answer the way he does? How should this impact our witnessing?
7. Look at Luke 17:3-4. Why do we avoid this process? Who might we do better in holding accountable? Who do we need to do better at forgiving?
8. What do you think it would've been like to be a leper? What would it have been like to be healed? How much has Jesus healed us? How should the parable of the healed lepers change our hearts to be more regularly grateful?
9. Why do you think there is an ongoing interest, even in Jesus' day, of the "end times" (Luke 17:20-37)? How does Luke 17:33 apply to our daily living and perspective?
10. How does the story of the death and resurrection of Lazarus (John 11) impact you? What do you think it was like to be in Mary & Martha's situation as they watched their brother die without Jesus' intervention? What do you think was going through their minds when Jesus promised to resurrect Lazarus (John 11:23)? How does it affect you to see Jesus weep and be moved alongside them as they grieve (John 11:33-38)? Read John 11:44. How does this give you hope in facing your own future death? How does it motivate you for more boldness and passion in evangelism and missions?
11. Why were the religious leaders so committed to kill Jesus (John 11:45-57)? How and where might Christians today expect and prepare for similar persecution?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

March 27 - Week 12 – Questions to Consider

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Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite super hero? Super villain?

New Testament

Matthew 19 ~ Matthew 20 ~ Mark 10 ~ Luke 18 ~ Luke 19

1. Read Luke 16:18 from last week and Matthew 5:31-32. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and Mark 10:1-12. Why does Jesus teach on such a controversial topic? Why do we like to avoid, skim through, or justify ourselves on such tough teachings? If we are convicted about past failures, on this topic or others, what are we called to do?
2. What is Jesus talking about in Matthew 19:26 when he says “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible”? Why do we need this instruction and reminder?
3. Why is Jesus emphasizing “the last will be first, and the first last” (Matthew 19:30, 20:16)? See how James and John were leveraging for power, position, authority, and fame (Mark 10:35-45). How might we be tempted in our own circles by our own struggles with pride?
4. Why does Jesus so explicitly and repeatedly predict his death and resurrection (Matthew 20:17-19, 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 26:2)? Why do you think God gives us so many “end times” warnings and details? Why are some of these predictions “hidden from” us (Luke 18:34)? Why would Jesus do that?
5. When the two blind men call out to Jesus, “Lord, have mercy on us”, how should that remind us for our daily need of God’s mercy (not giving us the punishment we deserve) and grace (giving us the blessing of forgiveness and spiritual life that we do not deserve)? How were we spiritually blind before meeting Jesus? How has Jesus spiritually given us sight? (Matthew 20:29-34).
6. We are told of Bartimaeus by name specifically (Mark 10:46-52), and that he “immediately recovered his sight and followed him on the way” and was “glorifying God” (Luke 18:43). How should Bartimaeus’ example inspire our own ultimate purpose and calling in life?
7. When the rich young ruler turns away from Jesus “disheartened” (Mark 10:22) how does it remind us of our own previous rejections of lack of prioritization of Jesus?
8. Read Luke 18:1-8. When are we tempted to give up on our prayer requests? Why does Jesus give us this example (Luke 18:1)? In what area is God calling you to not give up hope and to keep praying?
9. How are the Pharisees described in Luke 18:9? How would those who know us best describe us? How would we want to be described?
10. Tax collectors like Zacchaeus were hated and avoided. What are some types and groups of people that we might consciously or sub-consciously avoid or ignore in our own lives? How did Jesus treat Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)? Why? How does Jesus want to change our hearts towards the marginalized or maligned in our society today? What opposition might we face in doing that?
11. Read Luke 19:28-40. How does the response of the crowd move you? Why should we weep over our own communities like Jesus did over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44)? Have our churches lost focus on our main priorities (Luke 19:45-48)?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)