

November Sunday School Discussion Questions

November 6 - Week 44 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could be a professional athlete, what sport would you pick?

New Testament

Hebrews 12 ~ Hebrews 13 ~ James 1 ~ James 2 ~ James 3

1. Who has been a great witness of genuine Christian faith to you? How have their words encouraged you and given you biblical wisdom? How has their example inspired you and guided you to be faithful to Jesus? Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How does sin feel like a “weight” that “clings so closely”? How does it affect how we “run” in the race of life? Why is “endurance” essential in a race and in life? Who are we told to be “looking to” throughout our life? Why? How do we best do that daily?
2. In parenting, why is discipline so essential? What is the purpose of discipline? What are some of the ways that children handle and respond to discipline? How do we handle discipline from God? What is Hebrews 12:3-11 teaching about spiritual discipline from God? What does it produce? How should we respond to it?
3. What is bitterness? How does bitterness begin and then grow? How does bitterness affect our relationships and life? How do we “strive for peace with everyone” and destroy the “root of bitterness” (Hebrews 12:14-15)
4. Why do we need “holiness” in order to “see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14)? What does that mean? Where does holiness come from? How does this connect with Hebrews 12:16 and sexual immorality?
5. When you are trying to share something true and important, what does it feel like to be ignored? To be interrupted? To be argued with? Read Hebrews 12:25. How does this help us to understand the seriousness of sin? The importance of obedience?
6. Out of some of the concluding exhortations of Hebrews 13:1-9, which stands out to you? Why? How does this connect with the role and importance of pastoral leaders within the church (Hebrews 13:17)? What does it look like to do God’s will (Hebrews 13:21)? How do we know His will?
7. Why does James (the brother of Jesus) say difficulties should be considered as “joy”? How is that even possible? (James 1:2-4). Why is the follow on instruction in James 1:12-15 important to understand about our sufferings?
8. What does it mean to ask for something “in faith” (James 1:5-8)? Does that mean that God will answer every prayer request that we make in confidence? What sorts of prayers does God not grant? (James 4:3)
9. Read James 1:17. What are you taking for granted in life? How can you be more intentionally grateful? How can we best express that gratitude to God?
10. What is anger? Why do we struggle with it? Why is James 1:19-20 so helpful to memorize if you deal with temptations toward anger?
11. What does James 1:22 mean? Why do we need to hear this?
12. Is James 1:26 too harsh? Legalistic? Why are our words such an accurate tool to evaluate and assess the condition of our heart? (see also Matthew 12:34 & 15:18)

November Sunday School Discussion Questions

13. Have you ever seen someone be treated with partiality above you? What does that feel like? Why is partiality so sinful? How might we be tempted towards partiality in our church? (James 2:1-13)
14. What is the relationship between faith and works? Is there such a thing as saving faith without good works? Is there such a thing as being saved by our good works? How did Abraham's good works evidence genuine saving faith in God? (James 2:14-26). How does Ephesians 2:8-10 (and other passages like it) help us to fully understand the connection between faith and works?
15. Look at the statements of James in chapter 3. Why is being a teacher of God's Word such a serious task? Why is our tongue so significant? Who has been a bad example to you with their tongue? Who has been a good influence to you with their tongue? What kind of influence have you been with your tongue? How would you like to change your tongue in the days, weeks, and months ahead?
16. How does the world around us promote jealous and bitterness? How does it promote selfish ambition? How does James 3:13-18 challenge the worldly views around us?

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?)

November Sunday School Discussion Questions

November 13 - Week 45 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

How would you want to be most remembered?

New Testament

James 4 ~ James 5 ~ 1 Peter 1 ~ 1 Peter 2 ~ 1 Peter 3

1. In your life, who have you had the most arguments with? As a child? As an adult? Why do we tend to have more disagreements with family than anyone else? What does God explain to us about the roots of most arguments (James 4:1-2)?
2. Why is “friendship with the world” so offensive? What is the source of such worldly temptations? What does it mean to “resist the devil”? What does it mean to “submit yourselves” to God? (James 4:4-10)
3. What challenges your priorities in James 4:13-17? Why? How do you want to change?
4. If you could inherit \$100 million, would you? What would you do with it? What sort of challenges would you expect? How does James 5:1-6 make us think differently about being rich? Are you financially rich compared with most of the world?
5. What are some of the ways we suffer here on earth? What sorts of fears or concerns do you have towards future suffering? How can we best prepare for whatever suffering we will face in the future? (James 5:7-20)
6. Do you have a friend, family member, or coworker who you worry has wandered from the truth? How does James 5:19-20 encourage you?
7. When were you “born again”? How is that a more clarifying question than asking if someone is a Christian or goes to church? What does 1 Peter 1:3 say we are born again to? What does that mean?
8. Since we have been saved, what is the purpose of our lives according to 1 Peter 1:12-25? What are some ways we can best fulfill our purpose as “born again” believers?
9. What 5 things are we warned against in 1 Peter 2:1? How do we “put away” these things on a day-to-day basis?
10. How would you describe yourself to someone new that you met? How do we see our identity? How does 1 Peter 2:9-10 challenge you to reconsider your identity?
11. Was the Roman emperor good or evil? How about your political leaders today? How can we obey 1 Peter 2:13-17 in regard to our attitudes and actions towards our governmental leaders? How does this principle also apply in our workplaces (1 Peter 2:18)? Why is this so hard? Why is this so important?
12. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. How does this encourage or challenge you in your marriage?
13. How is 1 Peter 3:9 so counter-cultural? How can it be a Gospel witness? How does 1 Peter 3:15 help us to be better witnesses? How have you felt unprepared for evangelism? How can we practically be better prepared for Gospel opportunities?

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?)

November Sunday School Discussion Questions

November 20 – Week 46 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

New Testament

1 Peter 4 ~ 1 Peter 5 ~ 2 Peter 1 ~ 2 Peter 2 ~ 2 Peter 3

1. How much longer might you expect or hope to live? What life goals do you have ahead? How does 1 Peter 4:2 apply to how we re-prioritize or set new life goals? How have you seen God mature your perspective on life since He saved you?
2. Why would being “self-controlled and sober-minded” affect our prayers (1 Peter 4:7)?
3. What does it mean that “love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8)? How have you experienced this? Who is someone you want to be more loving towards?
4. What sorts of gifts has God given you to serve others (1 Peter 4:10)?
5. Why does suffering often catch us off guard? Cause us to question God? How should we respond to suffering? What helps you from 1 Peter 4:12-19?
6. What are some good characteristics you have seen in pastors? What are some concerning characteristics you have seen in pastors? What are some helpful instructions for pastors that stand out to you in 1 Peter 5:1-5? How are believers and pastors called to treat one another?
7. What sorts of things get you worried or anxious? How can you better cast “all your anxieties on him” (1 Peter 5:8)?
8. If you had to go outside, and knew there was a dangerous beast, how would you prepare yourself? Read 1 Peter 5:8-10. Why is remembering Satan’s ongoing presence and intent important? How do we daily “put on the whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10-20)?
9. What priorities and qualities does Peter call us to in 2 Peter 1:5-8? Why?
10. Has anyone ever said to you “that’s just your interpretation about the Bible” or “the Bible was written by men” as an attempt to undermine the authority of the Scripture? How should we respond to such statements? When you write something down, do you write it or does your pen? How does that analogy help you to understand 2 Peter 1:21? (see also www.trustworthyword.com/evidence-for-jesus)
11. 2 Peter 2 is one of the clearest warnings about false teachers and false prophets. Skim over it. What warnings do you see that apply today? (see also www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers)
12. How does it make you feel to see Peter explain that some of what Paul writes that “are hard to understand”? What warning does he give with that statement (2 Peter 3:16)? How does Peter conclude to end these two letters in 2 Peter 3:17-18?

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?)

November Sunday School Discussion Questions

November 27 - Week 47 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite season or holiday?

New Testament

1 John 1 ~ 1 John 2 ~ 1 John 3 ~ 1 John 4 ~ 1 John 5

1. Have you ever read 1 John before? If so, what are some of your favorite verses or truths from it? Why does John (the author of the Gospel of John also) say he is writing this book? (1 John 1:4) What does he mean by that? Who have you mentored spiritually and seen grow? How has that experience encouraged you?
2. Read 1 John 1:5-10. What are some symptoms of unbelief? How does verse 9 encourage you? Why do some people call themselves Christians yet live totally contrary to the Bible? Why does Paul tell us to “examine” and “test” the genuineness of our faith (2 Corinthians 13:5)? How does the book of 1 John help us to do just that?
3. What is the definition of an “advocate”? How does it make you feel to know that “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ” (1 John 2:1)? Why does John say he is writing this book in 1 John 2:1? Why does he say ongoing disobedience to God’s commands is serious (1 John 2:4)? How have you seen God grow you to walk/live increasingly more like Jesus?
4. How can you tell if you hate someone? How can you tell if you truly have forgiven someone? Why does John say hate is so serious (1 John 2:9, also 1 John 4:19-21)? Why is forgiveness so important to God? (see also www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness) Consider the definitions of these words below. Consider Jesus’ words, “but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15). Does this convict you?
 - a. **Forgive** - to stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw, or mistake; to cancel (a debt)
 - b. **Hate** - to feel intense or passionate dislike
 - c. **Bitterness** - anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly; resentment
 - d. **Anger** - a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility
 - e. **Resentment** - bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly
5. What does it look like to “love the world” (1 John 2:15-17)? How has God changed your heart and priorities since you were born again?
6. Do you know someone that once claimed to be a Christian, but now seems to have abandoned the faith, the Bible, and the church? Why is 1 John 2:19 so heartbreaking to read in such situations?
7. If you are at work and see/know your boss/employer is approaching, how might you honestly change what you are doing? How does 1 John 2:28-29 encourage us regarding Jesus’ return?
8. Why is love the ultimate motivator for our change and growth? (1 John 3 & 4) Why is obedience to God’s commands strong evidence that you have received His love?
9. Can you be a loving parent and issue no rules to your child as they grow up? Can you be a loving child and ignore and disobey your parents’ rules as you grow up? How does this parent-child analogy help us to see the relationship between love and commands/rules?
10. Does 1 John 4:1 seem strange to you? How can we “test the spirits”? Why should we?
11. How do you feel best loved? What are some ways that you can best show love to others?
12. If you were to memorize one verse from 1 John, what would it be? Why?

November Sunday School Discussion Questions

13. As a child, did you ever hear someone say “my daddy can beat up your daddy”? Why would they say that? How does a strong daddy give you confidence? Read 1 John 4:4. How does this truth give you confidence?
14. How does 1 John help nominal-Christians (those who would claim to be Christian but are not genuinely born-again, they are Christian in name-only, i.e. nominal) to see the seriousness of their spiritual status?
15. How does 1 John help genuine-Christians have greater confidence that they “have eternal life” (1 John 5:13)?
16. How are we to understand 1 John 4:14-15? Does that mean that God will give us whatever we ask? How does this connect with Jesus finishing His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane with “will be done” (Matthew 26:42) and the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:10)?
17. In what ways is the Christian life ultimately for us to “know him who is true” (1 John 5:20)? Why do we need the concluding warnings that “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” and we must “keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:19-21)?

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?)