

April Bible Reading Discussion Questions

April 3 - Week 13 – 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 Easter activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Matthew 21 ~ Matthew 22 ~ Mark 11 ~ Mark 12 ~ Luke 20

1. What do you think it would've been like to be part of the crowd when Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly? (Matthew 21:8–11)
2. What do you think is so significant about Jesus beginning (John 2:13-17) & finishing (Matthew 21:12–13) His ministry years by cleansing the Temple?
3. What do you think “whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith” means? (The Cursing of the Fig Tree - Matt 21:21–22) What does a faithful prayer sound like?
4. Why do you think so many religious leaders (Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees) challenged Jesus' authority then? (Jesus in the Temple - Matthew 21:23) Why do people resist His authority today? When are we tempted to resist Jesus' authority?
5. What did God teach you from the Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28–32)?
6. Why does Jesus warn in so many ways about Hell? (Matthew 21:41)
7. How do we avoid being wrong? (Matthew 22:29)
8. How does Jesus summarize the 10 commandments and the whole Bible (Matthew 22:37-39)? How does Satan, the world, and our own flesh make such love so hard?
9. Who are the people in your life that are the toughest to love? How can we love God and others better?
10. How does the warning of the scribes apply to us today? (Luke 20:46–47 “Beware of the scribes...”)
11. Why is giving \$ to God such a touchy subject? Do you think our giving to God can be a good measure of our spiritual maturity? Why or why not? (Mark 12:42, 44 “a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins ... everything she had, all she had to live on”)

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *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?)

April 10 - Week 14 – Questions to Consider

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Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Tell us about your worst haircut.

New Testament

Matthew 23 ~ Matthew 24 ~ Mark 13 ~ Luke 21 ~ John 12

1. Look at the “woes” to the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:1-36. Which ones stand out to you? Why? How are these warnings to us also today?
2. How does a hen protect her chicks? Why does Jesus use that analogy? (Matthew 23:37-39). Why do we have to be willing to receive Jesus’ care and protection?
3. Why does Jesus give warnings about the Temple’s destruction and signs of the end of the age? (Matthew 24:1-14) What specific warnings speak to you today?
4. What is the connection between “lawlessness” and “the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12)? Why is Matthew 24:13 so important for to understand and remember?
5. How would you summarize the “end times” in Matthew 24 in one sentence?
6. Matthew 24:35 says “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” How does this encourage you in the discipline of Bible reading, study, prayer, & memorization?
7. When four of the disciples ask about the coming of the end times Jesus’ response is first to say “See that no one leads you astray” (Matthew 24:4, Mark 13:5, Luke 21:8). How is this relevant with “end times” ministries today?
8. What does it look like for a Christian to “stay awake” in preparation for Jesus’ return? (Mark 13:37)
9. Why do you think Jesus includes the warning of your hearts not being “weighed down” by sexual immorality, greedy spending, substance abuse (“dissipation and drunkenness”) and “the cares of this life” (Luke 21:34)? What can we do to best resist and avoid such temptations?
10. Read John 12:1-10. What do you think each one of these people was thinking & feeling? Do you think Lazarus lived differently after his resurrection? Do you think he feared those who were trying to murder him? How should we live differently after our salvation?
11. Read John 12:25-26. What does it look like to “love” your life versus “hate” your life? What does serving God look like? Why is it so important?

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?)

April 17 - Week 15 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could eat anything for lunch, what would it be?

New Testament

Matthew 25 ~ Matthew 26 ~ Mark 14 ~ Luke 22 ~ John 13

1. Has anyone ever called you foolish or stupid? What did that feel like? Has anyone called you wise or smart? How did that encourage you? What is the difference between the “foolish” and the “wise” virgins in Matthew 25:1-13? How does that apply to us today?
2. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) several servants are entrusted by the master with His resources. What resources has God entrusted to you? How does seeing this description of resources, accountability, reward, and punishment affect your perspective on life? How might it affect our priorities this week?
3. Read Matthew 25:34. How does this encourage you? What was the evidence of their salvation?
4. Read Matthew 25:41. How does this affect you? What was the evidence of their lostness?
5. God warns us in 1 Corinthians 10:12–13 “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. [13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (ESV). Considering Matthew 26 (Judas’ betrayal, Peter’s denial, and the disciples’ abandonment of Jesus), how might Satan, the world or your flesh tempt you to abandon Jesus? Before you were saved, how were you held captive apart from Christ? How has God changed you since then? What ways is God providing you to escape and endure temptations today?
6. Jesus replies to His enemies’ attacks with silence, boldness, rebuke, and wise questions. What temptations do we face when we are attacked by enemies? How can we prepare for and respond better the next time we are confronted by evil?
7. Read Mark 14:3-9. Why is what this woman did so “beautiful”? How does the world see Christian living as “wasteful”? In what beautiful ways do we worship Jesus?
8. Luke 22:3 says “Satan entered into Judas.” Did the devil make Judas betray Jesus? Or did Judas already belong to Satan as evidence by his ongoing sin of theft? (John 12:6)
9. How does the Lord’s Supper help us regain a biblical perspective on life? (Luke 22:14-23)
10. How was Jesus mocked then? (Luke 22:63-65). How do we see Jesus mocked today? Why should we expect to be hated today (John 15:18-25)?
11. Read Matthew 5:10-12 and Luke 6:22-23. Consider how the apostles were beaten and their response was to rejoice and serve with greater passion and boldness (Acts 5:41-42). How is it blessed to be mistreated? How can we prepare for such suffering?

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?)

April 24 - Week 16 – Questions to Consider

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Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite song?

New Testament

John 14 ~ John 15 ~ John 16 ~ John 17 ~ John 18

1. Read John 14:6. Do other world religions lead to an eternal relationship with God? (see also 1 John 2:23) Read Acts 4:12. Do good works (our own name) bring someone to Heaven? (see also Ephesians 2:8–9) Why are these verses so important today?
2. Jesus says in John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” What does He mean by this? Why would a true love of God be evidenced by obedience? Why would a lack of love be evidenced by disobedience to God’s commands (John 14:24)?
3. What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus (John 15)? How can we better “abide” in Jesus on a daily basis? What ways does Satan, the world, and our flesh come against our “abiding”?
4. What verse stands out to you in John 15? Why?
5. How does Jesus’ teachings serve “to keep you from falling away”? (John 16:1)
6. What is some of the work of the Holy Spirit? (John 16:8-14)? How does the Spirit serve as Helper through this work? How should our awareness to His work change our prayer lives?
7. Where do we find peace? Where do we find trouble? How do we have hope? (John 16:33)
8. How is John 17:3 a definition of “eternal life”?
9. How do you pray generically for larger groups of people? How do you pray differently for a family member than you pray for a stranger? Why does Jesus say He is praying for His followers and not the whole world? (John 17:9) If Jesus loves the whole world (John 3:16) how is His love for you even better? When you read that this is Jesus’ prayer for you (see John 17:20), how that affect you?
10. What is one of the main things Jesus is praying for His followers? (John 17:21) Why is this so difficult to achieve? In marriage? Families? Workplaces? Churches? Why is this so important (John 17:23)?
11. When you hear someone’s name, what comes to mind? When someone hears your name, what do you want to come to mind? What does Jesus mean when He says that “I have made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known”? (John 17:26). How is that our purpose as well?
12. When Jesus steps forwards into His arrest and path towards the cross, God says He does it “knowing all that would happen to Him” (John 18:4). How does that help you to see the love that Jesus has for you?
13. Peter goes quickly from fighting for Jesus (John 18:10) to denying Jesus (John 18:17, 25, 27). How is that a warning to us?
14. Luke 22:61 tells us that when Peter denied Jesus for the third time, “the Lord turned and looked at Peter.” Peter’s immediate response to his failure was that “he broke down and wept” (Mark 14:72). Later, in John 21, Peter enthusiastically returns to Jesus and enjoys His presence. How are Peter’s responses different than Judas’? What do Peter’s responses evidence? Provide?

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