

February Bible Reading Discussion Questions

February 6 - Week 5 – 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 Winter childhood memory?

New Testament

Matthew 7 ~ Matthew 8 ~ Luke 7 ~ Luke 8 ~ Matthew 11

1. What does it mean to “judge” someone? (Matthew 7:1) What does it sound like? How is it received? How is that different than a loving “rebuke” which is so often recommended and commanded (Proverbs 17:10, 27:5; Luke 17:3; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2)?
2. Why does Jesus warn about hypocrisy and self-evaluation before helping others? (Matthew 7:1-5)
3. Of the many short statements of Jesus in Matthew 7, which one stands out to you or helps you the most?
4. Read Matthew 7:21-23. Do you agree that this might be one of the scariest passages in the Bible? Why or why not?
5. We see so many healings in Matthew 8. How does it make you feel that we don’t see as many miraculous healings today? When and where do we find our ultimate healing?
6. Look at Jesus’ power over the demonic in Matthew 8:16, 28-34 & Luke 8:26-39. Why do we need this reminder even today?
7. What do you think was going through the disciples’ minds seeing all of these miracles of Jesus? (Luke 7:16-17) Why were they so eager to tell everyone? When do we lose our excitement for evangelism and missions? How can we gain it back?
8. What do you think Luke 7:47 means? What is key to growing in our love for God and others?
9. Do you like Jesus’ parables or find them difficult? How is the parable of the sower (Luke 8:1-15) helpful in evaluating and testing the genuineness of one’s salvation (2 Corinthians 13:5)?
10. Read Matthew 11:28-29. How could you use this as a reminder and a prayer in the week ahead?

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?)

February 13 - Week 6 – Questions to Consider

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

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?

New Testament

Matthew 9 ~ Matthew 12 ~ Matthew 13 ~ Mark 4 ~ Mark 5

1. When “some people” bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus, the Bible says Jesus “saw their faith” (Matthew 9:2). Who do you know who is in the low point or far from God that might need your faith to bring them closer to Jesus? Why is that so intimidating?
2. When Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him (Matthew 9:9-13) what temptations do you think Matthew faced? What excuses came your way when Jesus was calling you to follow Him?
3. Have you ever fasted before? What is the purpose of fasting? What obstacles did you face when you fasted? How did fasting help you be more desperate for God?
4. In Matthew 9:24 the crowd laughs at Jesus. How does the world laugh at Jesus, the Bible, and Christianity today? How should we respond in the face of such opposition?
5. Read Matthew 9:37-38. How is this convicting?
6. What does “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”? (Matthew 12:34) Why is this verse and the surrounding passage so convicting to be careful with our words? Is there anywhere that you would be ashamed with how you speak? Why is changing our tongue so hard? So important?
7. Read Matthew 12:43-45. Why is moral improvement (“the house empty, swept, and put in order”) not enough to protect us from Satan? What needs to dwell in our “house”? Can a Christian be demon possessed?
8. Why do you think Jesus speaks about sin, hell, Satan and demons so much? Why might false teachers avoid such passages? (2 Timothy 4:3)
9. Why does Jesus talk about the “kingdom of heaven” so much in Matthew 13? What does He want us to understand? How can such a focus on eternity change how we live here and now?
10. Read Mark 4:21-25. How does this encourage you? How does this challenge you?
11. When the woman told Jesus “the whole truth” (Mark 5:33) how do you think she felt? Why is it so hard for us to admit fault and confess our sins to God and others? What is it like after we tell the “whole truth”?

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?)

February 20 - Week 7 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was your favorite teacher or subject in school?

New Testament

Matthew 10 ~ Matthew 14 ~ Mark 6 ~ Luke 9 ~ John 6

1. What do you think the apostles were experiencing as they were doing the same miracles Jesus was doing (Matthew 10:8)? Why do you think Jesus warns them about taking limited supplies and not receiving money for their miracles?
2. What do you think Jesus means by “let your peace come upon it” and “let your peace return to you” (Matthew 10:13)? How might that apply to us in witnessing today?
3. What does it mean to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16)? Why is it important to have “understanding of the times” (1 Chronicles 12:32)? How can we try to “be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil” (Romans 16:19)?
4. Read Matthew 10:19-20. How does this encourage you? How might this change your prayer life the next time you are in a tough situation?
5. What does God mean that “the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22)? What does it mean to “acknowledge” or “deny” God before men (Matthew 10:32)? Why is that so serious?
6. Do you think some people want to be in Heaven more to see their deceased relatives than to see Jesus? What do people often say that might reflect this? How does that counter Matthew 10:37?
7. How does John the Baptist’s courage inspire you (Matthew 14:1-12, Mark 6:18)? Where do we need to speak with more boldness and courage today? How can we do better at speaking the truth while saying it with love in our hearts (Ephesians 4:15)?
8. Why did Peter begin to sink in Matthew 14:22-33? When do we begin to “sink” in life? What was Jesus’ response to Peter when he cried out for help? What is Jesus’ response to us when we cry out sincerely and desperately for Him?
9. Why do you think the feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, & John 6) is important (the only miracle reported in all 4 Gospels)? Why do you think Mark 6:52 is included?
10. How do you think the disciples were prepared to see Him do the same miracle in feeding 4,000 (Matthew 15 & Mark 8)? In Matthew 16 & Mark 8 the disciples were still struggling after seeing two massive feeding miracles, yet Jesus is patient with them and does not give up on them. How does this encourage you?
11. Look at John 6:66-71. Why did many turn aside after some tough teachings? Why did Peter and the other 11 stay? Why do you think Jesus references Judas’ future betrayal here? How does this apply to us today?

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?)

February 27 - Week 8 – Questions to Consider

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

Warm Up Question:

What was your favorite sport growing up?

New Testament

Matthew 15 ~ Matthew 16 ~ Matthew 17 ~ Mark 7 ~ Mark 8

1. What religious traditions did you grow up with? What Christian traditions or “commandments of men” still exist today? Why does Jesus warn of Christian tradition rather than praise it? (Matthew 15:1-9) What can we do to avoid falling into the trap of false worship and man-made commands?
2. Why is it so easy to get caught up with the idea of moralism and good works? Why is obedience not enough? What does it mean that Jesus wants our “heart”?
3. Why do so many false teachers and prophets offer false signs and wonders? What is so appealing about them? What is so dangerous about them? (Matthew 16:1-12) What is the sign of “Jonah”? Why is that the most important?
4. Do we ever try to “correct” Jesus or the Bible with our own opinions and experiences? Why do we do this? Why did Peter “rebuke” Jesus in Matthew 16:21-23? What is Jesus’ response? Does He sound too harsh? Why is so easy for us to set our minds on the “things of man”? What steps can we take, especially before a big decision, to set our minds on the “things of God”?
5. Why do you think Jesus invited Peter, James and John onto the Mount of Transfiguration with Him? (Matthew 17:1-13) What experiences does Jesus invite us into? Why?
6. How did the disciples’ sin at the Transfiguration? What was God the Father’s command and their response (Matthew 17:5-6)? What was Jesus’ action and words (Matthew 17:7)? How is that comforting to use when we fail?
7. When we read the Scriptural accounts of Jesus’ miracles shouldn’t we also respond “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” (Mark 7:37)? What gets in the way of us giving Jesus the proper praise?
8. In Mark 8:2 Jesus sees the hunger of the crowd and says “I have compassion” before He takes action in feeding the 4,000. Who do we need to have more compassion and action towards?
9. Why do you think Jesus foretells His death and resurrection (Mark 8:31)? Why do you think He gives us the book of Revelation?

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?)