

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

May 1 - Week 17 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Spring activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Matthew 27 ~ Matthew 28 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John 19

1. Have you ever experienced someone plotting against you? Lying about you? What does that feel like?
2. Matthew 27:1 “When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.” What do you think Jesus was feeling when he endured the lies and accusations? The scourging? The mocking? The tortuous death? How does that affect you when you consider the depth of His love for you?
3. Have you ever lost a friend, coworker or family member to suicide? How did that affect you? What do you think Judas’ friends and family members went through when they learned of his ongoing theft (John 12:4-7), betrayal of Jesus and the disciples (Matthew 26:14-16), and suicide (Matthew 27:3-10)? More truths on suicide: www.trustworthyword.com/suicide
4. God references Judas as a “devil” (John 6:70), “thief” (John 12:4-7), indwelt by Satan (John 13:27), says it would have been better for him if he was never born (Matthew 26:20-24), and speaks of him as “lost” and a “son of destruction” (John 17:12). If you had the chance to speak with someone who was about to enter Hell, how urgently would you warn them? What would you say?
5. Why do you suppose the crowd chose Barabbas? (Matthew 27:15-22). Who do the crowds choose today?
6. Read Jesus’ final words on the cross and discuss their meaning and impact.
 - 1st Word from the Cross - Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
 - 2nd Word from the Cross - Luke 23:43 "Today you will be with me in paradise"
 - 3rd Word from the Cross - John 19:26-27 "Jesus saw His own mother, and the disciple standing near whom He loved. He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.'"
 - 4th Word from the Cross - Mk 15:34 "And at the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Elon, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 - 5th Word from the Cross - John 19:28 "He said, 'I thirst.'"
 - 6th Word from the Cross - Luke 23:46 "Speaking in a loud voice, Jesus said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
 - 7th Word from the Cross - John 19:30 "Jesus said, 'It is finished.'"
7. Read Matthew 27:52. Have you read this before? Does this surprise you? Should it? How do you think they and Lazarus lived differently? How does this get you excited about your own resurrection?
8. Read Matthew 28:18-20. How does this encourage you? Guide you? How are you and your church doing at this mission? How can you improve?

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?)

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

May 8 - Week 18 – 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 movie?

New Testament

Mark 16 ~ Luke 24 ~ John 20 ~ John 21 ~ Acts 1

1. Look at Mark 16:1-8 or Luke 24:1-12. When these ladies encountered the angels, they were overwhelmed with fear. What situations in life have overwhelmed you? How did God comfort you and carry you beyond those experiences forward to encounter Him and His peace?
2. Luke 24:8 “they remembered His words” but to others Luke 24:11 “these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.” What Bible truths or passages did you once disbelieve but now bring you great strength, comfort and wisdom?
3. What is your favorite Bible verse or passage? How has God made your heart “burn within you” through His truth and power (Luke 24:32)?
4. Why do you think Jesus appeared several times in person to His disciples before His ascension to Heaven? Read Luke 24:45. Based on this verse, how should we pray before we hear a sermon, do a devotional, have a Sunday School class?
5. How does Luke 24:5-53 describe the disciples’ response after Jesus’ departure? How is it similar or different from Acts 1:6-11?
6. Read the story of Jesus’ encounter with Thomas in John 20:24-29. What stands out to you? What sort of doubts did you have before you became a Christian? What sort of doubts have you had since you became a Christian? How has Jesus increased your faith in your encounters with Him?
7. What is the purpose of the book of John? (John 20:31) Why do we need that reminder?
8. When we sin, how does that affect our relationship with God? Even though Peter failed Jesus in his abandonment and denials, how did Peter respond when he saw Jesus in John 21:7? How does that encourage us to respond when we sin? Who do you know who has been avoiding God (or Christians, the Bible, or church) out of guilt and shame and needs to hear this story? How could you share this story in an encouraging way?
9. How would you define mercy? Grace? In John 21:15-19 we see Jesus restore Peter. Why do you think God tells us about Peter’s restoration? What does that show us about His mercy? His grace? How does that comfort you in your past, present, and future failures?

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?)

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

May 15 - Week 19 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you had one day with no responsibilities, what would you do?

New Testament

Acts 2 ~ Acts 3 ~ Acts 4 ~ Acts 5 ~ Acts 6

1. How did your life change when you became a Christian? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's changing work in your life?
2. What do you think it was like for the believers at Pentecost, when they first received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)?
3. What were the gifts of "tongues" described in Acts 2? What was their purpose? Why was this so needed?
4. We may not preach to a crowd like Peter did in Acts 2, but we are called to be "witnesses" wherever we live and go. What are some ideas of how we can better share the truth and love of Jesus in the midst of a hostile and apathetic culture? Where have you seen success in witnessing? Where have you failed in witnessing?
5. How did Peter know there were people ready to receive Jesus (Acts 2:37)? What did Peter tell them to do?
6. Read the description of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. How is our church similar or different? Are there areas we are missing or ways we can improve as a church family?
7. What is the most valuable thing we can give someone who is poor? Should we ignore beggars? How can we best interact with beggars? Why is this such a touchy issue. What can we learn from Acts 3:1-10? How do we balance this with Matthew 25:42-46? What about 2 Thessalonians 3:10?
8. What do you think about modern day "faith healers"? Fake or faithful? What does Peter say in Acts 3:12? How does that compare with many modern day "faith healers" who seem motivated by money and pride?
9. Many people today believe there are "many ways to God." How is Acts 4:12 a corrective to that false belief?
10. Read the description of Peter and John in Acts 4:13. How does that encourage you?
11. If someone told you that you couldn't talk about Jesus, how might you respond? How did Peter and John respond in Acts 4:19-20? How does that inspire you? Why did they still pray for boldness (Acts 4:29)? How did God answer their prayers?
12. Why were the early believers so generous? (Acts 4:32-37) How can God change our heart to be more generous?
13. What is the danger of misrepresenting your generosity or faithfulness? (Acts 5:1-11)
14. Read the story in Acts 5:17-42. What amazes you? Inspires you? How does the story end?
15. How does Acts 6:1-7 help us to know what to look for in selecting a deacon for our church family? What is their work? How is Stephen described?

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?)

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

May 22 - Week 20 – Questions to Consider

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

Warm Up Question:

What is a life accomplishment that you proud of?

New Testament

Acts 7 ~ Acts 8 ~ Acts 9 ~ Acts 10 ~ Acts 11

1. If someone asked you to share the Gospel story could you do it? How would you feel if you were asked to explain the whole Bible in 5 minutes? How might you better prepare for evangelism opportunities ahead? Why do you think Stephen focused on Abraham, Joseph, and Moses? (Acts 7:1-50) How might you more effectively communicate Jesus in your setting?
2. What do you think about Stephen's bold transition in Acts 7:51-53? Are we called to a similar boldness? Why or why not? What might such boldness sound like today? What truths would "enrage" the society around us today? What suffering might we endure?
3. What inspires you from Stephen's final moments before he is killed? (Acts 7:54-60)
4. What do you think Christians were thinking and feeling when Saul was "ravaging the church" (Acts 8:3)? What sort of prayers would they have been praying? What sort of decisions would they have to make? How might we need to prepare spiritual for future "ravaging" of Christian churches? How might we more faithfully pray for modern day churches that are in situations of ongoing "ravaging"?
5. How many places have you lived before? What are the challenges and advantages that come with moving? When the early church was scattered, what did they do? (Acts 8:4-7) What was the result? (Acts 8:8) What is the most important thing we have to offer our communities?
6. Acts 8:13 describes Simon as having "believed" and been "baptized" but had not yet received the Holy Spirit (Simon's actions in Acts 8:18-19 and Peter's rebuke in Acts 8:20-21 seems to evidence that Simon's faith was not genuine). What was Simon the magician's serious sin? How do people mistakenly try to "earn" or "buy" their salvation today?
7. In Acts 8:9-25 we encounter a unique situation when early believers did not receive the Holy Spirit until an apostle was present. This brings about some important questions (with helpful answers linked below) like:
 - "When/how do we receive the Holy Spirit?" www.gotquestions.org/receive-Holy-Spirit.html
 - "Why had the believers in Samaria not received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8)?" www.gotquestions.org/Acts-8-receive-Holy-Spirit.html
 - "What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-baptism.html
 - "What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?" www.gotquestions.org/indwelling-of-the-Holy-Spirit.html
8. What sorts of reasons do people struggle with getting baptized? In the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) he eagerly desires to be baptized, saying "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (v.38) How should his example guide us?

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

9. What stands out to you from the story of Paul's conversion and reception into the church? (Acts 9) What does it mean to "walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:31)?
10. How is Tabitha/Dorcas described (Acts 9:36)? How do you want your life to be remembered and described?
11. When Peter shares the Gospel with the Gentiles in Acts 10, he shares the Gospel clearly and concisely (v.36-40). How would you share the Gospel briefly? If you only could share one Bible verse, what would you share first? Is Acts 10:42 our responsibility as well? How is Acts 10:43 a good summary?
12. The Apostle Peter is criticized by a group within the church in Acts 11:2-3. What sorts of issues causes fights and quarrels within churches today? What is the root cause of fights and quarrels? (see James 4:1-4)
13. How does Peter respond to their accusations in Acts 11? What is the result? Why is Ephesians 4:15 a good reminder before we respond to accusations against us?
14. How would you describe what it means to be called a "Christian?" Where were believers first called "Christians"? (Acts 11:26)
15. When a worldwide famine is predicted (Acts 11:27-30), how did the early church respond? What does "every one according to his ability" mean? How should this inspire our own efforts for relief to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the midst of natural or manmade disasters?

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?)

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

May 29 - Week 21 – Questions to Consider

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

Warm Up Question:

Who (other than God) made the biggest impact on your life?

New Testament

Acts 12 ~ Acts 13 ~ Acts 14 ~ Acts 15 ~ Acts 16

1. How would you feel if government officials started arresting and killing believers in your church? What effect do you think it would have on church attendance, baptisms, missions, and giving? How did the early church respond when James was killed by Herod (Acts 12:1-5)?
2. What goes through our minds when some are delivered from evil/sickness/death and others are not? What does the rescue of Peter tell us about God (Acts 12:6-19)? What do you think of the reaction of the prayer group when Peter arrived? How has God amazed you at His answers to your prayers? What has God taught you when your prayers were not answered as you had hoped?
3. What do we learn about the seriousness of God's name and wrath in the story of Herod's death (Acts 12:20-25)?
4. Look at the description of Manaen in the list of early believers (Acts 13:1). What would it have taken for him to become a believer? How did God save you? How has God surprised you in how He has worked salvation in the lives of others?
5. Although all Christians are sent out to go witness and make disciples (missions), some are specially called and sent for specific seasons to specific places for missions work. How was the sending out of Barnabas and Saul unique (Acts 13:2-3). How should this guide our process for sending out missionaries and missions teams?
6. Can you think of biblical examples of "cursing" someone who is intent on evil? Or Psalms of God's wrath and judgment (imprecatory Psalms)? What do you think it would have been like to witness Paul's cursing of Elymas (Acts 13:8-12)? How do we reconcile Paul's cursing of his enemy with Jesus's guidance on enemies in Luke 6:27-36? Romans 12:14?
7. Why is the Gospel "good news" (Acts 13:32)? Why does Paul summarize the Bible story? What was the Gentiles' response (Acts 13:48-52)? What does "as many as were appointed to eternal life believed" mean?
8. Have you ever experienced active opposition to Gospel sharing? What was that like? Paul and Barnabas were driven out of Antioch in Pisidia and had to flee Iconium before they murdered... were they successful? (Acts 14:1-7) Jews then come from Antioch and Iconium to Lystra to stone Paul to near deaths (Acts 14:19). How do we know when to stay in the midst of danger, when to flee, and when to stay in the face of certain death? How can we tell if we are successful in the ministry and missions opportunities that God gives us? What did Paul do after such dangerous encounters (Acts 13:51-52, Acts 14:6, 20-21)? How would you have responded similarly or differently?
9. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-11. How did the Lord use and grow Paul through the "persecutions and sufferings" he endured in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra?

May Sunday School Discussion Questions

10. What blessings (common grace) did God show you before you were saved? (Acts 14:17). How can we use a similar approach as a “Gospel bridge” to help people turn to God in salvation?
11. In Acts 15 we see a debate over circumcision as a requirement for the salvation of Gentile Christians. How does Paul handle the discussion? What issues are debated among Christians today? How should we go about handling discussions on such issues?
12. Paul was abandoned by John Mark in the middle of a mission trip and thus didn’t want to take him on the next trip (Acts 15:36-41). Is there wisdom in exercising caution over those who have failed or abandoned you? In 2 Timothy 4:11 we hear of Paul desiring to have the company of John Mark since he is now “useful.” How could this example of restoration apply to us with those who we are currently distant or separated from?
13. So although Paul was almost killed in Lystra, now he finds Timothy, a believer to accompany and serve with him (Acts 16:1-5). How does this encourage you to never give on your prayers and witnessing for God’s good work in seemingly impossible situations?
14. Have you ever sensed the Spirit forbidding you from doing something good like Paul, Timothy, and Silas experienced (Acts 16:6)? How do you feel when such an obstacle appears to godly work? How quickly did Paul obey when He discerned where the Lord wanted them to go instead? (Acts 16:10)
15. How is Lydia’s salvation described? What can we learn about God through this description in Acts 16:14-15?
16. After Paul experience a great spiritual victory (casting out a demon from a fortune telling girl, Acts 16:16-18) they are arrested and severely beaten (Acts 16:19-24). What do you think was going through their minds? What would be going through your mind? What amazes you about God’s powerful deliverance and their faithfulness to stay and witness to the Philippian jailer? (Acts 16:25-40).
17. How does Paul answer the jailer’s question, “what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30)

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?)