

# September Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *September 4 - Week 35 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

Tell us a funny (but appropriate) joke.

### **New Testament**

Ephesians 3 ~ Ephesians 4 ~ Ephesians 5 ~ Ephesians 6 ~ Philipians 1

1. Who would you go to jail for? Why would you go to jail for them? What does Paul mean when he says he is a “a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles” (Ephesians 3:1)?
2. What would it be like to inherit unimaginable wealth? What if someone outside of your family was adopted into the will and shared the inheritance? How would you feel about that? Why would the Jews have such a hard time sharing their beliefs and God with the Gentiles?
3. Paul references the joy of preaching “the unsearchable riches of Christ and to bring to light to everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God” (Ephesians 3:9). How do we get the same privilege? Who shared the Gospel with you? What if they had given up on you?
4. What guides your prayer life? Who do you pray the most for? Why? How do you pray them? How do we see Paul praying in Ephesians 3:14-21? What can we learn from his example?
5. Have you ever had the job or responsibility of representing someone else, a business, a school, or an organization? How did that situation affect how you acted and spoke? Why is it so important to live our lives “in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called?” (Ephesians 4:1) What does that look like for us as Christians?
6. What was the best gift you got for Christmas, a birthday, or an anniversary? How did you enjoy and use that gift? How has God gifted you (Ephesians 4:8)? How are you using those gifts? How do you want to improve in using your giftings?
7. According to Ephesians 4:12-15, what are some of the goals and purposes for our church? Why are these purposes so important? Why is truth without love so unhelpful? Why is love without truth so unhelpful? Why do we need both truth and love?
8. What would you say is the purpose, priorities, and motivations of the world around us? How do they live? Why does God call us to live differently? (Ephesians 4:17-24)
9. Is it possible to be angry and righteous at the same time? (Ephesians 4:26). Why does God say to “not let the sun go down on your anger”? What can we do to ensure that we obey this command in our relationships? How can we better protect ourselves, our families, coworkers, etc. from Satan’s schemes?
10. Why do most people work hard at their job? What does Ephesians 4:28 say is a good motivation for Christians to work hard?
11. What does it feel like to disappoint someone? How do we “grieve” the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30)?

# September Sunday School Discussion Questions

12. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. Why is forgiveness so hard? So important? Who has forgiven you when you didn't deserve it? Who has been the hardest for you to forgive? Why?
13. Read Ephesians 5:1-6. How should the church look different than the world? How can we do better in these areas? What do you think of verse 5 and 6? How is this playing out in the church today? Why do so many churches and pastors avoid these topics?
14. How can we best "discern what is pleasing to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:10)?
15. In what places and situations do you watch your step? Why do you walk more carefully there? In a similar way, why do we need to "look carefully how we walk" (Ephesians 5:15) in the world around us today? What consequences are there if Christians live in "unwise" ways or don't make "the best use of the time" (Ephesians 5:16)?
16. Why do so many churches divide or fight over worship songs? Should they? What is the key emphasis of Ephesians 5:19? (see also: <https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worship-through-singing> )
17. Ephesians 5:22-33 is all about marriage. Why do you think marriage can be so difficult? So magnificent? Do you think verse 33 is the best summary of this passage?
18. What have been the hardest parts of parenting for you? What were the hardest parts of being a child for you? How does Ephesians 6:1-3 help you understand parenting better?
19. What are some of your toughest challenges or greatest joys in your workplace? What is one piece of godly wisdom that stands out to you in Ephesians 6:5-9?
20. Ephesians 6:10-20 talks about our warfare with Satan and his demons. Why do we need the regular reminder that we "do not wrestle against flesh and blood"? (Ephesians 6:12). What one piece of the "armor of God" do you need to refocus better on?
21. Paul starts out with a prayer of thankfulness in Philippians 1:1-11? Who or what have you taken for granted lately? How can you work on being more grateful for that blessing? Why is Philippians 1:9 such a great way to pray for someone?
22. Paul talks about some people and churches being envious, competitive, selfishly ambitious, and not sincere, yet Paul still rejoices that "whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice" (Philippians 1:15-18)? Do you agree with Paul or struggle with this statement Why?
23. Why is Philippians 1:21 such a great verse to memorize (other than it being short 😊)?

## 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?)

# September Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *September 11 - Week 36 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is your favorite Fall activity or childhood memory?

### **New Testament**

Philippians 2 ~ Philippians 3 ~ Philippians 4 ~ Colossians 1 ~ Colossians 2

1. When a parent considers the outcome of their children's life to date, what would bring them joy? What would bring them grief? What sort of characteristics in Christians brings joy according to Philippians 2:2? What sort of characteristics would bring about grief?
2. Consider the statement: "Pride is the root of all sin." Agree or disagree? Why?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How would you define or describe the following terms: "selfish ambition," "conceit", & "humility"? Why is looking at Jesus' incarnation (coming to earth as a human) and death the key to Christian humility and unity?
4. Why is doing "all things without grumbling or disputing" a counter-cultural way to "shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14-15)? Why is this so hard?
5. Paul aims to send Timothy to the church at Philippi, describing him as "genuinely concerned for your welfare"? (Philippians 2:20) Who has God sent into your life as a similar blessing? Who do you think God is sending you to be a blessing to?
6. What kind of warnings did your parents give you growing up? Why? What sort of people did they caution you about? Why do you think Paul gave such a firm command to "look out for the dogs...evildoers" who were teaching a works-based salvation? (Philippians 3:2). What sort of false teachings should the modern-day church be on the watch for?
7. How easy is it to drive forward while looking in the rear-view mirror? Why is it dangerous? Why does Satan try to distract us with our past? What does God tell us to focus on in Philippians 3:13-14? What helps you to focus forward when Satan attacks you with past failures, hurts, and sins?
8. Why is peacemaking hard? Should it be? When Paul urges Euodia and Syntyche to "agree in the Lord", why is the fact that their "names are in the book of life" (Philippians 4:2-3) such a helpful reminder?
9. Read Philippians 4:6. Why is this such a popular verse? In what ways do you find yourself becoming anxious, stressed, or depressed? Why? What does this verse say is the next step when faced with worry? How have you encountered the "peace of God which surpasses all understanding" in past situations of stress?
10. Read Philippians 4:8. How does filling our minds with such things protect us? Change us? Guide us?
11. Paul says he has learned in "whatever situation I am to be content" (Philippians 4:11-13), affirming that "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." What is an area in which you struggle for contentment? How can we better trust in God's power & plans to find contentment?
12. The church at Philippi is described as sharing in Paul's trouble and being generous in their support of his missions (Philippians 4:14-19). Their offerings are described as a

# September Sunday School Discussion Questions

“a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18).  
How does this encourage you to be more generous in Christian giving?

13. Read Colossians 1:9-12. What do you like about this way of praying for someone?  
Who is someone in your life you could pray for more consistently in this manner?
14. Every been without electricity or stuck in a scary, dark place? What was that like?  
How does it make you more grateful to know that, as a Christian, you have been delivered “from the domain of darkness” and transferred “to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13)? How does that motivate you to share the gospel more lovingly and courageously with others?
15. Colossians 1:15-19 describes Jesus in some amazing ways. What is your favorite description of Him here?
16. If someone claims to be a Christian, prays a prayer, walks an aisle, and gets baptized, does that make them a true believer? What is Colossians 1:23 warning us about?  
How is this connected with the warnings of Colossians 2 of being deluded by “plausible arguments” (v.4) and being taken captive by “philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition” (v.8)? How can we best avoid false belief today?
17. What would it feel like (if you have a house mortgage, student loan, business loan, vehicle loan, or credit card balance) to have all of your financial debt erased immediately? How would you respond to the one who paid off your debt? Read Colossians 2:13-15. If you are a Christian, what has Jesus done for you? How should this reminder encourage us on our down day? Motivate and change us into the future?

## **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?)

# September Sunday School Discussion Questions

## September 18 - Week 37 – Questions to Consider

### Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What phone emoji do you use the most?

### New Testament

Colossians 3 ~ Colossians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1 ~ 1 Thessalonians 2 ~ 1 Thessalonians 3

1. Do you find it easier to focus on the past, present, or future? Why?
2. In what ways can focusing on the past be helpful? In what ways can focusing on the past be distracting, destructive to others, and dangerous to yourself?
3. How can we practically “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2)?
4. Do we tend towards putting sin “on a shelf for later” or putting it “to death” (Colossians 3:5)? Why are “earthly things” warned against so severely? What are some of the examples that stand out to you? (See Colossians 3:5-11)
5. What sorts of things does God tell us to “put on”? (See Colossians 3:12-17). If you had to pick just one area to grow in the next week, which area would you pick?
6. Why does Satan attack marriages, families, and workplaces so hard? Why does God give such specific instructions for these environments in Colossians 3:18-4:1?
7. What does it mean to “walk in wisdom towards outsiders”? How can we do that better? For what purposes? (Colossians 4:2-6)
8. Why do you think 1 Thessalonians starts with such gratitude (1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)? What spiritual blessings do we often take for granted? How can we intentionally more thankful?
9. What are some ways you have sought to “please God” (1 Thessalonians 2:4) in your lifetime?
10. How has God shown you that the Bible is not “the word of men” but is really the “word of God” (1 Thess 2:13)? How have you improved in your study of God’s Word over the years? How to you aim to continue to grow?
11. What were COVID lockdowns like for you? Was it hard to not see people “face to face”? What did you miss about church gatherings? Why is it so important for Christian discipleship to be “in person” through our local churches and not merely online-only? Why would Satan “hinder” people from gathering together in church? (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18) (see also: [www.trustworthyword.com/online-church](http://www.trustworthyword.com/online-church) )
12. Who has God sent you at times in your life to “establish and exhort you in your faith” (1 Thessalonians 3:2) like Timothy was sent? Who might God be sending you to?
13. Why is it so encouraging to see friends and family grow in “faith and love” (1 Thessalonians 3:6)? How does such growth best happen? How has God grown you in faith and love in the past year? How has He helped you to stand fast in the midst of affliction?

### 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?)

# September Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *September 25 - Week 38 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What was your favorite toy growing up?

### **New Testament**

1 Thessalonians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5 ~ 2 Thessalonians 1 ~ 2 Thessalonians 2 ~ 2 Thessalonians 3

1. How does it feel when you are trying to get someone's attention and they ignore you? How can you tell if an issue is important/ What are ways to try to help someone see the seriousness or urgency of what you are communicating? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1. Why is Paul both asking and urging? Why is it important?
2. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:4-8, what is the specific issue that he is concerned about? What are similar ways we see this issue as a problem in our society today?
3. What does it look like to "to aspire to live quietly and to mind your own affairs"? "Work with your own hands"? (1 Thessalonians 4:11). Why would Paul consider this important? How is it connected to our witness in walking "properly towards outsiders" and being "dependent on no one" (1 Thessalonians 4:12)?
4. What was the most beautiful funeral you've attended? Why was it so beautiful? What was the saddest funeral you've been to? Why was it so sad? Why does God give us 1 Thessalonians 4:12-18?
5. What is the purpose of a "bucket list"? What are things you'd like to accomplish before you die? Why is it important to you? If you found out that today was the day of your death, do you feel prepared? Why or why not? Why does God give us such an urgent warning about Jesus' return being so sudden in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11? What are ways He tells us to be ready 24/7 for Jesus' return?
6. When Paul gives some closing instructions in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22, what stands out to you? Why?
7. Who is someone in your life who you have seen their "faith is growing abundantly" and their love "for one another is increasing"? (2 Thessalonians 2:3). How might you encourage them? Why does praise often inspire us to more growth? How are faith and love interconnected?
8. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. Why do we like to skip over these passages? Why do we need such passages?
9. Have you ever been scammed or manipulated? How did that feel? Why does God spend so much time to warning us about the "man of lawlessness"? (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12) Who do you know that has "refused to love the truth and so be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10)? How could you try again to love and reach them? What plans could you make to fast and pray for them more intentionally?
10. What final instructions in 2 Thessalonians 3 stand out to you? Why?

### **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?)