

Questions of Jesus

***“Questions are the places in your mind where answers fit.
If you haven’t asked the question, the answer
has nowhere to go.”***

–Clayton Christensen

During our retreat we took a deep dive into 7 questions of Jesus and imagined him asking us these questions personally for the first time. Remember that Jesus asked over 300 questions in the gospels, he only answered 5 questions asked of him directly (and 4 questions indirectly)¹. Questions invite us to explore, seek, and open ourselves to many things including our desires—but we have the pause, look, listen and observe to truly hear not just the questions, but the answers that follow.



In this study guide, you are reminded of the questions of Jesus AND the many questions we raised in each session.

HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE THIS STUDY GUIDE?

- **NOTICE:** Read through the whole study guide (including the Bible verses referenced for each question) and then take a moment to pray and listen to God.
- **NAME:** Of all the sections, which 1-2 do you sense you need to slow down and explore more deeply?

¹J.R. Briggs, *The Art of Asking Better Questions*.

What do you want me to do for you? (Mark 10:46-52)

Q: Why does Jesus ask Bartimaeus what he wants?

Q: What voices today try to mute our pursuit of Jesus?

Q: Have you learned to call out boldly to Jesus or do you get quieted by internal voices or external circumstances?

Q: What “cloak” are we holding onto? Where is your fist clinched in life vs. being open to be filled?

Q: Were you able to articulate what you want and desire?

Q: Do you believe changes in thinking, behaviors, and life begin with your desires—what you want most? Why or why not?

Q: Are your prayers more about managing problems than expressing longing?

Q: What desire have you stopped bringing to God because you've lost hope?

Q: Are you asking Jesus to change your circumstances—or your heart?

Do you want to get well? (John 5:1-9)

Q: CAPTAIN OBVIOUS: Why would Jesus ask this question? Wasn't it obvious?

Q: How many times do we see someone (maybe ourselves) stuck in rut or pattern because change is too hard, or the unknown can paralyze us?

Q: What narratives (“I can't...It's too late...If I don't achieve, I won't be loved or valued...”) are we carrying or clinging to?

Q: What excuse has become part of your identity?

Q: What responsibility comes with healing that feels frightening?

Q: What habit would have to die if you truly became well?

Do you believe that I am able to do this? (Matthew 9:27-30)

Q: Do you believe the things Jesus and the Bible say are actually the best for you?

Q: Do you believe Jesus is actually able to bring goodness to you through the practice of sabbath?

Q: Where do you feel defined by failure instead of grace?

- Do you hear Jesus calling you back to himself?
- Why do you think Peter (and the others) went fishing?

Q: Where have disappointment and unanswered prayers shaped your expectations of God?

Q: What impossible situation have you quietly stopped praying about?

Q: Where has cynicism replaced faith?

Q: Are you asking God to bless your plans, or inviting Him to reshape them?

Do you love me? (John 21:1-19)

Q: Does your confession match your lifestyle...your LIFE?

Q: Does your pace/schedule reflect your love/commitment for Jesus?

Q: What competes for your deepest affection?

Q: If Jesus asked you this question today, what evidence from your life would answer for you?

Q: Where has performance replaced relationships?

Q: Remember, Jesus does not flinch in our discomfort—He uses it for our transformation. Where are you feeling uncomfortable as you work through this study? What is Jesus saying or asking you about this?

Who do you say I am? (Mark 8:27-29)

Q: If Jesus is truly King/Messiah/Lord of every area of your life, what changes in your daily life?

Q: Which aspect of Jesus is easiest for you to embrace? Which is the hardest? Why?

Q: How does your leadership (work or home) reveal what you believe about Jesus?

Q: If Jesus truly has all authority, what are you still trying to control?

Q: What decision would you make differently this week if Jesus were truly Lord of every part of your life?

**What other question(s) might God be asking you
in this season of life?**

***Lord,
May we be attentive to both the questions you
ask and those that rise within me. Thank you for
your patient grace and staying close to me as I
wrestle with both questions and answers. I open
myself to notice, name, discern and respond to
your voice and leading. Lord, do a great work
within me so that your love ripples out from my
life with conviction and power.
Amen.***