

ASK

GENESIS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

“We ALL have questions. The questions we have help us to make sense of what we believe about God, ourselves, and the world in which we live. Questions are important, but even more important is where we go to get answers to the questions we ASK.

God is big enough to handle any and all of the questions we may ASK. He desires us to know Him and understand Him so that we might love Him as we walk with Him!” – Michael Davis

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All Scripture quotations from the NLT
Tyndale House Publishers,
Carol Stream, IL, 2013.

USING THIS GUIDE:

Group Leader Instructions

In preparation for each study, take a few moments to read through the instructions below

Before The Group Meeting:

1. Spend some time in prayer before your group.
2. As you prepare for the study, read over the questions and think through how answering them for yourself could help you better walk with God.
3. Then, try developing two to three practical steps that would help members of your group also walk better with God. Avoid the temptation to simply recount information, but thoughtfully arm your group members with something tangible that they can do throughout the week.
4. In the closing moments of your preparation, ask the Lord to move mightily in your home or group setting. Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing, and we are utterly dependent upon Him showing up!

During The Group Meeting:

1. Begin with prayer. Ask for the Spirit to be present during the group.
2. Attempt to summarize this week's message, in a few, succinct, thoughts. (See summary below for an example)
3. Assign readers to read various Scripture texts.
4. Walk your group through the discussion questions. (Don't feel like you have to cover every question. Some questions will naturally be more relevant to your group than others, and will naturally produce more fruitful discussion. Be sensitive to the flow of conversation and either redirect or dwell longer upon a topic when it is necessary).
5. In response to questions, share stories and personal examples of how this has played out in your life. What did you learn? How did it help you walk with God? What fresh stories of God's power, love, mercy, or grace do you now have because you trusted Him?
6. Draw others out to share their own personal stories. What did they learn? What would life look like if they were able to live out this week's truth consistently?
7. End in a time of prayer, thanking God for the truths that He has revealed, and for the people that He has brought to your group.

WEEK 2

Suffering To See Him

Today's Question:

How do you reach God after you have tried everything? After praying, crying out to God, studying and reading the Bible, begging God to show you His plan, so that you can follow it, and still never getting a response? I have tried it all, I've begged to hear His guidance, I will do whatever He asks, but I can't ever get Him to reach out His hand. What do I do if God still will not speak to me?

Sermon Summary:

The heart for this series is not only that we would be able to ask lots of questions, but, that we would be able to see and experience God. Tons of people are asking tons of questions. But not everyone, who is asking those questions, is walking away from them, having an encounter with Him. For that reason, our hope is that you would not only ask tons of great questions, but that you would have a great encounter with God!

Today, the question we are looking at reveals a heart that is longing to experience God; a heart that is so desperate it will do almost anything to experience Him. But, that is not all that this question reveals. It reveals to us that God is pleased with us when we seek after Him and that it is utterly impossible for us, by our own effort, to reach God. But, most importantly, it reveals that God is the one who can and does reach down to us.

How does God do this? Ultimately, the Bible tells us that God severed the gap between us and Him by sending us His son, who came and walked among us, died for us, and intercedes for us before the Father. Because of Jesus Christ has done, we can now have a relationship with the Father. But, the question remains, how does God reach us in our day-to-day lives? Usually, it is through suffering.

Why does God use suffering to reach us? Because, all of us have the tendency to be awake, but sleeping our way through life. We miss God in the day-to-day and fall asleep to His presence. For that reason, God uses suffering to wake us up, so that we can hear and see God, and He also uses suffering to wake others up around us, so that they too can hear and see God. Which leaves us with one powerful question. If God uses suffering to awaken us and others to new life in Christ, then...

WOULD IT BE WORTH IT??

Discussion Questions:

1. When we have questions about God's Word, would we rather hear what God has to say about it? Or would we rather hear what God has to say about it? What keeps us from wanting to hear what God says?
2. What are some ways that you have tried reaching God when it feels like you have tried everything? What worked? What did not work?
3. When we reflect upon this week's question, do we have that kind of hunger for God? If not, at what times of your life were you the hungriest to hear from Him?
4. At times in your life, does it feel like you are trying so hard to reach out for God, but coming up empty? How does it make you feel to know that God is the one who is reaching out to you? What are some of the things that may be keeping God from reaching you? What are some things that God is going to have to do to get our attention?
5. Michael said, that one of the primary ways God reaches us and reveals Himself to us is through suffering. How do you feel about that? Has God used suffering to reach you? Have there been times when you have not seen God at work in your suffering? Have there been times that you have?
6. Michael also taught us that God uses suffering to awaken those around us. How has God used something that you are going through to inspire, challenge, or awaken someone around you? If He has done this, would that make the suffering worthwhile?

Guide To Prayer:

- Take some time to thank God for the suffering that He brings into our lives. Not because we love the pain, but because God uses suffering to awaken us, and also others, to the new life that God has for us in Him.
- Ask God to forgive us if we have had wrong feelings and thoughts about our suffering, and to help us to see and hear Him more fully in the midst of our suffering.
- Ask God to give us an unquenchable hunger for Him, that will spill out of us and onto the ones around us.
- Finally, ask God to be with Ricky, Amanda, Bleiler, and Mac. Today they found out that Mac has been clear of cancer for 18 months. Pray that God gives them continued victories in the months ahead.