

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

ASK

© GENESIS Community Church. All Rights Reserved.
www.genesisjourney.com

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 6

Dating, Marriage, and God

Today's Question(s):

Q. *Does God even care about my love life?*

A. *Yes. But, what He cares about even more is our relationship to Him.*

Q. *How do you know if God has chosen someone to be "the one" for you?*

A. *God has chosen His Son to be "The One" for us. Making a man or a woman to be "The One" for us is placing an incredible amount of pressure on him or her that will actually harm them and the relationship.*

Q. *"I am in a physical relationship with a non-believer, am I going to hell?"*

A. *No. If Christ saved you He cannot lose you. But is this God's best for your life? Does it demonstrate a heart that wants to follow God? Or a heart that wants God to follow you?*

Q. *How do I balance my singleness with my sexuality in a way that is pleasing to God?*

A. *By not trying to be balanced, but by living and being holy. Practically, this looks like 1) treating the opposite sex now, as you would want others to one day treat your spouse, and 2) by forming meaningful relationships with people of the same sex today, so that you will have a solid support system when you are married.*

Q. *My husband rarely prays for me or with me. I deeply desire for him to step up and to ask what I would like prayer for, and then pray out loud for those things. How do I get him to want to pray more for me and with me?*

A. *Husbands have one huge role, which is to be the spiritual leader of their homes. This does not mean that they are to be domineering, but that they are to lead their wives and love them as Christ has led and loved the Church. This means being ready to die for her, even on a daily basis when selfishness causes us to want only those things, which are most important to us.*

Sermon Summary:

The heart behind this series is not only that we would ask lots of questions, but also, that we would be able to see and experience God. Tons of people are asking tons of questions. But not everyone is walking away from his or her questions, with an encounter from God. For that reason, our hope is that you would not only ask great questions, but that you would have a great encounter with the living God!

Today, we are looking at questions that reflect two things. First, we all have a God-given desire to be in relationships. For many of us, one of the primary ways that this plays itself out is through dating and marriage. But, today's question also keys us into the second fact that relationships can be and are often very challenging.

To answer the above questions, it is important to first admit that it is a good thing for us to be relational. In fact, the very reason why we value relationships so highly is because God is highly relational and has made us to be just like Him. With that, the greatest fulfillment and satisfaction that we could ever have (as relational beings), is being connected first and foremost to God. This means that God should be our primary and most satisfying relationship.

To reiterate, if He made us to be relational, and if He is infinitely and perfectly relational, then it just makes sense that He would design us to be most fully in love with and satisfied by a relationship with Him. Then, out of that overflow will we be able to love and care most fully for others. This means that all of the questions that have been given above, and all of the problems that we could face in our daily relationships, can be answered most fully when our relationship with God is primary.

When this does not occur, we often experience relational dysfunction and unnecessary tension that strains the way we treat others. How? Because, we attempt to fill the void in our hearts, that only God can fill, with human relationships that were not meant to do that. And, as a result, many of us have been deeply wounded and are carrying around with us, a ton of pain! To be honest, all of this points to the simple fact that we need a lot of help with our relationships.

In closing, Michael addressed two Biblical facts. **1)** Our singleness is not a disease; it is actually a gift that we can harness to serve the Lord well. **2)** Our marriage is a gift from God, but it is only a temporary gift that points to the ultimate gift that we will have in Christ. It is the dress rehearsal for the coming play that will be going on throughout all eternity. So, whether we are single for a period or for a lifetime, our relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship that we could ever have. In the same way, whether we are getting married, newly married, or have been married for years, our greatest and most satisfying relationship is found in Christ!

Verses to Consider:

- 1 Cor. 7:32-35 – “I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord’s work and thinking how to please him. But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.”
- Eph. 5:32-33 – “This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”
- Mark 12:25 – “For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage.”
- 1 Cor. 7:29 – “But let me say this, dear brothers and sisters: The time that remains is very short. So from now on, those with wives should not focus only on their marriage.”
- Ephesians 3:17-19 – “And I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
- 1 Pet. 1:15 – “But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.”
- 1 Thess. 4:3 – “God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.”
- Eph. 5:1-3 – “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do... let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God’s people.”
- Proverbs 27:17 – “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Quotations to Consider:

- “Marriage is really important because it points to God’s relationship with His people. And yet marriage is not really, really important – it’s not the ultimate thing in life... God is the ultimate, not our spouse, nor our marriage, nor sex. God is.”
Tim Chester – GCM
- “Romance, sex, and children are temporary gifts of God. They are not part of the next life. And they are not guaranteed even for this life. They are one possible path along the narrow way to paradise.” John Piper – This Momentary Marriage
- If you are single, are you WORKING HARD at doing ALL that you want to do, or are you working towards ALL that God wants for you to do? – Michael Davis
- “If you are married, do not make the mission of your marriage your marriage, rather make the mission of your marriage the mission God has given you.” - Michael Davis

Group Exercise (Optional):

At the beginning of your group, it may be helpful to allow members time to individually share where they are currently at and what struggles they have had with relationships. This will not only set a context for the topic, but it will also allow the group to get to know one another better, and to grow closer to one another. Once every (willing) person has shared, feel free to transition into the discussion questions below.

NOTE: The two primary truths we are seeking to uphold this week is: 1) A relationship with God is the most basic, primary, and satisfying relationship we can ever have. 2) We love and enjoy others most fully, when we love them out of the overflow we have in relationship with God!

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the unique struggles that you have had in your relationships?

QUESTIONS FOR SINGLES

2. Has there ever been a time when your singleness did not feel like it was a gift from God?
3. What is the one or two things that you are learning about God in your singleness?
4. Would you say that you normally work hardest for the things that God wants, or the things that you want? How do you think this posture may impact a future marriage?
5. Michael said that we should not seek to be balanced in our sexuality; we should seek to be holy. In what ways do you find this to be difficult? In what ways are you growing in holiness?
6. In your singleness, are you following God where He wants you to go, or are you asking God to follow you into the places and relationships that you are in?
7. Would you want someone to treat your future spouse, the way you are treating a member of the opposite sex? Why or why not?

QUESTIONS FOR MARRIED'S

8. Have you ever considered that you will no longer be married in heaven? How does this make you feel? Why do you think God would make it this way?
9. How does making God first in your marriage, allow you to better enjoy your marriage? Have there been times when you really got this right? Have there been times when you got this wrong? What did you learn?
10. Michael said: "Do not make the mission of your marriage your marriage, but make the mission of your marriage the mission God has given you". What do you think this means? How has this played out in your own life and marriage?
11. In your marriage, are you following God for the direction that He wants the two of you to go, or are you asking God to come be a part of the direction you are wishing to go?
12. Can you say that Christ, and not your spouse, is your greatest love? In what ways has loving Christ helped you to love your spouse more fully?

Guide To Prayer:

- Begin by thanking God that He has made us to be relational beings who crave and long for relationships. Thank Him that He is the most satisfying relationship we could ever have, and that He has allowed us to enjoy loving others like He has loved us!
- Ask God to help us learn and understand how to love Him better, as we also seek to love others more fully. Ask Him to teach us and show us His love so that we can be better equipped to love others.
- Finally, ask God to forgive us for the times when we have failed at our relationships and for the grace He has shown us in Christ, who never fails!