

Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Seven

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) If you could write a book, what genre would you write it in? Mystery? Thriller? Romance? Historical fiction? Non-fiction? What is your favourite genre to read?
- b) What is one of your favourite memories from when you were a child? Why do you think this memory has stayed with you through the years?

Passage and Discussion

Read 1 John 2:28-3:9

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) Over the last week, as you have reflected on what it means to “remain in Christ”, did you have any thoughts about this truth? How have you “remained in Christ” over the last week?
- c) On Sunday, Cam taught us about how “dear children” refers to the community of believers that developed under John. Why is it important to know that this letter is a form of personal discipleship?
- d) The main question we explored on Sunday is: “why should we remain in Christ? What are the blessings we receive when we remain in Him?” In your own words, how would you answer this question? How would you answer this question by using your life and testimony as an example?
- e) One blessing of remaining in Christ is confidence before Him. In your own life, would you describe yourself as “confident in Christ”? What are a few passages from Scripture affirm the confidence that we are compelled to have in Him?
- f) In verse 28, we are taught that, when we remain in Christ, we will be “confident and unashamed before Him at His coming”. How does this truth change the way that we should live our lives? How often do you think about Christ’s second coming in your own life? How do you experience hope and peace from this truth?

- g) Through remaining in Christ, we are called His children; this is our main identity. In your own life, would you primarily identify as a child of God? What are other identity labels that you tend to use you define yourself? How do we move towards defining ourselves as “branches”?
- h) A third blessing of remaining in Christ is that we will be conformed to Him. One of the promises for those who are abiding in Christ is that they are being changed to be more like Christ. As you look back on the last year of your life, how have you been changed to be more like Christ? How are you experiencing sanctification?
- i) In our culture, we often emphasize ‘being just as you are’, at the expense of an encouragement to grow and change. The scriptures share that in God’s kindness, He works in us to help us grow and look more like Jesus. What is one specific area of your life that you desire to be changed into the likeness of Christ?
- j) On Sunday, Cam noted that 1 John 3:4-6 can be difficult to read, since we are sinful by nature. Have you struggled with guilt over your sin? How do we overcome this guilt to recognize our forgiveness in Christ?
- k) On Sunday, Cam discussed the difference between ‘struggling’ and ‘snuggling’ with sin; there’s a difference between imperfection and habitual sin. How would you explain this difference in your own words? How do we know if we are moving in the right direction, since we cannot experience perfection?
- l) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, take a few minutes each day to reflect on the confidence that you have in Christ, and in His coming. Ask Him to help you live each day of your life with the hope that we have in His return; ask Him what changes you need to make to your life in light of this truth.
- b) This week, take a few minutes to reflect on whether or not you are ‘struggling’ or ‘snuggling’ with sin. Spend a few minutes in silence, and ask God to speak to you if there are areas in your life where you have become comfortable with your sin.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to ‘check-in’ about how each person is doing, and pray for them.

- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praying for this series that we are walking through as a church. Pray that God would use it to help each of us become more like Him, and to help our church become more like the community He wants us to be.