

Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Twelve

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 were stuck on a desert island for a year, and you could bring three books with you (besides the Bible), what three books would you bring?
- b) What is your most-used emoji? If there was one emoji (or internet slang) that you could completely remove from existence, what would it be?

Passage and Discussion

Read 1 John 5:6-12

- 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) In his sermon, Cam began by helping us understand the background of this letter, and how John's letter was meant to refute a heresy that was becoming common in the Church. What are a few heresies that you would say are becoming common in the Church today? Where should we go to find the truth that refutes these heretical teachings?
- c) What do you think this passage means by "God's testimony"? Where do we find God's testimony about His Son Jesus? How does understanding this testimony influence the way that we deal with false teachings and heresies in the Church today?
- d) **Read Luke 1:31-35.** This passage is concerned with helping us understand the question: "what child is this?" Why is it important for us to understand that Christ was both fully God and fully man? How does this change the way that we approach Him in our relationship with Him?
- e) As Cam taught on Sunday, our passage presents "witnesses" that testify to Jesus' divinity. Why do you think John believes it is so important to 'prove' that Jesus was divine; that He was the Christ? What difference does this truth make to our understanding of the resurrection?
- f) Although there is some disagreement about what is meant by "water and blood" in our passage, it is likely that "water" refers to Jesus' baptism and earthly ministry, and that "blood" refers to Jesus' death on the cross. How do you think most people in our world would understand and define Jesus' life today? Why do you think that many people are willing to accept Christ's "water" ministry, but not His death and resurrection on the cross?

- g) Do you have people in your life who accept Jesus as a good teacher, but have not accepted His death on the cross and resurrection? How can God use us to share the truth of the Gospel with others? How can we encourage each other to engage in evangelism during this season?
- h) **Read 1 John 5:11-12.** In your own words, how does this passage connect to the Advent theme of “peace”? When we accept that Christ was both God and man when He died on the cross, how does this truth bring peace into our lives?
- i) **Read Hebrews 4:14-16.** How does this passage connect to our main passage this Sunday? What does it mean to you that Jesus can “empathize with our weaknesses”? How does this shape the way that we turn to Him for help when we struggle?
- j) 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, reflect on Hebrews 4:14-16. Ask yourself: what temptations are you struggling with in this season of your life? In prayer, bring these struggles to Jesus who is both our high priest and the One who can empathize with our weaknesses. Ask Him to give you strength to walk through temptations faithfully.
- b) This week, pray about those in your life who may respect Jesus as a moral teacher, but have not accepted Him as Lord and Saviour. Ask God how He wants to use you to be His hands and feet in sharing the Gospel in your everyday life.

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 our church community, especially those who are frontline workers (doctors, nurses, teachers, etc.). Pray that God would protect and bring peace into each person’s life this week.