

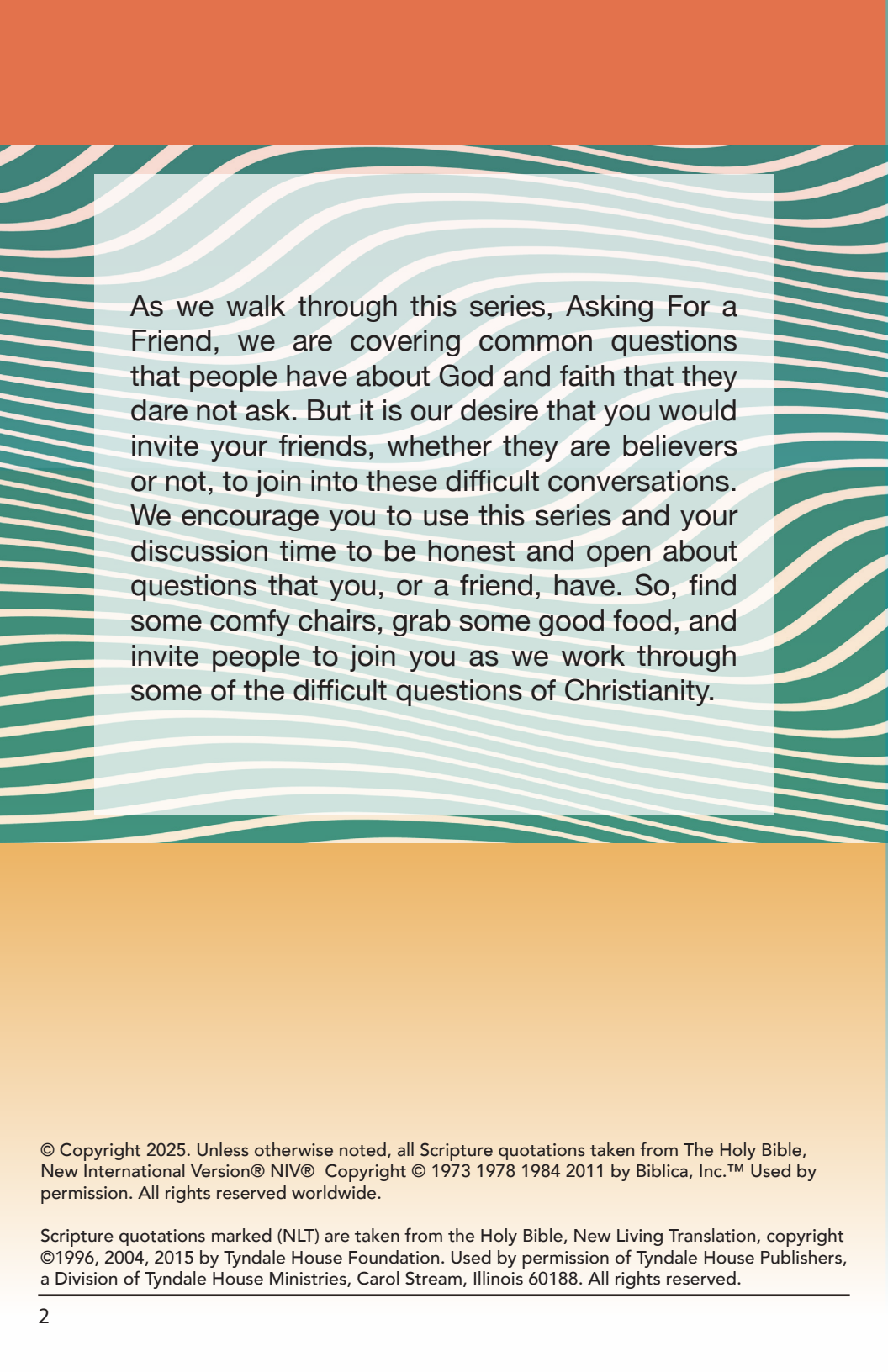
5 WEEKS



ASKING FOR A FRIEND



SUNNYBROOK CHURCH



As we walk through this series, Asking For a Friend, we are covering common questions that people have about God and faith that they dare not ask. But it is our desire that you would invite your friends, whether they are believers or not, to join into these difficult conversations. We encourage you to use this series and your discussion time to be honest and open about questions that you, or a friend, have. So, find some comfy chairs, grab some good food, and invite people to join you as we work through some of the difficult questions of Christianity.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEEK 1

How Could a Good God Send People to Hell? **4**

WEEK 2

Can Faith and Science Coexist? **6**

WEEK 3

Why Does God Allow Suffering? **8**

WEEK 4

Is Jesus Really the Only Way to Heaven? **10**

WEEK 5

How Do We Know the Bible is the Word of God? **12**

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group 14

Group Agreement 15



HOW COULD A GOOD GOD SEND PEOPLE TO HELL?

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Highs and Lows:

- Share a highlight from your week or a way that you saw God show up.
- Share a low from your week or something that you are working through.

Discussion:

Let's bring our questions to God. Create a space to process your doubts and questions with people you trust, then choose to dive deeper and press into Jesus. Below are a few FAQs and Scripture to help foster discussion around it. Remember, these verses don't always hold all of the answers, but they can help you begin to understand what God says about the topic and the truth of His Word.

What questions about hell, eternity, and God's goodness have you wrestled with?

- Why would a loving God send people to hell? (Matthew 5:29, Romans 5:8-9)
- Does Satan rule over hell? What is the relationship between Satan and hell? (Revelation 20:10)

- Why does hell exist? (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)
- If hell exists, does God actually care about people? (2 Peter 3:9)

Action Steps:

1. What's a question you can bring to God this week?
2. What's a doubt you've been dismissing about hell, eternity, and God's goodness? Who can you process it with?
3. In what ways can you trust God with this issue as you keep learning about it?
4. Pray together as a group that God would help you to trust Him, to continue to press into the hard topics and questions, and that He would strengthen your faith.





CAN FAITH AND SCIENCE COEXIST?

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Highs and Lows:

- Share a highlight from your week or a way that you saw God show up.
- Share a low from your week or something that you are working through.

Discussion:

Let's bring our questions to God. Create a space to process your doubts and questions with people you trust, then choose to dive deeper and press into Jesus. Below are a few FAQs and Scripture to help foster discussion around it. Remember, these verses don't always hold all of the answers, but they can help you begin to understand what God says about the topic and the truth of His Word.

What questions about faith and science have you wrestled with?

- One common argument for the start of the universe is the big bang. What does the Bible have to say about the beginning of creation? (Exodus 20:11)
- Can science and Scripture be reconciled? (Psalm 19:1,7)

- Has science proved that the world is random and there is no purpose to it? (Romans 11:36)
- If the earth was created by a random event, do I have any purpose? (Ephesians 2:10)

Action Steps:

1. What's a question you can bring to God this week?
2. What's a doubt you've been dismissing about faith and science? Who can you process it with?
3. In what ways can you trust God with this issue as you keep learning about it?
4. Pray together as a group that God would help you to trust Him, to continue to press into the hard topics and questions, and that He would strengthen your faith.





WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Highs and Lows:

- Share a highlight from your week or a way that you saw God show up.
- Share a low from your week or something that you are working through.

Discussion:

Let's bring our questions to God. Create a space to process your doubts and questions with people you trust, then choose to dive deeper and press into Jesus. Below are a few FAQs and Scripture to help foster discussion around it. Remember, these verses don't always hold all of the answers, but they can help you begin to understand what God says about the topic and the truth of His Word.

What questions about suffering and pain have you wrestled with?

- What if I don't feel God or His presence, only pain? (Romans 8:38-39)
- Did God create evil? (Genesis 2-3, Romans 5:12)

- If God allows suffering, isn't He just distant and disconnected? (Isaiah 53:5)
- Will we suffer forever? (Revelation 24:1)

Action Steps:

1. What's a question you can bring to God this week?
2. What's a doubt you've been dismissing about suffering and pain? Who can you process it with?
3. In what ways can you trust God with this issue as you keep learning about it?
4. Pray together as a group that God would help you to trust Him, to continue to press into the hard topics and questions, and that He would strengthen your faith.





IS JESUS REALLY THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN?

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Highs and Lows:

- Share a highlight from your week or a way that you saw God show up.
- Share a low from your week or something that you are working through.

Discussion:

Let's bring our questions to God. Create a space to process your doubts and questions with people you trust, then choose to dive deeper and press into Jesus. Below are a few FAQs and Scripture to help foster discussion around it. Remember, these verses don't always hold all of the answers, but they can help you begin to understand what God says about the topic and the truth of His Word.

What questions about heaven, how to get there, or Jesus have you wrestled with?

- Aren't all religions the same? (1 Corinthians 1:12)
- Isn't it enough to be sincere? Does it matter what I believe or just that I believe something? (Proverbs 16:25, Matthew 7:21)

- Is Jesus really the only way to God? Don't all religions lead to God? (Acts 4:12, 1 John 5, John 8:32)
- What happens to people who have never heard of Jesus? (Psalm 89:14, Romans 1:19, Romans 1:20)

Action Steps:

1. What's a question you can bring to God this week?
2. What's a doubt you've been dismissing about heaven and how to get there? Who can you process it with?
3. In what ways can you trust God with this issue as you keep learning about it?
4. Pray together as a group that God would help you to trust Him, to continue to press into the hard topics and questions, and that He would strengthen your faith.





HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?

WEEK 5

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Highs and Lows:

- Share a highlight from your week or a way that you saw God show up.
- Share a low from your week or something that you are working through.

Discussion:

Let's bring our questions to God. Create a space to process your doubts and questions with people you trust, then choose to dive deeper and press into Jesus. Below are a few FAQs and Scripture to help foster discussion around it. Remember, these verses don't always hold all of the answers, but they can help you begin to understand what God says about the topic and the truth of His Word.

What questions about Scripture, its inerrancy, its trustworthiness, or how it applies today have you wrestled with?

- How can the Bible be trusted if it was written by a bunch of men? (2 Peter 1:21)
- Some of scripture doesn't seem applicable. How can I know what to trust? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Do ancient records and archaeology disprove the bible?
 - Ancient Babylonian records on the confusion of language and the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
- Evidence of fiery and violent destruction at the site of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)
- The plagues of Egypt before the Exodus have archaeological support (Exodus 12:40-41)

Action Steps:

1. What's a question you can bring to God this week?
2. What's a doubt you've been dismissing about the Bible and Scripture? Who can you process it with?
3. In what ways can you trust God with this issue as you keep learning about it?
4. Pray together as a group that God would help you to trust Him, to continue to press into the hard topics and questions, and that He would strengthen your faith.



Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?

Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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