

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 9/27/26

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come together today as your people, grateful for the gift of community and the opportunity to dig deeper into your Word. As we open our hearts and minds to what you have for us, we ask that you quiet the noise of jealousy, pride, and the desire for control that so easily creeps in. Holy Spirit, move among us freely today. Give us ears to hear not just what we want to hear, but what you want us to receive. May this time together draw us closer to you and to one another. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you have genuinely admired or appreciated about someone else recently, whether a friend, coworker, or even another church in your community?

Summary

This sermon explored the question "Says who?" as a lens for examining our tendencies toward jealousy, control, and the grasping of power. Pastor Joel began by noting how the religious leaders challenged Jesus' authority in the Temple, not out of genuine curiosity, but out of occupational jealousy and a desire to maintain control. He honestly invited the congregation to recognize how we, too, can fall into the same patterns, whether in our relationships, workplaces, or even in how we view other churches and ministries.

The heart of the message draws from Philippians 2, focusing on the kenosis of Christ, the self-emptying love of Jesus who did not cling to divine power but humbled Himself in obedience, even to death on a cross. Pastor Joel challenged listeners to replace the question "Says who?" with a better one: "What would love do?" He argued that having the mind of Christ means seeing the world through a lens of love, staying in step with the Holy Spirit, and aligning our words, attitudes, and actions with the law of love that Jesus identified as the greatest commandment.

Key Verses

- Matthew 21:23
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Philippians 2:6-11
- Matthew 22:37-40

Questions

1. Pastor Joel described the religious leaders' question, "By what authority are you doing these things?" as being motivated by jealousy and a desire for control rather than genuine faith. Can you think of a time when you asked a similar question from a place of jealousy rather than honest curiosity? What was going on in your heart?
2. The sermon used the image of the Holy Spirit as a "wild goose" that moves freely and cannot be controlled. How does that image challenge or encourage you in your own walk with God? Are there areas of your life where you might be "chasing off" the Spirit rather than chasing after Him?

3. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Where do you find this instruction most difficult to live out in your daily life?
4. Pastor Joel made a distinction between Christ "becoming nothing" and Christ "emptying Himself." Why does that difference matter to how we understand Jesus and how we see our own worth as human beings made in the image of God?
5. John Wesley described the kenosis of Christ as emptying Himself "of all but love." What does it look like practically for us to empty ourselves of selfish ambition while holding onto love as our core motivation?
6. The sermon proposed replacing the question "Says who?" with "What would love do?" Think of a current challenge or tension in your life. How does asking "What would love do?" change how you might respond to it?
7. Pastor Joel acknowledged that love is not always easy and is not always received well. Can you share an experience where choosing to love someone cost you something? What did you learn from that experience?
8. The sermon closed with the reminder that we cannot live this way on our own and that it is God's work and grace in us. How are you currently depending on God's grace to help you love the people around you? What practices or habits help you stay connected to that source of love?

Life Application

This week, before you react to a situation that triggers jealousy, frustration, or a desire for control, pause and ask yourself one question: "What would love do?" Write that question somewhere you will see it every day, whether on a sticky note, your phone lock screen, or a journal. Each evening, take a few minutes to reflect on one moment from the day when you chose love and one moment when you wish you had. Bring both honestly before God in prayer, and ask the Holy Spirit to keep shaping you into the likeness of Christ.

Key Takeaways

- The question "Says who?" often reveals a heart motivated by jealousy, pride, or a desire for control rather than a genuine pursuit of God's will.
- The Holy Spirit moves freely, like a wild goose, and our calling is to stay in step with the Spirit rather than trying to control or contain where and how God works.
- The kenosis of Christ, His self-emptying described in Philippians 2, was not about becoming nothing but about choosing love over power, serving as the model for how we are to engage with the world.
- The greatest commandments, loving God with our whole selves and loving our neighbors as ourselves, form the lens through which we are called to see every situation and relationship.
- Because God first loved us and holds us securely, we are freed and empowered to love others even in moments that feel unfair, confusing, or painful.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us what love truly looks like. You did not cling to power or authority but emptied yourself and gave everything for our sake. Forgive us for the times we have asked "Says who?" from a place of pride or jealousy rather than trust in you. As we leave this time together, fill us afresh with your Spirit. Give us the courage to ask "What would love do?" in the hard moments this week, and the grace to actually do it. Remind us that we are held by the love of a Father who will not let us go, and let that security free us to love the world around us generously and without fear. We pray this together in the name of Jesus, who is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

A Note About These Questions: These small group questions are developed from each week's sermon with the assistance of Sermonshots, which incorporates AI technology. The resulting questions and content are reviewed and edited by the pastor before being shared with the congregation.