

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions
week of 7/12/26

Summary

In this sermon, Dr. Bowling explored the power of questions, particularly the more than 300 questions Jesus asked during His public ministry. Rather than seeking better answers, Dr. Bowling suggested we often need to ask ourselves better questions. The focus was on one of Jesus's most penetrating questions, found in John 1, when He turned to two disciples who were following Him and asked, "What are you seeking?" This question cuts to the heart of human motivation and desire, inviting honest reflection about what truly drives our lives.

Dr. Bowling emphasized that beneath our schedules, ambitions, and relationships lies a deeper longing that only Christ can satisfy. When the disciples responded by asking where Jesus was staying, they were really expressing a desire for relationship and closeness. Jesus responded with a gracious and open invitation: "Come and see." This invitation was not conditional on them having all the answers or having life figured out. It was, and still is, extended to the doubting, the weary, the broken, and the curious alike. The sermon called listeners to place Christ at the gravitational center of their lives, seeking His kingdom first above all other pursuits.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we come with open hearts and honest questions. We ask that your Holy Spirit would move among us, softening any hardness and quieting any noise that keeps us from hearing your voice. Just as Jesus invited His first disciples to come and see, we ask that you would

draw each of us closer to you in this time together. Help us to set aside our assumptions and our distractions, and give us a genuine hunger to seek you above all else. May what we discuss today not simply inform our minds, but transform our hearts. In Jesus name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you were really passionate about pursuing when you were younger, and how has that changed over the years?

Key Verses

- John 1:35-39
- Matthew 6:33
- Psalm 42:1
- John 3:16

Questions

1. Dr. Bowling mentioned that Jesus asked over 300 questions during His public ministry. Why do you think Jesus used questions so often rather than simply giving direct answers or instructions?
2. The question "What are you seeking?" is described as getting at the gravitational center of a person's life. If you answered that question honestly right now, what would you say you are most actively pursuing?
3. Jesus responded to the disciples with the simple invitation, "Come and see." How does that invitation challenge the idea that we need to have everything figured out before we can truly follow Christ?

4. Augustine wrote that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. In what areas of your life do you still feel that restlessness, and what do you think it might be pointing you toward?
5. Dr. Bowling described a kind of "superficial spirituality" that settles for occasional inspiration rather than deep relationship with Christ. What are some practical ways we can guard against that tendency in our own lives?
6. Matthew 6:33 (NIV) says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." What does it look like in everyday, practical terms to seek God's kingdom first, especially when other pressures and priorities compete for that place?

Life Application

This week, set aside 10 to 15 minutes each day to sit quietly before God and honestly ask yourself the question Jesus asked: "What am I seeking?" Write down what comes to mind without filtering it. At the end of the week, review what you wrote and prayerfully consider whether those pursuits are drawing you closer to Christ or pulling you away. Then take one concrete step, whether it is adjusting a habit, a priority, or a relationship, to better align your deepest desires with seeking God's kingdom first.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus asked questions not because He lacked information, but because the right question has the power to penetrate our thinking, expose our motives, and lead us toward genuine faith and self-examination.

- Every human life is shaped by its deepest desires. What we seek determines what we do, what we do shapes who we become, and who we become determines our destiny.
- The disciples' response to Jesus, asking where He was staying, reveals that true discipleship is not about gathering information but about pursuing an ongoing, abiding relationship with Christ.
- Jesus's invitation to "come and see" is open, gracious, and unconditional. It is extended to the doubting, the weary, the broken, and the curious, requiring no prior credentials or certainty.
- Seeking God's kingdom first, as Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:33 (NIV), does not mean ignoring other good things in life. It means placing Christ at the center so that everything else finds its proper order around Him.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the time we have shared together today around your Word. You know each person in this group by name, and you know the longings, the fears, and the questions we carry. We are grateful that your invitation is not "come when you have it all together," but simply "come and see." As we leave this place, we ask that your Holy Spirit would keep that invitation ringing in our hearts throughout the week ahead. Give us the courage to honestly examine what we are seeking, and the grace to reorient our lives around you. Teach us to seek your kingdom first, to abide in you daily, and to trust that in you we will find what our hearts have always been looking for. In the name of Jesus, amen.