



Faith Community Church  
Faithfully Centered on Christ  
(Battleship, Part 4)

Faith Group Questions  
& Discussion Guide



**Opening Prayer:** Ask God to reveal where we have allowed our hearts to become dull or hard, and to help us soften them so His Word can take root.

**Icebreaker:** Share a time when you were humbled in a memorable (or funny) way. What did you learn from that experience?

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Spiritual maturity is not automatic or time-based—it's a heart issue.
2. God gives you a new, soft heart at salvation; spiritual battles can harden it over time.
3. A good heart that produces fruit is: HUMBLE, HOLY (set apart), and HEAVENLY-focused.
4. God's Word WILL produce fruit in our lives if we keep our hearts in good condition.
5. We are responsible for guarding our hearts; God is responsible for producing the fruit.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What difference did you notice starting your day seeking God FIRST?
2. How does understanding these four "ships" as potential "seasons" rather than linear stages change your perspective on spiritual growth? Have you experienced seasons of being more or less fruitful in your walk with Christ? (Psalm 1:1-3, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)
3. According to Matthew 13:15, why couldn't some people understand the mysteries of the kingdom? What causes hearts to become hard or dull? (Zechariah 7:4-13) (For a longer study, read Jeremiah 42:1-43:7)
4. Isaiah 57:15 says God dwells with those who have a "contrite and lowly spirit." What does it practically look like to maintain a humble heart in daily life? (Philippians 2:3-4)
5. Why do you think humility is an "ongoing lesson" for believers? What areas of pride might God be revealing to you? (James 4:6-10)

6. Discuss the difference between holiness as "sinless perfection" & holiness as "being set apart." How does this change your approach to holy living? (Deuteronomy 12:29-32)

7. Jesus said in Matthew 15:19 that evil thoughts come from the heart. How can we prevent unhealthy thoughts from moving from our minds into our hearts? (Romans 12:2)

8. Colossians 3:1-2 tells us to "set our minds on things above, not on earthly things." What earthly things most commonly distract you from eternal focus?

9. What does it look like practically to live as "strangers and exiles" in this world while still engaging with daily responsibilities? (Hebrews 11:4-16)

10. Self-Assessment: Of the three characteristics of a good heart (humble, holy, heavenly), which one do you struggle with most? What causes the struggle?

**Practical Applications:** Choose ONE of the following to focus on this week:

Option 1: Cultivate Humility

- Identify one area where pride has taken root
- Memorize a verse about remaining teachable (e.g., from Psalm 119)
- Consider: Who do I need to listen to more carefully?

Option 2: Pursue Holiness

- Identify one unhealthy thought pattern that keeps recurring
- Memorize a Scripture to combat that thought (e.g., Philippians 4:8)
- Practice immediately replacing ungodly thoughts with God's truth

Option 3: Focus on Heaven

- Spend 10 minutes each day reflecting on eternal realities
- Ask yourself: "How does this decision/situation look from an eternal perspective?"
- Reduce time spent on one earthly distraction (social media, news, entertainment)

Check in with your accountability partner at least once through the week.

**Closing Prayer:** Father, thank You that YOU are responsible for bringing growth. Help us to choose humility, to be willing to be different - set apart - from our world, and to set our minds on things above. In Jesus' name.