

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

Is this over yet? Are we there yet? Are we really starting Lent... AGAIN? Some days we may still feel lost in the wilderness of last Lent or virtual everything, going around in circles, or just plain stuck. And the yet the season of Lent invites us into an intentional time of journeying with God, even finding God, in the busyness of life. It is a time of holy preparation that can bring new life and renewal as we seek God's presence in the midst of it all.

Join us this Lent as we journey with Christ through his own time of preparation from his wilderness temptation to the cross. We will stop along the familiar "places" of his ministry to find ourselves in the same places of invitation and longing, and discover how Christ accomplishes, not exactly what we expect, but always what we need. What is the way through? How do we take the next step? By placing our trust in God and in God alone.

Message Synopsis

Faith is always a journey from where we are to where God is taking us; or rather, to who we are becoming in Christ. What we know now more than ever is that this journey is full of seasons of uncertainty, loss, and challenge- the messy middle. But the middle can also be a place of adventure, preparation, and growth. Jesus' public ministry began with his baptism, after which he was driven to the desert for 40 days. It was a time of testing and temptation, but also of formation and preparation as he began his journey to where God was leading him next, to the cross. Lent offers us this opportunity to make sense of our own journeys within the greater story of God. Where are you? Where is God leading you next? For us Christians, it is always leading to the cross. Because it is the cross that will ultimately take us to our destination; a place of freedom, belonging, and love in right relationship with God and one another.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 3:13-4:11, Isaiah 43

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. In what ways has the last year of a "messy middle" been a season of challenge and growth for you? In a moment of reflection, how have you grown or how have you witnessed growth in others?
2. Part of being found in God and growing closer to Christ is knowing where you are on the journey; where you began and where you are in any given season. At the beginning of this Lenten journey, where are you? How are you feeling spiritually? Where do you sense God's presence right now?
3. How do you plan to make this season of Lent a time of formation and preparation? If there is something you plan to do, begin, or let go of this Lent that you shared in group last week, how is that going?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “Facing the Unknown – Session 1: God’s Call” by Mark Batterson (8-12 min)

START at 1:25 (or 3:50 if you have less time)

(located in the “Renovation Group Bible Studies” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/106?episode=1>

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Where do you feel stuck on your life’s journey right now? What’s holding you back?
3. Describe a time in your life when you felt God’s direction clearly. What, if anything, about that time was easier for you? What was harder?
4. What is God’s dream for your life? From what you can see right now, where is He leading you? What is it you’re pursuing with “no turning back” (note, this is not necessarily the same thing as where God is leading you)?
5. What is your next step toward God’s dream for your life?
6. What “altar(s)” can you setup this Lent to keep you focused on your dreams? (Note, an altar might also be giving something up, as well as creating or adding something to your daily life that will serve as a reminder of God’s call).

Family-Related Questions:

1. If you asked your kids today where God was leading them in life (or what they want to do when they grow up), how many would have a clear and direct answer? Of those with a clear answer, how many have changed that answer as they’ve grown up? How many have been dead-set on their answer their whole lives? If they don’t know yet, do they know that it is okay with you or do they feel pressure to decide quickly?
2. How does your life demonstrate the difference between calling/vocation and employment? Are you teaching your children that their call is first to BE or to DO?
3. What keys from our Scripture this week, or from the video above, can help you guide your children through the deep and myriad questions of their future, identity, and calling?
4. How are you teaching your children to listen to and identify God’s voice, so they’re ready when He calls?