

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

Throughout his ministry Jesus performed many miracles of healing where he routinely asked people, "What do you want? What do you want me to do for you? Do you want to be healed?" Such questions had the power to elicit deep reflection for the person and to give an opportunity to honestly name before Jesus what they needed or longed for. It is important to take moments like this before God to pause, reflect, and to ask, what do I need right now? What do I long for? Otherwise, we may not recognize when we are stuck in places of safety and contentment, or even recognize the Savior when he shows up in our longing to ask, do you want to be made well?

Key Scriptures

Matthew 8:1-17, John 5:1-8

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What do you long for most from God right now? Have you taken time this week to sit in that longing and to name it before God in prayer? If so, where did you see God showing up?
2. Part of being made well and experiencing Jesus' healing ministry is a willingness to accept the grace of Christ and to recognize God's presence with you. When have you struggled the most to receive this help?
3. Where are your places of safety and contentment? What keeps you from letting Christ meet you in those places?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “How To Get What You Really Want – Session 1” by Andy Stanley (26 min)

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

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/364790?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. What do you really want?
3. Share a time when getting what you want got in your way. How might things have been different if you knew what you really wanted?
4. Is there anything in your life that was initially pleasurable and innocent that now has control over you? How did it become this way? What did it replace that you really want/need?
5. What do you regret wanting and seeking in life? Why?
6. What things have you killed by your wants?
7. Finally, how can you get back on track? How can you move on? How can you pursue what you really want and what can your group do to hold you accountable?

Family-Related Questions:

1. What kind of values are you instilling in your kids? What do they see you pursuing in life? Scripture says “Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Though their desires might now seem childish (they are children, after all), your witness is instilling something that will last.
2. What do you really want (long-term) for your kids? Think character, relationships, and spirituality more than career, success, or material gain – and be specific.
3. How have your temporary wants kept you from giving your kids what you really want for them?
4. You may not be able to protect your kids from chasing after their own temporary wants, but you can prepare them and help them to see a bigger picture, to look down the road and to see the consequences of their desires. Discuss ways you can incorporate this into your parenting.