

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

Jesus calling the first disciples is the clearest way that he invites others into his life and journey; to join Jesus on the path toward the cross because it leads to life and life abundant. It is an exciting and life-changing invitation! New purpose, new job, new life! But it comes at a cost. In fact, most of the worthwhile growth we experience comes after loss. Whether it is from sacrifice or surrender, some of the most uncertain times in our own faith journeys can lead to deep and worthwhile growth.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 4:18-22, 8:18-22

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. Last week we talked about places of security and safety. The place of loss and the call of discipleship follows next, as we are challenged to surrender those very places of comfort or security to more faithfully follow Christ. That is the cost of discipleship. What has been the hardest thing for you to surrender in your own journey of faith?
2. When have you experienced a period of loss that was followed by much growth? How was your faith and trust in the Lord deepened in those seasons?
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer talks a lot about cheap grace in his work "The Cost of Discipleship." He writes, "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance... [it] is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." What are the dangers of pursuing and accepting this type of grace? Though grace is an undeserved gift, how can we better understand it as "costly grace?"
4. In this season of Lent as preparation, where are you feeling convicted to repent? If you have chosen to do, begin, or let go of something this Lent, how is that going?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: “BASIC Series: Who Is God? (2) – Follow Jesus” by Francis Chan (15 min)
(located in the “Renovation Group Bible Studies” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/349?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 does it mean to you to be a follower of Jesus? Be specific. How do you measure if someone is a Jesus follower?
3. Read Luke 6:46-49 and James 2:14-26 together. What is Jesus calling you to do that needs to move from your heart to your action?
4. Why do you follow Christ? Be specific. Why would you recommend that others follow Christ with you - what makes it worthwhile to die to ourselves, to pick up our crosses, to leave all our comforts behind and follow this man named Jesus into the unknown?

Family-Related Questions:

1. It’s easy to want to protect our children from the trials of life, especially from the difficulties of Christianity. We may even want them to think our faith is cool or fun. But discipleship is more than following a “Sunday School Jesus.” How do your kids witness you struggling in your faith? How do they see you facing the tough questions (or do they think such questions should be avoided)? How do they see you wrestle between doing good for someone else and doing what’s convenient for you in the moment?
2. Last week, we asked the question, “what do you really want (long-term) for your kids?” Rather than protecting them or even ignoring and dismissing the trials they face because of their/your faith, how can you prepare them to walk through persecution, sacrifice, and self-denial when things get hard? Where can they turn for help? What can they cling to that will give them hope?