



Questions Jesus Asked

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of August 11, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- God created us to be in families. What is a family for?

Matthew 12:46-50 *Who Are My Mother and Brothers?*

⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

- Why were Jesus' mother and brothers wanting to speak with him (46)? Read [Mark 3:20-30](#) for more context.
- A family can be a place of great joy, and a place of great conflict. Describe your family.
- Why does Jesus ask, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" (48)
- What does Jesus say is the basis for a family relationship with Him? (50)
- In what ways is the Church a family?
- Describe one way you have been called to do the will of your Heavenly Father in this season of your life. How has that obedience been a place a fellowship with Jesus? How has it been an expression of family with your sisters and brothers in Christ?
- Pray together in light of this week's passage.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

Stories from the Church: Erin Bouknight

Throughout this current sermon series on Questions Jesus Asked, brothers and sisters from our church will share the ways Jesus is faithfully at work in His church through many ministries at WEPC.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." --Hebrews 10:23-25

This idea-- that a community of others is a necessary component of a believer's individual growth and maintenance in the faith, has long been known to me. My early years of faith were categorized with small groups of peers and discipleship from older women. We met together, encouraged one another, and stirred one another up towards love and good works. I did life and ministry alongside these people who loved the Lord and me, and my faith benefitted greatly from this reality.

Fast forward a few years. Matt, my husband, and I moved to the area. He went into full-time ministry with Young Life and I served alongside him while teaching. My faith grew in this time, as well, but I noticed a discernible shift from those earlier days. I was *running* small groups for Young Life girls, I was *discipling* one-on-one, and Matt and I cared for leaders in our area. And it was a great joy! But there was no place where I was a participant - I was primarily the leader. At the time, this didn't particularly concern me. My faith wasn't stagnant - it was growing, maybe not in the same way, but what I had with Jesus on my own seemed like enough.

WEPC offered a variety of options for community, fellowship, learning, and growth, but participating in anything outside worship seemed impossible. The logistical challenges *were* sizable. Our schedule was full - we both worked full time and almost every night filled with ministry events. There was no space in our life for a small group of peers, no opening to seek out some type of discipleship for myself. And again, I was fine.

When we had our first child, we decided that I would stay home with her. Our evenings were still full of ministry, but my days? My days had space. Matt encouraged me to join Wellspring-- the Tuesday morning component of WEPC's women's ministry, but I initially resisted. Not because of time, but pride and fear were at play now. Wellspring? A room full of people I didn't know? That was risky. I would have to meet new people. And talk to them. What if they didn't understand me? What if I was too different?

When I finally showed up on a Tuesday morning, I found the graciousness and generosity of the Lord instead of my fears. His desire for a diverse kingdom-- a place for all nations and people-- was reflected in that room full of women. There were:

- New mothers (like me) and seasoned grandmothers.
- Women born and raised in Richmond and those from far-away lands
- Professionals, retired women, stay at home moms, and college students
- Long-time believers and those new to faith
- Women with different backgrounds, ethnicities, challenges, joys and differences of opinions, but all wanting to love Jesus

What a rich tapestry of the kingdom of God!

This collective body of women has deepened my love for Jesus and His Word, in a way that I couldn't get on my own. I see how Jesus is at work in others and it encourages my faith. My understanding of His love for me expands as another woman speaks truth that I might have missed on my own. Every week provides an opportunity to learn, to meditate on Scripture, to be encouraged and challenged by the women at my table and in the room, and a chance to pray to the One who loves me and them.

Jesus is always at work-- and always "enough." But our Jesus is also relational and an abundant giver. He has built us for relationship with Himself and with one another and in His generosity, He provides ways for us to abundantly experience Him-- through others. He has done that for me through our church's women's ministry. How gracious He has been and continues to be! I get to see more of Him, His grace, His creativity, His love and kindness, His care-- as I see and hear all kinds of women testify to His work in their lives. It is a rich and nuanced and surprising and glorious gift to me. I am thankful for God's pursuit of me through this ministry in our midst.