



Questions Jesus Asked

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of August 17, 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

- Reflect on a time you were in trouble. As you think back, what kinds of things did you believe—the good, the bad, and the ugly—in the midst of that trouble?

Matthew 14:22-33 *Why Did You Doubt?*

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

- Why does Jesus come to the disciples walking the water?

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

- Peter begins to sink after walking to Jesus on the water. Why? (30)
- Jesus tells Peter, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" What exactly was Peter doubting? (31)

- What happens to your faith when you are in trouble?
- Jesus takes hold of sinking Peter (31). Share about a time the Lord lifted you from your trouble. What affect did that have on your heart and faith?
- Why did those in the boat worship Jesus? (33)
- Jesus could have easily calmed the wind (32) from the mountain where He was praying (23). What is the point of this whole incident?
- Pray together in light of this week's passage.

Stories from the Church: *Kurt Zebley*

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.

For the past few years, I've had the opportunity to teach English as a second language. I'd like to start off by painting a visual picture of my students. Imagine you need to leave the United States and relocate to a country where you don't know the language or culture very well. Residents of your new country often view you as an alien and you struggle to find work because all of the job applications are in a foreign language. You have work credentials in the U.S. but any certifications in your new country must be achieved by passing a test in a foreign language.

You long to be respected and wish you could find a place where you can just be yourself and fit in. That is exactly where West End's ESL program bridges the gap for folks in our community that are learning English. On Tuesday nights, I have the privilege of empowering students to try new things in a safe place and recognize that making mistakes is part of the learning process.

Our evenings together include learning new vocabulary, playing games, introducing grammar, and then finishing out the evening with a bible story. We routinely ask students questions like "what does this story teach us about God" or "what does this teach us about mankind". It is fun to see students grasp new words or start to unpack the underlying themes of the bible story.

Jesus is not just working on their hearts but he is also shaping me through the process. Each week, I can do the 'work' of preparing a lesson plan but it is so much more than that. He's challenging me to pray over my lesson, pray for my students, and connect with them. For example, each week before we close in prayer, we ask students if they have any prayer requests. Most of the time they are silent but one week a student asked for success as her son was seeking a position with the Navy. When we saw her the following week, her first words were, "You prayed for my son and God answered your prayer!"

This reminds me of Jesus' comments in Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A City on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Personally, I'm thankful that Jesus has shaped the ESL program such that students may learn with respect, dignity, and grace.

To hear sermons and access past study guides visit
www.wepc.org/resources/sermons-media-study-guide

Hear sermon audio for West End Presbyterian Church RVA
on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#)

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

