



Questions Jesus Asked

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of November 23, 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.

John 21:15-19

Do You Love Me?

Before the crucifixion, Peter publicly denied that he knew Jesus three times ([John 18:15-18, 25-27](#)). Jesus knew that Peter would do this ([John 13:36-38](#)). After His resurrection, Jesus appears to Peter and six other disciples by the Sea of Tiberias ([John 21:1-14](#)). These incidents are in the backdrop of today's passage. Now, Jesus speaks to Simon Peter about the breach in their relationship and Jesus' purposes for Peter.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

- What do you think it was like for the resurrected Christ and Peter to see and talk to one another for the first time since Peter's denial? What would that be like for Peter? What might he be thinking and wrestling with?
- Why do you think Jesus essentially asks the same question and gives the same charge to Peter three times?
- What is Jesus talking about when He speaks to Peter of tending and feeding the flock?
- Peter almost certainly is experiencing shame, temptation, confusion, and pride. What does Jesus do to address those spiritual dynamics?
- Jesus and Peter talk about love. What does it mean for a disciple to love Jesus?
- Have you ever experienced being forgiven for a great sin, and the humiliation that came with it? Share about that experience. What did you do with your shame? What did God do in you in such a vulnerable place?
- What does Jesus mean by His statement in verse 18? (Hint: read verse 19!)
- Part of Jesus message to Peter: you don't have enough power to set your own course (18-19). How might that message land with Peter given everything that has transpired?
- Pray together in light of this week's passage.

Stories from the Church: *Jim Black*

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.

I've been asked to describe to you how I've seen Jesus working in the Food Pantry over the years, WEPC fills a unique, international ministry. Many immigrants from all over the world such as Russia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, Ukraine, Venezuela, Columbia, Sudan, Mexico, and others, migrate to Richmond and move in right next door.

I've watched God raise up the ministry to the current 6 teams consisting of over 60 volunteers, including Home Groups and families serving together. These team members consistently serve and enjoy their time together. Our neighbors are greeted with a warm welcome, are loved, engaged in conversations, served and prayed over. I especially see God working through you; WEPC is an incredibly generous congregation, always ready to meet the ministry's physical and spiritual needs.

Some of the memorable stories illustrating God drawing people from around the world to WEPC via the *In Jesus' Name Food Pantry*:

- The first week Virginia was shut down after the COVID outbreak, 6 families in a row came for help because they had lost their jobs that week.
- Changes to our healthcare laws resulted in companies cutting full-time positions. Our neighbors found that not only was their income cut in half, they also no longer had health insurance.
- People who were forced to flee their country to avoid transporting drugs for a drug cartel after the cartel murdered family members.
- Recent Afghan refugees brought to the US to protect them from retribution for aiding the US military and the heartbreaking stories of family members who could not escape, continuing to live in fear for their lives.
- My wife Chris helping an Afghan woman who happened to be Face Timing her family in Afghanistan. When time to pray, our Afghan friend asked Chris to pray with her family over Face Time. So, she did!
- A woman coming to faith in Jesus while visiting Food Pantry.

Stories like these have made a profound impact on me personally. For a long time, I felt like I was living in a bubble, safe from the disasters and heartaches reported in developing countries. Now, seeing first-hand the real impact caused by suffering, injustice and poverty on people's lives makes it very real to me. God is steering me toward the brokenhearted and downtrodden, reminding me that I cannot unsee the heartache our neighbors have experienced.

One of the Food Pantry's core values is the belief that God cares for people who are hungry, thirsty, naked, alien, fatherless and widowed. In Psalm 107: 4-9 we read,

"Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

I've met some of these people.