

# Questions

A good **question** behaves like a key to a locked room that is full of treasures to discover. Will you put in the time, create the space, and pray to enter into the vast, mysterious room of the heart?

## *Scripture-based exploration*

Job's question and God's answers: read Job 38-42. For the full context of the questioning, read Job 1 and 2, then skip to 23:1-7. There you will see Job's suffering culminating in the mental picture of a Q/A with God. Why this suffering, God?" Most people through the ages would like to ask the same question, arms folded across their chests and tears in their eyes. But wait: Job's questions about his suffering are never addressed: Instead, God asks Job questions. God points only to His own mightiness and holiness expressed through His creative power.

Many questions posed by modern women have a root inside the weed of **comparison**. Jesus' answer for **comparison** is in John 21:22: "What is that to you? You must follow Me." Read the context for this interaction. Jesus intentionally focuses Peter away from others and onto Himself and their relationship. "Eyes on Me, Peter. Lock your eyes on Me." What does this make you think about? Re-write this interchange as if it were a modern-day movie scene.

## *To think about, from the gospel of John*

Rummaging through the entire gospel of John, you can find a unique summation of Jesus' ministry hidden within the questions He asks.

Consider what Jesus is doing with His questions: very often He is revealing something about His identity or humanity or purpose; He is engaging someone to take them deeper into faith; or He is using the question to confront wrong, especially among the religious leaders. Jesus uses questions to clarify, to challenge, and to unveil.

His questions also help us locate our own hearts and minds. We have to ponder our own lives in order to answer Him; we have to figure out what we think, what we believe, and make choices in order to respond.

I also think good questions like Jesus' lead to more questions, and provide room for discussion and exploration. Some questions take us deeper into ourselves; some take us deeper into a topic; some take us out of ourselves completely.

Questions can be used like diagnostic tools. Just as a doctor diagnoses a case through asking questions and examining the patient, so Jesus' questions diagnose us and examine our hearts.

In other words, **Jesus' questions are invitations**. They aim at the heart. Most of Jesus' questions are relational in nature, some more intimately than others. John gives us a unique perspective on Jesus'

relationship with the disciples by recording *actual conversations*, not just events, so we happily eavesdrop on *what* Jesus asked and *how* people responded.

The majority of Jesus' questions in this gospel are about belief and faith. Several times a question includes, "Do you believe this?" or "How can you believe if you ...."

Jesus' questions are often open-ended, requiring thought and commitment on the part of the listener. Many of His questions begin with "why." It's interesting: when Jesus asks a **yes or no question**, the answer almost always requires faith.

His questions often help us determine where we stand, what we think. His questions search us and direct us to look within. Some created confrontation; most created consternation; all were invitations.

Jesus' ministry began this way (John 1:37-42):

...They followed Jesus. **38** Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" **39** He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). **42** He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

His interaction with His new disciples began with an invitational question, "What are you seeking?" To answer, they had to locate what they wanted: to be with Jesus, to listen, to learn, to find out if He was The One, the Messiah. They wanted to spend time with Him; so where was He going? His answer is a classic Christian answer to many questions about Jesus: **"Come and see."**

And thus begins their relationship and a slow, simmering response to their question: "Where are You going?" Jesus didn't come right out and say, "Oh, around Galilee, through Samaria, and to the cross. You coming?" He just invited them along so they could stay in the question and discover the answer WITH Him.

Another scenario in which Jesus masterfully used a question is in John 6:1-13:

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), **2** and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. **3** Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. **4** The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

**5** When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, **"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"** **6** He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

**7** Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

**8** Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, **9** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

**10** Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). **11** Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

**12** When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." **13** So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Jesus used the question to help the disciples see they could not fix the problem, that they were not enough, that they could not satisfactorily deal with the issue of feeding everyone. Jesus intentionally brought them to a dead end. Has He done that with you?

Then, as they were realizing their own inadequacy, Jesus answered the situation with glorious provision and invited them to be part of the answer. **This is grace.** He still does the same today: He allows us to get to an end of ourselves, then intervenes with grace and provision while we participate.

Another situation:

John 8:1-11

**1** ... Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

**2** At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. **3** The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group **4** and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. **5** In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" **6** They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. **7** When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." **8** Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

**9** At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. **10** Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

**11** "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Jesus used questions to make us aware of truth, **to help us get free**, to help us see what He sees and feel what He feels and think what He thinks.

Sometimes Jesus' questions are an invitation into salvation (4:7), the supernatural (5:6), and the miraculous (6:5).

Jesus' questions are confrontational, especially with behavior (7:19, 10:32, 18:21 & 23, +) and belief (9:35, 10:36, 13:12, 14:10, 21:15-17, 21:22).

Jesus' questions can reveal His emotions and thoughts (6:67, 12:27, 14:9). This is another way to get to know Jesus, so pay attention. And of note:

As John records his years with Jesus,

\*Jesus begins His ministry with a question,

John 1:38: \_\_\_\_\_

\*begins His Passion (the process of His crucifixion) with a question,

John 18:4 and 7: \_\_\_\_\_

\*and ends His ministry with a question.

John 21:22: \_\_\_\_\_

## Jesus' Questions from the gospels

Highlight or star the questions that make you linger or pause, the ones that "hit home" or you want to avoid. Then spend some time with these questions. You may want to investigate their context ... enjoy.

- 1 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? (Matthew 5:46)
- 2 If you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? (Matthew 5:47)
- 3 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (Matthew 6:27)
- 4 Why do you worry about clothes? (Matthew 6:28)

- 5 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Matthew 7:3)
- 6 Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? (Matthew 7:16)
- 7 Why are you so afraid? (Matthew 8:26)
- 8 Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? (Matthew 9:4)
- 9 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? (Matthew 9:5)
- 10 How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? (Matthew 9:15)
- 11 Do you believe that I am able to do this? (Matthew 9:28)
- 12 What did you go out into the desert to see? (Matthew 11:7)
- 13 To what can I compare this generation? (Matthew 11:16)
- 14 If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? (Matthew 12:11)
- 15 How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? (Matthew 12:29)
- 16 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? (Matthew 12:34)
- 17 Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? (Matthew 12:48)
- 18 Why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:31)
- 19 Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? (Matthew 15:3)
- 20 How many loaves do you have? (Matthew 15:34)
- 21 Do you still not understand? (Matthew 16:9)
- 22 Who do people say the Son of Man is? (Matthew 16:13)
- 23 Who do you say I am? (Matthew 16:15)
- 24 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26)
- 25 How long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? (Matthew 17:17)
- 26 From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others? (Matthew 17:25)
- 27 What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? (Matthew 18:12)
- 28 Why do you ask me about what is good? (Matthew 19:17)
- 29 What is it you want? (Matthew 20:21)
- 30 Can you drink the cup I am going to drink? (Matthew 20:22)
- 31 What do you want me to do for you? (Matthew 20:32)
- 32 John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men? (Matthew 21:25)
- 33 What do you think? (Matthew 21:28)
- 34 Have you never read in the Scriptures? (Matthew 21:42)
- 35 Why are you trying to trap me? (Matthew 22:18)
- 36 What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he? (Matthew 22:42)
- 37 Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? (Matthew 23:17-19)
- 38 How will you escape being condemned to hell? (Matthew 23:33)
- 39 Why are you bothering this woman? (Matthew 26:10)
- 40 Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour? (Matthew 26:40)
- 41 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53)
- 42 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way? (Matthew 26:54)
- 43 Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? (Matthew 26:55)
- 44 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)
- 45 Why are you thinking these things? (Mark 2:8)
- 46 Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? (Mark 4:21)

- 47 What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? (Mark 4:30)
- 48 Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith? (Mark 4:40)
- 49 What is your name? (Mark 5:9)
- 50 Who touched my clothes? (Mark 5:30)
- 51 Why all this commotion and wailing? (Mark 5:39)
- 52 Are you so dull? (Mark 7:18)
- 53 Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? (Mark 7:18)
- 54 Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it. (Mark 8:12)
- 55 Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? (Mark 8:17-18)
- 56 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up? (Mark 8:19)
- 57 When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up? (Mark 8:20)
- 58 Do you still not understand? (Mark 8:21)
- 59 [To the blind man] Do you see anything? (Mark 8:23)
- 60 Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? (Mark 9:12)
- 61 What were you arguing about on the road? (Mark 9:33)
- 62 Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? (Mark 9:50)
- 63 What did Moses command you? (Mark 10:3)
- 64 Why do you call me good? (Mark 10:18)
- 65 What do you want me to do for you? (Mark 10:51)
- 66 Why are you trying to trap me? (Mark 12:15)
- 67 Do you see all these great buildings? (Mark 13:2)
- 68 Are you asleep? (Mark 14:37)
- 69 Could you not keep watch for one hour? (Mark 14:37)
- 70 Why were you searching for me? (Luke 2:49)
- 71 Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house? (Luke 2:49)
- 72 Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? (Luke 5:22)
- 73 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? (Luke 5:23)
- 74 Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46)
- 75 Where is your faith? (Luke 8:25)
- 76 What is your name? (Luke 8:30)
- 77 Who touched me? (Luke 8:45)
- 78 Will you be lifted up to the skies? (Luke 10:15)
- 79 What is written in the Law? How do you read it? (Luke 10:26)
- 80 Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? (Luke 10:36)
- 81 Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? (Luke 11:40)
- 82 Who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you? (Luke 12:14-15)
- 83 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (Luke 12:25)
- 84 Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? (Luke 12:57)
- 85 Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? (Luke 14:31)
- 86 Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? (Luke 14:34)
- 87 Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? (Luke 15:4)
- 88 Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? (Luke 15:8)

- 89 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (Luke 16:11)
- 90 Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? (Luke 17:17)
- 91 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? (Luke 18:7)
- 92 However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8)
- 93 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? (Luke 22:27)
- 94 Why are you sleeping? (Luke 22:46)
- 95 For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry? (Luke 23:31)
- 96 What are you discussing together as you walk along? (Luke 24:17)
- 97 What things? (Luke 24:19)
- 98 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? (Luke 24:26)
- 99 Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? (Luke 24:38)
- 100 Do you have anything here to eat? (Luke 24:41)
- 101 What do you want? (John 1:38)
- 102 Why do you involve me? (John 2:4)
- 103 You are Israel's teacher, and do you not understand these things? (John 3:10)
- 104 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? (John 3:12)
- 105 Will you give me a drink? (John 4:7)
- 106 Do you want to get well? (John 5:6)
- 107 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God? (John 5:44)
- 108 If you do not believe Moses' writings how will you believe me? (John 5:47)
- 109 Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat? (John 6:5)
- 110 Does this offend you? (John 6:61)
- 111 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! (John 6:62)
- 112 You do not want to leave too, do you? (John 6:67)
- 113 Have I not chosen you? (John 6:70)
- 114 Has not Moses given you the law? (John 7:19)
- 115 Why are you trying to kill me? (John 7:19)
- 116 Why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? (John 7:23)
- 117 Where are they? Has no one condemned you? (John 8:10)
- 118 Why is my language not clear to you? (John 8:43)
- 119 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? (John 8:46)
- 120 If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? (John 8:46)
- 121 Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? (John 10:36)
- 122 Are there not twelve hours of daylight? (John 11:9)
- 123 Do you believe this? (John 11:26)
- 124 Where have you laid him? (John 11:33)
- 125 Do you understand what I have done for you? (John 13:12)
- 126 Don't you know me, even after I have been among you such a long time? (John 14:9)
- 127 Who is it you want? (John 18:4,7)
- 128 Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me? (John 18:11)
- 129 Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me? (John 18:34)
- 130 Why question me? (John 18:21)
- 131 If I spoke the truth, why did you strike me? (John 18:23)
- 132 Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? (John 20:15)
- 133 Friends, haven't you any fish? (John 21:5)
- 134 Do you love me? (John 21:17)
- 135 If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow Me. (John 21:22)

**All Scripture quoted from The Holy Bible : New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, c1984.**

## Non-Scripture readings

Take time to rummage through this excellent list compiled by Gordon MacDonald. No matter what your age, read every decade, and add your own.

20s: What kind of woman am I becoming? What will I do with my life? Can I love, and am I lovable? What patterns and quirks need adjustment? Around what person or conviction will I arrange my life?

30s: How do I prioritize the demands being made on me? With whom can I walk through life? How far can I go in fulfilling my sense of purpose? Do I have time for a spiritual life? What does that look like? Why am I not a better person?

40s: What powers from my childhood influence who I am today? Why do options seem to be shrinking and limitations seem to be growing? Why am I often disappointed with myself and others? What would it take to do something completely different and do what I've always wanted to do?

50s: How many years do I have left? Why is my body becoming unreliable? How do I deal with my failures and successes? How can my husband & I reinvigorate our relationship now that our kids are gone? Who are these young people who want to replace me? What do I do with my doubts and fears? Will I have enough money for retirement if there are health problems and economic downturns?

60s: When do I stop doing the things that have defined me? Why do I feel ignored by the larger part of the younger generation? What is yet to be accomplished? Can I do my bucket list? Who will be around me when I die? Which of us will go first? Are my beliefs going to see me through to the end? What have I done that will outlive me? What are my chief satisfactions from my life?

70s and 80s: Does anyone realize, or even care, who I once was? Is my story important to anyone? How much of my life can I still control? Is there anything I can still contribute? Why this anger and irritability? Is God really here for me? Am I ready to face death? When I die, how will it happen, and will I be missed, or will it be a relief? What is Heaven like?

## From the Blue Book and Jim Branch

### Theme for the Week: Questions

**Opening Prayer:** O Lord Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!

**Scripture:** [Mark 10:46-52](#)

**Journal:** What do you want *me* to do for you?

**Reflection:** A possibility I would like to suggest is this: live with the questions the Lord asks. Take up a Bible and open to the Gospels. Look for the questions Jesus asks of us: Who do you say that I am? What do you want? Are you not worth more than many sparrows? Why do you not believe? Living with these, one after the other-and there are many in the Gospels - can bring us to wholly other, much richer perspective on our lives, maybe to seeing our lives the way God sees them, shot through with light, the joy, the fullness of the risen life of Christ. (*Living in the Question* by M. Basil Pennington)

**Scripture:** [Mark 8:27-30](#)

**Journal:** Who do you say that I am?

**Reflection:** "Why do you weep when you pray?" Moshe asked me, as though he had known me a long time.

"I don't know why," I answered, greatly disturbed.

The question had never entered my head. I wept because - because of something inside me that felt the need for tears. That was all I knew.

"Why do you pray?" he asked me, after a moment.

Why did I pray? A strange question. Why did I live? Why did I breathe?

"I don't know why," I said, even more disturbed and ill at ease. "I don't know why."

After that day I saw him often. He explained to me with great insistence that every question possessed a power that did not lie in the answer.

"Man raises himself toward God by the questions he asks Him," he was fond of repeating. "That is the true dialogue. Man questions God and God answers. But we don't understand His answers. We can't understand them. Because they come from the depths of the soul, and they stay there until death. You will find the true answers Eliezer, only within yourself!"

"And why do you pray, Moshe?" I asked him.

"I pray to the God within me that He will give me the strength to ask Him the right questions." (*Night* by Ellie Wiesel)

#### Theme for the Week: Questions

**Opening Prayer:** You, O Christ, are my wealth. All those things I thought I couldn't live without "dissolve" in a glance from you. They are nothing when considered in the larger light of your intimate presence. How difficult it has been to come to this moment! The moment of letting go! I, who have learned so well to hoard, grasp, clutch, and control! Now I want only to be grasped by you. All my possessions are empty when they become obstacles to my union with you. O Glance of God, prepare my heart for the Great Surrender. Enable me to surrender my ego self so that I may put on Christ. Then I will begin enjoying heaven on earth. Amen. (*Abide* by Macrina Wiederkehr)

**Scripture:** [John 21:15-19](#)

**Journal:** Do you truly love me more than these?

**Reflection:** I don't know Who - or what - put the question. I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone - or Something - and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life in self-surrender, had a goal. (*Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld)

**Closing Prayer:** Lord Jesus, you know everything; you know that I love you. Help me to love you more and more. Amen.

#### Theme for the Week: Questions

**Opening Prayer:** Here, Lord, I abandon myself to you. I have tried in every way I could think of to manage myself, and to make myself what I know I ought to be, but have always failed. Now I give it up to you. Do take entire possession of me. Work in me all the good pleasure of your will. Mold and fashion me into such a vessel as seems good to you. I leave myself in your hands. Amen. (*The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* by Hannah Whitall Smith)

**Scripture:** [John 13:1-15](#)

**Journal:** Do you understand what I have done for you?

**Reflection:** There are questions, lots of questions. And it is good to live in the question. A pat answer is closed, it is finished; that's it. It goes nowhere and leaves little room for hope. A question, the mystery, opens the space for us. It is full of possibility. It gives hope of life and even more abundant life. Our faith, solid as it might be is full of questions. And therefore full of life and hope. (*Living in the Question* by M. Basil Pennington)

**Closing Prayer:** Take, Lord, and receive all that I am and have. You've given it all to me; I give it all back to you. Do with me as you want. Just give me your love and your grace and that's enough. - *St. Ignatius*

#### Theme for the Week: Questions

**Opening Prayer:** O Lord my God, how incredibly tragic that we went from *naked and unashamed* to *I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid*. O how far the fall. Forgive us. Renew us. Restore us. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Amen.

**Scripture:** [Genesis 3:1-13](#)

**Journal:** Where are you?

**Reflection:** Did God not know where Adam was? Of course he did. After all, he's God, right? Why then the question? Most likely because God wanted Adam to know where Adam was. God wanted Adam to recognize that just moments before that first bite was taken, he and his new wife stood before God (and each other) naked and unashamed. And now, as a result of their choice, everything had changed. In the blink of an eye they had gone from totally known and totally loved to fearful, hiding, and filled with shame. God knew it oh too well, he just wanted Adam to know it too.

Knowing where you are is a very important part of any journey. Just try using a map to find a desired destination without knowing your starting point. It just doesn't work. It is the same with the spiritual

journey. In order to get where we long to go, we must know where we are. That's why God asked Adam, and that's why God asks us, "Where are you?"

Where are you these days? What is the state of your life? What is the state of your soul? And where do you think God wants to take you?

**Closing Prayer:** Late have I loved you, O Beauty, so ancient and so new, late have I loved you! And behold, you were within me and I was outside, and there I sought for you, and in my deformity I rushed headlong into the well-formed things that you have made. You were with me, and I was not with you. - *St. Augustine*

## Artwork for the creatives

Paint, collage, or convey/express some of the questions you have for Jesus or He has for you. Create space for this.

## Movies

Any suggestions? What movies pose excellent questions?

"The Matrix" (the first of three "Matrix" movies) poses several: find them, keeping in mind that this is an R-rated analogy of becoming a Christian and choosing to see with spiritual eyes.

## Partnerships

This month, call someone in your group to pray with them.

Go to lunch with someone in the group, or send a few encouraging, personal texts. Don't be shy; we all love to be loved.

## Questions to ponder:

Between me and Jesus, we've posed so many questions during this lesson. Stay in those questions. :-)

If you are with a crowd this month, ask them, \*\*\*What makes a good question?\*\*\* What characteristics do good questions have in common? See where that takes your conversation.

## Music and worship

Going through a lot of questions is hard work and takes a lot of energy. I recommend some relaxing, non-verbal music that can stay in the background while you think and pray through questions.

I also really like Lauren Daigle's song, "First." Listen to how the lyrics inspire us to keep God first, even when our questions are unanswered.

Think through the lyrics to "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." "Dost ask who that may be?" Find the answer to that question. :-)