



Our Mission: *To
grow fully devoted
followers of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:19-20*

August 2026 THE APPLE PRESS

The Questions Jesus Asked

An Invitation to Listen, Reflect, and Respond

When we open the Gospels, we discover that Jesus was not only a powerful preacher and storyteller; He was also a masterful teacher. He proclaimed the truth with authority, explained the kingdom of God through parables, quoted the Scriptures, confronted error, and spoke words of grace to the broken. Yet one of His most effective teaching methods was remarkably simple: Jesus asked questions.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus asked questions that made people stop, think, and examine their hearts. Some of His questions exposed unbelief. Others revealed hidden motives. Some invited hurting people to express their deepest needs, while others challenged religious people to reconsider long-held assumptions. Jesus' questions were never pointless, and they were never asked merely because He lacked information. He asked questions because the people before Him needed to wrestle with the answers.

Jesus' use of questions was consistent with the Jewish world in which He lived and taught. The Hebrew Scriptures frequently use questions to encourage remembrance, conversation, and instruction. When Israel observed the Passover, children were expected to ask, "What do you mean by this service?" That question gave parents an opportunity to tell the story of God's deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 12:26–27). Deuteronomy anticipates children asking, "What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?" Parents were then to respond by recounting God's saving work and explaining His commands (Deuteronomy 6:20–25).

Questioning was therefore not necessarily a sign of rebellion or unbelief. Properly used, a question could become the doorway to understanding. It could invite a student to remember what God had done, consider what His Word meant, and decide how that truth should shape everyday life.

This question-centered pattern continued in Jewish teaching. The Mishnah, compiled after the New Testament period but preserving early rabbinic traditions, describes the Passover meal as an occasion in which a child asks questions and the story of God's deliverance is explained in response (Mishnah Pesachim 10:4). Later rabbinic writings similarly developed through questions, responses, discussion, and debate. We should be careful not to assume that every later rabbinic practice existed in precisely the same form during Jesus' ministry. Nevertheless, the Scriptures themselves clearly demonstrate that questions had long been an important part of Jewish spiritual instruction.

Jesus used this familiar approach with unmatched wisdom and authority. He asked questions not merely to inform the mind but to reach the heart.

He asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). He asked people who were overwhelmed by anxiety, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" (Matthew 8:26). He

challenged those who spoke religious words without obedient lives: “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46). He confronted those who saw the failures of others but ignored their own: “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3).

After Peter denied Him, Jesus did not begin their conversation with an accusation. Instead, He asked a deeply personal question three times: “Do you love me?” (John 21:15–17).

Each question required a response.

That is what makes the questions of Jesus so powerful. We can read one of His parables and discuss what its symbols represent. We can study one of His sermons and summarize its main points. But when Jesus asks a question, it is difficult to remain a detached observer. His questions cross the centuries and confront us personally.

“Who do you say that I am?”

“Why are you afraid?”

“Do you want to be healed?”

“Do you love me?”

Beginning in August, we will spend eight weeks considering The Questions Jesus Asked. Each week, we will listen to a question Jesus asked and consider what our answer reveals about our desires, our vision, our compassion, our worship, our understanding of grace, and our faith.

Week One: A Question About Desires - Mark 10:46–52

Week Two: Two Questions About Healing - John 5:1–9

Week Three: A Question About Vision - Mark 8:22–25

Week Four: A Question About Compassion - Luke 10:25–37

Week Five: A Question About Worship - Mark 14:1–9

Week Six: A Question About Grace - Matthew 20:1–15

Week Seven: A Question About Faith - Luke 7:1–10

Week Eight: A Question About Understanding - John 3:1–15

How Will We Answer?

Over these eight weeks, we will encounter people who were blind, broken, confused, criticized, self-righteous, faithful, and searching. Their circumstances were different, but each was brought face-to-face with Jesus.

As we study these passages, the most important question will not be, “How did Bartimaeus answer?” or, “What did Nicodemus understand?” The most important question will be, **“How will I answer Jesus?”**

The Bible tells us that the Word of God is “living and active” and that it discerns “the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). The questions Jesus asked remain living questions because the One who asked them is alive. Jesus Christ is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

I encourage you to join us each week beginning in August. Bring your Bible. Invite a friend. Come prepared not only to hear information but also to examine your heart. Listen closely to the questions of Jesus, and resist the temptation to answer too quickly.

Allow His questions to uncover your deepest desires, clarify your spiritual vision, enlarge your compassion, deepen your worship, reshape your understanding of grace, strengthen your faith, and lead you into a fuller understanding of the new life He provides.

Jesus is still the Master Teacher. He is also our crucified and risen Savior. His questions do not lead us toward empty speculation; they lead us toward truth, repentance, faith, obedience, and life.

The questions Jesus asked were originally spoken to people along roadsides, beside pools, inside homes, among crowds, and during private nighttime conversations. Yet through the inspired Word of God, He now places those questions before us.

The question is whether we are ready to listen—and whether we are willing to answer.

I am excited to take this journey with you through the Questions Jesus Asked...

I love you all. Dan

Who?

When?

Why?

Where?



AUGUST 2026

- 1- Men's Group, "His Project," Breakfast and Bible Study, 8:00 AM
- 2- Mission Team meeting, 12:15 PM
- 7- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM, Everyone is invited
- 8- NO MEAL PREP THIS MONTH
- 11- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies RESUME. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 14- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM, Everyone is invited
- 15- Clothed in His Love, 9:00 AM -3:00 PM
- 18- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 21- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM, Everyone is invited
- 25- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 28- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM, Everyone is invited

WEEKLY

- Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Service
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30 AM
- Youth Sunday School, 10:30 AM
- Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Family Night Bible Studies, Meal 6:00 PM, beginning August 11, 2026
- Friday, 6:30 PM, Celebrate Recovery

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 1- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies resume. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 3- Clothed in His Love, 6:00 PM -8:00 PM
- 4- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 5- Men's Group, "His Project," Breakfast and Bible Study, 8:00 AM
- 7- **LABOR DAY**
- 8- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies resume. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 11- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 12- Meal prep, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, sign up by September 6
- 15- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies resume. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 18- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 19- Clothed in His Love, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM
- 22- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies resume. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 25- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 29- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies resume. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM

Office hours are: 9:00AM—2:00 PM, M-Th.

For more information on any event, go to our
website and click on the calendar.
Then click on the event to get more information.

<http://www.appletonchristian.org/calendar>

We've all been there. You pour out your heart to God about something that matters deeply, and... silence. Or the answer seems to be “no” or “not yet.” It can leave you wondering what’s going on. The book of James gives us two clear, practical reasons why this happens—straight from Scripture, without fluff or formulas.

1. We Ask Without Faith (James 1:6) James is talking about asking God for wisdom in trials. Here’s the verse: *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”*

Doubting here doesn’t mean you have occasional questions or moments of weakness. It means approaching God with a divided heart—half-trusting Him, half-hedging your bets. One minute you believe He can act; the next you’re already planning what you’ll do if He doesn’t. That kind of instability blocks receiving anything from the Lord (see James 1:7-8).

Think of it like this: God is a good Father who responds to trust. When we come to Him like a wave—up and down, back and forth—we’re not really relying on His character or His promises. Prayer in that condition isn’t bold trust; it’s wishful thinking with an escape hatch.

Before you pray, ask yourself: Do I truly believe God hears me and is able to answer according to what is best? If doubt is winning, bring that to Him too—*“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief”* (Mark 9:24). Faith isn’t pretending you feel certain. It’s choosing to stand on whom God has shown Himself to be.

2. We Don’t Ask—or We Ask With Wrong Motives (James 4:2-3)

James gets even more direct in chapter 4:

“You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.” (James 4:2-3)

First problem: We simply don’t ask. We scheme, worry, argue, or try to make things happen on our own, but we skip bringing the real need to God. God invites us to ask (Matthew 7:7-8), yet sometimes we treat prayer like a last resort instead of the main thing.

Second problem: Wrong motives. Even when we do pray, we can ask “wrongly”—selfishly. We want what we want so we can spend it on our own pleasures, status, comfort, or control. God sees the heart. He doesn’t hand over gifts that would ultimately harm us or pull us away from Him. This isn’t God being stingy. It’s protective love. A good father doesn’t give a child whatever they demand if it will destroy them.

Examine your requests. Are they mostly about my comfort, my agenda, my success? Or are they aligned with God’s purposes—His glory, my growth in Christ, love for others, and His kingdom? Try praying with open hands: “Lord, this is what I want, but Your will be done. Change my desires if they’re off.”

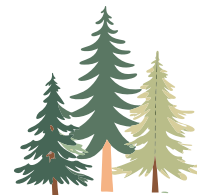
These verses don’t cover every reason prayers go unanswered; we will look at others in the future, but they hit two of the most common ones right at the start. God isn’t distant or uninterested. He’s calling us to deeper trust and cleaner hearts.

Many of our “unanswered” prayers aren’t unanswered—they’re an invitation to ask better and trust more fully. Pick one situation where you’ve felt frustrated in prayer. Bring it to God again—this time in honest faith, checking your motives, and surrendering the outcome. Then watch what He does in you, even if the circumstances don’t change right away.

Your Servant in Christ, Alan



Hello Appleton Family!



We're back at it in Kids and Youth Ministries now that we are out of camp season. I figured you might want an update on all that happened!

At **high school camp**, our students went DEEP on what it means to be grafted into the family of God, using the roots of THE faith to strengthen their own personal roots. They learned how the Bible is all one continuous story of God's faithfulness and how their lives are an extension of that! Highlights include 3 baptisms, 3 decisions to attend Christian colleges, record-breaking attendance, passionate workshops, deep panel discussions about biblical manhood and biblical womanhood, and so much more!

At **middle school camp**, our students learned how to claim their faith as their primary identity. They learned who God is, who they are, what sin is, and how all of it ties together! They studied the parable of the soils and asked themselves which soil their hearts are! Highlights include deep conversations with students during downtime, a power outage leading to amazing outdoor worship, 4 total snake sightings, really neat crafts during free time, and lots more.

At **junior camp**, our students dug deep, literally, into soil and their faith. We studied how plants are designed to support themselves with their roots to endure different life seasons, just like how we need our faith to support us. We worshipped hard this week, built birdhouses to take home, played carpetball at every opportunity, and planted our own seedlings! Highlights include a stage full of houseplants, kittens on the grounds, water games, and more.

Now that we're getting into the fall season, please be patient as we plan events for kids and youth, as we're attempting to get together with other churches in the valley to continue the fellowship between our student bodies! We're excited about it! Stay tuned! On Sunday mornings, our elementary kiddos are going through the *Simply Loved* curriculum from Group Publishing, and our 6th-12th students are currently in *Romans* with a study in the prophets to come afterwards.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our students and our volunteers. If you're interested in joining us in these ministries, please reach out!

Heather

Coming Soon

Tuesday evening Bible Studies and meal are starting back up on August 11. Come join us for a meal at 6:00 PM and then Bible Study at 6:30 PM.



August meals for Tuesday night

If you have any questions about the adult Bible Study, contact Alan or Kari Dyson. If you have questions about the youth, contact Heather DeBolt.

8/11 - Beef stew, rolls
8/18 - Smoked sausage and potato bake, green beans, bread
8/25 - Cheesy tortellini pepperoni bake, salad, garlic bread

All meals will have dessert

Next Meal Prep
September 12
(sign up by September 6)

Contact Heidi, 970-250-0588
for questions.

- 1) Chicken and Dumplings
- 2) Catalina Chicken
- 3) Apricot Orange Pork
- 4) Chicken Burrito Bowls
- 5) Beef Burgundy Tips
- 6) Chipotle Raspberry Pork Chops

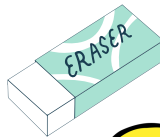
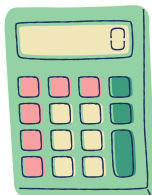


Cost for a set of 6 meals:

- 2 servings of 6 meals - \$40
- 4 servings of 6 meals - \$80
- 6 servings of 6 meals - \$120

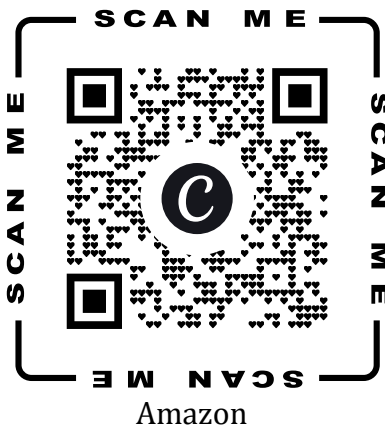
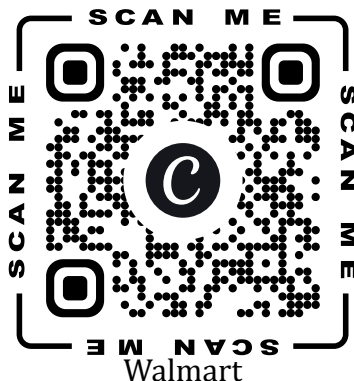
Operation Christmas Child

For the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies: crayons, markers, pens, lined loose-leaf paper, glue sticks, rulers, erasers, etc. (no pencils or notebooks of paper are needed)



(As always, anything you would like to donate is always appreciated).

Want an easy way to purchase for the OCC Christmas Boxes? Scan the QR Code to go to our Amazon or Walmart Registry.



You can choose to have the items shipped directly to the church.

Miss a sermon?

Want to rewatch a sermon?



Catch all our sermons on our YouTube channel.

Celebrate Recovery



A Note on Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery offers a different approach by providing a consistent fellowship of believers dedicated to personal growth and spiritual strengthening. While we certainly support those navigating any kind of addiction, two-thirds of our participants attend to find help with everyday struggles like anxiety, codependency, anger, work stressors, depression, food, and the weight of perfectionism.

The heart of this ministry is based on the Beatitudes delivered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, which connect us to God's nature, our redemption, and the transformative work that the Holy Spirit has on us.

In Grand Junction, there are opportunities to connect five days a week, with Appleton Christian hosting an open share session every Friday night from 6:30 to 7:30. There is no requirement to commit to a group long-term, as our doors are open to anyone, even those who simply had a difficult week and need a safe place to talk.

Whether you are facing a temporary setback or a lifelong habit, this community is designed for any adult looking to find freedom and peace.

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

-James 5:16



Clothed in His Love Ministry at ACC

Workshop in August:

SEWING/CUTTING Workshop
Saturday, August 15 – 9am to 3pm
Bring a lunch if you wish to stay all day

All our activities are held in the Worship Center.

We would love for you to join us.

Every jumper, skirt, and pair of pants we sew for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and the Grand Junction Pregnancy Center is paired with a t-shirt or onesie. Because this is an ongoing ministry, we are constantly in need of donations to keep up with demand and prepare for the November Shoebox packing!

Wishlist Items:

- Onesies (Newborn – 1 Year): Solid colors, no characters or logos, boys & girls.
- T-Shirts (Ages 2 – 14): Solid colors, crew-neck only (no V-necks), no characters or logos, boys & girls.
- Monetary Donations: Used to purchase t-shirts, onesies, and sewing fabric. Please make checks or cash out to ACC with “CiHL” in the memo line.

How to Donate:

Drop off clothing items with Connie Fudge, Elizabeth Kovarovics, Donna Jean Ganss, or leave them at the church office for Jeanne, or you can drop off items by the Welcome table.

Thank you for your generosity and support! God blesses us continually through your willingness to give.



VOLUNTEER CLEANING FOLKS NEEDED:

Sundays **ONLY**
You read that right!

We are now only asking volunteers to clean on Sundays!

Looking for an opportunity to serve, get involved or meet new people? This is your chance!
 2-person crews work on light-duty cleaning following the end of 2nd service (12:30 – 3:00 timeframe).

It usually takes about an hour!

Duties: Wipe down tables in Fellowship area and ARK, wipe down buffet counter, brush crumbs and debris from chairs onto floor, put chairs on tables in both areas; pull chairs from wall in ARK; walk through chairs in Worship Center picking up communion cups and any other trash; dust furniture in Lobby, a few areas in Worship Center, and all windows sills; empty all small trashes; check bathrooms for supplies that need restocking.

If we get enough volunteers, we are able to rotate crews and people should not have to work more than once every 4 or 5 weeks. The more people we have doing the work, the less often people would have to work!

First Service Volunteers

Second Service Volunteers

9

Greeters

Communion Offering

Aug 2026	
2	Judy Devine
9	Barb Smith
16	Karla Brown
23	Ackerman/Miller
30	Agnos Ekos

Aug 2026	
2	Bob Labig
9	Carman Willis
16	Matt Herman
23	John Wilson
30	Darrell Rule

Greeters

Communion Offering

Aug 2026	
2	Ed/Cindy Weber
9	Joanne Reitz
16	Cris Hoche
23	Connie Martinez
30	Ed/Cindy Weber

Aug 2026	
2	Bob Labig
9	Carman Willis
16	Jenny Nichols
23	John Wilson
30	Darrell Rule

AUGUST 2026 PRAYER FAMILIES

Please keep these families in your prayers this month.

2	Ed McClure Jennifer McReynolds
9	Kelly & Kathy Messamer Mary Miller
16	Sherman Moore Steven Moore
23	Jenny & Jeffery Nichols & Family Kim & John Nolan
30	Lisa O'Connor Dan & Shawn Orr



Prayer Requests:

Prayer card on Sunday OR email
prayers@appletonchristian.org
OR call

Nancy @970-241-0858 or the
church office @970-242-7380

SHUT-IN COMMUNION

For shut-in communion,
please call 970-242-7380 during
office hours.

First Service Volunteers

Second Service Volunteers

Greeters

Communion Offering

Sept 2026	
6	Judy Devine
13	Jim Rogers
20	Linda/Dick Mann
27	Connie/Tom Fudge

Sept 2026	
6	Bob Labig
13	DeBolt
20	Willis
27	John Wilson

Greeters

Communion Offering

Sept 2026	
6	Karen Ranville
13	Messamers
20	Robin Dague
27	Jenny Nichols

Sept 2026	
6	Bob Labig
13	DeBolt
20	Jenny Nichols
27	John Wilson

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Enter the assigned password into the app to begin synching.



You can also access the directory on your computer.

Go to: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> to create an account using the email address you have listed in the directory. You will receive a confirmation email, and once you click on the link, your email address will be validated. You will then need to log in, just as an email account, every time to access the directory. You will be able to view the information, but the phone numbers and email addresses are not hyperlinked as with the smart device app.

Connect with us:

970-242-7380

Senior Minister Dan Baker

pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson

pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister

willis.levi.t@gmail.com

Kids and Youth Director

heatherndebolt@gmail.com

The Bible affirms the power and importance of prayer and we, as a church, are committed to pray for each other. Let us know your request and we will lift you up in prayer.

To sign up for Applets, Newsletter, or Directory, please send an email with Subscribe to Applets, or Newsletter, or Directory PDF in the Subject line.

office@appletonchristian.org

To sign up to receive prayer requests, please send an email with Subscribe in the Subject line.

prayers@appletonchristian.org

appletonexchange@appletonchristian.org

www.appletonchristian.org



AUGUST 2026

*Our Mission
To grow fully devoted followers of
Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:19-20*

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School for adults
10:30 AM Classes for children

A CORE OF
TRUTH WITH
A LOT OF
APPEAL



Unsubscribe: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us with your address or email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line. Thank you.