



More Than You Can Handle: Questions | May 1, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

If we're being honest, most of us like control. We live our lives looking for certainty and control. But if we live out our faith this way, it limits what God can do in our lives. Read below to hear more.

Key Verses

Matthew 7:7-12 (NIV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Discussion

Often times, one of the most challenging leadership skills can be delegation. We make a list of all the things we do, try to decide what to pass off, but then struggle letting go. Many of us like to be in complete control, and learning how to delegate challenges us that way. In the same vein, most of us don't like to have lingering questions in our lives either. And if we do, we try to find the answers quickly or solve whatever problem it presents. Unfortunately, however, our faith is not that simple.

1. Do you struggle with delegation? If so, why do you think this is? If not, why do you think you are good at it?
2. Why do you think so many of us long to be in constant control? Why do questions that go unanswered bother us so much?

In this series, we are looking at some of the things we have believed about our faith over the years that aren't exactly true. One of those things, is that when we have questions, we expect direct and immediate answers. The truth is, we all have questions. Many of them are hard and messy, and we don't understand them. And the reality is that we don't always have or get the answers. When we start to believe that no matter the question, God will always have an answer, our faith becomes frustrating and hard.

3. In what ways or in what seasons have you expected direct and immediate answers from God?
4. Why does it frustrate us when God doesn't seem to answer our questions on our timeline?

In Matthew 7:7-12, we read the well-known verse that starts, "ask and it will be given to you." When we have questions in life, it can be tempting to want to grab that verse and use it to prove that we'll never ask questions that will go unanswered. But when we do that, we miss what Jesus is trying to tell us entirely. It's bigger than our day-to-day questions. He's trying to encourage us to keep knocking, seeking, and asking on the road to our salvation. He wants us to understand that we can trust him, even in the midst of our pain, confusion and darkness.

5. When you read the verse above, what do you think Jesus is trying to say?
6. When is a time in your life when God didn't answer a question in your life, but still proved himself to be good and faithful?

What's Next?

In seasons where our questions are not answered, that's the point where we lean in to God. We often invite him in differently and more intimately than when everything is going really well. So many of us think that God works like a gumball machine. We put in a quarter, and we get exactly what we want. The truth is, that's not how it works. But even though we don't get answers all the time, we can still have hope in that we can trust God with the big picture.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, look for the places in your life where you have more questions than you can handle. Put them in front of God. Invest in your relationship. Sit with and be with God and see where he shows up.