

March 6 - Week 9 – Questions to Consider

Matthew 18 ~ Mark 9 ~ John 7 ~ John 8 ~ John 9

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite card, board, or video game?

1. How is “greatness” or “success” defined in your family, workplace, or culture? How does Jesus define “greatness” in Matthew 18:1-4?
2. Read Mark 9:33-37. How does this help us better understand humility?
3. When you read Matthew 18:8-9 about taking sin so serious, how did it affect you? Do we take sin serious enough? Why or why not?
4. Why is forgiveness so hard? Who is the hardest to forgive? Why? What is the biblical process of seeking reconciliation in relationships according to Matthew 18:15-20? Do we follow this process? What happens when we don't?
5. Read Matthew 18:35. Why is forgiveness so important? How does this compare to when Jesus finishes the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:14-15?
6. How did Peter get it wrong on the Mount of Transfiguration in Mark 9? How did the Father correct and refocus him? How do we similarly get distracted by the world around us and need refocusing?
7. Why do you think Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as “living water” in our hearts (John 7:38)? How does this describe your own experience of being indwelt by God the Holy Spirit?
8. What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus' word (John 8:31-32)? “Hear the words of God” (John 8:47)? “Keeps my word” (John 8:51)? Why is it so important?
9. Why do the Jews try to kill Jesus after he says “before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)? Can you think of other ways Jesus claims to be God in His words or actions?
10. When Jesus is asked about why a man was born blind, what is His answer (John 9:3)? How is this helpful to think about with other born differences in people?

Distracted, Devoted, Desperate & Dependent *The Examples of Martha & Mary.*

Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-45 & 12:1-8

Martha of Bethany - loved by Jesus, welcomes Jesus into her home, works hard for Jesus, Jesus encourages her to worry less and listen at his feet - Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-45

- Luke 10:38 “Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.”
- Luke 10:40–41 “But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” [41] But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things”

How are you working hard for Jesus?

What gifts or resources are you using for His Kingdom?

How are you welcoming Jesus into your home?

When does Jesus show up on your schedule?

What distracts you from Jesus' presence?

What stresses you? Makes you anxious?

Mary of Bethany - loved by Jesus, sits at Jesus' feet, listening and learning, chooses wisely how to spend her time, pours perfume on Jesus' feet in gratitude for her brother Lazarus' resurrection and preparation for Jesus' death - Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-45; 12:1-8

- Luke 10:39-42 "Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ...the Lord answered her, "... one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."
- John 12:3 "Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

How are you listening and learning to Jesus?

At home. At work. At church.

**When do you find yourself at His feet?
To Learn. To Worship.**

**How can you grow in your gratitude and
worship towards Jesus?**

Mary & Martha - with their brother Lazarus' death
Praying, Waiting, Seeking, Trusting, Watching & Rejoicing

- John 11:20-21 "So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. [21] Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
- John 11:28-29 "When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' [29] And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him."
- John 11:32 "Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

**What steps will you take to be less distracted
from Jesus?**

**What worries will you put aside or entrust to
Jesus?**

**How will you spend more time
at Jesus' feet today?**

This week? 2022? For the rest of your days?

**How is Jesus calling you to desperate and
dependent prayer? To waiting? To seeking?
To trusting? To watching? To rejoicing?**

- This Next Week's New Testament Reading Plan:**
Week 10: Luke 10 ~ Luke 11 ~ Luke 12 ~ Luke 13 ~ John 10
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
 - **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
 - **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan