BIG QUESTIONS

discussion guide
Big Questions

We all have questions. Asking them is how we grow. This sermon series is based on the questions you have asked. Digging into God’s Word, we will find answers, hope, and direction for our life and faith.

In any relationship, questions help us get to know someone better. God invites you to get to know Him through your questions. So bring your curiosity and get your questions answered in God’s Word!

How to Use this Guide

Sermon Discussion Guides are designed to propel you into life transformation. Here’s how it works:

1. Worship at one of LCC’s 3 worship gatherings. If you have to miss, watch the sermon at www.lccaltono.org/watch.

2. Meet with your group (or with your family, spouse, or other friends) and discuss the questions for each week together. If you aren’t connected in Jesus-centered community, go to www.lccaltono.org/adult to find great opportunities.

3. Read the daily Scripture readings. Use the info on the next page as a guide.

4. Experience God move in your life in awesome ways!
Reading the Bible Together

During this sermon series, you are invited to follow the Bible reading plan in the following pages. You will hear from some of Jesus’ closest companions about the practical faith they learned from Jesus Himself.

As you read, know you are not alone. What an amazing thing to know that as you read God’s word each day, you are reading the same thing as hundreds of your brothers and sisters in Christ!

The point of reading the Bible is to get to know Jesus better. But how do we do that? Here’s a simple way...

1. Start with a short prayer. Ask that you would be open to God during your time together.

2. Read the Scripture passage. (Reading plan found on the pages ahead.)

3. Ask these two questions:

   • What is this passage about? Summarize the passage in your own words. Try to understand what the author is saying.

   • What is God saying to me? How does this passage speak into the unique circumstances of your life today? How is God encouraging you, challenging you, or guiding you?

4. Finish in prayer. Thank God for speaking to you. Ask for wisdom, strength, and love to put into practice what you learned.
Session 1
What about Heaven?

1. Tell your group one highlight from your Easter celebration.

2. Read John 14:1-4. What is most comforting to you about these verses?

3. Read John 14:5-6. Who or what is the way to heaven and eternal life?

4. What would you say to someone who says that verse 6 is too narrow and too exclusive? (See Acts 4:12 and John 3:16-18)

5. What would you say to someone who says he/she is nice to others and a pretty good person, so he/she will go to heaven because of that? (See Ephesians 2:8-9.)

6. What would you say to someone who says that he/she is a horrible person, that he/she has done too many bad things, and that God would never let him/her into heaven? (See Romans 5:6-8.)

7. Read John 14:7-11. Many people long to know more about the details of heaven and what it will be like to see the Father. But Jesus says that knowing Him is enough. What have you learned about Jesus that gives you peace about the future?

8. Pray together.
Daily Bible Readings

Monday - 1 John 1:1-4

Tuesday - 1 John 1:4-2:2

Wednesday - 1 John 2:3-14

Thursday - 1 John 2:15-17

Friday - 1 John 2:18-27

Saturday - 1 John 2:28-3:10
Session 2

What about Confirmation?

1. Have you been baptized? What do you remember about it? What have you been told about it?

2. Baptism is God officially beginning a relationship with you. Read Acts 2:38-39. According to these verses, what does God give us in baptism? Who are these gifts for?

3. Because these gifts are even for kids, Church of the Cross baptizes infants AND adults. As kids grow and learn what God gave them in baptism, we give them an opportunity to “confirm” their faith. In other words, to say “Yes” to following Jesus in their everyday life. Did you have a confirmation experience? What was that like? Has there been another moment when you said, “Yes” to following Jesus in a meaningful way?

4. Why is it important to publically say, “Yes” to following Jesus?

5. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-6. How does Paul address Timothy in verse 2? They are not actually related, but what does this tell you about their relationship? What kind of things do you think Paul did to help Timothy grow and “fan into flame” the gifts of God?

6. In verse 5, who do we learn has also had a big impact on Timothy’s faith? What do you think Lois and Eunice did to pass on the faith to Timothy?

7. Who is God calling you to invest in and help them grow in faith? A young man or woman? A child or grandchild? How will you do that?

8. Pray together, thanking God for the people who have invested in you, and asking for open doors to invest in others.
Daily Bible Readings

Monday - 1 John 3:11-24

Tuesday - 1 John 4:1-6

Wednesday - 1 John 4:7-21

Thursday - 1 John 5:1-12

Friday - 1 John 5:13-21

Saturday - 2 John
Session 3
What about Forgiveness?

1. Why do you think forgiving others—and yourself—is so hard?

2. Read Matthew 18:23-27. A “talent” was the highest monetary unit of currency. Such a sum of money was practically uncountable; the servant owes the king more money than existed in circulation in the whole country at the time. This debt illustrates the enormous debt of sin that all have incurred before God. How does this put into perspective for you the seriousness of your sin?

3. The king had mercy on the servant and cancelled his massive, unpayable debt. What does this tell you about God? Is there anything He is unable to forgive?

4. When the debt was canceled, what should have the servant’s response been?

5. Read Matthew 18:28-35. Compared to the millions of dollars the first servant owed, this second servant owed a few dollars. Why do you think the king was so angry?

6. Sometimes we think we are “sticking it to someone” when we withhold forgiveness. In reality, we are only “torturing” our own souls. Have you ever experienced this?

7. Which of the following factors motivates you the most to forgive? 1) the generous and abundant mercy of God towards you, 2) the smallness of others’ debt to you compared to your debt to God, or 3) the torture of your soul that results from unforgiveness.

8. What impact can remembering these motivators have when conflict arises in your marriage, parenting, workplace, or elsewhere?

9. Is there someone you need to forgive today? Is there sin in your life you have not asked God to forgive? If so, pray and take action!
Daily Bible Readings

Monday - 3 John

Tuesday - Jude 1:1-16

Wednesday - Jude 1:17-25

Thursday - James 1:1-18

Friday - James 1:19-27

Saturday - James 2:1-13
Session 4
What about Satan?

1. Have you ever seen a lion? What was that like?

2. Read John 10:10. Describe both Jesus’ and the thief's (Satan’s) agenda for you.

3. We need to be aware of Satan’s tactics, but never afraid of him because we are in Christ. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. Lions attack sick, young, or straggling animals; they choose victims who are alone or not alert. What are some situations in which a person is more vulnerable to Satan “stealing, killing, or destroying” their faith?

4. The author of Hebrews knew of Satan’s tactics. Read Hebrews 10:25. What does he say we can do to defend against Satan's agenda?

5. Tell about a time when you were going through a difficult season in your life and a fellow Christian encouraged you. What difference did it make?

6. How has spending time with other Christians helped you stay focused on Jesus? How have you experienced negative consequences of failing to prioritize that time of worship and fellowship?

7. As we move into summer, what are your plans to stay connected to other Jesus-followers? How can they help keep you safe from Satan’s tactics?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:10-11. When we are suffering, it can feel like our pain will never end. Here we are reminded that we are called to “eternal glory in Christ.” How does this eternal perspective change the way you think about your trials and protect you from Satan’s plans to discourage you?

9. Pray and ask God for His protection against Satan’s tactics that you may have life to the full!
Daily Bible Readings

Monday - James 2:14-26

Tuesday - James 3:1-12

Wednesday - James 3:13-18

Thursday - James 4:1-12

Friday - James 4:13-17

Saturday - James 5:1-6
1. What do you believe are some of the most important social issues of our day?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:14-16. What does Peter tell his readers to avoid? How does “quarreling” and “godless chatter” in discussions about the social issues of our day impact our witness for Christ?

3. Peter encourages his readers to “correctly handle the word of truth.” Have you ever heard teaching that you knew didn’t line up with the Bible? What was that like?

4. As we seek to “correctly handle the word of truth,” here are four ways to faithfully allow God’s Word to speak to social issues of our day:
   a. Recognize its authority. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it mean that the Bible is “God-breathed”? What is Scripture useful for? If you believe the Bible has authority over your life, how does that change how you read it?
   b. Reference its entirety. Read Acts 20:17. What is the danger in developing a position on an issue based on only one verse in the Bible?
   c. Live it obediently. Read James 1:22. Why does it matter that we don’t just study the Bible, but we do what it says?
   d. Share it respectfully. Read 2 Timothy 2:23-26. Why does it matter not just what we say, but also how we say it?

5. What is your next step in growing in knowledge of God’s Word?

6. Pray for wisdom to “correctly handle the word of
Daily Bible Readings

Monday - James 5:7-12

Tuesday - James 5:13-20

Wednesday - Titus 1:1-16

Thursday - Titus 2:1-15

Friday - Titus 3:1-15

Saturday - Philemon
Worship

To enhance your experience of Big Questions, stop by for worship at one of the three services each weekend:

- Saturday @ 5:30pm; Sunday @ 8:30am & 11:00am

More info at lccaltoona.org/new-here.

Prayer

Need some prayer to encourage you on this journey? Would you like to pray for someone else? Stop by lccaltoona.org/prayer to ask for prayer or to pray for other requests.

Give

Want to help make Jesus-centered resources like this available? Go to lccaltoona.org/give to support this work and more!
Sunday School
Sunday mornings
9:45-10:45 am
PreK-5th Grade - Learning Center
6th-12th Grade - Cross Creek

Wednesday YOUTH NIGHTS
for 6th-12th Grade Students
Wednesdays - 6:15-8:15 pm

Find us on Facebook loccaltoona
10. Pray together, thanking God for His