

Lenten Small
Group Study Guide
North Indy

The Questions Jesus Asked

WHY CALL ME LORD AND NOT DO WHAT I SAY?



CONNECT

WEEK 1: FEB 26 - MAR 4

WELCOME (10 MIN)

- What one word describes your week? Make sure everybody in the group joins in.
- If you are a new group, spend some time getting to know one another.
- Take attendance. Who's missing? Who can check on them this week?

PRAY (10MIN)

Be still and know that I am God

This prayer practice will help us gather into the present moment and be ready for a deeper encounter with the scripture, with one another, and with God. Sit comfortably with feet flat on the floor and hands relaxed in our laps. Close your eyes or focus on something. Take a deep breath.

I will read the prayer and pause after each line, so we can take a couple of deep breaths together. As I pray, just listen. Pay attention to the feelings and thoughts that bubble up, and then let them go. Let's start by taking two deep breaths. (breath) (breath)

Leader: "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD." (breath)

Leader: "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM." (breath)

Leader: "BE STILL AND KNOW." (breath)

Leader: "BE STILL." (breath)

Leader: "BE." (breath)

Leader: "AMEN." How did that feel? Try this at home.

Luke 6:46-49

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you?"

I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them.

That one is like a man building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built.

But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it quickly collapsed, and great was the ruin of that house."

CULTIVATE

READ THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:46-49

GROUP VALUES: It's important that you agree on the values you want to have in your group, such as openness, authenticity, and confidentiality. Honoring these values together creates a safe and healthy group environment.

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DISCUSS (30 MINUTES)

- Start by considering the question Rob raised at the Ash Wednesday service. Considering your own faith journey, how would you answer Jesus right now if he asked you -
 - "What are you looking for in your spiritual life?" (10 min)
- Now move to the question asked in our scripture reading - Why call me Lord and not do what I say? Jesus asked this right after he gave instructions for living. Note that Jesus isn't calling us to be religious, he's calling us into a way of living - Love your enemy, Do good to those who hate you, Pray for those who mistreat you, Give to everyone who asks of you, Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, Do not judge, Forgive, Give to the poor, Do justice, Do not defraud anyone, Do not hate, Do the things that make for peace.
 - Which one of these is the most challenging for you? Why? (5 min)
- Jesus isn't calling us to a comfortable life but a compelling one. Easy? Absolutely not! What we need is a religion that challenges us to live more like Jesus every day. What's holding you back from stronger commitment? Comfort? Time? Fear? Inattention? Something else?
 - (10 min, break into small groups so all can share)
- Is there anyone who has been hearing a whisper from God to get up and do something?
- What one idea will you take away with you this week and ponder?

CHANGE THE WORLD

Tenant Advocacy Group and Family Promise (Impact = Housing Stability)

Learn more here - <https://stlukesumc.com/housing>

Contact Margaret Gordon (cgqiemom@gmail.com) or Marcia Roberts (mtroberts1@aol.com)

Indiana has one of the worst eviction rates in the nation, second only to New York City. Housing instability is at the root of a multitude of social determinants of health. Our Tenant Advocacy Group fights unjust systems by advocating for legislation and acting as court watchers in eviction proceedings. We partner with Family Promise to secure temporary shelter for families with children.

CLOSE

PRAY (5 MIN)

- Ask for any prayer requests
- Prayer start: Dear God, as we journey together this Lent, help us to be open to discovering new parts of our faith and our relationship with you. Bet at work in us and through us.
Amen

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