

Questions and Answers



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

June 2, 2024

“Questions and Answers”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we're grateful for the many things you've blessed us with. Help us to consider how there are things we place in front of ourselves that serve not as steps to get closer to you, but as obstacles that keep us distanced. Give us the frame of mind to consider where our own shortcomings are, how you love us despite those shortcomings, and how we can seek to love others even when their shortcomings are glaring. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Mark 10:17-22 (NIV)

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

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INTRODUCTION

We all have questions that we'd like answered from other people... maybe even from God. A man steeped in earthly possessions posed a question to Jesus, and Jesus' answer still speaks to us today.

Before diving into questions, read Mark 10:17-22 (on page 1) and Jesus' interaction with the so-called “rich young ruler.”

QUESTIONS

1. Do you often feel like following God is a chore? If so, how do you handle it? If not, what makes it easy to be a follower?
2. When is a time that you found it hard – or maybe even refused – to accept following God because of what you'd have to give up?
3. Do you find that it's easier to care about possessions than to care for people? If so, what are steps you can take to invest in people rather than things?
4. How do we strike a balance between investing in earthly possessions and investing in the promise of the next life? Are they compatible?
5. When is a time that you prioritized following God above something else? How did it change your thinking on other areas of your life?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one “treasure in heaven” you can seek to invest in this week?