



ASK

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We Ask questions the way Jesus did, with a curious and compassionate posture, to spark rich, authentic spiritual conversations. Christians are sent out to love all of our neighbors, and we grow in our love for them as we learn more about their history, heart, hopes and hurts. What are they passionate about? Who do they want to be? Why are they hurting? In asking good questions, we emulate Jesus, the man of questions. The Gospels record Jesus asking over 300 questions; he often posed questions of his own in response to those demanding answers (Mark 2:6–9). Yet his questions drew people out, going beyond simple information gathering and directing each person toward the ultimate answer beyond what they even knew they needed (Mark 8:27–29). If Jesus is the way, the truth and the life for all mankind, then he is the answer to the deepest needs of every human heart. When we ask meaningful questions and listen well to the answers, we can be conduits of God's grace and truth. God began this adventure of asking, and we follow Jesus when we practice peace-filled, attentive listening (Genesis 3:9, James 1:19).

Jesus didn't come to tell us the answers to the questions of life, he came to be the answer. — Tim Keller

DAILY HABITS

TO HELP US PRACTICE PEACE:

CHALLENGE

Each month we focus on a new practice (Pause, Eat, Ask, Commune, Examine) while building on those from previous months. These practices are meant to be practical, fitting into the flow of our daily lives as we invite the Holy Spirit to change us and create new, sustainable habits.

Join Jesus' work through asking thoughtful questions with someone in your usual sphere and someone outside of it.

Practice Ask with someone each week, drawing from the pool of people with whom you practice Eat. Especially consider someone who believes, looks or thinks differently than you. Pray for friendship, mutuality and gospel love to be shared.

Ask God "What are you up to in this person's life? How can I join you in the work you're doing?"

Listen for what "good news" sounds like for this person.

COMMITMENT

Prayerfully commit to small, sustainable steps in the practice of Ask, as Jesus invites us to be transformed together.

See who is available. Who will you Ask questions of and listen to?

Be caring. Meet up or connect with others. Even a Zoom call (or old-fashioned phone call) could mean a lot for many people.

Be thoughtful. Think about questions before you meet up.

Try the 4H's:

History: Tell me more of your story. Where are you from? Was spirituality part of your upbringing?

Heart: What are you passionate about? What do you love? Where did that come from?

Hopes: What do you hope for out of life? What are your dreams and ambitions?

Hurts: What is one thing you'd want to change about your life today? What's hard?

DAILY HABITS_{CONT.}

PASS THE PEACE

Practicing PEACE fills us with the peace of Jesus, so we pass his peace to others. Because our city is in deep need and we are made to share peace with our neighbors, adopt one Hope for New York affiliate for the entire duration of practicing PEACE to extend the mercy that we have received to others.

Dream Center: Pack & distribute food boxes to families every third Friday of the month.

Young Life: Connect with & mentor teenagers on the Upper East Side.

Safe Families: Offer hope and encouragement to overwhelmed families through virtual connections.

The Bowery Mission: Meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness and hunger in the city.

The Open Door: Teach English or become a conversation partner with adult immigrants through virtual connections every third Saturday.

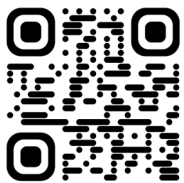
Ask yourself these questions:

Which ministry most resonates with me?

What does my schedule allow?

Do I feel comfortable with in person or virtual?

Scan to sign up to volunteer or donate online.



GOINGS ON

PEACE: An Invitation to Ask, with Rasool Berry

Sun, April 11, 8–9 p.m.

Join Rasool Berry, pastor and host of the *Where Ya From?* podcast and *In Pursuit of Jesus* docuseries, as he shares how to Ask winsomely in our culture, connecting the story of God with the story of others.

Be Curious: A Workshop for Questions

Tues, April 13 & 20, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

How can we build deep, trusting friendships with those around us? One way is by asking good questions. Join us in this lunchtime class as we delve into ways to pursue others through asking questions: what to ask, how to ask, when to ask, and when to share.

Curiosity About Art in the Park

Sun, April 17, 1–2:30 p.m.

Join for questions and conversation about quotes from the writings of authors depicted along the Mall (Literary Walk) in Central Park. Feel free to invite those with whom you have been practicing Eat and Ask. Meet at the Shakespeare Statue mid-park at 66th St.

Online Family Dinner

Sun, April 25, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

The Children's Ministry team is inviting families to join for a mealtime over Zoom. This will be a chance to get to know other families, practice asking great questions and grow in community.

When Someone Doesn't Care about Christianity: A Conversation with Glen Scrivener

Tues, April 27, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Pastor and evangelist Glen Scrivener will show us how curiosity and a posture of questioning might help us navigate hostility or indifference in our friends and neighbors.

Circle the offerings that most interest you.



As we deepen our practice of Ask, we'll develop rich questions, learn from the questions of Jesus, cultivate our sense of curiosity through art, and pray for those in our lives. The following pages will help us engage these areas further.

Write down four main questions you want to focus on this month — questions to Ask God, yourself or others. Take some time to pray about and reflect on them, and share these questions with us on social media so that we can inspire and encourage one another as we Ask. Use the following page to jot down other thoughtful questions that arise as you practice Ask this month.

Try starting with the 4H's:

History Tell me more of your story. Where are you from?

Was spirituality part of your upbringing?

Heart What are you passionate about? What do you love? Where did that come from?

Hopes What do you hope for out of life? What are your dreams and ambitions?

Hurts What is one thing you'd want to change about your life today? What's hard?

WHAT AM I ASKING THIS MONTH?

1

2

3

4

A large grid of dots for writing questions, consisting of 20 columns and 20 rows of small grey dots.

Take a photo of this page and direct message to @redeemereastside on Instagram to be shared anonymously.

30 DAYS WITH THE QUESTIONS OF JESUS

As we practice Ask, we take our cue from Jesus, the master of questions. Begin or end each day this month by meditating on one question of Jesus, reflecting on its corresponding Scripture reference and asking what God might be trying to show you through each question. Check the questions off as you go and use the following pages to reflect further.

- [1] **Matt 7:3** Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?
- [2] **Matt 15:3** And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?
- [3] **Matt 16:9** Do you still not understand?
- [4] **Mark 8:17–18** Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?
- [5] **Luke 8:30** What is your name?
- [6] **Luke 14:31** Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?
- [7] **Luke 18:8** When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?
- [8] **Luke 24:41** Do you have anything here to eat?
- [9] **John 1:38** What do you want?
- [10] **John 14:10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?
- [11] **Matt 9:4** Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?
- [12] **Matt 5:47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?
- [13] **Matt 9:28** Do you believe that I am able to do this?
- [14] **Matt 16:15** Who do you say I am?
- [15] **Mark 2:8** Why are you thinking these things?
- [16] **John 5:47** But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?
- [17] **John 21:16** Do you love me?
- [18] **Matt 6:28** And why do you worry about clothes?
- [19] **Matt 14:31** Why did you doubt?
- [20] **Matt 16:26** What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
- [21] **Luke 10:36** Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?
- [22] **Luke 12:26** Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?
- [23] **John 5:44** How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
- [24] **John 6:67** You do not want to leave too, do you?
- [25] **Matt 8:26** You of little faith, why are you so afraid?
- [26] **Matt 6:27** Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?
- [27] **Matt 27:46** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- [28] **Mark 9:50** Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?
- [29] **Luke 12:57** Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?
- [30] **Mark 3:23** How can Satan drive out Satan?

ASK THROUGH ART & LITERATURE

Art and literature help us cultivate curiosity and compassion, both important aspects of the practice of Ask, and so we invite you to experience the beauty and history of the sculptures along the literary walk in Central Park (mid-park at 66th St). Invite a friend to walk and discuss together!

As you approach a statue, reflect on the quote of its corresponding author. Then consider the question posed and discuss your thoughts with someone around you. Feel free to underline or mark up these quotes, and use the open space on the following page to reflect further, inviting the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your curiosity and compassion.

William Shakespeare

There are more things in heaven and earth...than are dreamt of in your philosophies.

Do you agree? Why or why not? What do you think people wish were true that goes beyond philosophy or science?

Sir Walter Scott

Teach your children poetry; it opens the mind, lends grace to wisdom and makes the heroic virtues hereditary.

Do you agree? Why or why not? Do you have a favorite poem? Why do you suppose it has faded from the central cultural role it once played?

Fitz-Greene Halleck

I sorrow that all fair things must decay.

With the past year that might as well be called the year of decay, how are we to hold lament and hope in tension?

Sojourner Truth [Women's Rights Statue]

And what is that religion that sanctions, even by its silence, all that is embraced in the 'Peculiar Institution?' If there can be anything more diametrically opposed to the religion of Jesus, than the working of this soul-killing system—which is as truly sanctioned by the religion of America as are her ministers and churches—we wish to be shown where it can be found.

The “peculiar institution” is the institution of slavery. Sojourner Truth is saying there is no more damning indictment of the church than silence of the midst of injustice. Do you agree? Is silence complicity? Why or why not?

Susan B. Anthony [Women's Rights Statue]

I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do, because I notice it always coincides with their own desires. How do we parse the voice of God from our ego?

Elizabeth Cady Stanton [Women's Rights Statue]

To live for a principle, for the triumph of some reform by which all mankind are to be lifted up—to be wedded to an idea—may be, after all, the holiest and happiest of marriages.

Do you agree? Why or why not? Does your purpose for living align with this statement?

Robert Burns

O wad some Power the giftie gie us, to see oursels as ithers see us!

In your history, how have others' opinions influenced you, for the good or for the bad?

Christopher Columbus

[The indigenous peoples in the new world] would make fine servants... With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want...They are so naïve and so free with their possessions...[On my return voyage I will bring] as much gold as [their Majesties] need... and as many slaves as they ask...Thus the eternal God, our Lord, gives victory to those who follow His way over apparent impossibilities. Individuals, and our collective history, embody both good and evil. In light of this, do you think a statue of Christopher Columbus is needed or not needed? Why?

A PRAYER LOG FOR ASK

Let prayer guide your curiosity and compassion as you know others and spark meaningful, even spiritual, conversations across difference. Use this chart not as a task list but as a way to process what you sense God is up to in your friend's life and how you can join God's mission.

Consider focusing on the 4 H's as you Ask others, and use them to guide your prayer for them.



Who did you Ask?	What did you learn?	What might be good news to them?	How will you pray?	What will you Ask next time?

AT MONTH'S END

How did God extend peace to you and through you as you practiced Ask?

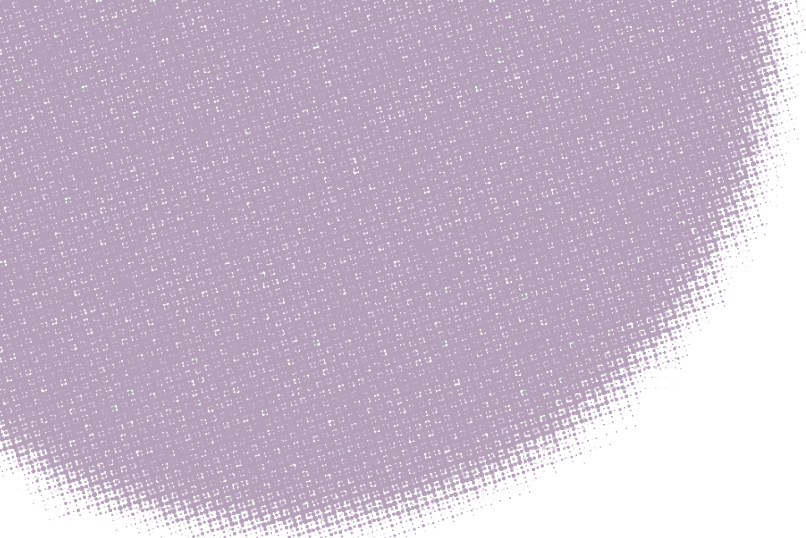
How will you continue the practice of Ask?

So we are told to love. We are told to listen. We are told to look. But a lot of the time we don't because we choose damn well not to, and because only a saint could do it all the time, I think. You have to choose who to listen to because if you listen to everybody and you look at everybody — seeing every face the way Rembrandt saw that woman's face — how could you make it down half a city block? You couldn't. If you listened to what everybody says to you, how could you survive a day? But we can do more than we do — more than we do, surely we could do that.

— Frederick Buechner

KIDS ON

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GENESIS 3:9

But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

We practice Ask by being interested in the feelings and thoughts of others. Christians are sent out by Jesus and called to love others. A big part of loving someone is getting to know them well. To do that we ask others around us good questions, just as Jesus did. Jesus's questions helped people feel comfortable to share their thoughts and feelings, and pointed each person toward the ultimate answer that they needed, the grace of God. This practice is just what we need today. If Jesus is the way, the truth and the life for all mankind, then he is the answer to the deepest needs of every human heart. When we ask meaningful questions and listen well to the answers, we can be a part of God's grace and truth. Jesus began this adventure of asking, and he invites us to continue with attentive listening. Attentive listening means listening with our eyes, ears, and whole bodies, focusing on the person and being able to repeat back what they said.

Practice asking good questions and listening closely to the answers of someone in your family or group of friends you see regularly once per week. Try your parents!

Join Jesus' work through asking three thoughtful questions to someone in your family.

Actively listen to the person's answers. Use some of the activities below to grow in your listening skills.

WONDER TIME

Jesus asks 307 questions in the Gospels. He's a master at asking questions. But Jesus uses questions differently than we do today. We ask questions for answers and information; Jesus asks questions because He wants us to think about what we believe and examine it in light of what God has to say.

Read Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Think about your answer to Jesus' question. Who do you really believe him to be? Use this blank space to draw or journal your answer. Write down one question you have about Jesus, or faith, that you can ask an adult in your family this week.



PRACTICE ASKING

This week ask an adult in your family a thoughtful question. After you ask a question, let them ask you a question. After you answer, keep the conversation going by asking them a question back!

Try the 4H questions to get you started asking thoughtful questions:

History Tell me about your story of growing up. Did you believe in God when you were my age?

Heart What are you passionate about? What do you love? What is something that you fear?

Hopes What do you hope for out of life? What are your dreams and ambitions?

Hurts What is one thing you'd want to change about your life today? What's hard?

PRACTICE LISTENING

End of the word — beginning of the next

This is a fun game that requires listening to the word the previous person said, then coming up with a word that starts with the letter they ended on.

Horse....Ear....Right....Tiger....

It's great for train rides, or waiting in restaurants, because all it requires is listening. Want a challenge? Make it more complex by limiting the categories, like only naming animals.

Tell a Group Story

The first person starts a story with one sentence. Then the next person adds onto the story, and it continues until everyone has contributed at least one sentence to the story. (For smaller groups, you can go around two or three times). This requires listening to what has already been said and making connections.

Mystery Drawing

Guided drawing can build listening skills and it's fun! Have someone in your family describe a picture to you and see if you can draw it. Have them share as many details as possible while you listen and draw the picture. When you're done, switch roles and you describe a picture for them to draw. See if your pictures look close to the originals.

Nighttime Navigation Game

Turn out all the lights and listen carefully to all the sounds you hear. Get very quiet and whisper to someone else in your family what you are hearing. Walk through your apartment with a flashlight, put your ears against doors and windows, or make sounds yourself. Then name or describe each sound to each other.

PRACTICES OF PEACE

PAUSE

One day each week we Pause from our labors so that we can delight in Jesus (Matthew 11:28–30).

EAT

When we Eat with others, we reflect the joyful hospitality of Jesus, elevating ordinary actions into an expression of Christ’s restorative kingdom (Mark 2:16–17).

ASK

We Ask questions the way Jesus did, with a curious and compassionate posture, to spark rich, authentic spiritual conversations (Genesis 3:9).

COMMUNE

We Commune with at least two other Christians, committing to a small community that shares the mission of Jesus (Hebrews 10:24–25).

EXAMINE

We invite Jesus to Examine us daily through prayer and the reading of God’s word (John 15:5).



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