

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

**New Testament
Weeks 6-10**



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Reading Through the Bible

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

WEEK SIX

2 Cor. 1-3

What titles for God are given in 1:1-4?

Of what does Paul not want the people to be uninformed? 1:8

What reason does Paul give for why they are under great pressure? 1:8-9

What is described as the deposit that guarantees what God promises to come? 1:21-22

What is reason given for why Paul writes? 2:4

From where does Paul say his competence comes? 3:4

What did Moses put over his face and why?

What is present where the Spirit of the Lord is? 3:17

2 Cor. 4-7

What does Paul say our treasure is? 4:7

Paul lists the difficulties that he faces. What is it that he carries around?
Why? 4:10-12

We are wasting away on the outside, but what is happening inwardly? 4:16

Can you describe how God has made you a new creation? How have old things gone away and new things come? 5:17

What does it mean to be Christ's ambassadors?

What does godly sorrow bring? 7:8-10

2 Cor. 8-13

Paul talks about the generosity of the Macedonia churches. What ways are you generous with your money?

Who is Paul sending to Corinth to assist with the collection for the church in Jerusalem? 8:16-18

What makes for a "joyful giver" that Paul speaks of in 9:7?

How does the metaphor of sowing and reaping inform Paul's admonition of giving? 9:6-11

What are some people saying about Paul in 10:12? How does he describe the way he will follow up to his letters to them?

What does Paul say his hope is for the people of Corinth? (10:15-16)

What is the comparison Paul draws to Eve?
What is the issue to which Paul is referring in 11:5-6?
Count the number of hardships Paul faces (11:23-29). How many are there?
How did Paul escape while in Damascus?
Paul describes a vision about being caught to paradise(12:1-10).
What was Paul given that tormented him?
What does this concluding statement mean to you: *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*
What are the marks of an apostle (according to 12:12)
What is Paul's prayer for the Corinthians?

Galatians 1-3

According to 1:6-7, what is happening that results in Paul accusing the Galatians of turning to a different gospel?
What does Paul say will happen to anyone who teaches a gospel other than Jesus Christ?
How and from whom does Paul say that he received the gospel?
What was the report that the churches in Judea heard about Paul?
What do you think Paul means when he says, "God does not judge by external appearance?" (2:6)
What is Paul's issue with Peter's actions? (2:11-15)
How would you describe the difference of a life that is justified by faith in Jesus Christ and one that is justified by works of the Law?
What Old Testament figure foretold of the message of justification by faith in the gospel? (3:6-9)
What purpose does the law have as it relates to faith in Christ? (3:19-25)

Galatians 4-6

Can you think of an example in your own life of what Paul is talking about when he says, “you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles?” (4:9)

What happens when someone justifies himself by the law? (5:4)

What does it mean to you to be called by God to be free? (5:13)

What one command is repeated as a summary of the law?

What are the nine fruits of the Spirit listed in 5:22-23?

How is it that we who belong to Christ daily crucify our sinful nature? (5:24)

According to 6:1-2, how do we fulfill the law of Christ? What is one way that you do this?

What do you think Paul means by each of these phrases:

6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross...”

6:15 “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.”

6:17 “I bear on my body the marks of Jesus”

WEEK SEVEN

Ephesians 1 – 2

When you count your blessings, what do you put at the top of the list?

What mystery has God revealed as part of his ultimate plan and purpose?

What do we learn about Christ in 1:2—22?

If we are dead to sin (2:1) how are we made alive (2:4-5)?

What has God’s grace meant to you in your life?

What good work do you feel God may have in mind for you?

Before Jesus came, what problems did the Gentiles face (2:11-12)?

How has Christ destroyed hostility and made peace possible for all people?

How would a person of a different background be accepted at Mt. Horeb?

Ephesians 3 – 4

- What mystery that was made known to Paul is revealed in chapter 3?
- What important mission does the church have in God's plan?
- What benefit of being in Christ is mentioned in 3:12?
- What does it mean to you to have God's spirit within you (3:16)?
- What is God's purpose in giving gifts to his people?
- On a scale of 1-10 how unified is Mt. Horeb?
- How are you doing in fulfilling your call to keep the unity of the spirit through peace (4:3)?
- What does it mean to put off your old self and put on a new self (4:22-24)?

Ephesians 5 – 6

- What three standards does Paul set for Christian living in 5:1-2,8?
- In 5:18-21, what qualities should be exhibited in the spirit-filled life?
- What one verse or phrase in Chapter 5 would you make for a slogan for the coming week? Why?
- How does the modern-day view of marriage compare to marriage in 5:22-33? What does God ask of all children, and with what promise (6:1-3)?
- How can parents bring up their children in the instruction of the Lord?
- What do you consider to be the ideal employer/employee relationship?
- Where do you see the devil's schemes being played out in the world today?
- In what ways does the "armor of God" help us to stand against evil?
- What have you been struggling with lately ... and how does this passage help equip you?

Philippians 1 – 5

- How is God at work in a believer's life according to 1:6, 9-11?
- Paul was in prison but joyful. What difficult circumstance are you dealing with? What's your attitude toward this situation?
- What does it mean to consider someone better than yourself (2:3)?

From verses 2:19-24, what are two or three words you would use to describe Timothy?

What does Paul mean by confidence in the flesh in 3:3?

According to Paul, what is the secret to success?

Who do you look to as an example of Christian living?

How does Paul advise the Philippians to deal with conflict and disagreement?

Looking at 4:8, what are some things you can think about that fit these characteristics?

What is Paul's secret to contentment (4:10-13)?

Colossians 1 – 4

Why are faith and love the products of hope (1:5)?

What is Jesus' relationship to all things?

How much do you identify with 1:21? How do verses 22-23 make you feel?

What does living in Christ (2:6) involve?

What kind of circumcision was done by Christ (2:11) and how did he do it (2:12-15)?

How are we to grow in our spiritual life (3:1-4)?

In advancing the Gospel (4:2-6) what role is played by prayer?

Watchfulness? Thankfulness? Open doors? Closed doors? Graceful talk? Salty talk?

WEEK EIGHT

1 Thessalonians 1 – 5

What do you know about the Thessalonians church from Paul's experience in Acts 17:1-9?

From verses 2:1-12 what does ethical evangelism look like?

What difficulties were the Thessalonians facing (2:14-18)?

Why do you think Paul called the Thessalonian church his "hope," "joy," and "crown?"

What three areas of the lifestyle discussed in chapter 4 most affected a Christian's ministry?

How will a lifestyle that bears witness to God affect sexual morality?

Work relationships? Time priorities? Small group dynamics?
Of all the places you live (home, work, school, church, ...) where do you
feel the need for more faith, more hope or more love?

2 Thessalonians 1- 3

What is the evidence that they are worthy of God's kingdom (1:5)?
What is God's ultimate purpose in allowing the "man of lawlessness" to de-
ceive people?
How and why will God save his people (2:13-14)?
What model does Paul leave for the others to follow (3:7-13)?
Why do you think Paul emphasizes grace and peace? What does it say about
God's will?

1 Timothy 1-6

Do you relate more to Paul or Timothy in this passage?
What were the problems plaguing the church in Ephesus?
According to 1:15, why did Jesus come into the world?
How does your attitude change toward someone when you pray for them?
In light of the struggle with false teachers, why is Timothy given this list of
qualifications for leadership?
How can you help give support and help to your church leaders? How do
Mt. Horeb's Five Core Values guide you?
How would you explain to someone what Paul means by being godly (4:7,
11-16)?
How would you compare this ancient system (chapter 5) of treatment of
family, particularly widows and elders) to our modern system?
When have you struggled most financially?
When have you been tempted to be a "lover of money"?
If the Christian life is like a good fight, how are you doing? Still training?
Bobbing and weaving? Winded? Other?

2 Timothy 1 – 4

Who were the family or friends who (like Lois and Eunice for Timothy) in-
spired you to faith?
What is one weakness that Timothy has and what does Paul remind him of
regarding it?
How is Timothy to ensure the message of Christ will live on (2:2)?

In spite of suffering, what keeps Paul from giving up (2:8-10)? What has kept you going in times of suffering?

According to 2:15-16, 22-24 what should you pursue and what should you shun?

Of all the sins listed in 3:1-5, which one is the root of all the others?

Is persecution and suffering necessarily a result of godliness? Why or Why not?

What do you learn about Paul through his personal remarks at the end of this letter? How does it make you feel to know Paul was human, just like you?

Titus 1- 3

One commentary states the theme of Titus as “Being devoted to what is good.” Why is Paul’s list of leadership qualifications focused more on “being” and not “doing”?

What was going on in Crete that made the appointment of such elders important (1:10-16)?

Do any of these behaviors go on in the church today?

What is Paul implying about the importance of mentors who model/teach faithful behavior?

How does our new lifestyle relate to Jesus’ death (2:14)?

Why do you think Paul again stresses “doing good” (3:1,8,14)? What is going on in 3:9-11?

How do Paul’s instructions reflect both “tough love” and uncompromising righteousness?

What similar situations are occurring in the church today?

WEEK NINE

Philemon-Hebrews 2

Who is Paul appealing for as he writes the letter of Philemon?

What apparently happened according to vs. 10?

Paul appeals for this brother in the Lord because he was a run away slave.

Now he was returning to his master and could be punished. What does Paul attempt to reconcile in vs. 18?

What is Paul’s request in verses 17-19 and his additional request a few verses later?

Hebrews- Seven quotations are given in vss.5-14. What is it that the writer is proving about Christ's relation to angels? 1:4
According to 2:14-18, why did Christ have to be like us as a human being?

Hebrews 3-6

What must the people do in order to share in Christ? 3:14
In what ways do you most struggle to believe in God's promises? 3:7-19
How would you define "Today" as it is used in 4:7?
What metaphor is used to describe the word of God in 4:12-13?
Reflect on the ways that God's word convicts and judges your life.
Why is this important?
What is the basis for why we as believers can approach the throne of grace with boldness?
How did Christ learn obedience? What did he then become? 5:7-10
What do you consider to be the basics or elementals of faith? What goals of maturity do you have for your spiritual life and faith?
5:11-6:3

Hebrews 7-9

Who is Melchizedek? Why do you think Jesus' priesthood is related to Melchizedek?
Why doesn't our high priest need to make continued sacrifice? 7:23-28
How does the "new" covenant that Jesus brings replace the old covenant? 8:6-13
What Old Testament Bible verse is quoted at length in chapter 8?
Why did you think this verse is appointed for us to read each Reformation Sunday?
What is the effect of the sacrifice of Christ's blood? 9:11-14

Hebrews 10-11

List the five different instructions given by the writer of Hebrews:
(10:22-25)

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-

What four things are described as necessary as part of the act of drawing near to God? (10:22-23)

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-

How is faith defined in chapter 11?

How many different Old Testament people are highlighted as examples of faith in chapter 11?

If you were to design a “Mt. Rushmore” of people who have been models of faith in your life, which three people would they be and why?

Hebrews 12-13

In responding to the advice of the writer in 12:1, what are the things that most hinder and entangle your faith life?

How would you describe the race you are presently running for God? (running hard-steady pace-walking comfortably-struggling-crawling)

What ways do you fix your eyes on Jesus? 12:2-3

What is the purpose of God’s discipline? 12:7-12

What is Mount Zion and how is it described? 12:22-24

What do you think is meant by saying that Jesus is the same (yesterday and today and forever) in 13:8?

What activity allows for your heart to be most strengthened by God’s grace? 13:9

WEEK TEN

James 1-5

Identify two ways that James suggests for believers to face their trials. 1:2-18

How is God's word planted in your life? 1:21

To what is listening to God's word and not doing what it says compared? 1:22-25

How is pure religious practice described? 1:27

What is the danger of showing partiality between rich and poor? 2:1-4

What is the royal law in Scripture?

What is the result of failing in just one point of the law? 2:10-11

Is there such a thing as faith without works?

To what two images is the tongue compared? What makes the tongue such a dangerous weapon? 3:3-12

Name the eight attributes of heavenly wisdom. 3:13-18

What instruction is given in regard to the sick? 5:13-16

I Peter 1-5

What do you think it means to "be holy?" 1:13-25

How is it that you are challenged to "grow up" in your salvation? 2:1-3

What kind of stones are we to be? Built into what?

How do you understand God's call in being part of the royal priesthood? 2:9

What purpose does suffering for doing good and enduring have? 2:18-23

How do you interpret 3:1-7 in light of the different way that we understand the roles of husband and wife in our modern day culture?

How would you describe the witness of your "inner self?" 3:4

What could you do to prepare yourself to share the reason for the hope that God has given you? 3:15-16

What does the water that saves us symbolize?

Describe how an elderly person as acted as a shepherd and an example for you. 5:1-4

Identify the five instructions given to young men in 5:6-9

2 Peter 1-3

Name the seven virtues highlighted in 1:5-11. What is promised if we keep and possess these qualities?

Identify at least two characteristics of false prophets that are described in chapter 2.

What do you think the writer means in 3:8-9 and 3:15 when he talks about God's time and the Lord's patience?

What kind of people ought we to be in waiting for the Lord's coming, according 3:11-14?

Why is it better for false prophets to have never known the way of righteousness?

What fact should we not ignore in regards to the Lord's timetable?

I John 1-5

What are the consequences of denying one's sin and failing to follow God's commands? 1:9 and 2:4

Why does John write about those who are antichrists in 2:18-25 ? 2:26

What is the message the people have heard about God from the beginning of their relationship? How do they know what love is? 3:11,16

How is love made complete? 4:12,17-18

What is the victory that overcomes the world? 5:1-5

2 John 1- 3 John 1- Jude 1

What is the command the people have heard from the beginning? 2John vss.4-6

According to 2John vss. 7-11, what particular false teaching is refuted?

What is it that causes great joy for John? (3John vss3-4)

What title for God is given in 3John vs7? (see also Acts 4:12)

In what ways do you "show hospitality" in working together with other Christians?

What is the occasion for Jude to write his letter? Jude vss.3-4

What three instructions are given in Jude vss.20-21

According to Jude who are the ones causing divisions among the faithful? How are the faithful to respond?