

ASKING FOR A FRIEND week one

These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual. **We recommend the Bible versions of - ESV, NTL, NIV, NASB and The Message.

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Series Overview: “Everybody has questions—about faith, God, Scripture, spirituality. Well, OTHER people do; obviously not YOU. So, we thought we’d take a few weeks to talk through some things people we know wonder about and wrestle with, from both inside and outside of the church. And you get to eavesdrop. Because CLEARLY these aren’t your questions. They all came from other people, and even they were just asking for a friend.”

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//TALK

Ice Breaker - Would you rather have the best house in a bad neighborhood or the worst house in a good neighborhood?

Q1 – Have you ever had a question that you wanted to ask but felt like it was a dumb question or it might make you look bad if you asked it?

Q2 – The statement was made, “**How we wrestle with faith, doubt and questions is important – but more important than HOW we wrestle is THAT we wrestle.**” What are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Q3 – Read **Genesis 32:24-31** — [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in this passage? In your opinion, what would it have been like to wrestle with God?

Q4 – The statement was made, “**It’s a sad common belief for many people that faith is the antithesis of doubt - that your faith is only as strong as it is free of doubt.**” What are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Q5 – The statement was made, “**The lessons learned and struggles resolved during our wrestle are what makes us who we are.**” What are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Q6 – Think about it: **How can you help create an environment that welcomes people’s questions and doubts in our church?**

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//GO DEEPER

Check out some resources: Read around Genesis 32 for the full story. Check out: “A Flexible Faith: Rethinking what it means to follow Jesus today.” by Bonnie Kristian

//THE POINT

God is not offended by your questions or doubts.

//MEMORIZE

Matthew 23:13 ESV - 13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

//PRAY

Take time to pray for the needs in your group. Pray that we would be confident asking questions and creating a church that welcomes questions and doubts. Pray that we always remain a safe place for unchurched people.