

ASKING FOR A FRIEND week three

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 be able to talk with the animals or speak all foreign languages?

Q1 – Can you remember back to when you were young...what were some of the practices at church that didn’t make sense to you? [baptism, communion, offerings, lighting a candle...]

Q2 – The statement was made, “**The Church has done a great job insisting that certain things are important, but hasn’t always done a great job explaining why those things are important.**” What are your thoughts regarding this statement?

Q3 – Read **Matthew 28:19-20** — [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in this passage? What do you believe Jesus was calling his followers to do?

Q4 – The statement was made, “**Baptism is a symbol that you belong to Jesus and have committed your life to Him.**” What are your thoughts regarding this statement? Are there other ways we can show this other than baptism?

Q5 – Read **2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 2:12** — [Read in different translations] What stands out to you in this passage? What is the early church being encouraged to understand through these passages?

Q6 – Think about it: **Baptism isn’t as much about salvation, as it is about identification.** How can you better identify yourself with Christ this week?

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//GO DEEPER

Check out some resources: Read about Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3. Think about being baptized in water if you haven’t yet. Consider attending Discover 2 when offered.

//THE POINT

Baptism isn’t as much about salvation, as it is about identification.

//MEMORIZE

2 Corinthians 5:17 [ESV] - 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

//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. Pray for those in your group to take a next step through water baptism if they haven’t and if they have, that we all take our mission seriously to “go and make disciples”.