

INTRO

- When you hear the name “Jesus,” what is the first word, image, or idea that comes to mind?

About The Series

Jesus asked over 300 questions across the four Gospels. Why? Because his questions were designed to go deeper, probing our hearts, desires, assumptions, and lives. In our current series, **Questions Worth Answering**, we’ll sit with some of those questions because the questions Jesus asked *then* are still worth answering *now*.

READ

Mark 8:27-35

Q: What stands out to you in this text?

REFLECT & RESPOND

Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the Messiah, but he has the wrong idea about what the Messiah has come to do. Jesus explains that his mission involves suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. He has not come simply to conquer his enemies, but to conquer evil through grace, sacrifice, forgiveness, and his presence.

Q: Peter had an idea of what the Messiah should be like, but Jesus challenged his expectations. What expectations or assumptions about Jesus have you had to rethink as you have encountered him?

Jesus then calls his followers to participate in his mission: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

Following Jesus means learning his way of responding to evil. Rather than retaliation, we bless. Rather than seeking revenge, we absorb relational costs without enabling harm. Rather

than withdrawing into comfort, we remain present where God has called us.

Q: Jesus leads with grace and calls his followers to “repay evil with blessing.” What might this look like in one relationship, workplace, family situation, or community context you are currently navigating? What boundaries might still be necessary?

Q: A cross-shaped life involves staying present and absorbing some relational cost rather than retaliating. Where might Jesus be inviting you to respond differently to conflict, weakness, or mistreatment?

Put it Into Practice

This week, choose one relationship where you are tempted to respond according to the other person’s behaviour. Ask Jesus how you can bless rather than retaliate. If appropriate, take one concrete step toward presence, forgiveness, or reconciliation.

PRAY

- Ask Jesus to show you where your view of him needs to be reshaped by who he actually is.
- Pray for grace to respond to evil and weakness without retaliation, while maintaining wise boundaries.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group live increasingly cross-shaped lives that make Jesus visible in your relationships and community.