

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: BELIEVE

Message: Preparing For Trouble

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Memory Verse: John 13:34-35 NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Trouble is promised, but so is victory.

Read John 15:1-17

1. God prunes believers to help them bear more fruit. (John 15:2). This pruning involves removing distractions, refining character, or allowing challenges to foster growth in faith and obedience. How have you experienced God's pruning in your life through trials or circumstances that shaped your faith? What does bearing fruit, such as displaying love, joy, peace, or other Christ-like qualities, look like in your daily actions and relationships?
2. Jesus commands believers to love one another sacrificially. (John 15:12). This love goes beyond feelings, requiring intentional, costly actions. Can you recall a time when you witnessed or showed this kind of love? What impact did it have? What do you think makes sacrificial love difficult to practice consistently?

Read John 15:18-27

3. Faith in Christ often faces resistance in the world. (John 15:18-19). Jesus warns that the world may hate His followers because they belong to Him. How have you observed or experienced resistance to your faith in today's world? Why is it important to remember that this rejection isn't personal, but ultimately



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directed at Jesus? What strategies or truths help you keep a soft heart towards the world when facing such challenges?

4. Jesus shares that His words and works have revealed sin and provoked opposition (vv 22-24). What does Scripture tell us about why truth is so offensive to some? Are there times when you have resisted God's conviction in your own life? How did you eventually respond? How can we hold to truth without becoming self-righteous or combative?
5. "You also must testify, for you have been with Me from the beginning" (v 27). How does being a witness for Jesus feel exciting or intimidating to you? What fears, hesitations, or insecurities sometimes keep you from sharing your faith more openly? What would help you become more ready to "testify"?

Read John 16

6. Jesus did not get to share everything He wanted to with His disciples. He continues to speak to us today through the Holy Spirit (vv 12-13). How do you discern the Spirit's voice from your own thoughts or desires? What can we do to better sensitize ourselves to the Spirit's leading?
7. Jesus uses the metaphor of childbirth to describe how believers' sorrow will turn to joy, as God brings new life and hope through difficulties (vv 20-22). This promises that pain is temporary and purposeful, leading to lasting joy. How have you seen God turn a difficult season in your life into a time of joy or renewed faith? What helps you trust God's promise of joy during ongoing struggles?
8. Jesus assures His disciples that, despite inevitable troubles, His victory over sin and death provides unshakable hope (John 16:33). This promise anchors believers in God's ultimate triumph, regardless of circumstances. How does Jesus' victory over the world encourage you in your current challenges? What specific troubles in your life can you entrust to Him, knowing He has overcome?



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