



Baptism Weekend | 03.07-08.2020

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90 minute group gathering.

Message Recap: "Private faith will get you to heaven. Public faith brings heaven here." When we are baptized, we are proclaiming our commitment to follow the Jesus who makes our lives better - not perfect, but better - even in the darkest and hopeless moments.

» Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given? Why did you trust this advice?
- Digging Deeper: What prevents you from trusting someone?

» Observation | Read Acts 16:16-40 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | **If you trust God today, He'll take care of forever.** (12 minutes)

- Public faith is difficult today. Where are some spaces you can be more intentional about what you believe?
- We try to trust God forever - but what prevents us from trusting Him today?

» Pressed, Not Crushed | Reference Acts 16:16-24 (12 minutes)

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. What does it look like to be "pressed but not crushed?" How have you experienced this?
- How can you find purpose in your pain? What happens when we approach difficult moments as opportunities for growth?

» Believing in the Darkness | Reference Acts 16:25-34 (12 minutes)

- Why did Paul and Silas spend time praying and worshipping in prison? Why do we sometimes avoid God in these 'prison' moments?
- What strikes you most about the way Paul and Silas interacted with the guard? What can we learn from their actions?

» Living in the Light | Reference Acts 16:35-40 (12 minutes)

- What are some ways you have watched others lean in and trust God in what seems like an impossible and hopeless moment?
- Who needs to know that Jesus Makes Life Better? How might God want to use you in their lives? What will you do this week?

» Next Steps and Prayer | (15minutes)

- Paul and Silas had plenty of things to complain about and still kept trusting God; what is happening in your life that requires that kind of step for you too?
- Close by praying for each other and for those in your lives who need to know that Jesus Makes Life Better.