



Bible Study Questions

22nd September 2024

Discussion Starter

Are you someone who is easily tempted by chocolate or lollies? If someone brings out a cake or your favourite biscuit, are you able to resist? What is your favourite snack or treat, are you able to resist and have some self-control when it is available, or do you partake and indulge?

Read & Reflect

Read Matthew 5:27-30

- What stands out to you, or what do you notice?
- What questions are raised for you?
- What challenges you?

Questions

The Heart: Where Sin Starts

Question: Looking at Matthew 5:27-30. How does Jesus shift the focus from external actions to internal desires in this passage? What does this tell us about where sin truly begins?

Understanding True Self-Control – READ 2 Tim 1:6-7,13-14 and Gal 6:22-23

Question: Discuss the statement: "Self-control isn't really self-control; it's Holy Spirit-control." How does relying on the Holy Spirit change our approach to overcoming temptation compared to relying solely on our willpower?

Taking Radical Measures Against Sin

Question: Jesus speaks about "gouging out an eye" or "cutting off a hand" if it causes you to stumble (Matthew 5:29-30). While not literal, what radical actions might this metaphor suggest we take to eliminate sin from our lives?

The Power of Confession

Question: James 5:16 encourages us to confess our sins to one another. How can confession serve as a tool for healing and overcoming sin? What barriers might we face in practicing this, and how can we address them?

Application – choose 2 of the following for discussion in your group.

Hidden Compromises Leading to Visible Sins

Question: The sermon compares the Challenger disaster to how small, hidden decisions can lead to significant destruction. Can you identify areas in your own life where minor compromises might be leading you toward greater temptations or sins?

Positive and Negative Influences

Question: Discuss the principle "What you behold, you become" in the context of your own experiences. Can you share examples of how focusing on certain things or people has positively or negatively affected your spiritual journey?

The Sunflower Analogy

Question: The sermon uses the example of sunflowers turning toward the sun to illustrate a point. How does this analogy deepen our understanding of directing our focus toward Christ? What practical steps can we take to "turn our faces" toward Him daily?

Community and Accountability

Question: How can we as a community support each other in "beholding Jesus" and avoiding sin? What role does mutual accountability play in spiritual growth, and how can we foster a supportive environment for it?