

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides
May 5th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. If you could be a contestant on a game show, what show would you choose?

Bible Study Questions

1. When in an awkward situation, do you ever feel the need to have the right answer? Why or why not?
2. Look at some of the episodes from Peter's life: Matthew 16:16, 16:22, 17:4, 26:33, John 13:8-9. How do you see Peter responding to a need to have the right answer?
3. Pastor Michael said that the need to have the right answer is often based on the belief that it is what heroes do. How have you seen that to be true?
 - What does either having the right answers or not having the right answers impact our identity?
 - When we don't have the right answer, what does that do to the way that we view ourselves?
4. Read Matthew 17:1-8
 - What does God tell Peter?
 - Why is it significant for Peter to shut up and listen to Jesus?
5. In Acts 1:4, Jesus instructs the disciples to not go on the mission until they have been filled with the Holy Spirit. How does the filling the Holy Spirit impact our need to have the right answer?
6. Are there any steps that you can take to grow in your ability to listen to the Spirit of God?

7. Pastor Michael talked a bit about learning to rest in the mystery of God. Does the mystery of God encourage or frustrate you? How can you better develop a sense of awe about the things that we don't understand?

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Freedom: From the Need to Be Perfect

One of the most popular game shows in America is jeopardy. Many of us are fountains of useless knowledge that are ready to answer random questions. Some of us take it a step further, with the need to amaze people with our knowledge and a need to always have the answer in the midst of crises. One of the best examples of this is the Apostle Peter. In awkward situations, (Matthew 16:16, 16:22, 17:4, 26:33, John 13:8-9), Peter was always the first to speak up with an answer. While he sometimes got it right, he often spoke useless words or caused damage with his response.

I. The Promise

- **You can be the hero in every situation:** In movies, heroes always have the right answer. They never respond to a crisis with, “don’t have anything.” When one is grieving, they speak the words that bring relief. When in a panicked situation, they are able to either inspire or bring relief. Having the right answer means that we can be the hero that saves the situation.
- **Affirms that you are someone who can be trusted with authority:** Often we want to have the answer not to help those around us, but to feel better about ourselves. Not having the right answer means that we have a deficiency. But being able to save the situation means that we can be trusted with command.

II. Why it fails

- **Hastily spoken words often become obstacles to resolution:** When words aren’t thought through, we can easily say the wrong things. When told about Jesus coming death, Peter rashly spoke opposing Jesus on two different occasions (Matthew 16:22 and 26:33). Instead of fixing the problem, he made things worse.
- **Our inadequacies are exposed creating a need to further prove ourselves:** When we give the wrong answer, it removes the façade of authority. It tells our identity that we don’t have what it takes.

III. The gospel

- **God has all the answers so we don’t have to:** God is a God of infinite wisdom who has all the answers. There is a reason why following his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had the gift of the Holy Spirit. On their own they would fail to have the right answers.
- **Instead of having the answers, we are called to follow the one who does:** In Matthew 17, God interrupts Peter saying, “*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!*” God simply told Peter to shut up, stop trying to always have the answer, and to instead listen to Jesus. Following Peter’s denial of Jesus, Jesus confronted Peter and simply commanded him to “follow him (John 21:19).”

IV. Application

- **Learn to be ok with mystery:** God doesn’t always give us the answers. There is much to the character and work of God that is meant to be a mystery beyond our understanding. We need to learn to develop a sense of awe in those moments instead of always trying to figure God out.
- **Learn the art of listening to others:** There is great wisdom in learning to listen. Instead of being the smartest person in the room, develop a habit of learning from others.
- **Learn how to be attuned to God:** In Matthew 10:20, Jesus told his disciples that his Spirit would speak through them. Following Pentecost, Peter learned how to do that through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we learn to listen to God, he will direct us on how to respond in difficult situations. Sometimes that involves words. Other times he calls us to be a peaceful presence in the midst of the chaos. Either way, our response comes from listening to Him.

