

Life Group Questions

April 8

Get-To-Know-Me-Question:

Tell the group about your craziest rollercoaster experience. What was it like? Were you scared? Thrilled? Nauseous? How do you feel about rollercoasters today? Are you more or less likely to ride one with multiple loops?

Into The Bible Questions:

Read through **Matthew 5:38-42**.

1. Jesus challenges a perceived right to hold onto anger and seek out repayment for wrongs done against us. In other words, Jesus tells us that getting revenge is not in line with God's will. Why is it that important? What's the spiritual danger of seeking revenge? Is there a difference between revenge and justice? If so, what is it?
2. Read Leviticus 24:19-20. At some point, "eye for eye, and tooth for tooth" was the religious law. Talk about how hard this must have been for religious authorities to hear Jesus challenge, and even change, this law. When you're done, ask these questions:
 - a. What gives Jesus the right to do this?
 - b. Is Jesus' new law easier or more difficult to follow than the old law? Why?
3. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says he did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill the law. What's the difference between abolishing and fulfilling? In what ways do Jesus' words in Matthew 5:38-42 fulfill, rather than abolish, the law that says, "eye for eye and tooth for tooth?"
4. During Jesus' ministry on earth, he provided constant challenges to the status quo. How does he still do this today? Where have you seen the challenge of Jesus in your life? Where do you think the challenge of Jesus is needed?

Let's Go Deeper:

Read through **Acts 17:1-8**.

- We read earlier that Jesus isn't abolishing the old law, but is fulfilling it instead. Jesus' death and resurrection is the ultimate fulfillment of God's law. We see in verse 2 that Paul had a custom of sharing the news of Jesus frequently in the synagogues. Why do you think it is so important for Paul to do this? Why make such an effort to share this news?
- Depending on your translation, verse 6 is an accusation by Jewish leaders that the people speaking about Jesus' death and resurrection are "turning the world upside down" or "causing problems all over the world," or something similar. How does Jesus' dying and rising cause a problem for the people making this accusation? What do the Jewish religious authorities stand to lose? What do people who follow Jesus stand to gain?
- Verse 8 says some people were disturbed when they heard Paul and Silas were teaching that Jesus is king, and not Caesar. What is it that makes Jesus a better king than Caesar? Why is Jesus worthy of our loyalty rather than Caesar? Once answered, think about today's world. What are some other things that want our loyalty? Why is Jesus more worthy of our loyalty than any of those things?
- There's something about the truth of Jesus that still challenges us today. Can you think of a time when you were disturbed, disrupted, challenged or made uncomfortable by reading something in scripture? Can you think of a time when you saw this in someone else? What was that like? What do you imagine that would be like?
- What are some examples of evidence that we still need the news of Jesus to turn our world upside down? What are signs that things still aren't quite right? How could God be calling people to challenge and disrupt corrupt systems in this world by sharing the news of Jesus, much like Paul and Silas?