

Into the Deep- Week 3 Small Group Questions

Ask:

1. Before today's message, what did you know about Lent?
(<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-Lent.html>)
2. Has the spiritual discipline of fasting been something you have practiced in your regular walk with the Lord? Why or why not?
3. What do you think is the primary reason for fasting?

"There are many reasons to fast, but I believe the primary benefit of fasting is to renew and strengthen our hunger for God, refocus ourselves upon Him, and help us keep things from taking God's place in our hearts. We fast because 'an overindulgence in lesser things can keep us from hunger after God.'" Pastor Jeff

Leader's Note: In his message, Pastor Jeff challenged us to sacrifice something over the next 40 days to seek God in three specific ways. 1. The Word of God, 2. The Will of God, 3. The Worship of God. The following Scriptures and questions focus on these three areas.

Read:

Job 23:12, I have not departed from His commands, but have treasured His words more than daily food.

Matthew 4:5-7, Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands, so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'"

Ask:

1. What did you think about the video Jeff shared about the tribe who received the New Testament in their language for the first time? Do you believe American Christians put that kind of value on God's Word?
2. Do you find the Bible hard to understand? Has that caused you not to want to read it? What tools or practices have you incorporated to help you get the most out of God's Word?

3. How can the daily reading of God's Word help you navigate the challenges of life spiritually and emotionally? Do you remember a specific time the Word helped you?
4. Similar to reading God's Word, how can the practice of prayer impact your life? How has it affected you? Is it something you do on a regular basis? Why or why not?
5. What are some ways that you incorporate the worship of God into your daily life? Where would you like to grow in this area?

Apply:

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. Consider practicing the season of Lent by prayerfully asking God what you might set aside for 40 days. Share with your group what you are fasting from and give each other permission to encourage one another and hold each other accountable so that during the 40 days you remain more focused on God's Word, will, and worship.