

HOME CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

John 5:1-9, Luke 5:33-39

1. When have you asked a question to avoid answering? Or have you experienced this before? What was your internal and external response or next step in that situation?
2. Many believe that Jesus, while still fully God, emptied himself of all or most divine attributes/powers in becoming human. He lived a fully Holy Spirit-filled life, operating out of what a sinless human could have in relationship to the Spirit. Jesus is recorded asking a lot of questions. If Jesus was fully God and human what does this say about his interest in us?
3. Read John 5:1-9. What different issues does this passage raise for you and for us?
4. Jesus does not force healing or saving relationship on anyone, yet he invites and awakens us to more. What does this say about how we operate as a church reaching out? What does this mean for sharing Jesus?
5. How can we hold questions and faith together better, not simply using questions to avoid revelation knowledge of God, nor blindly affirming all that comes before us?

PRAYER:

MAY 24, 2020

DECONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION QUESTIONING FREEDOM

Do You Want to Be Well? Deconstruction can be an endless loop. But what if we develop a questioning life, a wrestling faith that allows us to be confident enough to act on the one thing that is indestructible, love as revealed in Jesus?

Let's explore how deconstruction and restoration work in tension and are embraced in the Jesus-way.

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OPENING STORY

BIG IDEA: Questions often launch us on journeys of deconstruction and might move us towards new life/restoration. How do you use questions?

APPLICATIONS UPFRONT

QUICK REVIEW

1. "The Burn It All Down" Impulse
2. Unless a Kernel/Seed Falls to the Ground...
3. The Psalms and Prophetic Laments

KEY IDEAS

Safe space vs. a 'neutral zone'

- The assumption you can deconstruct in a "neutral zone" turns out to be a lie. There are no "neutral zones".

- Jesus helps us ask better questions

Often, questions are what get us started on the path of leaving or tearing down something in our lives that was important but not life-giving anymore.

- Our questioning points to a well-known experience that we are always longing for more....

- Questions come in part because we have a hunger that cannot be satisfied. CS Lewis points us to the German word, *sehnsucht* (zane-zookt): a deep longing for something you can't quite identify that always feels just out of reach.

What about James 1:6-8

Questions can function to help us grow or to paralyze us.

Three Questioners:

1. Nicodemus (John 3)
2. The Majority of Religious leaders (Mark 8:11, Mark 12)

Side Trip(excursus): The Prophets, Mystics, Reformers and the Radical Reformers

3. Jesus John 5:1-9

NEXT STEPS

- A commitment to _____.
- Questions can bring us to a place of _____
_____.
- A commitment to a _____.