

Scripture and Background Information for March 15-21

The Unanswered Questions of Jesus

The accounts of Jesus' life are filled with stories, parables, sayings, sermons, and miracles. They're also filled with questions – not just the questions people asked Jesus. They're filled with questions Jesus asked the people who were deciding whether or not to follow Him. During this series, we'll look at the questions Jesus asks, consider their relevance, and challenge ourselves to find answers to the things about us and within us that Jesus wants to know.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Since this week is quite long, write out some details that you'll need to retell the story in the **GOD'S WORDS** section. Then in the **MY WORDS** section, retell the story in your own words.

Background for Mark 10:17-22

In this familiar story, Jesus confronts a rich young man who has dedicated his life to the pursuit of riches. However, what is implied in the context of this young man's status by him being a "ruler" is that he was also a religious man. He then proves that by his observance of the law. His question to Jesus communicates the idea that he is just looking for one more thing to save himself. However, the entire message of Mark 10:17-31 is that no person can inherit eternal life on his or her own. Only through Jesus can people be right with God and not based on their own good works.

Jesus hints at this when He asks the young man why he would call Him good. To call Jesus good was in a sense to be acknowledging his deity. However, although recognizing that Jesus is something more, Jesus continues to invite this man into his next step toward deeper love for God and his neighbor.

So far from being a message just about greed or a surplus of material goods, Jesus reminds us that He wants our hearts. He wants us to find our treasure in Him. He wants us to find our salvation in Him rather than our own efforts or riches. So, how far are we willing to acknowledge His goodness?

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

March 22	Luke 10:23-28
March 29	John 6:64-69