

Scripture and Background Information for March 29 – April 4

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 John 6:64-69

Throughout the book of John, Jesus introduces himself as something more than just a man. In seven strategic moments, Jesus delivers sermons or performs signs that point that He is "I am"—that is, He is God, the same God that declared "I am" to Moses in the burning bush. This incredible statement was not lost on Jewish ears. It was outrageous, blasphemous, crazy, and true. As C.S. Lewis often states, these kind of claims either make Jesus a liar, a lunatic, or the Son of God. John 6:22-58 is one of these seven moments where Jesus claims to be the Bread of Life.

Tangled in with the claims that Jesus makes about Himself, even His own disciples have a difficult time understanding and wrapping their mind around what Jesus is saying (6:60). In verses 64-69, Jesus responds to some of His disciples' doubts. Jesus foreshadows a time where he will be betrayed by one of them. When Jesus asks if they too want to join this betrayer, Peter says just the right statement. Peter's recognition of Jesus being the Son of God is just what this "I am the bread of life" sermon was supposed to move people toward.

Jesus's invitation to forsake Him in the midst of doubt was meant to be a call toward commitment. A commitment to take Him seriously. Either Jesus is God or He is a liar or a lunatic. What will you decide?

Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:

April 5	Matthew 16:13-17
April 12	TBD