

Devotional Guide – Sermon Series: 20 Questions Jesus asked: Week 1 “What Do You Want?”

Loving Lord Jesus,
You are the One who turns toward us and asks the questions that search our hearts.
As we gather now, still our distractions and quiet our inner noise.
Meet us where we truly are — not where we pretend to be.
Give us courage to be honest with You, grace to listen well, and openness to be shaped by Your presence.
As we reflect on Your Word, awaken our deepest desires and draw us again into the life You offer.
We ask this in Your holy name.
Amen.

Invitation to Read the Scriptures Again

Before discussing or reflecting further, take time to read the Scriptures slowly and attentively:

- **John 1:35–51**
- **Psalm 37:1–6**

If in a group, consider reading aloud, using different voices.
As you read, notice:

- Words or phrases that stand out
- Any questions that arise
- Where you sense invitation rather than instruction

Allow a short silence after the reading.

Summary of the Scriptures

Psalm 37:1–6 calls God’s people to trust rather than fret, to delight in the Lord rather than envy others, and to commit their way to Him. The psalm reminds us that when our delight is rightly ordered — centred on God — our desires are reshaped and fulfilled in ways that endure.

John 1:35–51 records the first encounters between Jesus and His earliest disciples. Instead of explaining Himself or making claims, Jesus asks a question: “*What do you want?*” Those who follow Him are invited not into instant certainty, but into relationship — “*Come and see.*” Their

encounter with Jesus leads to transformed identity, deep conviction, and a desire to invite others to experience Him for themselves.

Recap of the Sermon

The sermon introduced the series **“Twenty Questions Jesus Asked”**, beginning with Jesus’ first recorded question in John’s Gospel: *“What do you want?”* Rather than offering neat answers, Jesus consistently asks questions that reveal desire, expose hearts, and invite people into deeper participation with God. This question is not about information or belief alone, but about longing — what truly drives and shapes our lives. The disciples’ response, *“Where are you staying?”*, was a request for relationship, not explanation. Jesus’ reply — *“Come and see”* — shows that faith is discovered through presence, encounter, and lived experience, not abstract certainty.

The sermon explored how modern culture encourages self-made identity, yet such identities are fragile and restless. Jesus offers something different: a life rooted in God, where our deepest desires are fulfilled not by striving, but by delighting in Him. True discipleship begins when we allow Jesus to ask us what we really want — and dare to answer honestly.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Take time with these questions. There is no need to rush.

1. When Jesus asks, *“What do you want?”*, what is your immediate response?
What deeper desires emerge when you sit with the question longer?
2. Why do you think Jesus begins discipleship with a question rather than a statement or command?
3. The disciples asked, *“Where are you staying?”*
What might it look like for you to spend time with Jesus rather than simply learning about Him?
4. Psalm 37 speaks of *delighting* in the Lord.
What currently competes for your delight, attention, or trust?
5. Where do you see pressure — personally or culturally — to construct identity from self alone?
How does Jesus’ invitation challenge that?

Action: Living the Question This Week

Choose **one** of the following practices for the coming days:

- **Daily Question Prayer**
Each morning, sit quietly and ask Jesus: *"What do I really want today?"*
Offer your honest answer to Him without editing or justifying it.
- **Scripture Encounter**
Read John 1:35–51 once during the week, slowly.
Imagine yourself in the scene. Notice how Jesus looks at each person and what He names in them.
- **Delight Practice**
Intentionally set aside time to delight in the Lord — through worship, nature, silence, or thanksgiving — without asking for anything in return.
- **Invitation Step**
Pray for one person and look for a simple opportunity to say, in word or action, *"Come and see."*

Closing Prayer

Faithful God,
You know our restless hearts and our hidden longings.
We thank You that You do not turn away from our questions,
but meet us within them.
As we go from here, help us to delight in You,
to trust You with our desires,
and to allow our lives to be shaped by Your presence.
Give us grace to follow, courage to invite,
and patience to discover You more deeply day by day.
We offer ourselves again to You,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.