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THE BIG ONES

What the Bible says about life's most essential questions

STUDY GUIDE



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THE BIG ONES WORKSHEET

Ever catch yourself asking,

"Is there more for me than this?"

These are The Big Ones—the questions we all carry, the ones that surface when we feel stuck, unseen, unsure, or just worn out. Questions like: **Why am I here? Who am I? Where do I belong? Does my life matter? What on earth am I here for? What do I bring to the table?**

The good news is Scripture doesn't dodge these questions—it meets them with real answers, real hope, and real direction for everyday life. This guide is designed to help us ask honest questions, explore God's responses together, and discover who we are and why we're here.

WEEK 1

THE QUESTION OF EXISTENCE: WHY AM I HERE?

In Your Words

Answer the question in your own words. Why are you here? Why did God create you?

Your life isn't an accident. You are here because God intentionally made you in His image—created to be in relationship with Him and to reflect Him in the world.

Watch the video by scanning the QR.

Share one of your thoughts with your House Church or a partner.
Continue watching the video.



In The Word

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God, He created them; male and female, He created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Genesis 1:26-28

1. We were not an accident. We were created on purpose. Why do you think God decided to create humanity in the first place?
2. What do you think it means to be made in the "image of God"?
3. What roles does God assign to humanity in this passage? How do we fulfill those roles today?

In Conversation

1. God created us to be in relationship with Him—not just work for Him.
How can we live into this original purpose in our daily lives?
2. What characteristics of God do humans reflect as image bearers?
3. What are some specific examples of how we can reflect God's image to others?
4. What distorts the image of God within us?
5. God *blesses* before He instructs (v. 28). What does this show us about our relationship with God?
6. Stewardship is the faithful management of what God has entrusted to you, recognizing that God alone is the true owner. What are some things we are "stewards" of?
7. What is one "garden" (area of responsibility) God has entrusted to you right now?
How can you care for it well and reflect God's image there?

5-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — Genesis 1:26–28

Prompt: *Where has God given you influence (even small), and how could you use it to reflect Him?*

Day 2 — Psalm 8

Prompt: *What does this Psalm say about your dignity—even when you feel small?*

Day 3 — Acts 17:24–28

Prompt: *If God “has no needs”, what do we have to offer Him?*

Day 4 — Colossians 1:15–17

Prompt: *What does it mean to say everything was created for Jesus?*

Day 5 — Romans 11:33–36

Prompt: *What would it look like for one part of your week to be “for His glory” in a practical way?*

WEEK 2

THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

You are not a label, a résumé, or a regret—you are a cherished child of God. Your identity is received, not achieved.

Watch the video by scanning the QR.

Share one thing you learned from last week's Bible Study readings and reflections.

In Your Words

Answer the question in your own words. Who are you?

Share one of your thoughts with your House Church or a partner.
Continue watching the video.



In The Word

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ, we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.

Romans 8:14-17

1. What does God's choice to adopt us (*Romans 8*) reveal about how He sees us—and how does that challenge the way we see ourselves?
2. What's the difference between believing God exists and calling God your Father?
3. What does it mean to be "heirs of God's glory"?

In Conversation

1. When people answer the question, “Who are you?” how do they tend to define themselves? What labels or aspects of their identity do they use to describe themselves?
2. What labels do you use (*job title, relationship status, achievements*) to define yourself?
3. What is true about you because you are a child of God?
4. What are some common causes of an identity crisis?
5. How does our identity as a cherished child of God help ease some of the common identity fears we face? (*Fear of failure, rejection, not being enough, being exposed, etc.*)
6. What would change this week if you received the identity of being God’s child and set aside an identity defined by what you’ve achieved?
7. What practices help you remember who you are in Christ?

5-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — Romans 8:14-17

Prompt: Write a one-sentence “I am” statement based on the passage.

Day 2 — John 1:12-13

Prompt: What “rights” come with being a child of God?

Day 3 — Galatians 4:4-7

Prompt: How can we move from “slave” to “child of God”?

Day 4 — 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Prompt: What old identity are you tempted to resurrect? How is God making you a new creation?

Day 5 — 1 Peter 2:9-10

Prompt: Which phrase do you most need today: chosen, royal, holy, belonging? Why?

Who am I?

WEEK 3

THE QUESTION OF BELONGING: WHERE DO I BELONG?

You belong in God's family, the Church, where you can be known by others, needed for who you are, and formed through shared life together.

Watch the video by scanning the QR

Share one thing you learned from last week's Bible Study readings and reflections.

In Your Words

Answer the question in your own words. Where do I belong?

Share one of your thoughts with your House Church or a partner.
Continue watching the video.



In The Word

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19–22

1. Why does Paul describe the church as a “household,” as opposed to a group or community?
2. The cornerstone was the first stone set in a building project. It had to be perfectly aligned, because it was the reference point for every other stone. How is Jesus the cornerstone of the Church?
3. What does it mean for the Church to be a dwelling place for God? How have you experienced that to be true?

In Conversation

1. What's your default when you feel disconnected: withdraw, perform, numb, criticize?
2. What barriers keep people from belonging (*schedule, fear, distrust*)?
How can we overcome these barriers?
3. How have you experienced church as family (*for better or for worse*)?
4. Why is it important for us to have a place where we feel truly known?
Do you have a place where you feel truly known?
5. Why is it important for us to have a place where we are needed and serve a role?
Do you have a place where you are needed and serve a role?
6. What's the difference between attending somewhere and belonging somewhere?
7. Where is God inviting you to move from attending to fully belonging?

5-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — Ephesians 2:19–22

Prompt: Where do you still feel like a “stranger”? What would it look like to live like a family?

Day 2 — Acts 2:42–47

Prompt: How do each of these practices build belonging in a community: learning, discussing life, sharing meals, prayer, and generosity?

Day 3 — John 17:20–23

Prompt: Why does Jesus connect unity with our witness? Where do you see that in real life?

Day 4 — Romans 12:9–13

Prompt: What are the dynamics of a healthy church community described in this passage? How will you practice one of these this week?

Day 5 — Hebrews 10:24–25

Prompt: How will you “spur someone on toward love and good deeds” this week?

WEEK 4

THE QUESTION OF SIGNIFICANCE: DOES MY LIFE MATTER?

Yes, God created you because the party wouldn't be complete without you. Significance doesn't mean being in the spotlight—God uses ordinary people, in ordinary places, to reveal His goodness in extraordinary ways.

Watch the video by scanning the QR.

Share one thing you learned from last week's Bible Study readings and reflections.

In Your Words

Answer the question in your own words. Why does my life matter to God?



Share one of your thoughts with your House Church or a partner.
Continue watching the video.

In The Word

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

1. In Jesus' time, salt preserved food and added flavor. How can we do these two things as the "salt of the earth"?
2. What causes us to "lose our saltiness"?
3. When we let our light shine, it's not about showing off; it's to help others see how good God is. How can we shine a light that causes people to "glorify our Father in heaven", not glorify or be impressed by us?

In Conversation

1. What does it mean to be significant? Why do you think we have the desire to feel significant?
2. Where do you tend to look for significance—and do Jesus' words in Matthew 5 challenge that?
3. We tend to believe significance requires scale, but a little salt goes a long way.
Share about a time you did something seemingly small that had a significant impact.
4. Why do you think God often chooses to work through us instead of doing it all Himself?
5. What are some reasons people hide their light?
6. Brainstorm ordinary ways you could be salt and light in ordinary places this week to have an extraordinary impact on others.
7. Choose one way you will be salt this week and one way you will be light.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — Matthew 5:13–16

Prompt: Where is God calling you to be more distinct or more visible in love?

Day 2 — Ephesians 2:8–10

Prompt: List three “good works” you might be prepared for (based on your story, skills, and season).

Day 3 — 1 Corinthians 15:58

Prompt: Where in your life do you feel unseen or like what you’re doing doesn’t really matter—and how does this verse challenge that feeling?

Day 4 — 1 Corinthians 1:26–29

Prompt: Have you ever felt like you weren’t good enough to be used by God? Why does God tend to choose the unlikely people?

Day 5 — John 6:5–13

Prompt: What do you have to offer God? How might God multiply it?

WEEK 5

THE QUESTION OF PURPOSE: WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

You are called to love God, love people, and make disciples in the specific places and relationships God has given you.

Watch the video by scanning the QR.

Share one thing you learned from last week's Bible Study readings and reflections.

In Your Words

Answer the question in your own words. What on Earth am I here for?

Share one of your thoughts with your House Church or a partner.
Continue watching the video.



In The Word

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

1. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? Why does Jesus emphasize each of these three parts?

2. What’s the difference between ‘love your neighbor’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself’?

3. What do you think “make disciples” looks like for us in a typical week?

In Conversation

1. How have you understood your individual purpose? Has finding your purpose been natural or difficult for you? How has it changed over time?
2. Our purpose is shared and specific. What does it look like to live out our shared purpose (love God, love people, make disciples) in your specific way right now?
3. Purpose can be a single, lifelong task or countless daily moments. Do you tend to think of purpose as a lifelong calling or a daily opportunity?
4. Which is harder for you right now: loving God deeply or loving people well?
5. Why do you think Jesus follows the command to make disciples with the promise "I am with you," and how does that change the way you approach your purpose?
6. What's one place you already "go" where you could be more intentional about living out these purposes to love God, love people, and make disciples?
7. What is one next step you will take toward discovering your purpose or living it out?

5-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — Matthew 22:37–40

Prompt: Which part of loving God feels weakest (heart, soul, mind)? What's one strengthening step you will take?

Day 2 — Matthew 28:18–20

Prompt: Who is one person you can help take one step toward Jesus?

Day 3 — Colossians 3:23–24

Prompt: How would your work change if you saw it as worship?

Day 4 — Romans 12:1–2

Prompt: Where do you need transformation (patterns, desires, priorities)?

Day 5 — 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

Prompt: What does it mean to be an “ambassador” in your daily life this week?

WEEK 6

THE QUESTION OF GIFTING:

WHAT DO I BRING TO THE TABLE?

God has empowered you to serve by giving you unique gifts, experiences, and passions to meet real needs in the world.

Watch the video by scanning the QR..

Share one thing you learned from last week's Bible Study readings and reflections.

In Your Words

Answer the question in your own words. What do I bring to the table?

Share one of your thoughts with your House Church or a partner.
Continue watching the video.



In The Word

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

1. What do all the different gifts have in common (v. 4-6, 11)? What is the importance of these shared qualities?
2. What specific gifts are described in this passage, and what might those gifts look like in today's world?
3. What is the role of the Spirit when it comes to our individual gifting?

In Conversation

1. Share a gift or strength you've noticed in someone else in this group.
2. Share about a time you used a unique gift to serve God, others, or your community.
What was that like for you?
3. What gets in the way of you using your gifts to serve in the church or elsewhere?
4. How can our life experiences shape our gifting and how we serve?
5. What's one need in our church or community that you are passionate about?

Take some time to fill out The BIG Ones Worksheet on pages 28-31.

*After completing the worksheet,
discuss what you learned about yourself
and your next steps with your House Church or a partner.*

5-Day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1 — 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

Prompt: Where do you sense God might want to work through you “for the common good”?

Day 2 — Romans 12:4–8

Prompt: Which gift listed feels most like your natural wiring? How might God use it?

Day 3 — 1 Peter 4:10–11

Prompt: How can you serve so God gets glory—not you?

Day 4 — Ephesians 4:11–16

Prompt: What happens to the “body” when one part doesn’t do its work? How do you see this happening in real life?

Day 5 — 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

Prompt: How does love change the way you want to use your gifts?

The BIG ONES Worksheet

Take some time to reflect and fill out the sections below to help you identify how God has gifted you—and how God might use it to love others and make disciples.

Your Gifts

Write down strengths, skills, and gifts God has given you. Think about things you love doing, things you're good at, things that feel easier for you than for others, areas of expertise, and natural strengths

My Gifts/Strengths:

Your Story

Write down key moments or seasons that have shaped and grown you. Think about things you've lived through, challenges you've faced, places you've been, and experiences that gave you a unique perspective.

My Experiences:

Your Places

List the people and places God has already placed in your life. Think about home, work, school, neighborhood, gym, teams, friend groups, online spaces, and extended family.

Your Passions

What hurts or problems in the world break your heart the most?

What causes are you most passionate about?

Put It Together

How could my gifts + experiences equip me to:

1) Love God (*worship, obedience, trust, relationship*):

One gift I see in myself:

2) Love Others (*care, serve, encourage, justice, hospitality*):

One part of my story God could use to help others:

3) Make Disciples (*help others take steps toward Jesus*):

One cause or hurt in the world I'm passionate about:

The Big One Statement

God can use me to _____
by _____ for

Possible Next Steps:



Sign up to First Serve!

- ☐ Identify a person you want to invest in or share your faith with.
- ☐ Serve in the church
- ☐ Serve in an organization outside the church
- ☐ Reach out to a specific person you want to serve or bless
- ☐ Start a new practice and establish a rhythm to grow closer to God
- ☐ Continue to reflect and pray
- ☐ Invite a trusted friend into this conversation
- ☐ Meet with a pastor to continue the conversation.

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Share your The Big One Statement and Next Steps with your House Church or a partner.



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