



Discussion Questions

Note: This week's questions are a little different. In light of this topic, we want to give you as much flexibility and space to be vulnerable as you explore together what Jesus has for you in the area where you are struggling. Allow the conversation to go where God leads and hold each other's stories and experiences with grace.

1. When you think about areas of your life you want to improve, what strategies have you used? What has worked or not worked with those efforts?
2. Have you ever had a similar experience of trying to eliminate a sin in your life? What makes it so difficult?
3. Read together Matthew 12:22-29. What do you notice? Share your thoughts on what Jesus is saying in this passage. If you've heard this passage before, what was your understanding of what Jesus is teaching about evil or the Evil One?
4. How does it make you feel when you think about Jesus "breaking in" and defeating the "strong man" and taking his possessions (you)?
5. For where you are right now in your spiritual life, what might God want you to see in that image/metaphor?

6. We asked “What’s underneath the sin you can’t seem to get free of?” Idolatry, Shame and Pride were offered as ideas for what might be the root of the problem. As you consider these three, share with the group (to the extent you feel comfortable) which one most resonates for you. Spend the remainder of the discussion time around this. Consider sharing: Why do you think that is what’s underneath? Where in your story do you believe it started? How does it show up in your life? How do you sense God wants to meet you in it? What can you do to more fully experience Jesus’ rescue of you in this area? How can your group support you as you seek freedom in this?

Close your time in prayer for one another.