QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED*
An Interactive Class for Youth and Adults

INTRODUCTION

Jesus asked many more questions than he answered. According to the four Gospels, he asked a total of 307 questions and answered only 8. That left 299 questions to be answered by his audience—which includes you and me. Whatever else it might mean to follow Jesus, it could mean letting his questions guide our lives rather than our own questions. Following Jesus could even be described as “living the questions Jesus asked,” or acknowledging, as Martin Copenhaver has in his book by the same title, that “Jesus is the question.”

One way to deal with this vast array of questions is to simply read them aloud, without commentary, context, or citation—preferably in a group. After you have finished reading a question, don’t immediately reach for a Bible to determine its context, but just sit with the question for a time. Take note of any question that seems to jump out at you without you knowing why. Some additional questions might aid you in your reflections, such as: Which question do you find most comforting? Most challenging? Is there a question you find yourself running toward? Away from? Is there a question you wished Jesus had asked? Is there one you wish he hadn’t asked?

Following are 100 of the questions Jesus asked, as reported in the four Gospels, and organized under various headings:

Reference Key
Matthew: Mt; Mark: Mk; Luke: Lk; John: Jn

Invitation

1. What are you looking for? (Jn 1:38)
2. Who are you looking for? (Jn 18:7 and 20:15)
3. Why were you looking for me? (Lk 2:49)
4. What do you want? (Mt 20:21)
5. What do you want me to do for you? (Mt 20:32; Mk 10:36; and Lk 18:41)

Identity

6. Who do people say that I am? (Mk 8:27; Lk 9:18; Mt 16:13)
7. But who do you say that I am? (Mk 8:29; Lk 9:20; Mt 16:15)
8. Why do you ask me about what is good? (Mt 19:17)
9. Why do you call me good? (Mk 10:18; Lk 18:19)
10. Woman, what does that have to do with me? (Jn 2:4)
11. Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? (Mt 12:48; Mk 3:33)
12. What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he? (Mt 22:42)
13. The wedding guests can’t fast while the groom is still with them, can they? (Mk 2:19)
14. The wedding guests can’t mourn while the groom is still with them, can they? (Mt 9:15)
15. Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother? (Lk 12:14)

16. You faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? (Mk 9:19; Lk 9:41; Mt 17:17)

17. Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? (Jn 14:9)

**Purity of Heart**

18. Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? (Lk 5:22)

19. Why do you think evil in your hearts? (Mt 9:4)

20. Didn’t the one who made the outside also make the inside? (Lk 11:40)

**Conversion**

21. Why do you see the splinter that’s in your brother’s or sister’s eye, but don’t notice the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother or sister, “Let me take the splinter out of your eye,” when there’s a log in your own eye? (Mt 7:3-4; Lk 6:41-42)

**Love**

22. If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? (Mt 5:46; Lk 6:32)

23. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? ... If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? (Lk 6:33-34)

**Healing**

24. Do you want to get well? (Jn 5:6)

25. Who touched me? (Mk 5:30; Lk 8:45)

26. What is your name? (Mk 5:9; Lk 8:30)

27. How long has this been going on? (Mk 9:21)

28. Which is easier, to say to a paralyzed person, “Your sins are forgive,” or to say, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk”? (Mt 9:5; Mk 2:9; Lk 5:23)

29. What do you want me to do for you? (Mt 20:32; Mk 10:51; Lk 5:23)

**Vision**

30. Do you see anything? (Mk 8:23)

31. Do you see all these things? (Mt 24:2)

32. Do you see this woman? (Lk 7:44)

**Compassion**

33. What do you think? Which of these was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves? (Lk 10:36)

34. Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you? (Jn 8:10)

**The Meaning of Life**
35. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? (Mt 16:26; Mk 8:36; Lk 9:25)
36. What will people give in exchange for their lives? (Mk 8:37)
37. Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? (Mt 6:27; Lk 12:26)
38. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? (Mt 6:25)
39. Are you not of more value than (the birds of the air)? (Mt. 6:26)
40. Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it? (Mk 3:4; Lk 6:9)
41. So which one is greater, the one who is seated at the table or the one who serves at the table? Isn’t it the one who is seated at the table? (Lk 22:27)

The Reign of God
42. What is God’s kingdom like? To what can I compare it? (Lk 13:18)
43. What is a good image for God’s kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? (Mk 4:30)
44. Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? (Lk 12:51)

God’s Generosity
45. Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? (Lk 11:11-13)
46. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? (Lk 11:11-13)
47. Weren’t ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? (Lk 17:17-8)

Faith
48. Where is your faith? (Lk 8:25)
49. Do you believe in the Son of Man? (Jn 9:35)
50. Do you believe I can do this? (Mt 9:28)
51. You of little faith, why did you doubt? (Mt 14:31)
52. Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith? (Mk 14:31)
53. When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? (Lk 18:8)
54. Why does this generation look for a sign? (Mk 8:12)
55. Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? (Jn 14:10)
Truth

56. Since I speak the truth, why don't you believe me? (Jn 8:46)
57. Does the Law allow healing on the Sabbath or not? (Lk 14:3)
58. Show me a coin. Whose image and inscription does it have on it? (Mt 22:20; Mk 12:16; Lk 20:24)

Understanding

59. Are your hearts so resistant to what God is doing? Don't you have eyes? Why can't you see? Don't you have ears? Why can't you hear? Don't you remember? (Mk 8:18)
60. If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? (Jn 3:10)
61. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time? (Lk 12:56)
62. Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? (Lk 12:57)
63. Isn't this the reason you are wrong. Because you don't know either the scriptures or God's power? (Mk 12:24)

Obedience

64. Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and don't do what I say? (Lk 6:46)
65. Why do you break the command of God by keeping the rules handed down to you? (Mt 15:3)
66. What were you arguing about during the journey? (Mk 9:33)
67. Who are the faithful and wise managers whom the master will put in charge of his household servants, to give them their food at the proper time? (Lk 12:42)
68. Why are you testing me? (Mk 12:15; Mt 22:18)
69. Hasn't it been written, “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?” (Mk 11:17)

Discipleship

70. Will you give up your life for me? (Jn 13:38)
71. Can you drink from the cup that I’m about to drink from? (Mt 20:22; Mk 10:38)
72. Do you also want to leave? (Jn 6:67)
73. Didn’t I choose you twelve? (Jn 6:70)
74. When I sent you out without a wallet, bag, or sandals, you didn't lack anything, did you? (Lk 22:35)
75. Do you know what I have done for you? (Jn 13:12)
76. My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? (Jn 14:2)
77. Could you not keep awake one hour? (Mat 26:40; Mk 14:37)
78. Will you sleep and rest all night? (Mt 26:45; Mk 14:37)
79. Why are you sleeping? (Lk 22:46)

**Arrest and Trial**

80. Who are you looking for? (Jn 18:4, 7)
81. Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me? (Jn 18:11)
82. Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man? (Lk 22:48)
83. Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, as though I were a thief? (Mt 26:55; Mk 14:48; Lk 22:52)
84. Do you think that I am not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen? (Mt 26:53-54)
85. Why ask me? (Jn 18:21)
86. If I speak wrongly, testify about what was wrong. But if I speak correctly, why do you strike me? (Jn 18:23)
87. Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me? (Jn 18:34)

**The Cross**

88. Why do you want to kill me? (Jn 7:19)
89. For which of those works do you stone me? (Jn 10:32)
90. What should I say? “Father, save me from this time”? (Jn 12:27)
91. My God, my God, why have you left me? (Mt 27:46; Mk 15:34)

**The Resurrection**

92. Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for? (Jn 20:15)
93. As for the resurrection of the dead, haven’t you read what God told you, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?” He isn’t the God of the dead but of the living (Mt 22:31-32)
94. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? (Jn 11:26)
95. What are you talking about as you walk along? What things? (Lk 24:17, 19)
96. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory? (Lk 24:26)
97. Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for? (Jn. 20:15)
98. Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? (Lk 24:38)
99. Do you believe because you see me? (Jn 20:29)
100. Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? . . . Do you love me? . . . Do you love me? (Jn 21:15-17)

*Compiled by Martin B. Copenhaver, Jesus Is The Question, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2014, pp. 129-141*