

# Questions God Asks Us

## Chapter 1: Where are you?



### Welcome

*Thanks for stepping into this small group and diving into the book, Questions God Asks Us! We hope this is a chance to reflect on and deepen your relationship with God. We also hope it is a time to get to know one another, pray with one another and for one another and deepen your sense of community. Small groups are all about deepening our connection to God and building connections with others.*

### Opening Question

- Share your name and one of the cities, states, or countries where you've lived. What drew you to that location?
- Share your name and a location, inside or outside, where you like to spend time. What are you likely to be doing in that space?

### Responsive Reading – Psalm 139

One: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

All: *You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.*

One: You search out my path and my lying down

All: *You are acquainted with all my ways.*

One: Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

All: *If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*

One: If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

All: *Even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast. Amen.*

### Small Group Covenant

What will make this group a good experience for you? How can you contribute to making this group a great experience for others? What promises will you make to one another?

## Bible Text

### Read Genesis 3:1-13 (NRSVUE)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

## Questions

1. What did you notice in the Bible reading or in the chapter? What spoke to you or surprised you? What resonated with you? What was a new idea?

*Allow for a few minutes of silence as you gather your thoughts.*

2. As you look back on your life, who are some people who have asked you good questions? (Perhaps it was a teacher in college, a parent, a friend, a mentor, or a spouse). How did it feel to be asked good questions? Can you recall a particular question that had a lasting impact on you?
3. Do you agree that questions have the power to transform us more than answers? Why do you think God asks so many questions throughout the story of scripture?
4. What are some of the most common ways that we sometimes hide ourselves from God and from those around us?

5. In your experience, what is the value of putting your experiences into words and actually speaking them to God and/or someone who is safe? What benefits come with that kind of honesty and transparency?
6. When did you first become aware of God's love for you? What events or people in your life have reminded you of this love? How did they do this?
7. What are some ways to continue to think about this question in the coming week? How could you carve out some time for prayer, using this question as the starting place?

### **What's Next?**

- At the end of the small group or between gatherings, spend some time in silent reflection using "Answering God's Question" at the end of the chapter or this suggestion:

*Consider using the Psalms to lead you into a conversation with God. Choose your favorite psalm. If you don't have a favorite, start with Psalm 23 or 103. Allow the words of the psalmist to become part of your prayer.*

- Draw a map that illustrates your faith life. Include the ups and downs, significant moments, influential people, curves, moments of celebration... Take a moment to step back from the map, what do you notice?

### **Closing Prayer** - *Share the date, location and reading for the next gathering.*

Loving and ever-present God, when we awaken and when we sleep, you are there; in our striving and in our stillness, you are there; in our failure and in our success, you are there; in living and in dying you are there. We thank you for your enduring love that will never leave us and will always sustain us. Amen.

One: God is with you no matter what. Go, now, in God's presence and love.

*Thank you to Pastor Josh Allen from Brentwood Hills Church of Christ (Nashville, TN) for writing many of the questions and reflection prompts in this guide and for sharing permission to use them with the Incarnation community.*

*This outline is to be used alongside Questions God Asks Us by Trevor Hudson. Some of the questions and reflection prompts questions listed here also come from Questions God Asks Us.*

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*Version: 9/13/2022*