

# You Asked For It

Gabe Cleave  
Week 1

How do we respond to questions?  
APRIL 16, 2023

**Series Overview:** You sent in questions, we're responding

- **We had a lot of questions come in – we're not able to address them all. So we've tried to group them under common themes**
  - What do we do when we have Questions?
  - What is the Trinity and how does it work? // How does a good God allow bad things?
  - How do I witness to people from other religions // How do I fight against doubt?
  - What does the bible say about the end of the world / end times
  - How would Jesus interact with the LGBTQ+ community?
- Today – we're talking about ... **“How do we respond to questions?”**

Our desire in this series is not just to give you the answers to these questions, but to equip you to be able to engage in conversations that are helpful, productive, based in truth, and point people back to Jesus.

We have an obligation to know the truth and to teach the truth in a way that is accurate, and helpful.

## **Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**

Today, we are going to be talking about the ABC's of engaging in conversations and answering the questions that are being asked.

**Ask questions**

Instead of just jumping right into the solution, the answer, your thoughts or opinions, dig a little more to understand more about where the question is coming from.

### **Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV)**

**A fool has no delight in understanding,  
But in expressing his own heart.**

Be curious. Ask them questions and follow up questions.

- Tell me more about that? What makes you curious about that?
- What makes this question so important to you?
- What is your story? What was your upbringing like?
- Avoid “why” questions...Why questions put people on the defense

### **James 1:19 (NLT)**

Resist the urge to jump right into giving the right answer. Allow people to talk and process through what they are thinking, feeling, and wrestling with.

## **Bring in the Bible**

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

### **Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)**

All of the answers we have to offer people need to be based off of the word of God. This means we have to be able to know our Bibles, and what God ultimately thinks about the topic we are addressing.

If you aren't sure what God's word says about a topic, then it is completely ok to say “You know what? I am not sure exactly what the Bible says about that, but I will find out, and get back to you, and would love to talk to you more about it.”

Your job is to present the truth of God's word, and help them understand it, but, you ultimately cannot change anyone's mind...

## Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)

### Resources

- 1) [www.gotquestions.org/why-should-I-believe-the-Bible.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/why-should-I-believe-the-Bible.html)
- 2) J.P. Podcast on interpreting scripture (link on the bottom of the sermon notes to our resource page)

## Calm yourself

What can and most likely will happen when you begin to engage a conversation with someone who is pushing back, disagreeing, not understanding or seeing it your way, is that you will get frustrated, defensive, and begin to argue.

Whether it is with your neighbor, your friend, co-worker, Mormon missionary, or child, you have to remain calm and not let your emotions get in the way...

I like to say it this way..."don't let your methods overshadow your message"

## Proverbs 17:27 (NKJV)

He who has knowledge spares his words,  
And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

## Provers 15:1 (NLT)

### How are we going to do this?

## 2 Timothy 2:23-26 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. <sup>24</sup> And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the

truth,<sup>26</sup> and *that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil*, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.