



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 2:23-28

Just like the Pharisees who completely missed God even though he was right in front of them, we too often miss Jesus even though he's there daily in our lives. Satan is often referred to as the Great Deceiver, and this is a name that he has rightly earned. He will stop at nothing to keep us looking at everything else but Jesus. He uses people, pain, and even religion to keep our eyes off what matters most. When we get distracted in this way, our response tends to be fearful of the things that happen to us. But, when we focus on Jesus, we stay faithful and are filled with hope and love. In Matthew 14, Peter walked on water for just a moment because he focused on Jesus. He literally walked on water! But, then he got distracted and instantly began to sink. We must not be like Peter. We must have extreme focus, for only then will true clarity be found.

Pray

Lord, as humans we are so easily distracted. Help us to no longer lose sight of what is most important. Help us to have more faith, more hope, and more love. Help us to keep focused on you, so that through our acceptance of the great love you've poured over us, we might overflow with that same love to those around us. Help us to open our eyes, to keep hold of the plot, and to see Jesus each and every day in the world around us.

Digging Deeper

Getting Started

- What is one of your favorite movies or books? What is it about that story that makes it your favorite?
- Why do you think people enjoy stories so much? Why is good plot important to good stories?

Digging Deeper

1. Share about a time when you lost focus of something that was important to you. What happened? How did you recover focus?
2. Give some examples of how Satan uses people, pain, and religion to distract us? Why does he do this?
3. What is the main thing that consistently causes you to lose sight of Jesus? How can you fight against it?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13. We are told to have faith, hope, and greatest of all, love. Why is love the greatest of the three?
5. Read 2 John 6. What do you think it means to "walk in love," and how can we do that better?
6. What are some things you can do that will help you stay laser-focused on Jesus? Do you have any tips for things that help you personally?
7. How will keeping focused on Jesus change your world?

Living Jesus

Jesus was the epitome of faith, hope, and love. He was so successful in his ministry because he knew what the main thing was, and he stayed completely focused on it. He could have easily gotten distracted by the things of this world. The devil tried to distract him in the wilderness, but he didn't lose the plot. The Pharisees constantly hounded Jesus and tried to trick him, but every time he brought the focus back to Father. Even when faced with excruciating torment and pain, Jesus always kept his eyes upwards in faith. He was the perfect example for us to follow. Though it will never be easy, it will probably never be as hard as Jesus had it. Have faith and trust in him, and he will help you stay focused. Jesus is everywhere, through every storm, but you must *choose* whether or not you will actually look and see him.

What's Your Story?

Now you have to ask yourself – what is the 'main thing' in your life? Are you going to let it be worldly distractors that keep you from God's perfect story? Or, are you going to keep your eyes on Jesus, and though the winds howl and the sea trembles, you will float above it all because he is guiding your steps.

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