



ASK GENEROUS QUESTIONS

GENEROUS QUESTIONS ARE AN INVITATION

Generous questions invite us to lean into the living presence of Jesus as we cultivate a deeper relationship with one another. When we slow down and really listen to each other, we grow *together* as the Body of Christ on earth.

Jesus was a master of generous questions. Pastor Eric von Atzingen says, Jesus “used questions the way a surgeon uses a scalpel, to delicately cut into a new level of understanding.” The questions Jesus asked were deep and piercingly insightful:

- **Who do you say that I am?** (Matthew 16:15)
- **What do you seek?** (John 1:38)
- **Will you give me a drink?** (John 4:7)
- **Why are you gripped with fear?** (Matthew 8:26)
- **Where is your faith [your confidence in Me]?** (Luke 8:25)
- **Do you want to leave me too?** (John 6:67)
- **Do you love me?** (John 21:17)

LEANING INTO GENEROUS QUESTIONS

The very first question recorded in Scripture was asked by God to Adam: “**Where are you?**” (Genesis 3:9 NIV).

Translated another way, God asked, “**Why are you hiding?**” (Genesis 3:9 TLB).

That question marks not only our earthly separation from God but also God’s sacred work of redemption and restoration was for us or in us.

Today, how would you answer God’s questions: **Where are you?** and **Why are you hiding?**

We often ask God questions such as:

- Why have You allowed this?
- What kind of good can come from this?
- Where are You, God?
- How long, Lord?



What if, instead, we asked questions like:

- How do You see me, Lord? Who am I in You?
- What have you gifted me? What is my purpose?
- How can I love Your people today, God? How can I love You?

HOW TO ASK GENEROUS QUESTIONS

Ask a Generous Question in a #PenToPaper letter, as you #ConnectByText, or talk by phone, over coffee, or as you walk with a friend or loved one.

1. What makes you feel alive? What makes your heart sing?
2. What is the most beautiful thing you’ve ever experienced?
3. What is one thing you’d like to change about yourself?
4. What has recently resonated with you in Scripture?
5. Jesus asked His disciples, “Who am I to you?” How would you answer that question today?
6. What are you holding onto that is keeping you stuck or robbing you of joy?
7. How would you like to grow in generosity toward others?
8. What do you wish others understood about you?
9. What do you value most in friendship?
10. What are you currently struggling with?
11. What makes you feel valued?
12. What do you fear?
13. What are you most grateful for?
14. What does it mean *to you* to be brave?
15. What makes you feel overwhelmed or anxious?
16. What do you do when life gets hard?
17. If your life was filled with constant pain, would it still be worth living? Why?
18. What difficulty have you recently experienced?
19. How can I pray for you?

Generous questions are an invitation to wrestle with what we believe, consider new ideas, deepen our relationships with each other, and foster curiosity and life-long learning.