

145 GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

To Supplement Your Reading of *The Revolutionary Disciple*

The following discussion questions supplement *The Revolutionary Disciple* and cover each chapter of the book. They are intended for groups of three to twelve people who meet on a regular basis. Combine the questions as needed to study the content of the book at your own pace. For those who wish to do a six-week version of this, you can consult the shorter list of questions in the back of the book that is organized by the six spheres.

Introduction: A Real Life Battle and Chapter 1: Is It Time for Another Revolution?

1. How do you understand the role of humility in the life of a disciple of Jesus?
2. Is there a place for pride in the life of a disciple?
3. Read the story of Josiah in 2 Kings 22:1–20. How does his story inspire you toward change?
4. Why must we separate our Christian identity from our political identity?
5. Read Mark 14:48 and Matthew 27:17–26. According to these Scriptures, how was Jesus depicted as a “revolutionary”?
6. What do you hope to gain from this study of *The Revolutionary Disciple*?

Chapter 2: Humble Discipleship

1. Do you agree with the statement, “You can only coach the coachable”? Why?
2. Read Matthew 4:19, and then use this passage as a starting place for discussing how discipleship *requires* humility.
3. What role did *the authority of Jesus* play in the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20)? Why does this matter for us today?
4. Pride can be easier to identify in others than in ourselves. How have you been convicted about pride in your own life?
5. Read Ephesians 6:1; Hebrews 13:17; and Romans 13:1–2. Use these passages as a launching point for discussing what it means that God has “delegated authorities.”

Chapter 3: The Revolutionary Disciple

1. How does the story of King Herod’s death in Acts 12:18–23 strike you?
2. What’s your initial impression of the first part of the author’s definition of a humble disciple: “A humble disciple knows who they are before God and chooses to go lower . . .”?
3. What role does identity play in the life of a humble disciple?
4. Do you feel like you know who you are before God?
5. Do you agree that humility is about more than how you think about yourself? Why?

6. The authors assert that humility involves a choice to “go lower.” Why is our choice to act so important?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:3–4 and Hebrews 4:16. Why do we need the reminder that while we participate with him, *God* is the one who helps us and forms our hearts?

Chapter 4: The Profile of a Revolutionary and Bridge: Walking Through the Five Spheres

1. How have you seen humility modeled in others?
2. The four core practices of humility mentioned in this book are serving, submitting, listening, and confessing. Of those, which is easiest for you to live out? Which is the hardest?
3. Which of these four core actions is the most helpful as you think about the next step of your discipleship journey?
4. How might God be asking you to take a step toward humility? Are you willing to commit to that?
5. How does the analogy of “walking” help you understand your own faith journey?
6. What about the thought of “walking humbly with Jesus” challenges you the most?
7. God changes us at different levels: the head, heart, hands, and feet levels. What do each of those represent? See for reference Ephesians 4:23 (head); Ephesians 1:18 (heart); Ephesians 6:7 (hands); and Ephesians 6:15 (feet).
8. At what level do you want God to change you right now (head, heart, hands, or feet)?

SPHERE 1: ABIDING IN CHRIST

Chapter 5: The Yoke of Christ

1. Read Ephesians 1:19b–23 with Ephesians 2:6. What is the significance of Christ’s position of authority as described in these passages?
2. Read Matthew 11:28–30. What does it mean to take up the “yoke” of Christ in this passage? Reference pages 80–82 in the book. How is discipleship work? How is it restful?
3. Using that same passage, how can you explain the connection between taking on Jesus’ yoke and walking humbly?
4. Do you agree with the statement, “The revolutionary disciple accepts Jesus’ way of life in every area of their life”? Why?
5. The Bible repeats the statement, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6; see also Pro. 16:18 and 1 Pet. 5:5). How have you seen God oppose the proud and give grace to the humble?
6. In what area of your life has pride affected your relationship with Christ? Have you allowed God to redeem that?
7. How might God be calling you to surrender pride in your walk with Christ? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 6: Abiding with Humility

1. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:6 that God “seated us with [Jesus] in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” How does this description change how you view yourself?
2. How have you prioritized working *for God* over abiding *with God*?
3. How does the story of the prodigal son from Luke 15:11–32 help you understand the role of the heart in humbly abiding with Christ? Read Luke 15:19 and 15:29 again to see how each son’s heart didn’t always align with the father’s heart.
4. Do you agree that in order to go effectively on mission for God we must humbly abide with him? Why? Read Isaiah 6:1–9 for reference.
5. How have you surrendered your agenda for God’s “pruning” in your life? Read John 15:1–5 for reference.
6. What is God asking you to surrender to him right now? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 7: Humble Listening

1. Those who embrace the “me and Jesus” mentality generally don’t listen well to other Christians. How have you seen hints of this in your life?
2. Why is *listening* so important for walking humbly with Jesus?
3. What’s an example of how *not* listening impacted your life? Serious and not-so-serious examples are welcome.
4. Read Isaiah 66:1. What does it look like practically *to tremble* at God’s Word?
5. How can we learn to listen to God’s voice reliably?
6. What might God be asking you to surrender to him right now? Are you willing to commit to that?

SPHERE 2: THE CHURCH SPHERE

Chapter 8: It’s God’s Church, Not Ours

1. In Ephesians 5:23, Paul says, “Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.” Why is the reality of Christ’s authority important for understanding humility in the church sphere?
2. How does our pride affect us in the church sphere?
3. What does the phrase “ecclesial minimum” mean? Reference page 109 if necessary.
4. How does Acts 2:42–47 help frame the essential practices of the early church?
5. Must a group have appointed elders in order to be a biblical church, or are elders optional? Why? See Titus 1:5–9 for reference (see also Acts 20:28 and Eph. 4:11).
6. Can a church meet purely online and still function as a biblical church? Why?
7. What has been your experience with authority in the church?
8. How might God be asking you to adjust your understanding of authority in light of the Scripture passages we’ve discussed thus far in this book? Are you willing to take action?

Chapter 9: Embracing God's Church

1. Do you believe that you can't embrace Christ without embracing the church? Have you always believed this?
2. Why do we *need* the church as disciples of Jesus? Read 1 Corinthians 12:21 and Ephesians 4:11–12 for reference.
3. What causes people to struggle with commitment in general these days?
4. How have you struggled in the past with commitment to a particular church? Why was that difficult for you?
5. Is “church shopping” wrong? Why?
6. Are you committed to a specific church through membership? What benefit can you see in this kind of commitment?

Chapter 10: Navigating Submission in the Church

1. Read Acts 20:28–31 and Hebrews 13:17. How do these passages help us understand God's heart about the authority of elders in the church?
2. Have you experienced the blessings of coming under the authority of church leaders? If so, what was your experience?
3. How do we see God's heart about respecting positions of authority in the life of David? Read the story of David with King Saul at En Gedi in 1 Samuel 24:1–22 as an example.
4. What role can the church sphere play in other spheres, like the home and world spheres?
5. How might God be asking you to grow in humility in the church sphere? Are you willing to commit to that?

SPHERE 3: THE HOME SPHERE

Chapter 11: When Church Becomes Family

1. Read Ephesians 5:21. How does this verse set the tone for what follows in Ephesians with regard to the home sphere (Eph. 5:22–6:4)?
2. Chapter 11 in the book describes the reason for placing the church sphere in front of the home sphere (see pages 139–141). Do you agree with the authors' reasoning? Would you add anything else to the discussion?
3. How have you seen the church function as family for the lonely?
4. Read Psalm 68:4–6. What is God's heart about the lonely? What might God be asking you to do in response to his heart?
5. Single parents, how can you take the next step toward allowing the church to help you? Married couples, how can you take action to welcome singles in your church? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 12: Revolutionary Families

1. What does pride look like in the home sphere?
2. Read Genesis 3:6–12. Why is blame-casting the wrong choice when we face challenges in the home sphere?
3. Read Genesis 3:16 with Ephesians 5:21–27. How does Paul’s vision for the church here reverse the natural inclination of husbands and wives to control their spouse? See pages 151–152 in the book for more on the natural inclination of spouses to seek control of each other.
4. Why is it so difficult for husbands and wives to submit to and serve one another?
5. What happens to their relationship, though, when husbands and wives do these things for one another?
6. Paul places the husband-wife relationship at the beginning of the home relationships section of Ephesians 5:21–6:4. How have you see the husband-wife relationship positively affect the other familyrelationships?
7. How might God be asking you to love your family as a whole better? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 13: Walking Humbly with Your Spouse

1. Read Luke 17:7–10. Why can Jesus’ words in verse ten feel challenging?
2. Husbands, how have you seen servant-leadership modeled in the home sphere?
3. Wives, how have you seen submission modeled in the home sphere?
4. Paul spills the most ink in Ephesians 5:22–33 on the husband’s role as a servant leader. Why does he do this?
5. Do you agree with Emerson Eggerichs’s notion about unconditional love and unconditional respect on pages 163–164 of this book? Why?
6. How might God be asking you to love your spouse better? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 14: Humble Parenting

1. Read Luke 2:41–51. What is the significance for us that Jesus, the Son of God, obeyed his earthly parents?
2. This chapter describes two forms of pride for parents: passive parenting and authoritarian parenting. Why is it hard for parents to reject these forms of pride in the home sphere?
3. Did your parents disciple you? What did that look like? What positive impact did their efforts make on your life?
4. Why does saying yes to discipleship at home require humility of parents?
5. How have you needed to get counsel from others as a parent? Did you seek it?
6. Heart-level parenting can feel vulnerable, but as the authors said in this chapter, this type of parenting is important. Why do *you* think it’s important?
7. How does a parent’s confession to their kids reveal humility? Does it help or hurt their effectiveness as a parent?
8. How might God be asking you to grow in humility as a parent? Are you willing to commit to that?

SPHERE 4: THE WORLD SPHERE

Chapter 15: Politics and Religion

1. What's a point of tension for you as we discuss church and the government?
2. What should be the relationship between church and politics?
3. Have you seen challenges emerge in your life between church life and governmental authority? What have you learned from that?
4. Read 1 Samuel 8:1–22. Why is this passage important for Christians? See pages 181–182 in the book for a reference point.
5. Read Matthew 22:21. How does this help us understand Jesus' heart about governmental authority? See page 185 in the book for a reference point.
6. Read Titus 3:1–2 and 1 Peter 2:13–14. How do these passages initially strike you?
7. At what point do politics and religion *not* mesh?
8. How have you personally wrestled with the tension sometimes presented between your call to follow Christ and these passages about submitting to governmental authority?
9. Is God working on your heart to change in the arena where politics and religion collide? How so?

Chapter 16: The Acts 4 and Romans 13 Paradigm

1. Read Acts 4:13–22 about Peter and John's witnessing about Jesus in the temple. Why is this passage important for disciples of Jesus?
2. Read Romans 13:1–7. Why is this passage important for disciples of Jesus?
3. How would you describe the tension between these passages in Acts 4 and Romans 13?
4. Read again Acts 4:19–20. According to this passage, when exactly is it right to obey God over people?
5. Where does your primary loyalty lie?
6. What does the following statement mean: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity"? See page 197 for reference.
7. Read Romans 14:1–4 (go to verse twenty-three if necessary). According to this passage, when should we keep our opinions to ourselves?
8. How might God be asking you to respond to the passages we've read so far in this chapter? Are you willing to take action?

Chapter 17: The Humble Boss and Worker

1. Have you inadvertently separated your work from your walk with Jesus at any point in your career? What was that like for you?
2. Read Ephesians 6:5–8. What descriptors of humility stand out to you from this passage?
3. Read Ephesians 6:7 again. Why does God care about the state of your heart as you work?
4. How might God be calling you to humble yourself at work? Are you willing to commit to that?
5. Read Matthew 20:25–27. How does Jesus' heart about servant leadership inspire you?
6. What's your favorite quality of a humble leader at work?
7. Are you growing in humility at work? Is God asking you to take another step toward servant leadership? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 18: Humility at Play

1. What makes someone humble “at play” in the world sphere?
2. How have you struggled with humility at play?
3. What’s an example of humility in sports or another activity that you’ve admired in someone else?
4. Why is it important to allow God to transform us even in our hobbies, sports, and other areas of play?
5. How have you struggled to walk humbly when playing? Why can this be such a uniquely challenging area of life in which to walk humbly?
6. Read Matthew 6:33 (and the surrounding context of Matthew 6:24–34 if helpful). How does this passage inform our priorities in the world sphere?
7. What is God asking you to do in response to this chapter? Are you willing to commit to taking action?

SPHERE 5: THE SPIRITUAL REALM

Chapter 19: Authority in Another Dimension

1. What is “the spiritual realm”? How does this sphere encompass the other spheres of discipleship? See pages 224–226 for reference.
2. Read Ephesians 6:10–11. Why is it important for disciples of Jesus to be aware of authority in the spiritual realm?
3. What does pride look like in the spiritual realm? What about humility?
4. The “spiritual realm,” according to Paul in Ephesians, is not some faraway place but a dimension all around us. Why does this understanding matter?
5. Paul describes how we can mature from spiritual infancy (Eph. 4:14) to the radiant bride and strong warrior (Eph. 5:27; 6:13). According to these passages, what factors keep us from stagnating and not maturing?
6. What role does church unity play in spiritual warfare?
7. How can you contribute to your church’s unity? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 20: Victory in Spiritual Warfare

1. Read Ephesians 4:25–27 and John 10:10. How have you seen the enemy use isolation in your life to take ground in spiritual warfare?
2. How have you seen the enemy use isolation in spiritual warfare?
3. How have you seen God use church unity in spiritual warfare?
4. What “unexpected blessings” have you seen from humility in the spiritual realm?
5. What does it mean to “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power,” as Paul says in Ephesians 6:10? Why is it important to know that *it’s God’s power*?
6. Are you actively engaged in the battle going on in the spiritual realm? If yes, how so?
7. How might God be asking you to put on spiritual armor and fight? Are you willing to commit to that?

Chapter 21: Live Together, Die Alone

1. In Ephesians 6:13, Paul instructs us to “put on the full armor of God.” While there’s individual responsibility in this, how does the church as a whole do this together?
2. What does pride look like in spiritual warfare?
3. What does humility look like?
4. Read Isaiah 59:15–20. How does this help us understand spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10–18?
5. Why is remembering Luke 10:20 important as we learn to walk humbly in the spiritual realm?
6. In Ephesians 6:17, Paul calls the sword of the Spirit “the word of God” and uses *rhema* (Greek), which means the “spoken word” of God (see how this word is also used in Matthew 4:4; John 6:63; and Acts 6:11–13). How is this nuance helpful in spiritual warfare? See pages 241–244 for reference.
7. How might God be asking you to engage in spiritual warfare right now? Are you willing to commit to that?

Conclusion: A Glorious Ending

1. What was the most encouraging part of this study?
2. What was the most challenging part?
3. What is God asking you to do next? What’s stopping you from taking action?