

## **Rising Waters Steady Faith Discussion Questions Week One**

- 1) During the Lent Rising Waters Steady Faith series and as we follow along in the From the Inside Out Journal, we will hang onto Jesus, walk with Him to the cross, and learn to follow Him in love. As we begin the season of Lent, ask God to help you understand how He wants to work in you over the season. Pray honestly about your life and how you want to know and follow Jesus better. What is blocking you from following Jesus wholeheartedly?
- 2) In the message, Pastor Aaron shared Jesus' words in Luke 12:1; "In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, 'Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.'" Pastor Aaron reminded us that the Pharisees were the religious elite, and Jesus warned the disciples of the Pharisees' hypocrisy. The Pharisees' hearts had been formed and shaped by religious rules rather than by the heart and love of God. The study book teaches us who and what we allow to shape us is a vital part of our spiritual formation. Jesus warned His disciples not to follow the religious elite but to follow Him. Following Jesus transforms us by His love and grace. Honestly assess your life. Who or what influences you? Who or what are you following?
- 3) Do you know that Jesus is alive, and His Spirit is available to you as an ever-present teacher and guide, just like our study book shares on page 10? What practical steps can you take during this series to put Jesus first and allow yourself to become dependent upon His Spirit within you? As we follow Jesus each day, we will increasingly realize He is our rock to stand upon. When the storms of life come, we will more easily reach out for Him if we have been walking with Him every day. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Consider the title of the message series. Rising Waters Steady Faith. How do you see this truth displayed in Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-27?
- 4) If you can, download the Angel Studios app on your phone or Roku device and watch the Chosen Season One Episode 5: The Wedding Gift. If you don't have time to watch the entire episode, fast forward to minute 37:50 seconds and see the depiction of Jesus' first miracle. Pastor Aaron talks about this miracle in his message, reminding us God turns difficult moments into good if we allow Him to work. Remember Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." How have you seen this to be true in your or another person's life?
- 5) On page 14 of the study book, we read Trevor Hudson's quote, "We don't just drift into friendship with Jesus. Being His friend, like being anyone's friend, is a very definite and specific choice we make." Have you considered how following Jesus is growing in friendship with Him? Why or why not?
- 6) What do the words of Matthew 11:29-30 offer us as we grow in friendship with Jesus? How is this different than what you have thought or known?

- 7) During Lent, create space to grow in friendship with Jesus. Share what you will do with a family member, friend, or person in your small group. Ask them to pray for you for the next 40 days as you intentionally move toward Jesus in love.