

Rising Waters Steady Faith Discussion Questions Week Four

- 1) On page 42 of the From the Inside Out Journals, we read the second half of John 10:10. Here is the entire verse: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” In Pastor Aaron’s message this week, he talks about what to do “When There’s Too Much Hurt?” One of the reasons we experience so much hurt in our world is that evil is at work to steal, kill, and destroy. How do you reconcile understanding the abundant life Jesus offers with a world with so much hurt?
- 2) On page 46 of the From the Inside Out Journals, we read, “The best part of the kingdom-gospel Jesus announces is that it brings us home to God—back into the loving communion we were created to enjoy. Most people picture this reunion as an after-death reality.” As we begin to grasp that following Jesus means living in a relationship with Him daily, how does this help us live in a world with so much hurt?
- 3) Pastor Aaron shared the story from Mark 4:35-41. Read the verses and imagine being a disciple on the boat with Jesus in the storm. How would you have reacted to Jesus sleeping as the waves broke into the boat?
- 4) As Pastor Aaron shared in the message, difficult events often cause us to believe lies about God’s care for us, just as the disciples in the boat thought Jesus did not care that they were perishing in the storm. What beliefs about God like, “God won’t forgive me.” “God can’t forgive me because my life is too big of a mess.” “God is cruel.” “God doesn’t care about me.” “If there is a God...well...I just don’t see it.” do you believe? Do you realize honest prayer brings intimacy with God? Don’t stuff your emotions inside. Central is a church where it is okay not to be okay. As you are honest with God, He will slowly heal the broken places of your heart. Spend time in prayer and ask God to help you see who He truly is in Jesus, not how your feelings have made you believe He is.
- 5) The events and wounds of our lives speak lies about God and ourselves. In the message, Pastor Aaron asks us to contemplate the events and wounds we have experienced. In doing so, he wanted us to discover what beliefs our wounds formed in us, such as “I am a failure.” “I can never love again.” “I am not loveable.” Pastor Aaron shared Matthew 1:23, which says, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us).” How does God with us by His Spirit help us learn the truth about God and ourselves as His children?
- 6) 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” As God heals our wounds, He works through us to help others heal. Have you considered how sharing the hope you’ve received is part of Loving God and Loving People? Why or why not? How does this truth change your perspective?
- 7) In America, we tend to see the abundant life as living the American dream, but that is not the abundant life Jesus offers us. Read Jesus’ words in Mark 10:45. What is the abundant life Jesus offers us? How does it look like compared to the American dream?
- 8) Read Mark 16:24-25. God’s Spirit within us partners with us for God’s Kingdom to come on earth for God’s will to be done here and now. How is God speaking through the study

and the sermon series to help you see how helping the hurting is part of following Jesus in love? Contemplate Jesus' example in the Gospels. What do His actions teach us about His love for us and others?