



Everyone wrestles with God. We may not doubt if He exists, but we often wonder if He is right. Jesus got questioned a lot. Using the gospel of Mark, we will glean truth from times when Jesus was second-guessed that will help us with our own questions.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Mark 1:21-34. This passage shows a full day of Jesus' ministry. Based on this day, what do you think people thought the main emphasis of Jesus' ministry was? *(Bonus question: what's the longest workday you've ever had? What did you do after to recuperate?)*

2 Read Mark 1:35-39. When Jesus pursues the Father in prayer, the disciples are right on his heels - but for all the wrong reasons. It's **divine direction vs crowd reaction**. Why was crowd reaction so compelling to the disciples? What voices other than God's influence our priorities?

3 Prayer is a daily invitation. Read Luke 11:1-4. What's been your experience with prayer? Is it a daily rhythm? If so, share how God helped you establish a habit of praying daily. If not, share some of the obstacles in your way so your group can encourage you. *(Reminder: this is a guilt-free zone. We're invited to prayer, not guilted into it).*

4 Prayer is a powerful strategy. Read 1 John 5:14-15. It's been said that nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God. Is there anything you want to pray for with the group? Pray together, asking God to do His will.

5 Finish by praying this together: God, make prayer our first response and last resort. Our ears are full of the noise of the crowd. Teach us to hear your Spirit's voice. Help us accept the daily invitation to spend time focused on you. Jesus, we are your disciples. Teach us to pray.

