



OCT 24 - NOV 21

A FEW OF OUR  
**favorite  
things**

**Discussion Questions**

## Discussion questions for week 3: We Love to Create

1. What impacted you most from the two interviews this past Sunday? In what ways could you relate to the stories shared?
2. What does “being creative” mean to you personally? Describe a time when you feel you were at your most creative? What were you doing and why? How did you feel at the time? In what ways would you say you were experiencing God’s presence through this?
3. The speakers on Sunday suggested that everyone is creative, but we all have inhibitions like fear, busyness, lack of self-confidence etc. What inhibits your creativity? Take a moment to imagine your creative life if those obstacles disappeared. What would it look like? How might you overcome those obstacles in real life?
4. What is a creative area of your life that you feel you’ve neglected? How might you re-ignite this?
5. Reflect on an area in your own life where someone has helped you to grow. In what ways would you say that person was creatively at work in your life? In what ways would you say God was creatively at work in your life? How could this affect the way you approach your current struggles and growth opportunities?
6. Romans 8:28 (NASB) reads “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” But it can also be translated “In all things God works together with those who love him to bring about what is good.” Reflect alone for a moment on this invitation into partnership with God:
  - What are some areas of your own life where you need to cooperate with God more creatively to bring about “good”?
  - How could you cooperate more creatively with God in how you deal with challenging situations with other people to bring about “good”?
  - How could you let love play a more free and creative role in your life? What inhibits this for you?
7. After the above reflection, take some time to share your thoughts and feelings, and pray for one another as a group.

### Practice for the week: Creative Time

Set aside some protected time this week to do something creative that is meaningful to you and that you enjoy. This might be something you do regularly, or a passion that you’ve neglected recently and want to reignite. Let go of guilt, fear, or other inhibitions, and just indulge yourself and enjoy it. At the same time, relax and feel God’s presence and enjoyment with you.

## Discussion questions for week 4: We Love the Real World

1. What impacted you most from the two interviews this past Sunday? In what ways could you relate to the stories shared?
2. What aspects of your work (occupation, volunteer work, or domestic work) challenge your faith? In what ways has your work helped you to grow spiritually? What are you most grateful for in your current work?
3. One of the speakers discussed how science had helped him to think about “truth”—and the need to be open to changing one’s mind when new data comes along. What are your thoughts on this? Do you find science helpful to your spiritual journey? How does your work shape how you think about “truth”?
4. Romans 12:1 (Message) reads: “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.”
  - If you considered all of your life as an offering to God, how might your life change?
  - Are there any aspects of your life you find difficult to offer to God? Why is that?
5. One of the speakers shared how his involvement with children in care had forced him to become more aware of his dependence on God, and to trust God with outcomes that he could not control. Is there a situation you are currently facing in which you would like to more deeply trust God with the outcomes? Take some time to share your thoughts and feelings, and pray for one another as a group.

### Practice for the week: Offering our Ordinary, Everyday Life to God

Each day this week, pause at appropriate intervals to consciously offer up your day to God. For example, you might pause before each meal, before each new activity, or whenever you are in the car. As you pause, ask God to be present to you in your everyday actions. Take notice of the sights, sounds, smells, etc., around you, and become more aware of the present moment. Intentionally look for God in the people, environment, and circumstances you encounter.

## Discussion questions for week 5: We Love Living Hopefully

1. What are your reflections on the current series as a whole? What are some of your “favorite things”—both in your own personal life and in our church life? What has been stirred up in you over the past few weeks?
2. What insights did you gain from the message this past Sunday? What was most helpful for you? What did you find uncomfortable?
3. Read the story in Luke 17:11-19. Samaritans were viewed as religious “outsiders” from a Jewish perspective. Do you identify as an insider or outsider when it comes to religion? Explain, and then discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this position.
4. In verse 14 it says they were “cleansed” on their way to the priests. What does this say about the way transformation happens? In what ways were these 10 people subject to Jesus’ actions and in what ways were they partnering with him?
5. What do you think made the Samaritan come back to thank Jesus? How does his attitude differ from the others? In what ways can you relate personally to the attitude of both?
6. In verses 17-19, Jesus says that all 10 were “cleansed” but only the Samaritan was “made well.” This latter state is conveyed by the Greek word *sozo*, meaning “healed, saved or made whole.” What is the difference here, and why is it important? How could you be more like the Samaritan?
7. The speaker on Sunday suggested that thankfulness creates a perspective of hope. What are you hoping for right now? What are you thankful for right now? How might these two relate? How could you cultivate more gratitude for what you have already while not letting go of hope for what you long for?
8. Take a moment to reflect personally on what you are currently grateful for in your life. Then consider when any or all these parts of your life were once hopes or desires rather than a reality. Are there ways in which you have not been as thankful as you could have been? Have you moved on quickly from a focus on gratitude to a focus on what you want next? Take a moment to honestly reflect on this with God.
9. After the above reflection, take some time to share your thoughts and feeling and pray for one another as a group.

### Practice for the week: Hopeful thankfulness

Following on from the above discussion, take some time during this week of the Thanksgiving holiday to write out all the things in your life for which you are grateful, no matter how small. Set aside a moment of silence and solitude to share this thankfulness with God. Don’t hold back, but give it full expression. Then make a list of what you are hoping and longing for right now. Share this with God and again, don’t hold back. Now try to look at this list through a lens of thankfulness, and allow trust to

emerge. Try to let go of the demand for your hopes to be fulfilled, and give thanks that God is with you in this longing, just as God is with you in the things for which you are grateful.