

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

God and Islam, with Guest Speaker Nabeel Qureshi
“Trending” Series
April 29/30, 2017

This past weekend, as part of our “Trending” series, we welcomed guest speaker Nabeel Qureshi, author of the New York Times bestselling Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus, the only book ever to win Christian Book Awards for both “Best New Author” and “Best Nonfiction.” As a former Muslim-turned-Christian, Nabeel is a global speaker and holds degrees in medicine (Eastern Virginia Medical School), Christian apologetics (Biola University), and religion (Duke University). Nabeel is pursuing a doctorate in New Testament studies at Oxford University.

Our questions this week are based on Nabeel’s message. (If you haven’t watched the message, go to friends.church/watch.) There is no Leader’s Guide for this weekend’s message.

Discovery Questions

We’ve written several questions based on this weekend’s message. Please feel free to answer as many as you like and in whatever order you’d like.

- 1. Nabeel talked a lot at the beginning of his message about the dedication his parents had—especially his mom—to raise him up in the way of Islam from a very young age. We Christians are called to do the same thing.**
 - a. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What does this passage say about the responsibility we have as parents regarding the things of God? Why does God make the instruction of our children in the things of God such a priority?**
 - b. How have you seen this sort of deliberate instruction modeled for you? Share either your own experience with your parents or in raising your children, or examples you have heard from other parents.**

- 2. Nabeel shared how if he ever encountered a Christian who didn’t share the gospel with him, he had one of two thoughts. Either (a) they wanted him to go to hell or (b) they really didn’t believe what they said they believed about the Christian faith.**
 - a. React to this thought. Have you ever considered that could be what people who know you are a Christian think when you don’t share your faith with them?**
 - b. When you have not taken opportunities to share the gospel with others, what are some of the actual reasons why?**
 - c. Does what Nabeel shared in any way influence what you might do in future opportunities to share your faith? Why or why not?**

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3. A theme of Nabeel's message is that we Christians aren't adequately prepared to defend our faith in the same way that those of other faiths are. This goes against Peter's command to us in 1 Peter 3:15 to "always [be] ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you."
- (You can take this question together with part "b.") How equipped do you feel you are to share your faith with others?
 - (You can take this question together with part "a.") In general, how motivated would you say you are to seek out resources and opportunities to be able defend the Christian faith? Why do you answer the way that you do?
 - What steps can you take to become more prepared to defend your faith? If anybody in your group knows of good resources, share them with the group.
4. Nabeel pointed out that it's common in our time for people to say, "all religions are the same."
- Have you ever heard that before? In what context was that statement said?
 - How did you respond to that statement? In light of the message this weekend, how might you respond now?
5. In John 8:32, Jesus said, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." One of the things we believe as Christians is that we ultimately have truth on our side, and anybody we encounter who is truly seeking the truth will end up believing in Jesus. How does that give you confidence as you think about sharing your faith with people in your life? How might that influence how you have conversations with people about faith?
6. Nabeel said in one of the services this weekend, "The New Testament has always assumed that we would be sacrificing our entire families, even up to our lives, for the sake of Christ" (see Luke 14:26).
- What have you had to give up for the sake of Christ?
 - Is there anything in your life right now that you're afraid to give up for the sake of following Jesus—anything that you can see getting in the way of following Jesus with everything?
7. Nabeel said that he heard from God once, "This isn't about you." Is there a circumstance in your life where you need to be reminded of that today?

As you close your time, be reminded of final point in Nabeel's message—that God entered into this world through Jesus because He loved us, and that He has asked us to share that love with others: "As I have loved you," Jesus said to His disciples, "so you must love one another" (John 13:34b). Close your time in prayer by thanking God for the love He has shown you, and asking God to help you be bold in sharing that love with others.