

The Wesley Challenge
January 12-February 1, 2025
St. John's UMC / Texas City

Week One / January 12-18

Sunday, January 12

Question 1: Is Jesus real to me?

Read John 3:16-17

This question may be the most important of all the 21 questions in this challenge. The question asks us to consider if we are simply following a religion or experiencing a relationship with Jesus. When has Jesus seemed the most real to you? How can you make Jesus more real to you now through a spiritual practice like prayer, journaling, serving, or study?

Monday, January 13

Question 2: Am I enjoying prayer?

Read Luke 11:2-4

This question moves us from prayer as a task or a duty to prayer as a regular *experience* that results in a deeper understanding of God, self, others, and the world. Consider establishing a regular routine of prayer. Try downloading a prayer app or a daily devotional email. Pray in a way that works for you.

Tuesday, January 14

Question 3: Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?

Read Philippians 4:8-9

Each of us have been created for good. When we choose to practice harmful, sinful habits, we don't live into the life that God designed for us. That's when our conscience provides that uneasy feeling that something isn't right. Do you have areas of your life that are causing you an uneasy conscience? What are the consequences of continuing this behavior? Consider how you might make changes to your life to minimize or eliminate this temptation.

Wednesday, January 15

Question 4: Did the Bible live in me today?

Read: John 15:1-8

Engaging the Bible is more about intimacy, not literacy. Do we read the Bible or do we allow the scriptures to read us? To allow the Bible to live in us, we must be humble people, listening, learning, acting, and serving. How do you let the Bible live in you each day? How has your view of the Bible changed throughout your life? Do you value the Bible differently?

Thursday, January 16

Question 5: Did I disobey God in anything?

Read: Deuteronomy 5:32-33

When we choose to obey God, we honor God's love for us and live as God desires. When we disobey God by choosing to live our own ways, we live into our freedom, but also make the possibility of sin a reality. In what areas of your life are you choosing your own desires over God's desires? Do you make an effort to confess your shortcomings to God and ask for forgiveness?

Friday, January 17

Question 6: Do I pray about the money I spend?

Read: Luke 12:13-21

Money has the power to either help us become more deeply committed Christians or hinder our efforts. To pray about the money you spend means that you go to God realizing that you do not personally possess any money of your own. You are simply holding God's money for the purposes of God's work in the world. How often do you pray about the money you spend? How might your spending habits change if you prayed daily about the money you spend?

Saturday, January 18

Question 7: Do I give time for the Bible to speak to me every day?

Read: Hebrews 4:12

To allow God to speak to us through the Bible, we must develop the discipline of regular Bible reading and study. Bible reading is not a task to be completed, but a practice that shapes and molds us into who God invites us to be. Do you struggle with finding time or taking the time to read the Bible each day? Find a friend who has developed the discipline of daily Bible reading and ask about their routine. Read a daily devotional and take time to process its meaning for you.

Material for these short devotions comes from *The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith*, by Rev. Chris Folmsbee.