



together
Life is better connected.
with friends
in circles
around a table
laughing

Digging Deeper

Live Open and Believe Love Wins

Week of July 1, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Revelation 3:20, Matthew 25:35-36

The world believes that love is weak; it tells us we must live our lives cut off from others, always defending ourselves, and always looking out for number one. But Jesus shows us a different way; a way of love. A Jesus-follower lives open and believes love wins. Living open begins by opening the door and inviting Jesus into your life; that connection is the foundation of a life that is better connected. Once Jesus comes in, we can live open to his leading—open to love, to connection, to service. Invite Jesus into your life for salvation and for service. And then learn to live open to connecting with other people that God puts in your path and to serving them in love. Remember, it doesn't matter what people think of you; it matters more what they think of Jesus *because of you*.

Pray

Jesus, come fresh into my life. Show me where I am closed off to your leading, to other people, to loving, or to serving. Open my eyes and renew my Spirit so I can see where you want me to be more connected. Show me who you want me to love, and empower me to do it. Lord, I want to let you in so that love can win.

Getting Started

- Tell a story about a time when you felt like a punching bag; where it seemed like the world was just beating up on you. How did you try to protect yourself?
- Share a story about a time when you saw love win in your life or someone else's life.

Digging Deeper

1. What is the difference between knowing something and believing something? How does that difference apply to faith?
2. Describe some ways that the world lives "closed" and believes love is weak.
3. What are some of the ways you tend to live "closed"?
4. Read Revelation 3:20. What is the significance of the phrase, "open the door"?
5. After hearing the message this week, how would you explain why it's important to stop "living closed" and start "living open"?
6. As a Jesus-follower, what are the opportunities you've been given to practice living "open"? Do you take those opportunities?
7. What does living "open" have to do with being connected?

Living Jesus

As Jesus-followers, we must follow Jesus' example of living in love and offering our lives in friendship. Don't let the world win by just staying where you are protecting yourself and closing yourself off from connection with God and the people in your path. When you stay closed, you can't experience love winning in your life. Surrender to God's love! Open the door to Jesus! Then you can experience a life that is utterly changed by love. Living open and showing the love of God matters more than anything. Be the one who helps others know how much Jesus loves them!

What's Your Story?

How has a connected life made your life better? How have you grown in the love of Jesus lately? Telling your story will help others know Jesus and encourage them in their own lives. Are you open to sharing?

Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; then we will connect you with our writers to help you tell your story.