

Questions

THAT CAN HELP US WRESTLE
WITH LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS

CLOVIE YOUNG ADULTS



What are these questions designed for?

Relationships, sexuality, science and faith, mental health, partying, purity culture, gender, finances - these are just some of the topics that lead us to ask - What does God say about this in the Bible? What do I believe? How will this affect the way I live my life?

It's normal to have questions about these topics! It's **good** to wrestle and think deeply about what we believe. All of us need to wrestle with God, turn to the wisdom of other Christians, and consider how our values and beliefs shape the way we live. So, we've put together a series of questions to help you do this! They are designed to prompt our thinking and learning as we wrestle with any topic you can think of.

How do I use this resource?

The goal is not to answer all of these questions in one sitting.
The goal is to keep submitting our lives to Jesus as Lord and to be continually transformed by Him.

This library of questions is designed to help you with an ongoing wrestle about big topics and to help you form convictions that will sustain your commitment to following Jesus as Lord of your life. When you're thinking about any topic, come back to this resource and consider focusing your thoughts on one section or one question at a time.

As you navigate these questions, please remember - **we don't need to do this alone!** God gives us a network of people to support our learning and wrestling. Please keep asking yourself, do I need to seek help from a pastor, leader, or mentor? Do I need help finding Scriptures or resources?

Plus, we're putting together a **list of resources** at clovie.com.au/ya that might be helpful for you. This list will keep growing as we keep tackling these topics at Young Adults, so keep checking to see if anything has been added!

What is God saying through the Bible?

As followers of Jesus, it is so important for our beliefs and convictions to be grounded in God's living Word. It is our best resource, and at the same time, parts of it can be tricky to understand. These questions invite us to turn to God first, to listen to Him, to learn about Him and from Him, and to hear from Him.

- What scriptures in the Bible seem to talk about this topic directly? Are there other scriptures in the Bible that touch on this topic indirectly, but need our attention?
- What do I know about the context of these Scriptures? What do I know about how these scriptures sit within the Bible (testament, book, genre, initial audience, place within the wider story)?
- Do different parts of the Bible provide different perspectives/angles on this topic that we need to read together, and hold in tension?
- What do I sense God's Spirit is saying to me through these texts?
- What doubts, questions, frustrations, and confusions do I need to bring before God in prayer?

What can I learn from the wider Christian community?

We don't interpret the Bible alone, we listen to other Christians. These questions invite us to consider the perspectives of other followers of Jesus.

- How have other Christians today wrestled with this issue and these texts? What about Christians in other cultures or Christians in church history? Do I need help finding resources to discover what other Christians think about this topic?
- What is the wisdom of my church leadership on this topic? What is the perspective of my pastor, mentor, YA leader, parents? *Do I have trusted voices to turn to, or do I need help finding some (e.g. YA Pastor connecting me with a mentor)?*
- Are there any Christian authors or speakers on this topic that my pastor or leaders have recommended, that I could engage with?
- Is there a consensus on this topic among Christians, particularly Baptists? If some people disagree, is it a tiny minority or a significant minority?

As I wrestle with this topic, how can I stay grounded in my relationship with Jesus?

How might this wrestling process affect the way I live in my everyday context?

As we go through the process of forming a conviction on different topics, it impacts the way we live. These questions draw our attention back to our relationship with Jesus, and our relationships with others.

- How will I live like Jesus and keep my eyes fixed on Him as I wrestle with this topic? What spiritual practices do I need to prioritize to help me stay close to Jesus?
- As I seek truth, how can I also pursue grace for myself and others?
- As I form a conviction about this topic, what pain might I experience? What pain might be taken away? Is this topic or issue causing pain for other people in my world? Who can I talk to about this?
- I've formed a view that looks different to other people in my world (e.g. family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, the popular voice on social media). How might this affect the way I operate and live in my everyday context? Who is helping me to navigate this wisely (e.g. mentor, pastor, leader)?