



ARE YOU WILLING?

PREVIEW

What is God calling you to do? Where is He calling you to go? Is it to a foreign country? Is it to an inner city? Maybe he's calling you to your neighborhood. Whatever the call, the question that has to be asked is this: Are you willing?

PRAISE

Play a short game of "Would You Rather."

Feel free to use the list below or add your own funny statements.

Would you rather:

- have telekinesis (the ability to move things with your mind) or telepathy (the ability to read minds)?
- be forced to sing along or dance to every single song you hear?
- be in jail for five years or be in a coma for a decade?
- swim in a pool full of Nutella or a pool full of maple syrup?
- buy 10 things you don't need every time you go shopping or always forget the one thing that you need when you go to the store?

We can laugh and have fun, but ultimately we have been making decisions for the past few minutes about things we would be willing to give up and things we would be willing to deal with for the rest of our lives.

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PARABLE

Read Philippians 2:8. He did what? Read that verse again.

Jesus, the Creator of the universe, the one who formed man from the dust, the one who made everything, the one who left majesty and robbed himself in flesh? That same Jesus? You read that correctly. He humbled himself to the point of death. He was willing to do what He had been called to do so that you and I might have life, and have it everlasting. Read John 3:16. Many of us can probably quote that verse. He was willing to die so that we could live.

PRESENT

Jesus loves you enough that He died for you before you were even born. He knew when you would come into this world, He knew every decision you would make, He knew you would mess up, and yet He still chose to die on the cross for you and for me. If He is willing to give His life for you, what are you willing to give for Him? It may not be your life because we live in a different society now than Jesus did then, but if it came to it, would you be willing to?

PRACTICE

Reece, from Toledo, OH, and a former P7 leader, shares a story about something that happened in his life. Let's take a look at what happened:

I had an experience in 2019 that forever changed my life. In 2017, I went on a 10 day mission's trip to the nation of Brazil. I went on this trip and had a really good time but didn't really think anything else about it for the next few years. Fast forward to 2019, I was at Indiana Bible College, and came back home to Ohio to go with my youth group on a retreat, and while there, I felt led by Jesus to go back to Brazil. Again, I hadn't really thought about it that much since my first trip, but I began to ask myself, why is He asking me to go back?

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PRACTICE (continued)

The reason I came up with is that He was asking to see how much I would be willing to give up. Would I take the next semester of college off and leave everything I knew to spend a couple of months in a city of 24 million people where I had only been to for 10 days? I had to decide then and there that if He ever asked me to do anything, my answer had to be yes.

What an encouraging and moving testimony from Reece. Now, you can relax, we are not asking you to take a few months to go on a mission's trip (yet). But, maybe think on a smaller scale, what is Jesus asking you to give Him control of? Is there a certain friend or group of friends that aren't a positive impact on you? Is there a certain artist you listen to that is negatively affecting your emotional and mental health? It is important that you are willing to go, but are you willing to let go?

Read Isaiah 6:8. Isaiah was willing to accept the call from God. God was looking for someone who would go to those hurting, and lost, and struggling. With all the courage in the world, and with a bold declaration of faith, Isaiah responded with stating that he was willing to be the one to go. Who is God calling you to reach today?

Learning to listen to His voice and follow where He leads and responding when He asks something of us are vital parts of becoming a disciple of Christ. No one is asking you to flip a switch and completely change your lifestyle immediately, but we all have to start somewhere. So, as we go into this next week, spend some time listening to Him and reflect on some things that He may be asking of you.

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PRAY

God, please lead me to be closer to you.

Reveal in me places that are not a reflection of you.

I want to be a disciple, so show me a reflection of you

and let me see places that need change. I open myself to you,

I give you freedom to reveal the places in me that are not like you.

In Jesus name, amen.

PLUS

Take some time this week to do an "inventory" of your life.

Ask yourself these questions:

What are some things I need to let go that is taking away my focus from God?

Am I spending too much time in one area that I would be doing something more for the Kingdom of God.

Am I willing to do what He calls me to do?

Am I willing to go where He calls me to go?