2026-11-22 Discussion Questions

The pastor describes Christianity as 'having Christ within us and changing us from the inside out' rather than conforming outwardly to rules — in what areas of your life have you noticed genuine inward transformation, and where might you still be relying on outward performance?

Peter writes in 2 Peter 3 that people 'deliberately forget' what God has done, choosing instead to follow their own desires — what spiritual truths are you most tempted to deliberately set aside, and what conditions in your life make that temptation strongest?

The sermon draws a parallel between the water that saved Noah's family and the water of baptism, suggesting that water has been God's instrument of both creation and salvation — how does understanding this connection deepen or challenge your view of baptism as more than a mere tradition or symbol?

The pastor challenges listeners to ask God, 'What would you like to change in me?' and suggests the answer might be less about obvious sins and more about openness and childlike faith — what do you think God would say if you sincerely asked him that question today?

Jesus commands his followers in Matthew 28 to make disciples 'as they are going' through everyday life, not only in formal religious settings — how intentionally are you representing Christ in the ordinary moments of your week, and what might need to shift for that to become more natural?

The pastor notes that Paul, even after his dramatic encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, was still asked 'What are you waiting for?' before being baptized — is there an area of obedience or spiritual step in your own life where God might be asking you the same question?

The sermon uses the example of inherited family habits, like how to brush your teeth, to illustrate how easily we adopt spiritual practices without examining their origins — what beliefs or church traditions do you hold that

you have never personally traced back to Scripture?

Peter's transformation from impulsive and repeatedly mistaken to a Spirit-filled writer of profound theological insight is highlighted as a product of receiving the Holy Spirit — how have you personally experienced the Holy Spirit reshaping your thinking or behavior in ways you could not have produced on your own?

The pastor draws a distinction between living thankfully as a lifestyle versus giving thanks as a one-time act, connecting ingratitude to the spiritual decline described in Romans 1 — in what practical ways could a posture of continual thankfulness guard you against drifting toward self-centeredness?

The sermon closes with the idea that the greatest Christmas gift we could offer is to become 'the gift given again to Christ who gave his life for us' — what would it look like in your specific relationships and circumstances this holiday season to present yourself fully to God rather than simply observing the holiday?