

# Screenshots of Jesus

A companion study to the podcasts of Amber Albee Swenson on the  
life of Christ through the lens of Mark

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## Lesson Four: Discussion Questions

The Pharisees were watching Jesus, but not out of curiosity to see what he might be doing, or to genuinely figure out if he was from God. They watched him in the hope of finding something he was doing wrong, in order to convict him in their hearts or even better in public.

Often, we see what we set out to see. The reformer Martin Luther had this to say in his explanation of the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment: “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”

1. What impact would this have on your relationships if you put this into practice?
2. What part of Luther’s explanation is hardest for you to do with your kids, your husband, your neighbor, co-workers: tell the whole truth without exaggeration; say the same to a person’s face as behind their back; not speak ill about another; build a person up behind their back instead of tearing them down, or take their words and actions in the kindest possible way?
3. The definition of anger is a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure or hostility. Anger is being annoyed. When are you most likely to get angry?
4. What is at the root of your annoyance?
5. Things that should elicit anger from us—things like child abuse and injustice—might not cross our mind most days, while things like someone asking us to leave our comfort to do something for them, or someone suggesting we aren’t as good at something as we think, gets us riled up. How can we start being less angry about the things that don’t matter, while being concerned about the things that do?

“Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?”  
Mark 3:4

6. Jesus worked on his Father's timeframe. Often, we pray for blessings before we're ready to receive them. We want to settle down and get married but don't want to leave our selfish ways behind. We want to progress to the next level but haven't mastered the skills at the level we're at. If that's the case, what should we be praying and what should we be doing about the things we're praying for?

7. List some times/reasons it would be good to withdraw from an emotionally charged situation.

8. How can you be sure if this is a time to withdraw or if this is a time you really need to go to someone to talk about a situation?

9. There have been times that I would have gone to someone, but they have shown themselves to be someone who isn't open to anything that might seem critical. If you've tried several times in the past, and someone has shown themselves to be unwilling to listen, what's your next course of action?

10. The last issue brought up in this episode is worth noting. Just because it's true doesn't mean we have to say it, especially if it will ruin the relationship. Only God can give us the wisdom to know when to speak and when to stay quiet. What should we keep in mind as we bite our tongue?

**Big idea:** Our anger is often a product of entitlement and selfishness. Our relationships would often be better if we were willing to have tough conversations.

**Action Step:** Note when you become angry. Write the circumstances down and examine it to see if it is justifiable. Also, take note of when you feel the need to give others advice. Not everything needs to be said!

**Prayer:** Holy Father, give us self-awareness to note our faults, and give us the strength and tenacity to work on them instead of letting them go. When our relationships with others are strained, give us the wisdom and the courage to go to the person to attempt reconciliation. When it isn't possible, work on our behalf. Show us when we need to change, and when we need to give everything over to you. Thank you for always being with us and helping us through each situation. Give your church and your people unity. Let our language be love. Help us to be one so that we can stand against Satan and serve you well. In Jesus' name, amen.