

Yes, And

2025-09-15 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Genesis 1

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Pastor Matt preached this in a week of national violence, and he reached for an unlikely picture: improv comedy's rule of yes-and. In improv you accept whatever reality you are handed and build on it. He named three postures that keep people stuck instead. Victimhood. Being a buzzard, circling for something dead, instead of a hummingbird looking for sweetness. And ruminating so long that nothing ever gets acted on. Paul, writing from prison, refused all three. People were preaching Christ from bad motives and Paul said: what does it matter, Christ is preached. And when the ones doing harm were nailing Jesus to a cross, his response was to pray for them.

To get started

- What is something you had to accept before you could do anything about it?

Looking back at the message

This was preached in a hard news week. Some of that may still be raw.

- 1 Pastor Matt described life as improv: accept the reality in front of you and build on it. Where is that hardest for you right now?
- 2 The hummingbird goes looking for sweetness. The buzzard circles looking for something dead. Which one have you been lately, honestly?
- 3 Pastor Matt said some people ruminate and research endlessly instead of ever acting. Where has that been your pattern? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Philippians 1:15-18 aloud, then Luke 23:34.

- 4 Read Philippians 1:15-18. Some people are preaching Christ out of envy and rivalry. What does Paul decide to care about instead?
- 5 Paul asks: what does it matter? What would it take for you to say that about something that genuinely wronged you?
- 6 Read Luke 23:34. Who is Jesus praying for, and at what exact moment is he praying it?
- 7 Read Matthew 5:44. What does Jesus tell us to do for our enemies, and how does that compare to instinct?

Bringing it home

He deliberately addressed both political sides. Keep that balance in the room.

- 8 Pastor Matt said celebrating an enemy's suffering happens on both political sides. Have you felt that pull in yourself?
- 9 Pastor Matt named desires that can never be fulfilled: total control, a different past, undoing a decision already made. Which one do you keep reaching for?
- 10 What would actually praying for someone you find genuinely wrong look like? Not approving of them. Praying for them.
- 11 Where are you stuck at the ruminating stage when it is time to act? OPTIONAL

The group together

Groups can amplify the buzzard tendency. Say so gently.

- 12 Does this group build on reality, or mostly comment on it?
- 13 How can we talk about the news in this group without it becoming its own kind of rumination?
- 14 Who could this group be a peaceful presence toward this month?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What reality are you refusing to accept, and what would building on it look like instead?

You might pray about

- For those grieving something in the news this week
- For the desires we keep reaching for that cannot be met
- For grace toward people we find genuinely wrong
- For action rather than endless deliberation