

## **Glorious Risk**

### Community Group Discussion Questions

**Opening Question:** *What was the first big risk you ever took?*

**Tell them:** This week Pastor Michael talked about risk taking. He asked an interesting question; *do you consider yourself as someone that's risk adverse or a risk taker?* I'd love to hear everyone's answer to that question.

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said something you might not have ever thought about. He said that we are basically the same as our opposite; In other words, that risk takers and the risk adverse are two sides of the same coin. How? Well, both categories of people have the same root fear: **FOMO:** fear of missing out.

**Ask them:** *What did you think about that idea?* (Note: Pastor's answer if needed: Those who take risks fear missing out on what they would gain if they didn't take the risk. The risk adverse fear missing out on the comfort, stability, and whatever sacrifice they would have to make to take the risk.)

**Tell them:** The dilemma for every Christian is when do we fearlessly risk and when do we show caution? Let's look at those verses that Pastor Michael went over to help us answer that.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"*

**Ask them:** *What does this verse tell us about taking risks?*

**Ask them:** *Have you ever heard someone give the advice that all you have to do is follow your heart? Knowing Jeremiah 17:9, what kind of advice would you say that is?*

Let's take a look at 1 Corinthians 10:23–33. It says: *"Everything is lawful," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is lawful," but not everything builds others up. Do not seek your own good, but the good of the other person. Eat anything that is sold in the marketplace without questions of conscience, for the earth and its abundance are the Lord's. If an unbeliever invites you to dinner and you want to go, eat whatever is served without asking questions of conscience. But if someone says to you, "This is from a sacrifice," do not eat, because of the one who told you and because of conscience— I do not mean yours but the other person's. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I blamed for the food that I give thanks for? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Do not give offense to Jews or Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also try to please everyone in all things. I do not seek my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved."*

**Ask them:** *What do you think it means that everything is lawful but not everything is beneficial? (see vs 23)*

**Tell them:** Let's look quickly at Philippians 2:3. It gives some insight to verse 23: *"Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself." (Philippians 2:3, NET)*

**Ask them:** *Who is your heart usually looking out for? In other words, is it more natural for us to be motivated by selfishness or selflessness?*

**Tell them:** It can be hard to know if you are just looking out for yourself or considering others more important. A lot of times your heart can convince you that what you want will really benefit others, when that might actually not be true. So, knowing what to do and when to do it can be determined by determining that **Whatever you do, you will do it all to the glory of God.** Pastor Michael gave us these insightful questions to ask ourselves when we make decisions, "When you take a risk, are you doing it for your glory or God's? When you avoid risk, are you protecting your purpose and goals or God's?" To that we can add, "Do you seek your own benefit, or the benefit of others, for their salvation, whenever you make a big decision?"

**Ask them:** *Can you recall a time when you took a risk or avoided taking a risk for your own glory? (Note: Pastor Michael gave the example of going to Kentucky on a mission trip instead of the middle east in order to avoid danger: that's glorifying your survival and not God. Or, going to the Middle East because you like the extreme conditions and circumstances: that's glorifying your thrill and adventure seeking and not God.)*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael gave us a list of areas of risk:

**1. Family risk**

**Ask them:** *What kinds of risks would you say you confront in the context of family? (confession, forgiveness, moving, staying, where to eat, etc.)*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that risk can paralyze us and/or keep us quiet, keep us from being honest about who we are.

**Ask them:** *What do you think about that idea?*

**2. Political risk**

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael asked us to consider what policies and perceptions of our political party don't mesh with the life and teachings of Jesus and the whole teaching of scripture. He said that both sides have significant holes in their gospel faithfulness.

**Ask them:** *What do you think about this idea?*

**3. Career risk**

**Ask them:** *Have you taken a career risk or been too afraid to take one?*

**4. Financial risk**

**Ask them:** *What kinds of financial risks can we take?*

**5. Relationship risk**

**Ask them:** *What about relationships? What kinds of risks do we take in relationships?*

6. **Faith risk** - Hebrews 11:1, says “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see.” Society says that faith is risky. **Ask them:** *Would you agree?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael gave us some reasons why we risk.

**Ask them:** *What do you think of these? Can you relate to any of them?*

1. **Desperation**
2. **Laziness**
3. **Ignorance/Foolishness**
4. **Adrenaline**
5. **Calculated**
6. **Personal growth/obedience**

**Talk about:** which of these are healthy and which can be dangerous.

**Tell them:** David Wilkerson said, “Some Christians are content to merely exist until they die. They don't want to risk anything, to believe God, to grow or mature. They refuse to believe his Word and have become hardened in their unbelief. Now they're living just to die.”

**Ask them:** *In what ways do acts of faith expand your horizons and reduce your fears?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that all risk is personal. **Ask them:** *What do you think about that idea?*

**Ask them:** *After all of this, can anyone summarize what our escape and freedom from fear is as believers? (That our fear of missing out is gone because we trust in God's sovereign will and because when we do all for His glory, we are not risking anything fearful. Every risk taken, every risk avoided, when for the glory of God, is an opportunity to truly live with no regrets.)*

**Tweetable Quotes and things to Remember:**

1. Risk takers and the risk adverse are two sides of the same coin. Both are motivated by FOMO.
2. Both political parties have significant holes in their gospel faithfulness.
3. Every risk taken, every risk avoided, when for the glory of God, is an opportunity to truly live with no regrets.