



Season 03.Episode 01

TITLE: Burning Questions

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Welcome to MomenToUs! I am Pastor Rebecca Grate, the Pastor Mission Developer for MomenToUs and the host for our weekly podcast.

At MomenToUs, we believe that God is present with us in each and every single one of our moments.

We believe that our stories are connected to God's story and to one another's stories.

We believe that this connection and relationship changes our lives and our entire world.

Before we begin, I invite you to take a deep breath in, hold it while you count to three, and then slowly release that breath.

MomenToUs launched 5 months and one day ago and our audience has grown to over 525 people connected through our social media accounts and we are averaging around 100 downloads of the podcast each week, with more and more people subscribing. That is amazing!

So, to those of you who are new to the MomenToUs community:

Welcome! We are so glad you have joined us. You have joined us just in time for our new podcast season: Burning Questions.

The topics for this series are sourced directly from our community. Several months ago, just before we started our Sabbath Stop podcast series, we shared a question on our Facebook & Instagram stories: What confuses you about God, Christianity, the Church, or the Bible? We ran that poll every day for an entire week and every day the questions came flooding in.

One of our hopes and goals for MomenToUs is that this becomes a safe space for us to ask the questions that are weighing on us within a community of trust - even if we don't exactly know who is here and who is listening to the podcast alongside us. At the end of each of the podcasts for this series, you may say that you agree 100% with everything I am saying. You may say that you disagree 100% with everything I am saying. You may land somewhere in between. And all of those responses are okay. Questioning and wrestling with our answers is how we grow in our faith. It will be okay to disagree.

So, in no particular order, here are the questions submitted from the MomenToUs community:

1. Can the Church be involved in politics?
2. Why do Catholics and Lutherans have different Bibles?
3. I'm in my 20s. Why isn't there anyone else my age at church?
4. How do I know what God is calling me to do?
5. Why do some churches support the LGBTQIA2S+ community & others don't?
6. Why does the Bible contradict itself?
7. Why are there so many different types of Christians?
8. Is God still present with us or has God just left us to fend for ourselves?
9. When is The Rapture?
10. Why are Christians and The Church so mean to other cultures & faiths?
11. Why do some people get better after praying & others don't?
12. Can good Christians be in therapy?

There are some topics that might land closer to the questions in your heart than others, because they are questions that affect you or affect people you love. There may be questions that are too close and you can't listen to a podcast on a response to them. That is also okay. It is much more important for you to wrestle with these questions and answers in a

way that promotes growing in your faith in a healthy way than to force yourself to listen to something because a pastor or someone else says you have to.

Every week, I'll give a heads up on what the question for the following podcast episode will be so that you can have a heads up. And, if there is someone you know who you think would love to listen to that particular podcast, you can give them a heads up to subscribe and download that particular episode.

If the questions in this series bring up additional follow-up questions, or they bring up a need for pastoral care, you can always send me an email at dailymomentous@gmail.com and we can schedule some time to talk. If you don't live in the metro Columbus area, this applies to you, too. And, if you need help connecting to resources or someone to talk with in person, I am able to help with that as well.

This is going to be a series that challenges all of us and I am delighted to be able to explore these questions and answers with all of you.

I invite you to take a few deep breaths in to help center yourself for prayer.

A Prayer for Our Burning Questions

God of all knowledge,

We know you are the root of all - all knowledge, all creation, all of us, all known and unknown things.

We have big questions resting deep down in our hearts. Some of them are too scary to ask out loud. Maybe we can type them into an online form that lets us remain anonymous.

We know you know they are there.

Send us friends and a community where we feel safe in asking these questions out loud.

Help us grow in our faith by wrestling with these questions, just like your people have wrestled with them from the beginning of creation.

Give us the courage to know that you are present with us and don't love us any less or any differently just because we have questions.

Amen.

Thank you for joining us for our weekly MomenToUs. We are looking forward to growing with each of you and are so grateful you are a part of the MomenToUs community.

In our next podcast, the burning question we're going to be addressing is: Why does the Bible contradict itself? Join us as we look more at how different denominations view and interpret scripture, we

discuss a few different passages that seem to contradict themselves, and we discern how we can respond when we notice contradictions.

Thank you to our Mission Partners, the [Southern Ohio Synod](#) and the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#). Their financial contributions and prayer have been instrumental in bringing this new ministry into existence.

This week I also want to thank Capital University for inviting me to preach and lead Capital Worship this past Wednesday with their undergraduate and seminary students, faculty, and administrative staff.

Also, this week, I want to thank [Faith Lutheran Church in Whitehall](#). They have once again called me to preach and lead worship with them. They aren't currently livestreaming their worship services, but they are active on social media, so you can check their ministries out later today! Inviting me to supply preach or lead an education event or retreat or simply be present with you all for worship and to answer questions are additional ways that congregations and ministries can partner with MomenToUs.

I want to remind you all that our first in-person gathering will be on Saturday, September 23rd! We are going to gather at 10 AM (EST) at [Char Mar Ridge Park](#) in Westerville for One Step at a Time. We'll gather in the parking lot for some quick introductions and a short devotion before

hiking. The trail is well maintained, but make sure you come prepared for path hiking, not paved road hiking. After our hike, we'll gather to pray for one another before we head on to the rest of our Saturday schedules. We have set up a Facebook event for this, so if you are following us on Facebook, please share the event on your pages and invite your friends to join us. We have had a few questions: Yes, you can bring the whole family with you! And, this trail does allow well-behaved and leashed dogs.

If you would like to support the ministry of MomenToUs, attending our in-person events and inviting others is one way to do so. Engaging with us online is another. If you are able to give financially, you can visit our website and find more information about how to donate electronically or by mailing checks to our Synod P.O. Box. Each one-time or recurring gift combines together to ensure the MomenToUs Community continues to grow.

Until our next podcast, remember to breathe deeply and to remember that God is present with you every single moment.

Music:

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