

SPRING AT WESLEY



“I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD AND THE BIBLE. IS IT OK IF I ASK YOU?”

Sitting across the round table after one of our Wednesday graduate Bible study lunches, a PhD student from China was clearly questioning things she had held to be true for quite some time.

Around thirty undergraduate students on Tuesday nights and fifteen graduate students on Wednesdays come through our doors each week. Our desire is that upon entering they would sense Christ's love and have an opportunity to encounter the truth of God's word in community. In many parts of the world, Christian community almost feels like an endangered species. While our cultural context relegates expressions of the Christian faith to a private matter or the polarizing realm of social media, at the Wesley students have a place to live out their faith in real relationships with others.

Over lunch, our Chinese grad student wanted to know the difference between Buddha and Jesus. From another table, the answer came out, “Well, Buddha was a man who hoped to teach people how to escape the suffering of the material world through meditation. So, salvation for Buddhism is an escape that you might achieve with the proper training and diligence. Whereas Jesus was God in the flesh who accomplished our escape from sin when He first came. And He told us that He would come again, bringing with Him a new home in which we could live with Him forever.” After thinking for a second, she replied with a smile, “I like this Jesus Messiah. I think he is much better than our Buddha!”

Questions are a normal part of college life and if we're honest with ourselves questions are always a part of walking with God. While one student questions her tradition of Buddhism, another approaches me for council on how to relate in a new marriage. Yet another student

wants to know if God could possibly be calling her to ministry. One pulls me aside with news that he will soon be baptized, but fears his father's response.

“What should I do?” As adults most of us have figured things out. Or at least we tell ourselves that we have. College students are just crazy enough to ask tough questions. I'm convinced that there is no better place for a student to ask questions than with us at the Wesley. In this Spring semester alone, I've watched each individual I just mentioned grow in love for God and love for others. Jesus said that others would be able to distinguish His disciples from the world by how we love one another. And that's precisely what I enjoy so much about our ministry. In the midst of questions and challenges, a student need not search too hard because the love of Christ is a permanent resident at the Wesley House!