

The 7 Big Questions

Devotional Booklet

This devotional is intended to provide you with an opportunity to have personal study time to explore the 7 faith questions. The booklet is divided into 7 weeks. Every week will follow along with the Sermon. Each devotion will include the Sermon Scripture, with a few connection points between the Scripture and the question, a space to take sermon and/or personal reflection notes and additional Scripture to allow you to explore each question further.

Introduction to the 7 week series:

Everyone has questions. While our questions may be many or few, most of us have at least seven: Does life have a purpose? Is there a God? Why does God allow pain and suffering? Is Christianity too narrow? Is Jesus really God? Is the Bible reliable? Can I know God personally? These questions are grappled with by scholars, school children and everyone in between. They are the seven big questions everyone has when they get honest about exploring God. In partnership with many churches in the Historic Triangle, the Explore God sermon series, coupled with intentional processing and discussion in small groups, will help our community wrestle with these questions together and invite others to explore with us.

WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 16-22

QUESTION 1: Does Life Have a Purpose? ANSWER:

Every person on earth was created to know and love God personally. Life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning.

SERMON SCRIPTURE:

John 1: 1-8

CONNECTION POINTS:

- There is order, logic, purpose and meaning in the created world.
- When God created the world, God spoke order into chaos.

Ecclesiastes 1-2 Ecclesiastes 3: 10-14 Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

QUESTION 2: Is There a God?

ANSWER:

Evidence of God comes from creation, morality, intelligence, and love. Once we establish that there must be a God, we are ready to discover who God really is.

SERMON SCRIPTURE: John 1:9-18

CONNECTION POINTS:

• There is good evidence from multiple disciplines and philosophical vantage points that reveals God's existence.

• If you believe God exists and that He reveals Himself, then let's listen to what He has to say.

Job 19: 25-27 Psalm 19: 1-4 Romans 1: 19- 20 Romans 2:14-15

WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 6

QUESTION 3: Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

ANSWER:

Because God is greater than we are, we cannot fully understand or explain all of the problems we encounter. However, we can be certain of God's power, His perfect timing, His perfect purpose, and His perfect love.

SERMON SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-12

CONNECTION POINTS:

• While we may never find an answer to this question that satisfies us, Jesus Christ and the new creation He brings is God's answer to the problem of pain and suffering.

- Jesus Christ is with us in our pain and suffering.
- Something mysteriously redemptive happens through our suffering.

Genesis 3 Job 38-40 Daniel 3: 8-30 John 1:19-2:12 John 9:1-9 John 21:24-29 Revelation 21

QUESTION 4: Is Christianity Too Narrow?

ANSWER:

God provided a way for everyone to have peace. This is profoundly inclusive—not exclusive. Following Jesus is different from every other faith on earth in that He sacrificed to get to us, rather than us sacrificing to get to Him. Most religions boil down to humanity trying to reach God, but Christianity is God reaching humanity.

SERMON SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-19

CONNECTION POINTS:

- Jesus is the one true way to God.
- Jesus offers Himself to everyone and anyone who would believe.
- Jesus gives everyone an inclusive invitation to an exclusive approach to God.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE FOR FURTHER STUDY: John 14: 1-6 Acts 17:16-31

WEEK 5: OCTOBER 14-20

QUESTION 5: Is Jesus Really God?

ANSWER:

Because of His own testimony about Himself, Jesus is either God or a fraud. There is no logical middle ground. Jesus demonstrated His deity through prophecy, teaching and the resurrection.

SERMON SCRIPTURE:

John 4:1-26

CONNECTION POINTS:

• Answering this question is very important. Even Jesus, Himself asked,

"Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29)

• When Jesus uses the titles "Son of Man" and "Son of God", He is claiming His deity.

Psalm 21:8 Isaiah 53:5-6 Matthew 26:64-65 Mark 4:41 Mark 8:29 John 1:1 John 4:1-45 John 6:44-46 John 10:30 John 17:21

WEEK 6: OCTOBER 21-27

QUESTION 6: Is the Bible Reliable?

ANSWER:

The Bible is more than a book—it is God's love letter to humanity. We have more reason to trust its claims than those of any other book in history. We can trust the Bible because of prophecy, history, integrity and what it's done in people.

SERMON SCRIPTURE:

John 6:22-51

CONNECTION POINTS:

• The Bible is reliable because all of its characters, prophecies, stories, symbols, poetry etc. have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

• There is a clear historical record of biblical manuscripts that help prove its authenticity.

Exodus 16: 13-35 Luke 24:25-27 John 6:1-71 1 Timothy 3:16

QUESTION 7: Can I Know God Personally?

ANSWER:

The entire reason Jesus came to earth was so that everyone who trusts in Him can know God personally the relationship we were born to enjoy.

SERMON SCRIPTURE: John 10:1-21

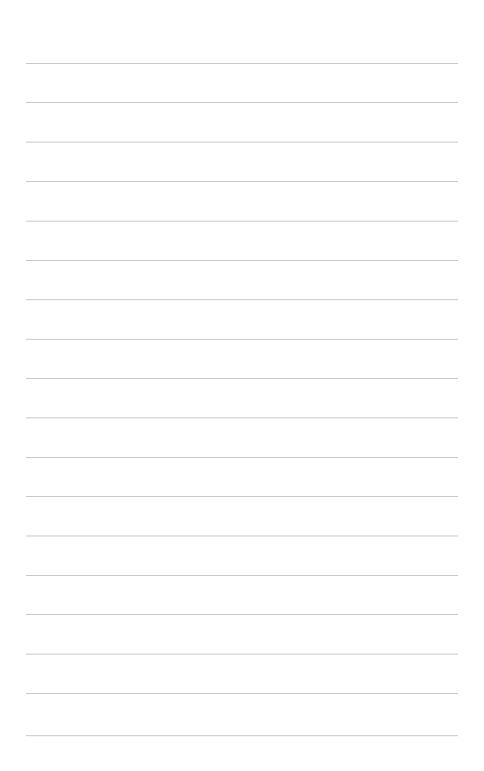
CONNECTION POINTS:

• God created a way for us to know Him personally. The way is Jesus.

• Jesus' resurrection demonstrates not only His lordship and power, but His desire to be in relationship with each of us.

John 10-12 John 11:1-44 John 1:12 Titus 3:5 James 4:8 Revelation 3:20

ADDITIONAL NOTES:





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