

WEEK #1 APPLICATION

Write down two things that were helpful to learn this week.

1. _____

2. _____

Over the next week, you can look up and read the following verses on your own to continue to learn more about God. Write down what you learn.

• Jeremiah 32:17 - _____

• Hebrews 4:13 - _____

• Psalm 145:3 - _____

• 1 John 1:5 - _____

• Psalm 33:11 - _____

• Matthew 19:26 - _____

• Malachi 3:6 - _____

REAL TALK

WEEK #1

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Take a moment to think about what God is like. Circle any of the following that you think could describe God or write your own. God is like...

- a. **A vending machine;** if I give him what he asks for, he will help me to get what I want in life.
- b. **An absent father;** he created me but he isn't very involved in my day to day life.
- c. **A forgiving friend;** he is involved in my life and always there for me, even when I'm not always there for him.
- d. **A world dictator;** he controls everything in the world but he abuses his power, which causes suffering and evil.
- e. **An overprotective parent;** he gives me a lot of rules to follow and he is afraid to let me have any fun or freedom.
- f. **A mysterious spirit;** he is out there somewhere but it's difficult for us to define him or know what he is like.
- g. **Santa Claus;** he keeps track of our good and bad deeds but he understands that we can't be perfect so he continues to forgive us and give us gifts.
- h. **A judge;** when I mess up, there are fair consequences; he makes sure that I pay for for the wrong I've done.
- i. **A caring father;** he wants the best for me; he encourages me to do what is right and corrects me when I'm wrong.
- j. **Other:** _____

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Week #1

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

- **Psalm 100:3** - Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

1. God is our _____.

- **Matthew 5:48** - Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly father is perfect.

2. God is _____.

- **Numbers 23:19**- God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

3. God is _____.

- **Psalm 86:15** - But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

4. God is _____ and _____.

- **Psalm 7:11**- God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.

5. God is a _____.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

- **Psalm 24:1-2** - The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

A. We _____ to God.

- **Psalm 139:1-4** - O Lord, you have searched me and know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

B. God _____ completely.

- **2 Corinthians 5:5**- Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

- **Psalm 139:16**- your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

C. God decides our _____ in life.

- **Romans 2:16** - This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

D. God decides the _____ for our _____.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

- **1 Corinthians 10:31** - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

- **Isaiah 43:7** - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

A. Our purpose is to _____ God.

- **Acts 17:26-27** - From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the time set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

B. Our purpose is to _____ God intimately.

WEEK #2 APPLICATION

Write down two things that were helpful to learn this week.

1. _____

2. _____

Over the next week, you can look up and read the following verses on your own to continue to learn more about God and His relationship with us. Write down what you learn.

• Genesis 1:1-13 - _____

• Genesis 1:14-25 - _____

• Genesis 1:26-31 - _____

• Genesis 2:1-17 - _____

• Genesis 2:18-25 - _____

• Genesis 3:1-24 - _____

• Romans 5:12-19 - _____

REAL TALK

WEEK #2

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Take a moment to think about people who live in this world and the different kind of lives that they live. In your opinion, which of the following best describes what people are truly like?

- All people are good
- All people are mostly good with a little bad
- All people are mostly bad with a little good
- All people are bad
- Some people are good but most people are bad
- Some people are bad but most people are good

REVIEW:

- God is our Creator. He determines our purpose in life and He determines the consequences when we don't fulfill that purpose.
- Our purpose is to **glorify God** and to **know Him intimately**. We glorify Him in the context of a relationship by loving Him with all our hearts, trusting Him for all we need, thanking Him for all we have, and obeying all of His revealed will.
- God is completely perfect, trustworthy, gracious and just.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Week #2

HAVE WE LIVED UP TO OUR PURPOSE?

Would you say that we have lived up to our purpose? Why or why not?

WHAT IS SIN?

• **Jeremiah 2:13**- My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns that cannot hold water.

1. Sin is finding _____ and _____ in something other than God.

• **1 John 3:4** - Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness

2. Sin is anything that goes against God's _____

HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT SIN?

• **Psalm 5:4-6**- You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil: with you the wicked cannot dwell. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord Abhors.

1. God _____ sin and evil.

So what's the big deal? Everybody sins. Nobody is perfect.

Let's just say that you only committed an average of 3 sins per day in thoughts, words or actions. This would be over 1,000 sins each year. This would amount to close to 20,000 sins by the time you hit college. Even if you never sinned again for the rest of your life, your record is tainted with sin. Imagine what would happen if you had 20,000 parking tickets. Would a good judge allow you to get away without any kind of penalty? How about a perfect God who hates evil?

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF OUR SIN?

• **Genesis 6:5**- The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

1. We sin _____ in motives, thoughts & actions

• **Romans 3:10-12**- As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

2. _____ does good.

• **Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

3. Our hearts are _____

• **Isaiah 64:6** - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

4. Even our _____ deeds are _____

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SINS?

• **Romans 2:8**- But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

1. We deserve God's _____ and _____.

• **Ephesians 2:1-2**- As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.

2. We are spiritually _____.

• **Psalm 5:4** - You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil: with you the wicked cannot dwell.

3. We are _____ from God

Sin is a severe problem. How can a perfect God forgive us and still be just? How can He have a relationship with us when we are sinners?

WEEK #3 APPLICATION

Write down two things that were helpful to learn this week.

1. _____

2. _____

Over the next week, you can look up and read the following verses on your own to continue to learn more about Jesus and His sacrifice for us. Write down what you learn.

- 1 Peter 2:24-25 - _____
- Romans 6:23 - _____
- Colossians 1:13-14 - _____
- Galatians 2:20 - _____
- 2 Corinthians 5:15 - _____
- Ephesians 2:4-5 - _____
- Titus 3:3-5 - _____

REAL TALK

WEEK #3

THE SOLUTION

Let's imagine that at your next doctor's check-up you find out that you have a rare heart condition that will kill you if you don't have a heart transplant. You feel perfectly healthy, so it's hard to believe that it's true. What would you do?

- a. Spend the days you have left doing all your favorite activities. You Only Live Once.
- b. Take some time to think about what you want to do.
- c. Sign up to be on a waiting list for a transplant and agree to have surgery whenever it's available.
- d. Complain that you don't deserve to have heart problems because you didn't do anything wrong.
- e. You feel fine. Worry about it later if it bothers you.

REVIEW:

1. God created us for His Glory and for a relationship with Him. We have all failed miserably at our purpose: glorifying God in the context of a relationship by loving Him with all our hearts, trusting Him for all we need, thanking Him for all we have, and obeying all of His revealed will.
2. When we fail to live up to this purpose (sin) God views this as capital offense in God's spiritual "courtroom" and deserving of severe punishment. This means we have a BIG problem.

THE SOLUTION

Week #3

WHAT IS OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM IN LIFE?

- **Romans 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

1. A _____ which separates us from God

- **Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

2. A _____ which keeps us sinning against God

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR THIS PROBLEM?

- **Romans 6:23** - for the wages of sin is death...

A. The penalty we deserve is _____.

WHAT IS OUR BIGGEST NEED IN LIFE?

- **Psalms 86:5** - You Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you

1. We need God's _____

WHY DOES THIS CREATE A PROBLEM?

- **Proverbs 11:21** - Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.

A. God is _____ and cannot let _____ go _____

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS

1. _____ pay the penalty for my sins.

2. _____ pays the penalty for my sins.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON COULD PAY THE PENALTY?

- **Hebrews 2:17** - For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way in order that he might...make atonement for the sins of the people.

1. He/she must be _____

- **1 Peter 2:22** - "he committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

2. He/she must be _____

WHY MUST JESUS BE PART OF THE SOLUTION?

- **Hebrews 4:15** - For we do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin.

1. Jesus was the only _____ that was _____

- **Romans 5:6** - You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

2. Jesus _____ for _____

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. Jesus paid our _____ as if he committed our _____.

2. Jesus gives us his _____ in exchange

- **Romans 3:22** - This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...

3. Jesus gives us a _____ so we can come to God

- **Ezekiel 36:26** - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

4. Jesus gives us a _____ with a desire for God

WEEK #4 APPLICATION

Write down two things that were helpful to learn this week.

1. _____

2. _____

Over the next week, you can look up and read the following verses on your own to continue to learn about responding to Jesus' sacrifice for us. Write down what you learn.

• John 3:36 - _____

• John 1:12-13 - _____

• Romans 10:9-11 - _____

• Romans 6:5-6 - _____

• Romans 12:1-2 - _____

• 1 John 2:5-6 - _____

• John 6:28-29 - _____

REAL TALK

WEEK #4

OUR RESPONSE

You find out that you have a rare heart condition that will kill you if you don't have a heart transplant. You get a call the next day saying that there is a heart available but the surgery is very risky. What would you do?

- Forget the surgery and spend the days you have left doing all your favorite activities. You Only Live Once.
- Take some time to think about what you want to do.
- Trust the doctors with your life, knowing that this is your only chance to be saved.
- Refuse surgery. You can't bear living if it means that someone else had to die.
- Refuse surgery; it's not worth the risk. You can't give up the time left to spend with family and friends.

REVIEW:

- God created us for His glory and to know Him intimately. Our failure to do this (sin) separates us from God forever. The penalty for our sin is eternal death.
- Our greatest need is God's forgiveness, but God is just and cannot let sin go unpunished. Someone must pay the penalty.
- Jesus was the only perfect human, so He is the only person who could pay our penalty. Jesus died on the cross for sinners.

OUR RESPONSE

Week #4

HOW DOES JESUS' DEATH FIX MY SIN PROBLEM?

- **2 Corinthians 5:21**- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. Jesus paid our _____ as if he committed our _____.
2. Jesus gives us his _____ in exchange

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER HE DIED?

- **Matthew 28:6** - He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

A. He rose from the _____ on the _____ day.

- **1 Corinthians 15:55** - "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

B. His resurrection marks His _____ over _____.

HOW MUST WE RESPOND TO WHAT JESUS HAS DONE?

- **John 1:12** - yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

1. _____ Jesus - believe He is who He claimed to be.

- **Mark 1:15** - "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

2. _____ - turn away from sin & toward God.

- **Hebrews 11:6** - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and the he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

3. _____ - trust Jesus' sacrifice fully to save you.

- **Philippians 2:10-11** - that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and one earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father.

4. _____ - submit to Jesus as Lord of your life.

DO YOU RECEIVE CHRIST BY CHANGING YOUR LIFESTYLE?

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

A. _____. Salvation comes by _____ not _____.

WILL YOUR LIFESTYLE CHANGE IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN?

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!

B. _____. You become a _____

WHAT WILL BE THE EVIDENCE IF I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

- **1 Peter 2:2**- Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

1. A _____ to know God's _____.

- **Proverbs 8:13**- To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

2. A hatred for _____.

- **1 John 3:14** - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

3. New _____ for _____.

- **John 14:21**- Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him

4. Lifestyle of _____.