



Week 4 Parent Guide

WEEK #1 // April 8, 2018

Question: How can God be good if the world is so full of evil?

Key Texts: Genesis 2-3, Romans 5:12, John 11

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your response to seeing evil in the world? What does it make you think about God?
 2. What does Romans 5:12 teach us about sin?
 3. How is sickness and suffering in the world related to sin?
 4. How did Jesus respond to the death of Lazarus? Did he respond in more way than one? What does this tell us about how God feels about evil and what God does about evil?
 5. How does the resurrection of Jesus inform the way we view the evil in the world?
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WEEK #2 // April 15, 2018

Question: Has science disproved the existence of God?

Key Texts: Psalm 19:1, Genesis 1:1, Acts 17:22-36

Teaching Outline:

1. science presents **apparent challenges** to the existence of God
2. science provides **incredible evidence** for the existence of God
3. science has **significant limitations**

Discussion Questions:

1. Has modern science ever created difficulty in your faith? How?
 2. What parts of modern scientific knowledge most encourage your faith? What do you think is the most compelling evidence for a creator?
 3. Why is it so important for us to believe Genesis 1:1?
 4. What are the most important questions in the world? Why can't science answer these questions?
 5. Can we pursue scientific knowledge & believe in God at the same time? How?
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WEEK #3 // April 22, 2018

Question: Is it okay to be a Christian & a homosexual?

Key Texts: Genesis 1-2, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Teaching Outline:

with regards to sexuality:

1. **the design of God is good for us** (Genesis 1-2)

- **creation:** God has authority over the universe because he made it.
- **the image of God:** created for the purpose of representing/reflecting God
- **male/female:** in that image, humanity contains diversity, yet unity in maleness/femaleness
- **marriage:** the sacred relationship between male & female
 - established to uniquely display God to the world through love & co-creation
- **sex:** a good gift of God to be expressed in a marriage relationship
 - it has true purpose & true pleasure in marriage & nowhere else

PEOPLE THRIVE WHEN THEY LIVE IN GOD'S DESIGN.

2. **the distortion of sin is hurtful to us** (Romans 1:18-32)

In Genesis 3, Adam & Eve twisted & rejected the good design of God through sin. They suffered immense consequences. We do the same thing every day when we choose to live our own way.

what happens when we don't live in this good design?

- **we suppress the truth**
 - Romans 1:18
 - we ignore/reject God, his plan, and intention for our lives
- **God lets us do what we want**
 - Romans 1:24, 26, 28
 - when God allows you to freely act on your sinful desires, it is JUDGMENT
 - if we are left completely to our own devices, we will take ourselves straight to hell
- **same-sex attraction & behavior is one manifestation of a universal sin problem**
 - just like divorce, lying, pornography, anger, anxiety
 - all of it is a painful & consequence-laden distortion of God's good design
 - it causes pain, confusion, division, guilt, & shame.

3. **the deliverance of Jesus is hope for us** (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

- **people who will not inherit the kingdom:**
 - sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, men who practice homosexuality, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers
 - EVERYONE makes this list. NO ONE deserves to inherit the kingdom.
- **"such were some of you... but you were washed"**
 - by God's grace, he delivered us from the consequences of our sin.

- Jesus Christ, his obedient life, sacrificial death, & victorious resurrection are the only hope for ANY person to be washed of their guilt, forgiven for their rebellion & set free
- *this is our only hope.*

ANSWER THE QUESTION

- fundamentally, what it means to be a Christian is to submit your life to Jesus as Lord and receive the work of Jesus as savior.
- if Jesus is Lord of your life, his design is approved and pursued. if you are Lord, your desires are approved and pursued.

is it okay to be a Christian and experience same-sex attraction?

- **yes.** insofar as you realize that this desire is contrary to God's design, and by God's grace and for God's glory you receive forgiveness just like every Christian needs and battle against your sin just like every Christian must.

is it okay to be a Christian and live an openly homosexual life style?

- **no.** this is a declaration with your life that is contrary to what you say is true in your heart. if the Bible says that homosexuality is a sin, then you are actively living in something that Jesus died to save you from.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your life like when you live according to God's design? Why?
 2. What is your life like when you live according to sinful desires? Why?
 3. How should we relate to people who think differently than us about homosexuality? How should we communicate? What should we say? What should we emphasize?
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WEEK #4 // April 29, 2018

Question: Are Mormons Christian?

Key Texts: Isaiah 43:10, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 1:6-9

Teaching Outline:

3 differences between Mormons & Christians:

1. **we worship a different God**
2. **we trust a different authority**
3. **we believe a different Gospel**

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you had any experience talking to Mormons about faith? What was that like?
2. What are some of the main differences between Mormonism & Christianity? Why are these differences important?
3. How should we relate to Mormons that we know & talk to?