

September 2, 2018

Freshmen - God Part 1

Scripture Passage:

God exists: Genesis 1:1, Romans 1:19-20. **God is knowable:** John 17:3, Jeremiah 9:24, Psalm 145:3, 147:5, 139:6. **God is independent:** Acts 17:24-25, Psalm 90:2, Isaiah 43:7, Zephaniah 3:17. **God is unchangeable:** Malachi 3:6, Psalm 33:11, Numbers 23:19. **God is eternal:** Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3:8. **God is omnipresent:** Genesis 1:1, Jeremiah 23:23-24, 1 Kings 8:27.

Lesson Theme: In this session, we focused on the uniqueness of God's character and how he is therefore worthy of our worship. The character of God is foundational to all spiritual truth. As Christians, we are told to be like God, to serve God and to share with others about the glory of God. In order to do any of these things we must understand the character of God. We learned how God exists, is knowable, and has attributes that are communicable (those which he shares with humans) and non-communicable (those that are unique to him).

Family Discussion Questions:

1. How is the Church's idea of God very revealing?
2. What are some of God's communicable attributes? How do you do portraying these attributes?
3. What are some of God's non-communicable attributes? Why do you think it is vital that God has some attributes we do not?

Sophomores - Alleged Bible Contradictions

Scripture Passage: Exodus 20:12; Psalm 119:160; Matthew 28:1-3; Mark 16:1-5; Luke 14:25-27, 24:4,10; John 20:1, 11-12

Lesson Theme: In this session, we addressed apparent contradictions in the Bible. The Bible is an amazing set of documents. It speaks to us in a way no other book does. It is the revealed Word of God, and in it are words of life. However, it is a sophisticated book as well. It was written by many different authors, and it contains different kinds of literature (such as history, poetry, prophecy, etc.). The Bible teaches many different things, and it was written over the better part of two millennia! Given this sophistication, it is no wonder it contains some differences and potential discrepancies. However, this monumental work does not have a single, clear contradiction. To be sure, minor details can be difficult to reconcile. But different accounts are not the same thing as contradictory accounts. The same event can be described in many ways, highlighting different, though consistent details. Just how many women were at Jesus's empty tomb? Well, we don't know the exact number, and no crucial detail of the resurrection depends on this issue. But the accounts are clearly not contradictory. Rather than casting doubt on reports in the Bible, compatible differences of detail actually provide reason to think the accounts are reliable. The reason is having consistent though different accounts means we have independent sources in the Scriptures. If various accounts are independent (that is, not relying on one another), then they should not be identical in the details they emphasize. The Bible clearly is the Word of God, and it does not contain error. The Bible is trustworthy and thus provides a solid foundation for the faith and life of a disciple.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why are differences in biblical accounts a good thing? Why are these not contradictions?
2. How would you respond to someone who tells you the bible is full contradictions?
3. What are some questions you have had about Scripture?

Juniors - Racism

Scripture Passage: James 2:9, Luke 10:25-37, Galatians 3:23-29, Col. 3:12-15, Leviticus 19:33-34

Lesson Theme: This week's theme was racism. Disciples will recognize that God's love brings people together.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What makes us hesitate about applying this passage to our lives today?
2. How can this message help bring greater unity between the races?
3. What attitudes need to change in our hearts in order to reflect the heart of Jesus for those of other races?

