



THE GOD QUESTIONS

Do All Roads Lead To Heaven?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why is it significant that Jesus claimed to be God?

How would you define grace? Can you give some examples of grace?

ACTIVITY *The Narrow Way Game*

Preparation: Get two boxes and cut one with a hole just wide enough for a ping pong ball to get through and another with a wide hole. Lay out a course with straws, blocks or tape leading to each "Gate," a wide path for the wide gate and a narrow path for the narrow gate. Give each family member a straw and ping pong ball and have them choose a gate to get to. (If you want, you can have a treat in the narrow box and something stinky in the wide box for further illustration.)

Play: Players get on hands and knees, and using the straw, blow their ping pong ball to the end of their course. When players reach the end, read Matt. 7:13-14.

Discussion: What does it mean the gate is narrow? What/Who is the gate? (John 10:9) How can you know you are on the narrow path?

Many people think they know how to get to God. Some believe if they are good enough, try hard enough, have Christian parents, do enough good works, go to church, know the right people, or say certain prayers, that these things will get them to Heaven when they die. But Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14:6. The Bible also says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this *not from yourselves*, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast" Ephsians 2:8-9.

It is not the things *we do* that lead us to God, but it is what *Jesus has done* for us. It may seem narrow, and sometimes difficult, but Jesus has told us that he is the only way home, and we can trust him to guide us there. *Follow him!*

Pray: Dear Jesus, help us to follow your way. Help us never to be embarrassed about you or to think we can get to heaven on our own good works. Help us to depend on you and trust you to lead the way home. Amen.

Christianity's _____ makes it compelling!

- Jesus Christ claimed to be _____ in the _____ rather than just another man (1 John 4:2; 2 Cor. 11:14)
- Jesus Christ _____ (John 11:25-26)
- Jesus Christ offers a mission that is compelling and _____ (1 John 4:9)
- Jesus Christ offers salvation _____ through faith rather than through works (1 John 4:10; Eph. 2:8-9)

What about those who have _____ of Jesus?

- Romans 1:18-25; Acts 8, 10

Next Steps

- I will honestly evaluate _____ about Jesus' claim to be the only way to God.
- I will embrace the _____ of Christ/Christianity.
- I will stop _____ for God's acceptance & choose to come to God through _____



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Digging Deeper:

In his book *The God Questions*, Hal Seed points out that before giving us the substitution solution for our sin and our desire for God, He demonstrated the futility of the other man made solutions we might try as humans. These four solutions summarize the answer to the question, *Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?* Likely, there have been times in your life (like mine) when you've wished for an easier or simpler way to punch your ticket to heaven. God demonstrates the futility of attempting to reach God (heaven) in any other way than Jesus.

1. The isolation solution... when Cain killed his brother, he was banished. Cain's response was, "My punishment is more than I can bear." (Gen. 4:13)
2. The Repetition Solution... with enough reincarnations we will eventually accumulate enough good karma to get close to God. After the flood, Noah and his family got off the ark with a fresh new chance. Unfortunately, not long afterward, Noah got drunk, his sons did something dumb, and Noah cursed that son and his descendants.
3. The Exertion Solution... at the tower of Babel, the people tried to work hard enough to reach God. Of course, they found out, you can't work your way to heaven.
4. The Relational Solution... God began to give His solution to the problem. He built a relationship with one man, Abraham. Eventually God would provide the substitution for our sin, by grace, as payment in full. Of course, this relational and substitutional solution culminated in Jesus and his death on the cross.

Ultimately we believe that God provided only one way to heaven.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. ~Eph. 2:8-9

Grace saves us, when by faith we accept the free gift God has given us... forgiveness and eternal life because Jesus substituted Himself for us on the cross, paying our debt in full and raised to life three days later. That's the gospel message. That's the one road to heaven!

Resources:

Short Family Friendly Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byGXazVmZnk>

Lake City Sermon Notes

October 7 & 8, 2017 - Pastor Jim Kennington

Series – The God Questions

Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?

The problem of _____

Many people believe it is _____, narrow-minded and _____ to say that Jesus is the only path to God!

Religious _____ is the belief that all religions are equally valid.

We didn't come up with this idea, _____!

John 14:6

Acts 4:12

Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:16-17; 8:24; 10:28-30; 18:37

People confuse _____ truth & relative truth!

Almost _____ has a set of exclusive beliefs!