



STUDY GUIDES

TIME OF
GRACE®

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Hard Sayings: Is Jesus Christ Really the Only Way?

John 6:25-29,35-51

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁵Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

⁴¹At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

⁴³“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ⁴⁶No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

1. List evidence of moral and spiritual relativism in our culture: anything goes; truth is true for me but maybe not for you.
2. Write a short paragraph to explain to a friend that Jesus is both inclusive and exclusive.
3. Circle the challenges or questions the people brought to Jesus in this section of John. Choose one you are likely to hear in some form today.

4. The people asked Jesus for the rules, “What am I supposed to do?” Give three reasons people ask the same question today, and plan what you would say in response to point them to Jesus.

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5. Explain the differences in the use of the word *believe* in the following two sentences:

“I believe it’s going to snow today.”

“I believe in Jesus as the Son of God and Savior.”

Hard Sayings: Is Marriage Really Til Death Do Us Part?

Matthew 19:1-12

¹When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’ ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

⁷“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

¹⁰The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹² For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

1. Name three ways a biblical marriage is like a business contract and three ways a biblical marriage is very different from a business contract.

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2. “A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife.” Describe three practical choices newly married people might have to make to “leave” father and mother, and explain how they can do so while still “honoring” father and mother.

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3. Give three reasons why the phrase “choosing to love” is more biblically appropriate than the phrase “falling in love.”

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4. “Unconditional love spirals a marriage upward,” but “payback, ‘I’ll teach you,’” makes it spiral downward. Explain why.

5. To love like Jesus loves is to go first. *Christ-love* means, “I’ll go first.” Describe four actions a Christian spouse can do to show he or she “goes first” like Christ did.

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6. Christians see marriage in a different way: we don’t own our marriage, God does. He made it; it’s his. Imagine a Christian husband or wife is at a party and introduces his or her spouse. Write three things he or she might say to demonstrate this very different view of marriage.

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7. “Unless you pay attention to the Word of God, you will never understand God’s view of marriage.” Develop a three-part strategy you might use to speak up for the biblical truths about marriage when you find yourself in a conversation about same-sex marriage.

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Hard Sayings: Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?

Luke 13:1-5

¹ Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

John 9:1-3

¹ As [Jesus] went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.”

1. Here’s the trap: “If God is almighty and can stop bad things but he won’t, he’s mean. If he can’t stop it, he’s weak.” Determine three possible results of falling into that trap.

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2. In the news of Jesus’ day: the terrorist action in the church in Galilee and the construction accident at Siloam. People, even church people, concluded the victims must have done something to deserve the bad things. Find three stories of bad news in today’s newspaper, and for each one decide if people are more likely (1) to blame God or (2) to blame the victims.

3. Jesus wanted to steer people away from blaming God (John 9:3). From what you’ve learned in this episode of *Time of Grace*, write four simple things you might tell yourself when you want to blame God for a tragedy.

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4. TV prosperity gospel preachers proclaim to millions, "If you're poor, it's your fault." From what you've learned, write three truths to show that's a lie.

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5. Animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were pictures of the one sacrifice Jesus would make. All the punishment for sin came down on Jesus' cross. Write a four-sentence paragraph you might read to a Christian who feels he or she is being punished for some sin.