

FRESH START FOR SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each of the video sessions has accompanying discussion questions for use in small groups. These questions are provided to facilitate discussion of the video content, and to give the group members an opportunity to consider the various scriptures mentioned in each video. Application questions for personal as well as group use are included. These are provided as a guide for discussion-use them as you wish. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion time, and remember to end your time in prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #1

1. Why is it important for Christians to know that the Bible we have today is reliable? What difference would it make to your faith if there were no evidence to support Biblical events? What difference does it make knowing there is abundant evidence?
2. Read Luke 1:1-4. Why is it important that the earliest gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark and Luke, were written and in circulation while there were still many living witnesses of these events?
3. What did the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls show about the copying method used by the ancient scribes? Why is this significant in trusting the Bible?
4. It was said that both the Old and New Testament have a common theme- God's relationship with humans. How does the Old Testament show this? The New Testament? How is Jesus the focus of each Testament?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #2

1. Read Gen.1:26-28. What does it mean to be made "in God's image"?
2. Read Gen. 2:16-17. Why does God have authority over the humans? Why does He set the boundaries and penalties?
3. Read Gen.3:1-13. What happened to God's "very good" creation? What role did Satan, Eve, and Adam each play?
4. What tactics did Satan use in temptation? How has he used these same tactics in your life?
5. When sin came in to His good creation, what promise did God make right then? Read Gen.3:15. Who has sin? Who needs this promise? Check Is. 53:6.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #3

1. Read Gen.2:16-17. What would be the penalty for sin? How is death a separation? Spiritually and physically?
2. What were humans created for? What happened to the humans' relationship with God when sin came in?
3. In Gen.3:15, God promised a "seed of a woman" who would crush the head of the serpent. To whom/what is this referring?
4. Read John 5:24. What does Jesus say about how one can pass from judgment (death, separation from God) into life?
5. Read John 10:11, 17-18. Jesus said He is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. What was He predicting?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #4

1. It was said that Jesus is fully divine *and* fully human, 100% God and 100% man. Did Jesus ever claim to be God? Read John 8:24, 56-58. Why did the Jews pick up stones to stone Him? Read Ex.3:13-15. What did He mean when Jesus said, "I AM"? What did He tell his audience they had to believe, or they would die in their sins?
2. Why are the miracles recounted in the Gospels important? What did they demonstrate about Jesus?
3. Both Matt.1:18-21 and John 1:29 predict Jesus would save us from sin. Why was it necessary for Jesus, the Son of God, to become human in order to do so? Read Heb.2:14-15 and 9:11-14. How do these verses explain this?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #5

1. Jesus was "born to die". How does God's promise in Gen.3:15 relate to Jesus' purpose in coming? What does it mean "to pay our sin debt, the innocent for the guilty"?
2. John 2:13-22 records Jesus' first conflict with the Jews in Jerusalem. The author of this account, John the Beloved Apostle, tells his readers what Jesus' words meant. Discuss what John is explaining. Why is it important to note that He said these things at the very beginning of His ministry?
3. Read Matt.26:26-28 and Luke 22:19-20. What was Jesus demonstrating through this action? What was He indicating about His purpose in coming?
4. What did Jesus want people to believe about Him? That He was a good man, a great teacher, or a fine example of how to live? Or was it something else? What do *you* believe about Him?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #6

1. Read 1 Cor.15:3-8. What two events make up the essential points of the Christian faith? According to this passage, why did Jesus die? What does it mean when Paul says each of these events was "according to the Scriptures"?
2. All four Gospels recount the events of the crucifixion and the resurrection. Read Matt.27:45-46 and then Luke 23:46. What is happening on earth in the time between these two statements? According to Heb.9:11-14, what was happening in heaven? How was reconciliation made?
3. 2 Cor.5:21 is sometimes called "The Great Exchange". What was "exchanged"?
4. Rome crucified thousands of people in the first century AD. Why was this one different?

5. What is the meaning of the event of the resurrection? Why was Jesus' resurrection necessary to the message of the gospel? What would it mean if there had been no resurrection?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #7

1. Read Jer.31;31-34 carefully. This promise of the New Covenant declares that each one will "know God". Why? What will happen to make this possible?
2. Ezk.36:26 further describes this New Covenant. What role will the Holy Spirit have in this New Covenant?
3. Jesus taught His disciples about the role the Holy Spirit would have after He returned to heaven following the resurrection. Read John 14:16-17, 26. What important truths did Jesus teach? Are these things still part of the Holy Spirit's role today?
4. Acts 2 recounts the coming of the Holy Spirit, indwelling the believers on the day of Pentecost, more than 2,000 years ago. Read Eph.1;13-14. Who receives the Holy Spirit now? How? What must happen in order for a person to receive the Holy Spirit? Have you received the Holy Spirit? How do you know?
5. What promises does Jesus make in Matt.16:16-18 concerning His church? What is the church? What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the church? Read Matt.28:19-20. What are some of the purposes of the church? Where do you fit in this- what is your role?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #8

1. Read Ex. 24;1-8. The Covenant of the Law, also known as the Old Covenant, was made between God and the people of Israel as Israel was being prepared to enter the Promised Land. This covenant promised blessings if the people obeyed the 613 laws, but consequences if they did not. What promise did the people make?
2. In this covenant, God made provisions to cover guilt when a person broke the Law. Read Lev.17:11,14. Why was a substitute sacrifice, an animal, necessary when the Law was broken? How does this relate to the penalty of sin in Gen.2:16-17?
3. These sacrifices were to be offered by a priest on behalf of the individual who had sinned. Read Ex.28:1 and 29:9. Who was eligible to serve as a priest? Why?
4. Read Ex. 25:8-9, 40, and Lev.17:3-6. What was the purpose of the sanctuary (also called the tent of meeting or the tabernacle)? When the people of Israel came in to the Promised Land, a permanent structure, called the temple, was

- built for this purpose. Read 1 Kings 8:12-21. Which covenant were all these things, the priesthood, the sacrifices, and the sanctuary, attached to?
5. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple at Jerusalem was torn in two, from top to bottom (Matt. 27:50-51; Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:44-47). As He died, Jesus declared, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). How does this relate to Heb. 9:11-14?
 6. According to Heb. 10:1-4 the Law is only a shadow of what? Read Heb. 10:11-14. What has Jesus done?
 7. Is there any need now for a priest of an earthly sanctuary? Heb. 8:13; 10:18. Who is our priest now? Heb. 4:14-16. What are the "better promises" of the New Covenant? Heb. 10:16-18.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #9

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. What does this indicate about a possibility of travel between places of the dead for any reason? How does this contrast with the LDS teaching about conversion to Mormonism after this life? How would this support or refute the teaching of baptism for the dead?
2. According to Heb. 9:27 and 2 Cor. 6:1-2, is it possible to change one's destiny after this life, after death?
3. In LDS teachings there are three levels of heaven and one place of condemnation or judgment. How does this contrast with Matt. 25:31-46 and John 3:36?
4. What does the Bible say about anyone attaining Godhood? Read Is. 43:10-13; 44:6-8; 45:5-6; 46:8-11.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS SESSION #10

1. The four elements of world view include:
 - Origin- WHERE did I come from?
 - Purpose- WHY am I here?
 - Morality- HOW should I live my life now?
 - Destiny- WHAT happens after I die?

How does the Bible answer each of these questions?

2. It was stated that there are only two places where sin is judged. How do Romans 3:23-26 and Rev. 20:11-15 support or refute that statement?
3. Rev. 21:4-5 describes two different destinies, two different outcomes. Who are the "overcomers" according to 1 John 5:4-5 and 11-3? Who are those given to the Second Death? Which are you?

