

THE BIG FIVE

Five of the Most Common Questions People Ask

Why is this study important?

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Review the Big 5

1. Is Christ the **only way** to heaven?
2. Are miracles possible?
3. How about those who have never heard?
4. Why do the innocent suffer?
5. Is the Bible reliable?

Lesson 1: *Is Christ the Only Way to Heaven?*

Memory Verse:

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Teaching:

- Religion is *man reaching towards God*. It is true that no man is a sufficient source of authority to say that he or his religion is the only way.
 - It shows maturity and concern when someone's thinking extends to others beyond a person's own culture.
1. Christ is the only one who offered a sacrifice for the sin problem. (Romans 5:8) Nobody else claims to have an answer. Jesus is the only one who can say. (John 5:24)
 2. The idea that men are unsaved without Christ originated with Christ Himself, and the Apostles continued the idea. John 8:24, 14:16, 5:23, 3:16-18, Luke 10:16, 16:9-31, 9:1, 13, 24, Mark 8:36, 9:47, 1 Corinthians 10:20, Acts 4:1-14
 3. All other possible ways are false religions, thus no way at all.
There are two great world religion systems:

Salvation by Works

- Religious rights, rules, commands, restrictions, and ethical principles.
- Men can't keep their own rules. (Romans 8:3)
- All world religions are in this group. In each case, there is no possibility of assurance.
- "Do it yourself" religion.
- No one can do enough.

Salvation by Grace

- The Bible set forth moral and ethical standards as a measure of God Himself, and then demands nothing less of man. Only God Himself can meet these standards.
- God became a man to do what we could not.
- The God-Man died in man's place.
- Only Grace - only Bible Christianity

4. Is that being Narrow-minded?

By definition, all truth is narrow, and there are 2 things that cannot change the truth:

Sincerity: All the sincerity in the world cannot change the truth.

Opinion: My opinion doesn't matter and doesn't change the truth.

5. Was Christ **right** or **wrong**? You **must** decide for yourself.

- There are only two options about Jesus Christ (He was either right or wrong):
 - **Right:** He is God and Lord
 - **Wrong:** He did not know it (He is a liar); OR, He knew it (He is a lunatic)

Lesson 2: Are Miracles Possible?

Memory Verse:

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth.

Teaching:

- The real question is whether God exists.
 - In our memory verse for today, the holy Bible begins with God already being present.
 - NOTE: The Bible does not take any time to try to prove God.
 - John 1:9 says that God has given light to every person
 - Romans 1:19 says the knowledge of God is manifest in every person
- If God exists, then He can do miracles.
 - Psalm 33:9 says and we learned in our last study that God SPOKE and it was done.
 - So, if God exists and He spoke EVERYTHING into existence then miracles should not be a problem.
- If God did a real, “contrary to nature” miracle, then He exists.
 - Once we get beyond creation, we then read Bible stories about God doing IMPOSSIBLE things like the Red Sea (exodus) and the plagues, etc, etc, etc
 - The Bible is true. If God did these things, then He is ALL-POWERFUL!
- Now consider Christ's resurrection, the Supreme Miracle; if He came out of that tomb, it **does** make a difference!
 - Matthew 28:6 - He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
 - You can have fun with this point!
- Miracles do **not** make believers. (Luke 16:30-31)
 - This is an important point!
 - The whole world is so concerned about miracles!
 - However, the Bible records very clearly that miracles do not make believers.
 - Consider ALL the miracles that Jesus did and how many disciples were in the upper room in Acts 1:15 = 120!!

Lesson 3: How About Those Who Have Never Heard?

Memory Verse:

Jeremiah 29:13 - And ye shall seek me, **and find me**, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Teaching:

- This is really a question of God's Fairness
- God is Just. (Genesis 18:25).
- He will judge each according to the light He has. (Luke 12:48, Romans 2:14-15)
- God has given everyone on Earth a chance.
 - Romans 1:18 - Men do not have to suppress the truth.
 - Romans 1:19 - Internal witness (the conscience).
 - Romans 1:20 - External witness (creation).
- “Wherever synchronised equipment is present, we know [in] 100% of the cases [that] there is intelligence behind it.”
- Everyone is held accountable as to how they respond to the internal and external revelations of God and Nature; and, everyone has a chance.
- Any person who seeks God - no matter where they are - will be sent a missionary with truth!
- The truth of the matter is this...IF YOU SEEK GOD...YOU WILL FIND HIM!
 - John 1:19 - Jesus Christ is the Light
 - Proverbs 8:17 - If you seek God, you will find Him.
 - Acts 8:26 - Philip goes to the desert to tell the Ethiopian the truth.
 - 2 Chronicles 16:9 - The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the wide earth.
 - Mark 7:7-8 - Seek God and you will find Him.
 - Acts 10:1-29, Acts 16:9-14

Lesson 4: Why Do the Innocent Suffer?

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding.**

Teaching:

- This may also be asked as:
 - A good God could *never* allow all this evil and suffering in the world.
 - Either God is all-powerful and doesn't care, or He cares and is not all-powerful.
 - Would a loving God send anyone to hell?
 - Why would God let an innocent child be brutally murdered, or killed in a car accident?
- God does **not** want suffering, nor does Jesus Christ want anyone to suffer. (John 1:14-18, 10:10, Luke 4:16-18, 2 Peter 3:9)
- When we see suffering, there are four things we need to remember:
 - God created the universe and man perfect. (Genesis 1)
 - God gave man a **choice**; He loved us, so He gave us freedom. (Genesis 2)
 - We chose evil. (Genesis 3) We continue to choose evil, and presently come short of God's goal. (Romans 3:23)
 - We must live with the result of our choice. (Genesis 3:24, Romans 5:12) God cursed the universe because of sin. (Genesis 3:17, Romans 5:12, 8:19-22, Luke 9:41)
- Jesus came to save us from hell, not cast us into it. (Jn 3:17) Jesus said there is a heaven *and* hell.
 - Heaven - John 14:1-3, Matthew 7:13, 14, 21, 8:11, Revelation 21
 - Hell - Matthew 5:21, 22, 7:13-14, 21, 8:12, 23:33, 25:46, Luke 13:3, 16:22-23, 1 Corinthians 1:18, 2 Peter 2:4, 9, Revelation 20:14, Proverbs 14:12, Romans 6:23
- The choice is still with men, and is also still with **you**.
 - There are two choices:
 - Choose Life - Deuteronomy 30:19, John 5:39-40, 7:17
 - God remains available - Romans 1:19-20, Matthew 7:17
 - Life is available through Jesus Christ - John 5:24, 10:10

Lesson 5: Is the Bible Reliable?

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 30:5 - Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Teaching:

- Has anyone ever told you the Bible is full of errors? Just another holy book? The right interpretation?
- The Bible itself claims a word for word accuracy. Jesus Himself stressed this. Matthew 4:4, 5:17-18, 15:14, John 10:35, Luke 24:44, also by Paul Galatians 2:16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 3:16, 1:21
- Another evidence for the accuracy of the Bible is fulfilled prophecy.
 - Jesus Christ. Birth, life, betrayal, death, crucified, people's reaction, burial, over 360 specific prophecies. (Psalm 34:20 vs John 19:33)
 - Nations. Consider Israel, Tyre, Babylon, etc.
- The unity of the Bible is evidence that it could have only come from God.
 - The Bible was written over 1500 years, in 66 books, 40 authors, three languages, and three continents, and yet there is one, consistent message, because there is really only one author.
- The manuscript evidence allows for a more accurate copy of the New Testament original than any other book.
- Scientific Accuracy: Science has always proved the Bible **correct**.
 - The Earth is round. Isaiah 40:22 in the seventh century BC vs Columbus/Magellan, 1492
 - The Earth is suspended in space. Job 26:7 vs Isaac Newton in 1687
 - The multitude of stars. Genesis 15:5 and 13:6 vs Ptolemy (150 AD, declared that there were only 1056 stars)
 - Mountains in the ocean. 2 Samuel 22:16 and Jonah 2:6 - 1056 BC
 - The water paths (ocean currents). Psalm 8:8 vs Matthew Maury's First Oceanography Book