

BAPTISM

SUNNYBROOK FMT

GO. GATHER. GROW.



SUNNYBROOK

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A COUPLE QUESTIONS

What comes into your mind when you think about God?

What does the Bible say about who you are?



GOD IS...

There was a guy named A. W. Tozer that said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." What he means is that what we think about God actually shapes the way that we live each and every day.

-KING-

If we have a right view of God, that he is **KING** and we are not, then it means we will **OBEY** him as our king and live lives that bring honor and glory to him and faithful kingdom workers.

For the Lord, your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed.--Deuteronomy 10:17

Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed.--Revelation 15:3-4

Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.--Philippians 2:9-11

What do these verses tell you about who God is?

If we rightly recognize God is **KING** then our *next step [response]* has to be **OBEDIENCE**.

"If anyone would come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me."--Luke 9:23

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."--John 14:15

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one who you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience [to God], which leads to righteousness? --Romans 6:16

What do these verses teach you about how you are supposed to respond to God as our King?


I AM...

The Bible says a lot about who we are. **Read Genesis 1:26.** What does it say about you?

That's pretty amazing to think about. *We were made in the image of God Himself!* His fingerprints are all over us. As God was creating in the beginning, He made things like the stars and moon and said they were good. Then He made plants and fish and birds and animals and said they were good. But then God us. And after He was done, He didn't say we were good, He said we were *very good!* God designed you and me to look like Him, to obey Him and to love Him deeply. That is who we are:

-AN IMAGE OF GOD IN THIS WORLD-

What are some ways that you get to be a picture of God to the world?



Unfortunately not everything stayed good in God's creation. Adam and Eve, the first humans, were tempted by the serpent [*Satan*] in the garden and chose to **disobey** God and **sin** entered the world. In that moment the perfect image of God in us became **broken**. And our perfect relationship with God was **broken** because God is perfect [*we call it holy, meaning set apart like nothing else*].

Read the story of our fall in Genesis 3:1-19.

-BROKEN BECAUSE OF SIN-

What is sin?

THE SIN PROBLEM

Sin is disobeying God. It is knowing what we are supposed to do and not doing it. It is choosing to follow our own selfish desires instead of following God our true King. **Sin is missing the mark.** It's like shooting an arrow at a target and completely missing the target. God our King has told us how we are supposed to live. When we don't do that, we miss the mark, we sin.



Who sins? Read Romans 3:23 and 1 John 5:17

When we don't do things right there are consequences. Read Romans 6:23. What is the consequence of our sin?

-QUICK RECAP-

- Sin is disobeying God, missing the mark of how He has asked us to live.
- Sin is separation from God because He is holy [perfect and set apart] and we are not.
- We were made in the image of God but are broken because of the sin in our lives.
- Everyone sins.
- The consequence of our sin is death, eternal death and separation from God for all eternity.

-WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE-

This looks like a pretty hopeless situation for all of us, doesn't it? Sometimes we feel like Paul in Romans 7:24 and end up asking the same question he asks. Check out what he says:

"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?"

Us maybe? Maybe we can work hard enough, or be good enough to make our way into heaven.
Read Ephesians 2:8-9, Can we save ourselves from sin? _____

God saved you by grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done so that none of us can boast about it.
--Ephesians 2:8,9

We can't earn our way to right standing with God. We can't work hard enough, or do enough good things to make it so that we deserve heaven. **We need help. We need a savior.**

JESUS IS...

Fortunately for all of us, the story doesn't end with us helplessly dying in sin. God **loves** us and wants us to be with Him. But God is also **just** [or fair] meaning that someone had to pay the consequence of our sin, which is _____.

So God sent Jesus to take our place. Jesus came to this earth born as a baby. **He lived a perfect life without sin** and taught us what it looked like to be part of God's kingdom. He taught us that obeying God is more than just following rules, it is having a life-changing relationship with God our King through Jesus. Then Jesus, although He was innocent, was crucified, dying a brutal death on a cross that we deserved to die.

Jesus took our place and paid our price so that we could be back with God forever. Now when God looks at us, He doesn't see our sin. He sees the blood of Jesus and says we belong to Him; we are on His team. No longer are we guilty in the courtroom of heaven. Jesus' blood cleans us and makes us innocent or justified in God's eyes. Jesus took our sin and gave us life.

Jesus' death on the cross fixes the brokenness that sin brought into our lives. And now we can be back in relationship with God through Jesus and only Jesus. **Read John 14:6. What does it say?**

-THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD-

Read John 3:16-18, Philippians 2:6-11. What do they say? _____

I AM NOW...

Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and enthronement as King change everything. They fix what was broken. They make us new. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Circle below what the Bible teaches about those who accept Jesus as their Savior and their King.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. --2 Corinthians 5:17

What does that verse say about us? _____

Paul also talks about our new identity in Christ. Check out what he says in Galatians 4:4-7:

"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law so that *he could adopt us as his very own children*. And because we are his children, *God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts*, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." *Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*"

That pretty amazing he says that we have been _____ as sons and daughters to the King! And because of that we are now _____ to the throne! That's God's way of saying now that Christ has bought us and made us a new creation **we belong!**

-A NEW CREATION-
-A SON OR DAUGHTER-
-AN HEIR-

But God doesn't just *invite* us into a relationship with Him. He also *challenges* us to be a part of making heaven come to earth. God has asked that we join Him in His mission to take over the world. Check out the mission Jesus gave His disciples before He went back into heaven:

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."--Matthew 28:18-20

-A KINGDOM WORKER-

RESPOND AND NEXT STEPS

You're probably thinking wow, that's amazing...what now? How do I respond to the truth of the gospel message? Well here is how we believe the Bible teaches us to respond to the truth about God our King, our brokenness because of sin, and Jesus' work on the cross that brings us into relationship with Him.

Hear. Believe. Confess. Repent. Be Baptized. Live.

HEAR

Hearing about Jesus is the story of how God our King sent Jesus our Savior to take our place and pay our price by dying on a cross and then be raised back to life that brings us back into a right relationship with God. This makes us new creations in Christ, sons and daughters and heirs. This also challenges us to be missional and bring heaven to earth by being kingdom workers. This true story gives us a purpose in life now and the hope of eternity in heaven in the future!

So faith comes from **hearing**, that is, **hearing** the Good News about Christ.--Romans 10:17

"Therefore, let all of Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people **heard** this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"--Acts 2:36-37

I tell you the truth, those who **listen to** my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.--John 5:24

But many of those who had **heard** the word believed, and the number of the men that came to about five thousand.--Acts 4:4

Write down the first time that you remember hearing about Jesus: _____

BELIEVE

It doesn't stop with just hearing about Jesus. We have to respond to the truth. We must believe what we have heard. We must put our faith and trust in Jesus. We must believe that He is the Son of God, lived a sinless life, that HE died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven, and rose to life again, conquering death and sin!

*I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.--John 5:24*

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes** in me will live, even though he dies."--John 11:25*

*I have come into the world as a light so that no one who **believes** in me should stay in darkness.
--John 12:46*

*But these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by **believing** you may have life in his name.--John 20:31*

Look up and read Romans 1:16 and Romans 10:9. What do you believe about Jesus: _____

CONFESS

Confession is when we make our belief in Jesus something others can see, with our words and our actions. This is not a one-time event that happens when we accept Jesus. This is ongoing. Throughout our walk with Jesus, we should continue to confess Him with words and actions.

*Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge them before my Father in heaven.
--Matthew 10:32*

*No one denies the Son has the Father; whoever **acknowledges** the Son has the Father also.--1 John 2:23*

Look up and read Romans 10:9, 1 John 4:14, Matthew 16:16. Write down your own statement confessing who Jesus is:

REPENT

Repentance calls for a change in your life. Repentance means knowing we are in sin and that we want to turn and trust Jesus to forgive our sin. We make an 180-degree turn in our lives. We turn from living a life of sin [*where we are king*] to living a life with Jesus [*where He is king*]. This is done out of love in our heart for Jesus and our desire to follow and obey Him.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news."
--Mark 1:15

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."--Acts 2:38

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.--Acts 3:19

Repentance is recognizing the areas in our life where we want to still be king and handing those over to Jesus to rule in every aspect of our hearts and minds. Where do you need to surrender some control to the King?

: _____

BE BAPTIZED

Baptism is the next step. The mode of baptism is immersion [*going down into the water*]. In baptism, we partner with Jesus in his death, burial and resurrection [**Read Romans 6:3-4**]. Baptism is a part of the new birth, which brings us into Christ. It is an important part of salvation where our sin is forgiven and the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling within our hearts. In baptism, we die to our old life and live a new life in Jesus Christ.

Read Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:3-4

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.--Galatians 3:26-27

And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
--1 Peter 3:21

Why is baptism important? _____

LIVE

We love to tell people after they get baptized that now they get the rest of their life to figure out how to live more like Jesus has asked us to every day. Walking with Jesus every day is tough. The world constantly tempts us to take back control and live as we want to. If we could sum up the Christian walk in one phrase it would be: **a long obedience in the same direction**. Here's what we mean by that:

-Long: the journey and relationship with Jesus are lifelong. They're 24/7/365. They never stop. They take no breaks, they never shut down. This relationship with your savior and king is the heartbeat of your life.

-Obedience: Christ has set the standard for what it looks like for those who follow Him. Therefore, we live each day in obedience to our king and the way of life He has lined out. We live in love, service, community, sacrifice, and mission every moment.

-Same Direction: Our compass is always pointed towards heaven. As believers, we don't necessarily have to take detours of fame, success, wealth, prosperity that this world offers because we know where we are headed. And we know nothing on earth can compare to the joy of spending eternity in right relationship with Jesus our savior and king.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. --Colossians 2:6-7

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.--1 Peter 2:21

Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.--1 John 2:6

Some ways to follow faithfully:

-GO - Be Missional - Describes God's expectation and our need to continue to reach out to our community and our world with the Gospel through service and evangelism.

-GATHER - Be Communal - Describes God's expectation and our need to continue to meet together in order to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and enjoy unified Jesus-centered fellowship.

-GROW - Be Transformed - Describes God's expectation and our need to continue to be built up into maturity by increasing our understanding of and obedience to Jesus and the teachings of the Bible.

NEXT STEP QUESTIONS

What questions do you have after going through this?

What are some questions about this book that you have for your parents/guardian?

What are some questions about this book that you have for your minister?

When am I going to meet with my minister and parents to talk about this more?

ADULT QUESTIONS

Have you been baptized? If not is this something you would like to talk about?

How is your kid/student convicted by sin (not that they just got caught after doing wrong, but broken by the presence of sin in their life)?

What evidence do you see of God working in your kid's/student's life?

Where does your kid/student fail to connect the truth of the Bible to their everyday life?

