

Come And Reason Ministries
Presents

BIBLICAL CONCEPTS

MADE EASY

Youth Study Guide

Stephanie Land

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This study guide belongs to:

**Biblical Concepts Made Easy
Youth Study Guide**

By Stephanie Land

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PREFACE

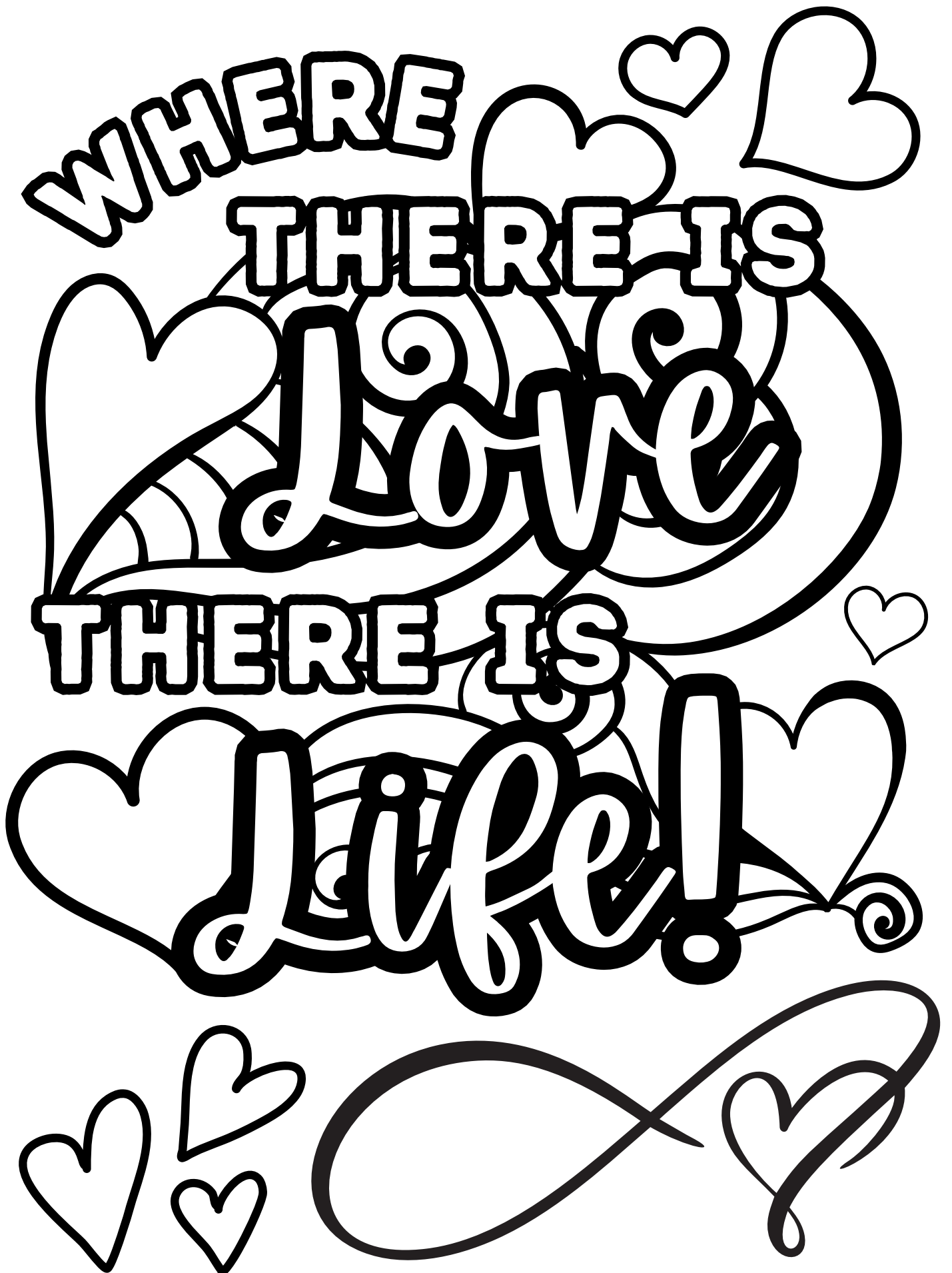
When my daughter was six years old, her Christian private school teacher began to fill her head with fearful ideas about God. My daughter came to me with great concerns about hellfire and God's wrath—she felt unsafe with this picture of an angry and mean god. To be honest, I was not pleased that this teacher was reading Revelation to children who could not yet discern the prophetic metaphors presented in this book of the Bible. However, I was glad that my daughter brought these questions to me and that we could talk through them together. It was clear she understood that there were different viewpoints about God, but she struggled to figure out whom to trust in learning the truth about Him - after all, wasn't she supposed to be able to trust her teacher?

We talked and soon realized that the major difference in our understanding of God - versus her teacher's understanding - was in how we viewed God's law. This began my journey to help my daughter develop her critical-thinking abilities to come to know the truth for herself. It was also why I wrote "God Is Love" - a children's book that explains God's character of love, that His physical, health, and moral laws are the design for life, that sin is a sickness of being out of harmony with God's design, and that God just wants to heal us from the sin-sickness that is hurting us.

As my daughter grew up, she started talking about wanting to be baptized. However, I knew that to be baptized in our church meant she would have to take baptismal classes and study baptismal workbooks. So, I did some research and wasn't thrilled with what I found. Pretty much every baptismal lesson taught biblical concepts through the distorted imposed-law lens - but we had come to understand God as the Creator and Designer whose laws are the design parameters for life to exist. We also understood how this difference in viewing God's law made a huge impact on understanding all other biblical teachings. So, I set out to present these biblical concepts through the design-law lens in a way that speaks to our kids so they, too, can feel secure in their heavenly Father's love.

I have never understood biblical concepts so easily as I have through the design-law lens, and I truly believe this study guide will help make it easy to understand these vital concepts. I hope this guide is just the beginning of your journey to know God better!

*Stephanie
Loud*

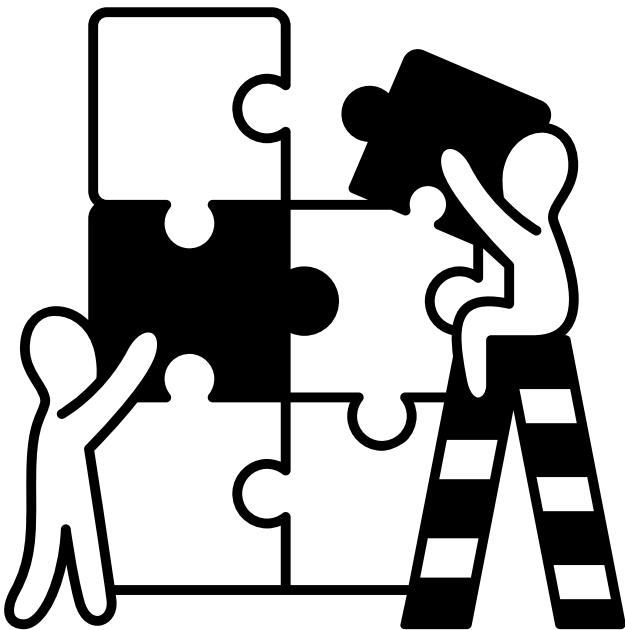


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WORLDVIEW

We all have a certain way that we view the world around us. This is called a **worldview**. Think of your worldview as the sum of all your many individual beliefs. Why does having a worldview matter? Because your worldview affects your choices in life and the way you live! While we can choose what we believe, what we believe also has power over us - so our beliefs are very important.



Each belief we hold is like a puzzle piece that we fit together to form our worldview. Often, our beliefs change over time depending on new things we learn or through our life experiences. Some people have a belief that there is no God, which drastically shapes their worldview to believe things like evolution (the idea that life just - poof! - appeared out of nowhere). Usually, people who say they don't believe in God have been told there is a god who is angry and mean and who wants to punish them for disobeying - but that kind of god doesn't make sense to them, so they reject it and try to explain the world without a god.

When we hold a certain worldview, it shapes the lens that we look through. If we are looking through a distorted lens, it will alter what we see - which will alter the choices we make.



Think about the things you have grown up believing. Describe your worldview on how life began, how we should live, who you are, and the purpose of your life:

This study guide presents a BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW that encompasses these amazing beliefs about God and His universe:


- There is a God who is infinite – He can't be measured using time or space.
- Before anything was created, God existed in a triune of perfect love.
- God is the Creator/Designer of space, time, and matter.
- God is the source of all life.
- God created life to work in harmony with who He is – love.
- God's natural and moral laws are design laws – like blueprints for how life works best – they are not random, imposed rules like humans make up.
- Before Earth was created, an angel (Lucifer) rebelled against God and violated His design laws for life.
- Rebellion, aka sin-sickness, entered God's kingdom and started a cosmic war.
- This war is over God's character and law – selfishness vs selflessness.
- God created Earth and humans to give evidence of the truth about His character and law.
- Sin-sickness spread to Earth and infected all of humanity.
- Sin-sickness is being out of harmony with God's design for life and, if unhealed, it leads to death.
- God made a way for humans to be healed of their sin-sickness.
- One day, sin-sickness will no longer affect the universe and we will live in peace.

Check the beliefs that you already hold.

This study guide will walk you through some commonly held beliefs about God and encourage you to re-examine them through a **Design Law lens** - you'll learn what this means later. Our mindset should be one of constantly seeking truth because we have so much to learn about God, His kingdom, His laws and how they pertain to us, our world, and the universe. Our hope is that the biblical concept puzzle pieces presented here will help to shape your worldview to see God as completely trustworthy, because your view of God matters. It will affect the way you live your life and the choices you make!

≡ GOD IS LOVE ≡

Read 1 John, chapter 4, verses 8 and 16. Twice in one chapter, we are told that God IS love. It doesn't just say "God is loving" - although He is! Instead, it says specifically that God IS love. Think of it this way:

(Color this!) 

GOD (EQUALS) LOVE

=

Ok, God is love... but what does that even mean? What is love? Is love that happy feeling you get when you see your crush walk by? Is it how you feel about your favorite food or that cool movie you've seen a hundred times?

Write down something or someone you love.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and then list some things it says about love:

Depending on which version of the Bible you are reading, one of the things you listed may have been that...

"love is not self-seeking"
(NIV)

"love is not selfish"
(GNTD)



"love does not demand its own way"
(NLT)

"love seeketh not its own"
(ASV)

"love does not pursue selfish advantage"
(PHI)

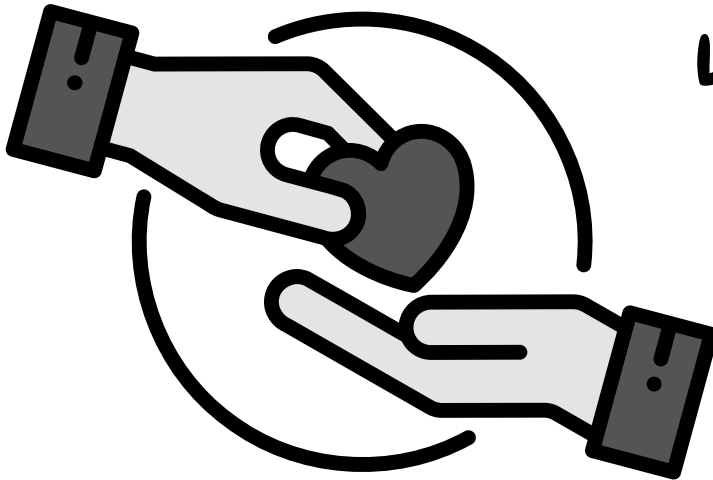
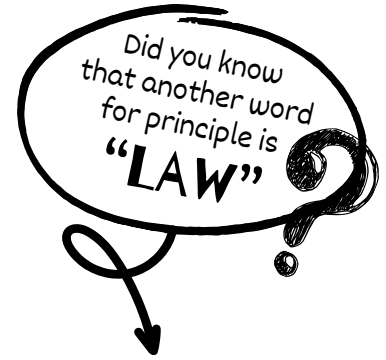
So... if love is NOT all about seeking self, what IS it?

A. Love is others-seeking

C. Love gives to others

B. Love is selfless

D. All of the above



Love is the principle of other-centered, selfless giving for the health and benefit of others!

Read John 15:12, 13. What does God want us to do?

Search for the following words below:

GOD

GIVING

KIND

TRUTH

PROTECTS

LOVE

OTHERS

PATIENT

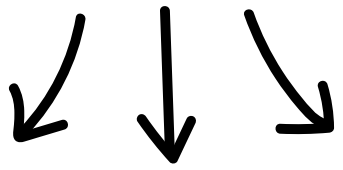
TRUST

RESTORES

V R A P L U A Y G R E O B R P S Z E M Q E V K F V
D J B F M M S T Z O X K M S E R T D O D G I G G A
J Y L C I L P W L Z D I G K Y S G O O T H E R S B
G R S C H W R L K Z R N V T N H T I L W I Y H V W
W F T P F X O O G W U D J C R A Z O V V E J U K C
L C R C I L T V E O F H X J D U H T R I Y U U A C
N M U F O E E E M H O Y Y G Z D T I P E N I G Y Q
Z D S I L R C P A T I E N T M L I H L F S G J N B
A N T I X D T K Q V U L S W N C P P K K Y Y E S C
A K L K G M S Y R H N O Q O B E F D U A L T U H Q

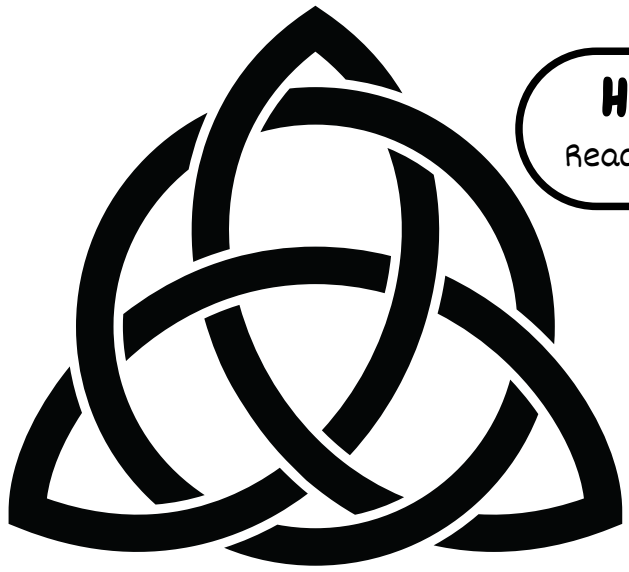
THE TRINITY

Now that we have a better understanding of love, let's look at God in 3 persons – the Trinity. Who are the three members of the Godhead?



_____	_____	_____
the source from which all good comes	the physical representation who reveals God	the one who applies all that has been achieved
GIVES TO... Jesus and the Holy Spirit	GIVES TO... The Father and the Holy Spirit	GIVES TO... The Father and Jesus

FILL IN THE BLANKS



Holy Spirit Father Jesus
Read John 14:26 to see how the Trinity works together.



The _____ sends
the _____ to reveal
all that _____ has shown.



The Bible tells us that God created everything and that without God, nothing was created. This means that God is the source of life - the source of space, time, and matter.

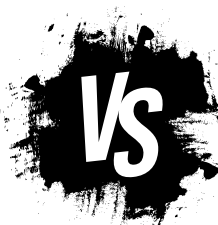
But, how can ONE God be 3 beings?!

Our **finite** minds have a hard time grasping concepts like the Trinity and how God exists apart from time as we know it. But if we look at how love operates - other-centered giving - then we can see that God, being love, could not exist as a singularity because love needs another to give to.



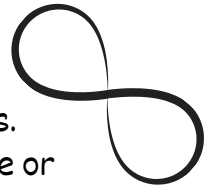
FINITE

Having limits or bounds. Humans are finite.



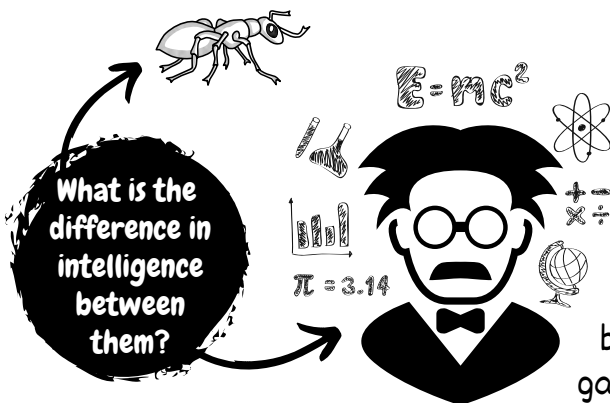
INFINITE

Limitless or endless. Impossible to measure or calculate. God is infinite.



Name an animal: _____

Name the smartest person you know of:



Alpha & Omega



Revelation 22:13 tells us that God is the Alpha and the Omega. It even goes on to explain what this means - the first and the last, the beginning and the end. God has always existed and will always exist. God is infinite.

Now imagine the difference in intelligence between humans and God! Do you think the gap in knowledge between us and God is **smaller** or **larger** than the gap between us and an animal?

The Old Testament speaks of God as more than one person.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

The reading of this passage (with the Hebrew names for “LORD” and “God”) would go like this:

“Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is one.”

“Elohim” is plural and is the same word translated as “God” in Genesis 1:26, where God says, “Let US make mankind in OUR image.”

In Hebrew there are two words for “one,” yacheed and echad.

yacheed singular | one and only

echad plural | compound unity

In this verse, the plural word for one is used.

So, an accurate translation of this verse might read:

“Hear, O Israel: The One is more than one yet is One.”

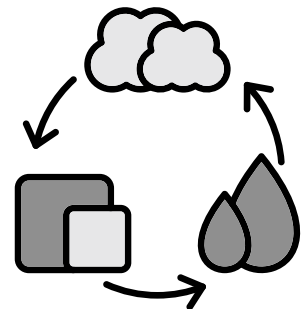
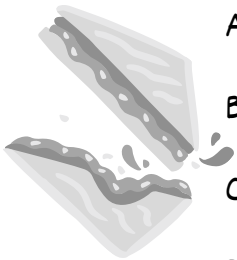
Which finite way of thinking helps you better understand God as three persons?

A. Different states of water - liquid, solid (ice), gas (steam)

B. A PB&J sandwich - bread, peanut butter, jelly

C. An egg - shell, yolk, whites

D. Other _____



These analogies can be helpful, but they are also inadequate. Our finite minds can't understand how one being can be three persons. But if we keep in mind the idea that God is love and that love is outward giving, we can start to see a glimpse into our infinite God!

Look up the following verses. Which members of the Trinity do these verses talk about and what do they say about the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?



John 10:30 _____

John 14:9 _____



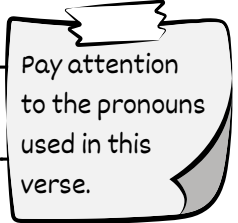
More about **BAPTISM** on page 82.

Matthew 28:19 _____

More about **NAME** on page 41.

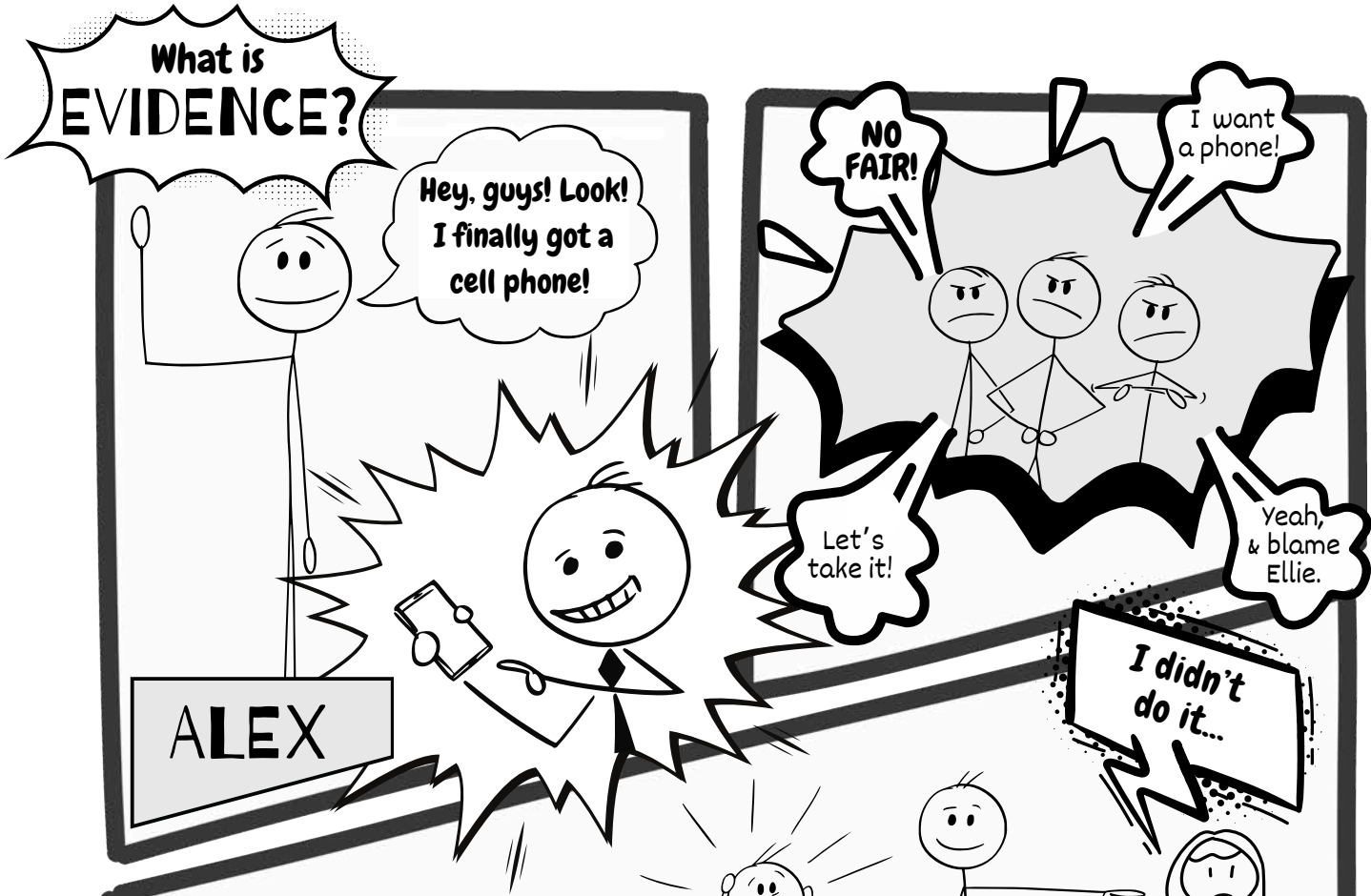
Genesis 1:26 _____

(Does God say, "I will make mankind in MY image"?)



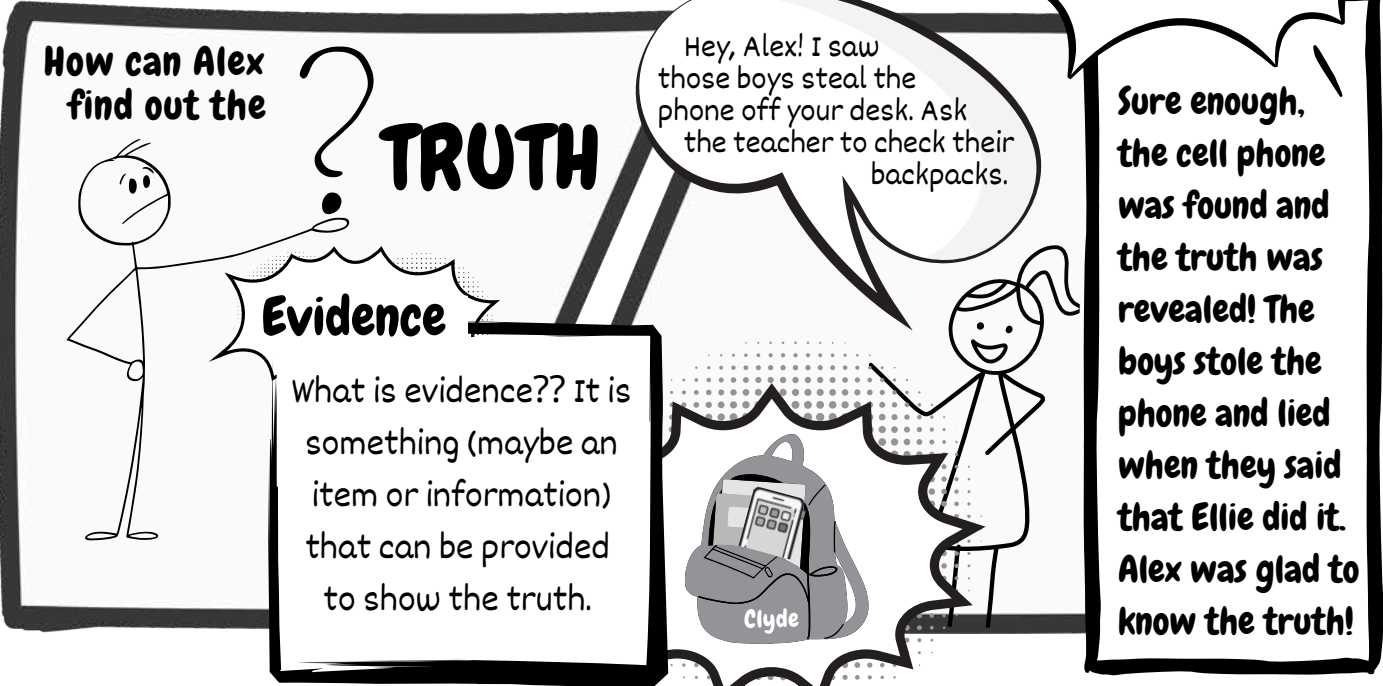
John 15:26 _____

All three members of the Trinity work together to reveal the truth and to provide life and all that is good.



Alex's classmates stole Alex's phone when he wasn't looking and then blamed it on Alex's best friend, Ellie. Alex was shocked!

One friend says one thing, and the other friend says another thing. Who should Alex believe?



How can Alex find out the

TRUTH

Evidence

What is evidence?? It is something (maybe an item or information) that can be provided to show the truth.

Hey, Alex! I saw those boys steal the phone off your desk. Ask the teacher to check their backpacks.

Sure enough, the cell phone was found and the truth was revealed! The boys stole the phone and lied when they said that Ellie did it. Alex was glad to know the truth!



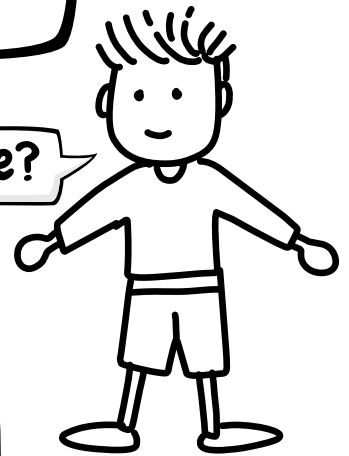
EVIDENCE



God loves truth, and He has provided us with so much evidence of what is truth. Where can we find this evidence?

Ding ding ding!!

The Bible?



You are correct! But did you know the Bible tells us about other places we can find evidence of God's truth?

Sola Scriptura

The original purpose of the phrase "Sola Scriptura" was not meant to suggest that Scripture is the only and exclusive source of truth. It meant that Scripture should not be considered less important than man-made religious traditions. In other words, our teachings are to come from Scripture - not from the rulings, traditions and councils of churches. But Sola Scriptura does not mean that we are to split up Scripture from science/nature and experience. Scripture itself teaches that God has revealed Himself through these other threads of evidence as well.



My pastor says that we should believe the Bible alone for truth about God.

SOLA SCRIPTURA!



Read the Bible verses and then draw a line to match them with the type of evidence it supports.

Romans 1:20

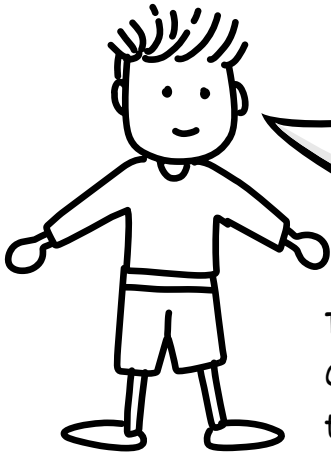
SCRIPTURE

Psalms 34:8

SCIENCE/NATURE

2 Timothy 3:16

EXPERIENCE



God shows us truth through what He has made! (Romans 1:20) That means we can see truth in science and nature!

SCIENCE & NATURE

The Bible repeatedly tells us that God is the Creator. List 3 different books of the Bible that talk about God as the Creator:

Search for the words "created" "Creator" "heavens" or "made"
HINT

One neat way to see the principle / law of love (giving) in nature is in how we breathe. Label what is happening here with the words OXYGEN and CO2.

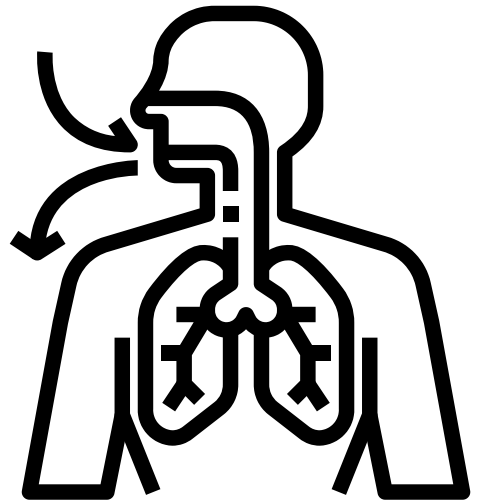


Plants freely give away

We breathe in

Plants take in

We breathe out (freely give away)



EXPERIENCE

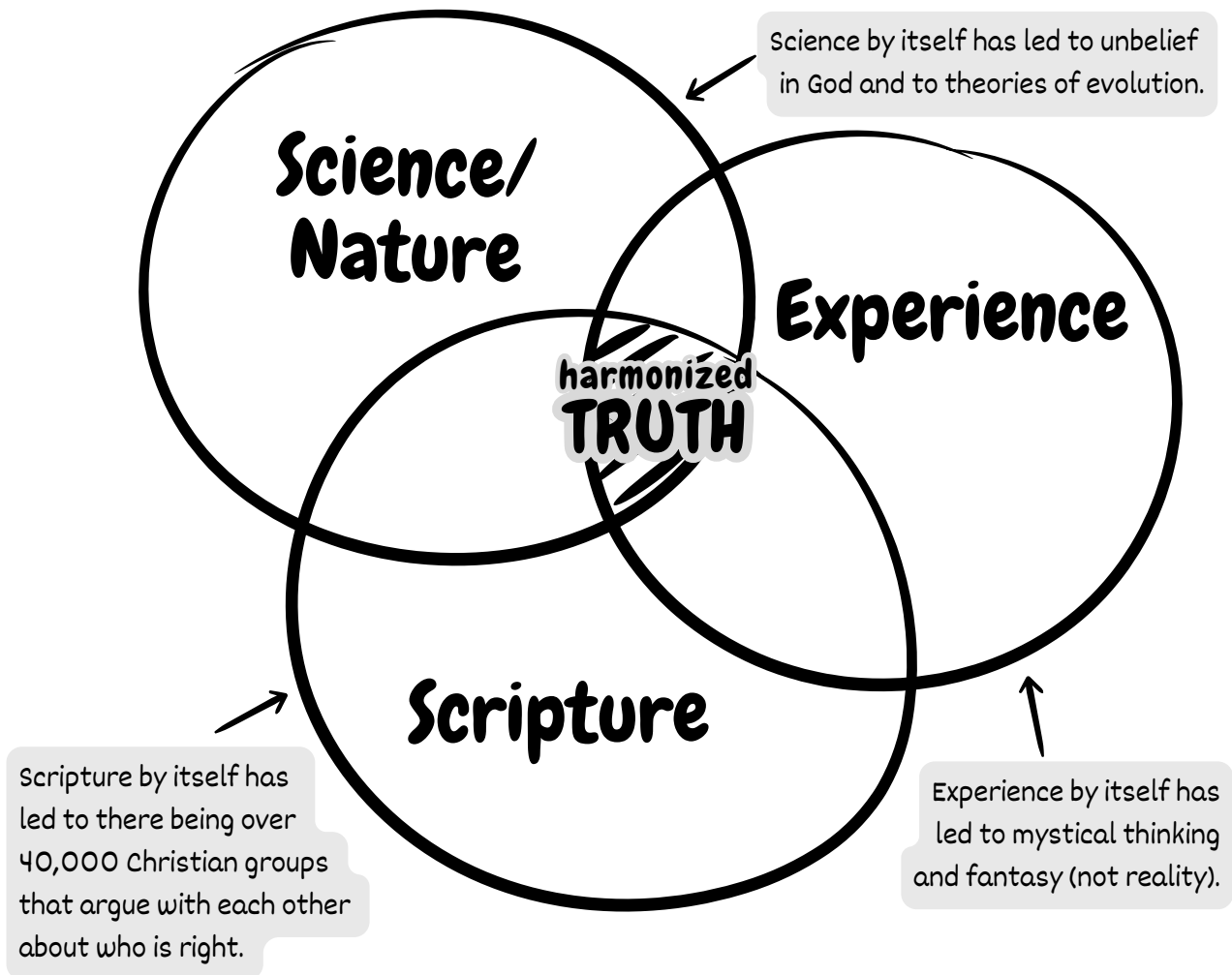
Our own experiences of God's goodness and of how reality works help to guide our understanding of truth. Describe a time you experienced God in your life: _____

SCRIPTURE

The purpose of the Bible is to teach us the truth about God, the problem of sin, and God's plan to save us. It's good to read from many different translations because then you will get a well-rounded understanding of what is being said. Circle the Bible translations you like to read. **AMP ASV CJB FBV ESV**

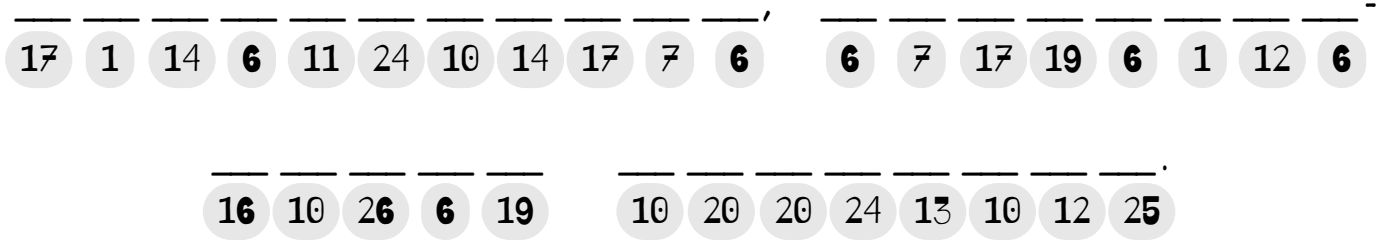
GNTD KJV MKJV MSG NIV NLT PHI REM TLB _____

It's important to **harmonize** all three threads of evidence. That means something must be shown to be true in each area - Scripture, Science/Nature & Experience.



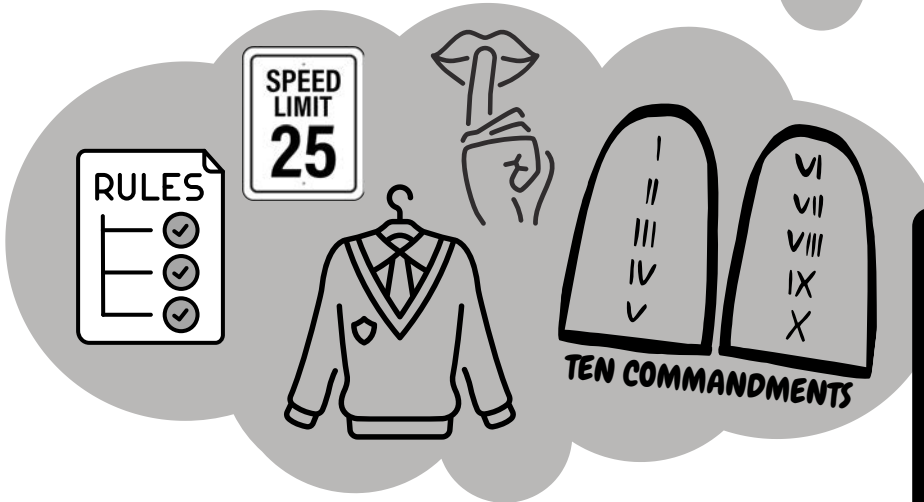
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	16	12	19	6	2	11	25	17	21	8	18	3
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	13	20	22	24	26	14	5	7	23	15	9	4

The harmonizing of these God-given threads of evidence is also known as the



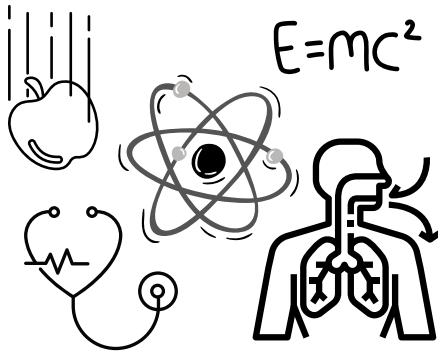
WHAT LAW LENS?

What do you think of when you hear the word "LAW"?



It's human nature to think about law like this because this is how we live our lives. People make up rules, and we have to follow them. These are called **"imposed laws."**

What is an imposed law (rule) that you have been given and are expected to follow? _____



$$E=mc^2$$

There are also the kinds of laws that God built life to operate upon. These laws are just how life works - reality. These are called **"design laws."** Some examples of design laws are the laws of health, the law of gravity, the laws of physics, and the law of respiration.

Breaking the Law

IMPOSED LAW

needs someone to watch for rule-breaking and then inflict punishment when the law is broken.

DESIGN LAW

the "punishment" (or consequence) is a natural result of breaking the law.

This important distinction has a major impact on how you will process biblical concepts and in how you view God. And so, when we study the Bible, we always want to ask...

"What law lens am I seeing this through?"

IMPOSED OR DESIGN?

Circle which type of law you think the following laws are, Imposed or Design:

A law that says ...

if you don't brush your teeth, no bedtime story.	Imposed	Design
if you don't brush your teeth, you will get cavities.	Imposed	Design
you must breathe in oxygen and breathe out CO2.	Imposed	Design
you must wear shoes to enter the store.	Imposed	Design
you might get a ticket if you drive over the speed limit.	Imposed	Design
if you step off a cliff, you will fall and get injured.	Imposed	Design
if you get bad grades, you can't play sports.	Imposed	Design
you must practice piano, or you can't watch TV.	Imposed	Design
you must practice piano to get better at piano.	Imposed	Design
if you steal, you might get caught and go to jail.	Imposed	Design
if you steal, you will create the heart of a thief.	Imposed	Design
if you plant tomato seeds, you will get tomatoes.	Imposed	Design

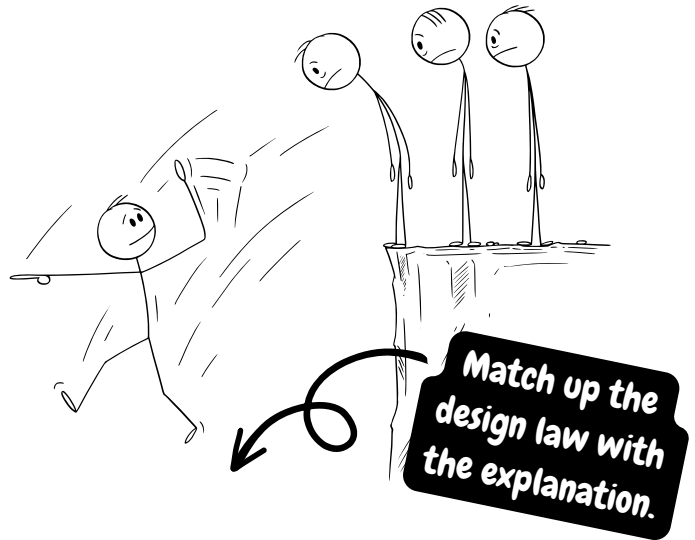
“The law is not so, simply because God said so, but He said so, because it was so.”

~George Fifiield, God Is Love, 1897

GOD'S DESIGN LAWS

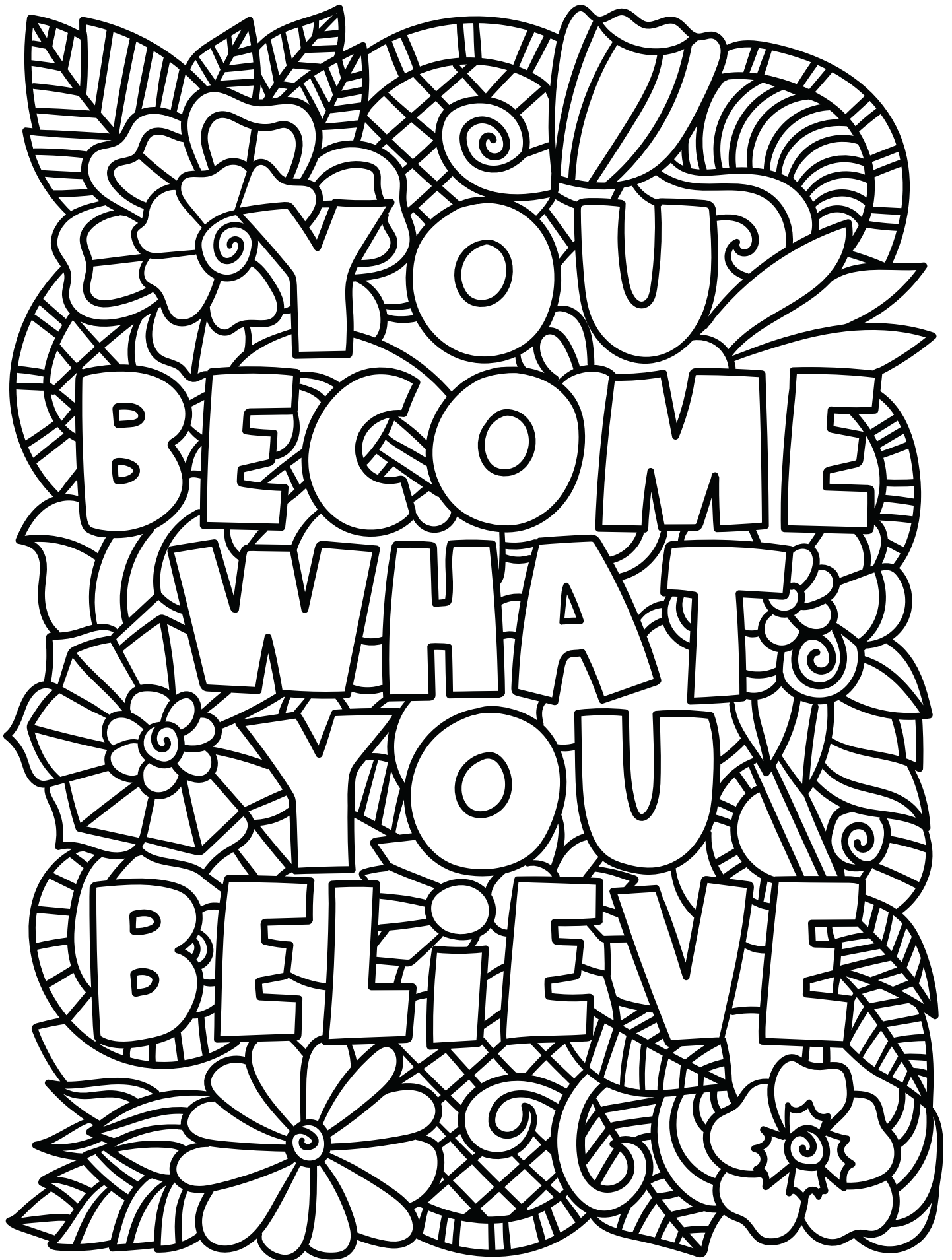
Design laws (principles) cannot be changed. They can be tested over and over again and will always achieve constant, predictable results. When design laws are broken, the "punishment" is a natural consequence.

For instance, if you were to jump off a 500-foot cliff, the natural result would be to fall (law of gravity). If nothing slows your fall or cushions your impact, the result of your action would be death because humans are not designed to withstand the force of gravity from a fall of that height.



The Law of . . .

- A Love** Nutrition, sleep, exercise, hydration, respiration, etc.
- B Liberty** After using energy (physical, mental, etc.), you must rest in order to restore that energy so you can use more.
- C Worship** We reap what we sow. If you want grapes, you don't sow oats. If you want critical reasoning skills, you don't let others think for you.
- D Exertion** You can't avoid the truth; you can only delay the day you deal with it.
- E Physics** Love can exist only where there is freedom. When freedom is violated, love is damaged/destroyed and rebellion grows in the heart.
- F Restoration** Strength comes from exercise - not just physical. Want to be better at piano? You must practice playing piano. "Use it or lose it!"
- G Health** The principle of giving on which life is built to operate. (See pg 22)
- H Sowing & Reaping** Happiness is a byproduct of healthiness in all ways - physical, mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual.
- I Happiness** Gravity, motion, friction, nuclear forces, etc.
- J Truth** We are actually changed to become like what we admire and worship. What we spend our time watching and listening to will impact us.

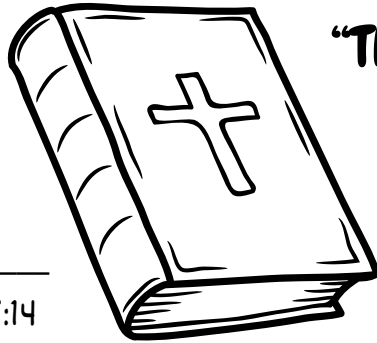


LAW OF LOVE

God created and designed life to operate based on His character of love. Let's use the Integrative, Evidence-Based approach to harmonize the truth of God's law of love.

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:14



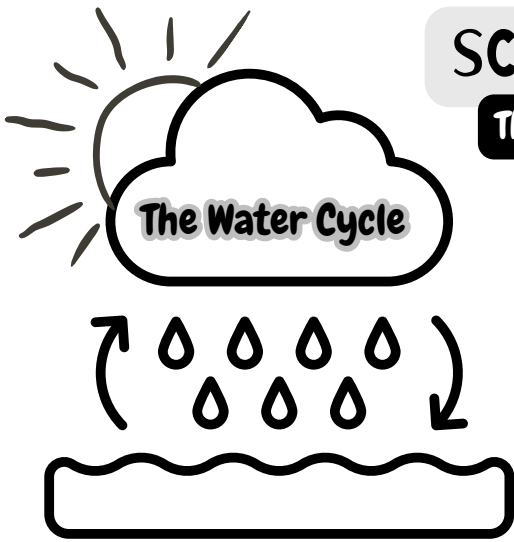
"The design-law of God is perfect, restoring one's life."

Psalm 19:7
(The Remedy)

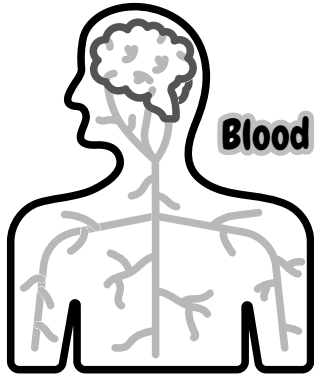
Matthew 22:37-40

SCIENCE/NATURE

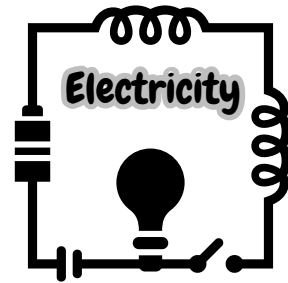
These show circles of giving.



The Water Cycle



Blood



Electricity

Give another example of where you can see circles of giving:

EXPERIENCE

studies show that volunteering is good for your health! Have you ever volunteered (given your time and energy freely) to help someone in need? How did it make you feel?

CIRCLE OF GIVING

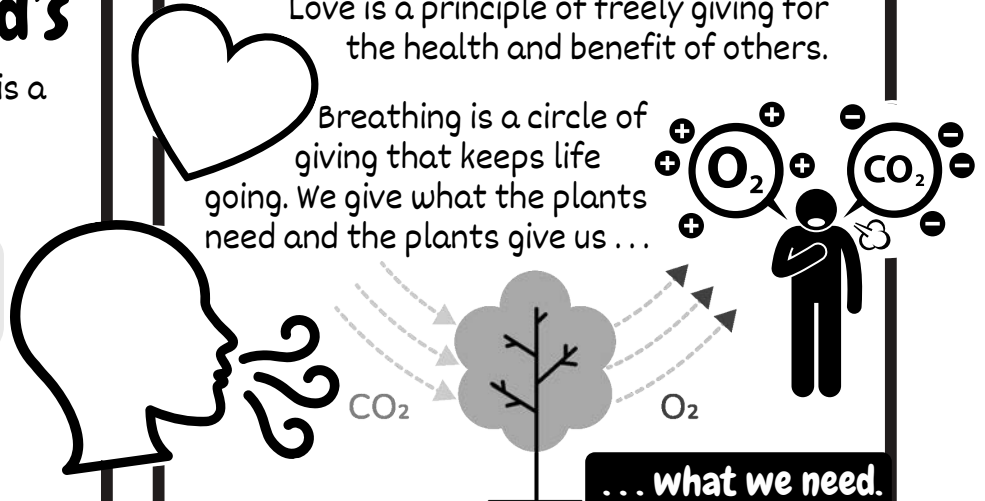
Let's explore some more about how **God's Law of Love** is a

DESIGN FOR LIFE

like **breathing!**

Love is a principle of freely giving for the health and benefit of others.

Breathing is a circle of giving that keeps life going. We give what the plants need and the plants give us ...



OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED

You **MUST** breathe in order to live.



Aww, man! You mean I HAVE to keep breathing ALL THE TIME? Ugh, that's NOT fair!! I don't want to have to breathe!

That's silly!

LOL!

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha

You **MUST** love in order to live.

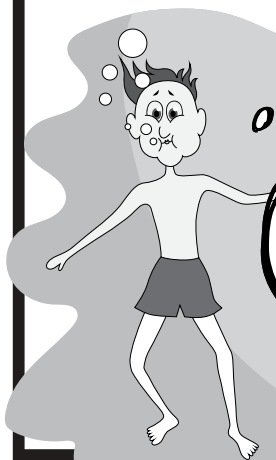
Leviticus 18:5

Luke 10:25-28

Look up these verses. What do they say?

BREAKING THE LAW BRINGS DEATH

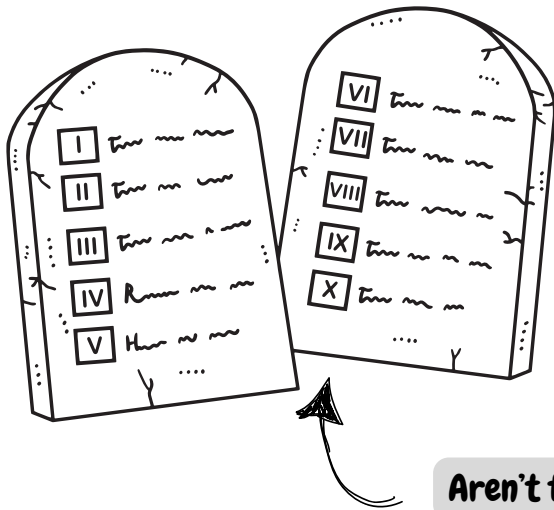
If you stop breathing, you will die.




Will someone have to punish me for breaking the law that says I **MUST** breathe or else I will die?

What do you think?

God's law of love is the design for life. When love is not in your heart and mind, you are out of harmony with life and the natural consequence is pain, suffering, and death. This is not inflicted by God. It is what happens when you are out of harmony with how life is supposed to work.



What about the **TEN** COMMANDMENTS



Aren't those imposed laws?

As you might have noticed, many imposed laws are based on design laws – like brushing your teeth or playing piano. Parents will give their young children rules to follow because the children don't understand the design laws behind them just yet.

Can you think of an example of a rule your parents have given you that is based on a design law?

In the Old Testament, Israel is often described as “children.” When God gave the “children” of Israel the Ten Commandments, it was because they didn't understand His law of love. Here's a better understanding of the commandments:

- 1 **Have no other gods**
- 2 **Have no idols**
- 3 **Don't talk bad about God**
- 4 **Honor the Sabbath**

LOVE FOR _____

When you love God, you won't want to worship other gods or misrepresent who God is.

- 5 **Honor your parents**
- 6 **Don't murder**
- 7 **Be faithful in marriage**
- 8 **Don't steal**
- 9 **Don't lie**
- 10 **Don't be jealous**

LOVE FOR _____

When you have love in your heart, you won't want to harm others by stealing, cheating, killing, or lying.



Look up the following verses, fill in the blanks with the words: **LOVE** and **LAW** and then explain what the verse means.

LOVE and **LAW**

Romans 13:10 " _____ is the fulfillment of the _____."

What does it mean? _____



Galatians 5:14 "For the entire _____ is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ' _____ your neighbor as yourself.'"

What does it mean? _____



Matthew 22:37-40 "' _____ the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ' _____ your neighbor as yourself.' All the _____ and Prophets hang on these two commandments."

What does it mean? _____



Luke 10:25-28 tells a story of a religious leader who asks Jesus how he can have eternal life. Jesus responds by asking the man what is written in the law. The man tells him it says to love God and love others. Jesus replied,



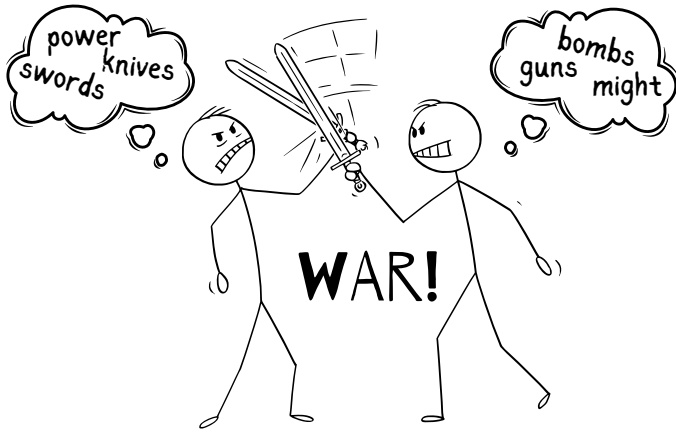
"You're right. Do this and you will live."

Why did Jesus say this?

- A God's law of love is the law for life to exist.
- B There is only life in harmony with how life works.
- C **LOVE=LIFE**
- D All of the above

WAR IN HEAVEN

What comes to mind when you think of war? _____



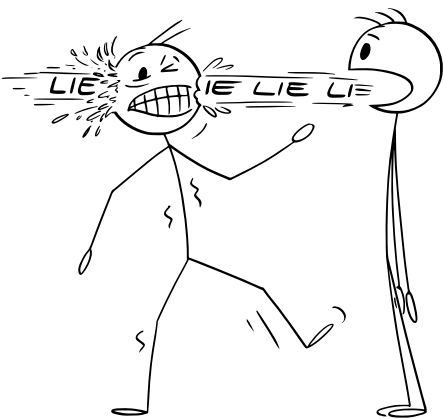
Read Revelation 12:7. The Greek word for “war” in this verse is **polemos**. From this word, we get the word polemic, which means a **verbal disagreement**.

What type of “weapons” would be used in a verbal disagreement?

- A. guns
- B. words
- C. swords
- D. bombs



Read Isaiah 14:12–14 and Ezekiel 28:14–19. These texts talk about Lucifer, a guardian cherub who fell into pride, selfishness, and evil. He became known as Satan, the Devil, a murderer and the father of _____.



What kinds of lies does Satan try to get us to believe?

Satan’s power is in the lies he tells, but what destroys a lie?

- A. a bigger lie
- B. punishment
- C. truth
- D. gossip

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–5. What is this heavenly war over?

- A. the knowledge of God
- B. who has the most power
- C. who has the most followers
- D. who is the strongest

DECODE THE MESSAGE

This heavenly war was a war of ideas over the knowledge of God - the truth about God's character and how He runs His kingdom. Satan claimed that God could not be trusted, and some of the other angels believed his lies - this is what started the war in heaven. Satan also lies to us. What do you think happens when we believe Satan's lies?

▷◁◊◻ ◊◊▷◻◊◻◊◻◊◻ ◊◊◊◻◻▷ ◻◊◻◊◊ ◻◻◻◻

◻◊◻◻◻◻

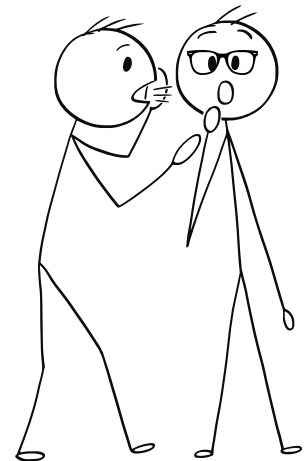
DECODER KEY

Hint: When we believe lies, something inside of us changes.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
◻	◊	△	◻	◊	▷	▽	⊗	◻	◊	▷	▷	△
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
◊	◻	▽	◻	◊	◻	◻	⊗	◻	◻	◊	△	⊗

Emily had been best friends with Kate since kindergarten. Kate and Emily had sleepovers at each other's house, shared secrets, and did everything together. One day, Kate was not at school, because she was sick, so Emily was playing with her good friend Marley. "Hey, Emily. I hate to tell you this, but Kate has been saying really mean things about you," Marley said with a sad expression on her face. "She has been calling you 'four-eyes' and saying that you smell bad. She also said that she is only friends with you because her parents force her to be."

Emily was shocked and very hurt. Part of her wondered if this could be true, but Marley even showed her a note that looked like it was from Kate, confirming what Marley was saying. Emily felt like she could not trust Kate anymore. Emily was scared that Kate would turn her other friends against her and that she would tell everyone about her secret crush. The next day, when Kate returned to school, Emily wouldn't talk to her and kept avoiding her. Kate was so confused about why her best friend was ignoring her. But the thing is... what Marley told Emily was a lie! Even the note that Marley showed Emily was fake!



Why did Emily ignore and avoid Kate? _____

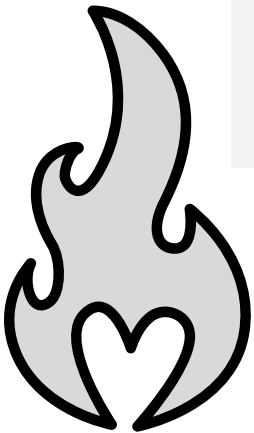
What would restore Emily and Kate's friendship?

- A. Kate beating up Marley
- B. Kate just saying Marley was lying
- C. Kate giving evidence Marley was lying
- D. Kate telling lies about Marley

TRUTH

Lies hold us in captivity, but the truth sets us _____ (John 8:32).

Describe a time when you believed a lie but that when you learned the truth, it made things better: _____



Read John 14:16, 17. Who is it that leads us into truth?

- A. the Helper/Comforter
- B. the Holy Spirit
- C. the Spirit of Truth & Love
- D. all of the above

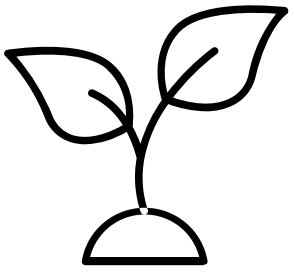
God presents **truth** in **love** and gives us **freedom** to decide for ourselves if we will trust Him to heal our hearts or not.

In Luke chapter 8, Jesus tells the Parable of the Seed. This parable explains how hearts respond to the truth of God's kingdom of love. Read Luke 8:4-15 and then match up what it represents.



The seed that fell...

- A on a footpath.
- B among rocks.
- C among thorns.
- D on fertile soil.



Represents...

- those who hear, understand, and embrace truth. They apply the truth to their lives and experience a transformed character.
- those who hear the truth but let worries, pleasures, and wealth strangle it. They remain selfish, failing to grow into the maturity of a loving character.
- those who hear truth but don't embrace it. Satan infects their hearts with a lie so that they don't trust God and aren't healed.
- those who hear the truth and accept it with joy, but they only accept it as an idea and it doesn't take root or get applied to their lives. When trials come, they quickly abandon the truth.

OPPOSING PRINCIPLES

God's ways are completely opposite of Satan's ways (Galatians 5:17). Sometimes, it can appear that someone is doing good, but if they are using Satan's methods to achieve their goal, it is not right.

**"You can't win
God's cause using
Satan's methods."**

Dr. Timothy Jennings

For instance, if you disagree with someone, God's way to handle it would be to allow freedom to discuss your differences, present evidence, and leave the other person free to decide for themselves if they agree with you or not. Satan's way would be to silence someone from talking or presenting their thoughts, claiming that it is because they want to "protect others from misinformation."

METHODS

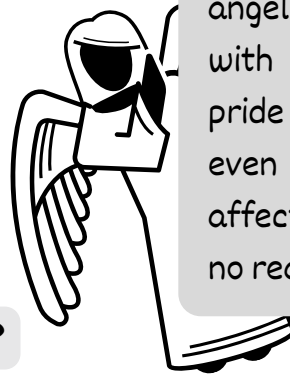
GOD	VS	SATAN
truth		lies
evidence		manipulation
love		selfishness
kindness		evil
freedom		force/coercion
_____	List more	_____
_____		_____

What is another way you have seen someone using Satan's methods to try to do good?

CREATION

Lucifer had been telling lies to the angels in heaven that God could not be trusted with His mighty power - and saying that He was selfish and His laws were unfair.

Imagine you are an angel in heaven. Your best friend, Lucifer, is telling you horrible things about God - but you trust both Lucifer and God.



The name **Lucifer** means "light bearer" or "teller of truth." The angels in heaven had been friends with Lucifer before he fell into pride & selfishness. They probably even had good memories of and affection for their friend. They had no reason not to trust him.

How would you know who to believe?

Read Job 38:4-7. What's being described? Who was there? _____

Read Genesis 1 and then label the day the following things were created on:

- land, plants & trees
- 1 ● light, day/night
- sun, moon & stars
- birds & sea animals
- land animals & humans
- atmosphere/sky

What was unique and special about God creating humans? (Genesis 1:27).

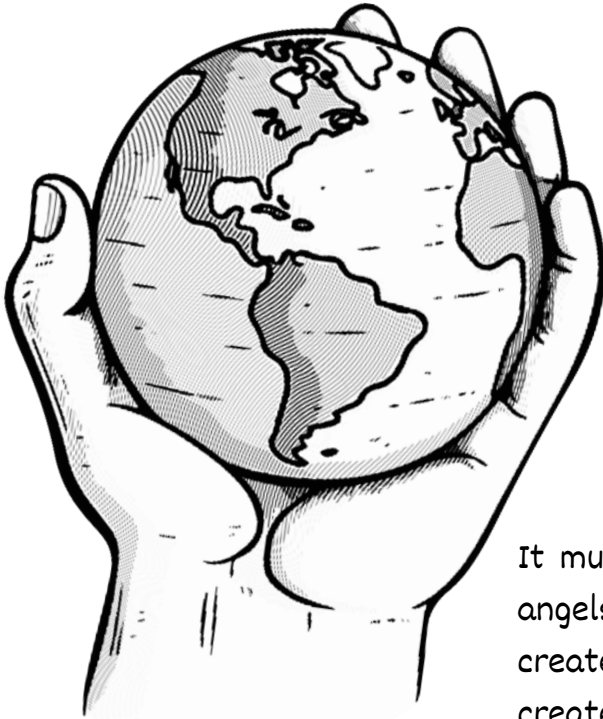
God was being lied about, so to combat Satan's lies, God gave evidence of the truth - through creation! On each and every day of creation, God gave the angels evidence of His character of love and His design for life. Everything He created worked together in perfect harmony. The plants had the right amount of sun, water, and nutrients to produce seeds and reproduce more of their kind. The animals lived in peace with one another and were able to reproduce more of their kind. Humans were created in God's own image to govern the entire planet in love, like God governs the universe. And God delighted in how good it was.

What sets the TRUE God apart from false gods?

The TRUE God is the Creator God. False gods cannot create reality. And in the context of the cosmic war taking place in the universe, God's creative powers went on full display!



SABBATH



Read Genesis 2:1-3. What did God do on the seventh day?

Now read Ezekiel 20:12. What was the purpose of this seventh-day sabbath?

It must have been quite something to be one of those angels that Job chapter 38 describes and watch God create our planet. The incredible use of power used only to create new life out of nothing on days 1 through 6 should have inspired admiration, love, and reverence.

But Lucifer was telling everyone that God could not be trusted with His power and introducing doubts about God's goodness. So, on the seventh day, God rested from using power - He stopped His creative work, stepped back, and blessed this special day, setting it apart. Just imagine what God might have said, "Universe, you have heard what Lucifer has been saying, you have seen the evidence I have given you, now take this sabbath day to decide for yourself whom you believe - Lucifer or Me.

**"I REST
MY CASE."**

The sabbath day is different from the other days. While the other six days of creation reveal God's awesome power, the seventh day is evidence of God's character and method of governing - how He uses His power. He presents truth in love and leaves His children free because God is love and **love only exists when there is real freedom.**

**The Sabbath is a
symbol/flag/sign
of FREEDOM.**

The Sabbath is evidence that God gives all His intelligent beings _____.

- A. a made-up test of obedience
- B. true freedom
- C. a day to take a nap
- D. a day to go to church

The Sabbath was established at creation. It was made, designed, created. Mark 2:27 says, "The Sabbath was made for _____, not _____ for the Sabbath."

TRUE OR FALSE

Sabbath is an arbitrary (made-up) test of obedience.

TRUE **FALSE**

Sabbath is a sign of God's character of love, design of freedom, and trustworthiness.

TRUE **FALSE**

Honoring God's Sabbath can be done only by going to church on the biblical Sabbath day.

TRUE **FALSE**

Legalism

is thinking of God's law as though it were a made-up list of rules that must be followed or else God will inflict punishment upon you.



(random, with no reason)

"Is Sabbath-keeping arbitrary legalism? It can be. ... But as God designed it, it is supposed to be a monument to freedom. It is supposed to remind us of the evidence, that infinitely costly evidence, that God is not the kind of person His enemies have made Him out to be. He is not arbitrary, exacting, vengeful, unforgiving, and severe. He gave us the Sabbath to remind us of that everlasting truth. He designed it to be a day of freedom, peace, love, and trust. But most of all, it is a day to remember and be with our God. ... We should present it as a gift, not as an obligation."

**-Graham Maxwell,
"Conversations About God"**

SIN-SICKNESS

Read Genesis 2:9, 15-17. What did God tell Adam and Eve would happen if they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

- A. God would punish them for disobeying.
- B. There was no problem with eating from it.
- C. God would be very angry.
- D. They would die.

WHY WAS THE TREE THERE?

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was placed in the middle of the Garden of Eden as an opportunity for Adam & Eve to make the choice.

God was saying to them ...

At this tree, you will have knowledge. **Choose well.** Choose to trust me and you will know good - love, joy, peace, godliness. But if you choose to eat the fruit, you will be choosing to know evil - fear, selfishness, guilt, shame, pain suffering, and death.

"God is lying to you! There's nothing wrong with eating the fruit from this tree. God knows that if you eat it, you will be like God himself, and He is trying to keep you from knowing all things."



Unfortunately, as we know, the choice was made to eat the fruit, and from that point on, something inside Adam and Eve changed. They were filled with fear and selfishness - AKA, sin-sickness. They were no longer in harmony with God's design for life.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	16	12	19	6	2	11	25	17	21	8	18	3
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	13	20	22	24	26	14	5	7	23	15	9	4

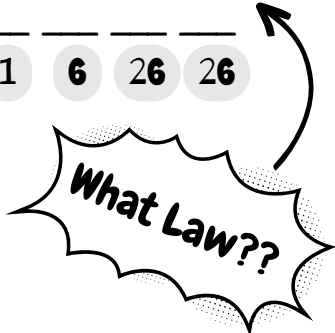
Read 1 John 3:4. What is sin?

"Everyone who sins breaks the law of love - the law upon which life was created to operate. In fact, sin is selfishness, which means acting without love - choosing to deviate from the law upon which life is based" (1 John 3:4 REM).

18 10 23 18 6 26 26 1 6 26 26

What is sin?

- A. Doing something bad
- B. Something that offends God
- C. Breaking the Ten Commandments
- D. Selfishness/out of harmony with the law of life



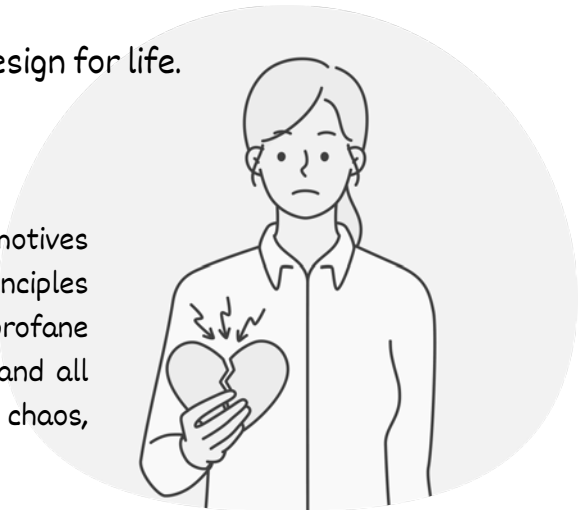
What do the following verses say about sin? **Romans 6:23 | Galatians 6:8 | James 1:15**



does sin lead to death?

- A. God gets angry at us when we sin and has to punish/kill us for disobeying
- B. Sin is out of harmony with God's design for life.
- C. It doesn't - sin is okay.

"But to cherish self-centered, arrogant, mean-spirited, jealous motives in the heart misrepresents God and defames the truth. Such principles do not originate in God, nor do they come from heaven, but are profane and destructive, and originate in Satan. For selfishness, envy, and all violations of God's law of love break His design for life and cause chaos, disease, suffering and everything evil" (James 3:14-16 REM).



Sin is the principle of fear and selfishness - which is the opposite of love (Galatians 5:17), the opposite of God's design. We are born with this sin-sick condition (Psalm 51:5). We are out of harmony with life and are dying (Ephesians 2:1).

Imagine being sick...

When we aren't feeling well, we will start showing symptoms.

These symptoms help us figure out what's wrong.



What about when we do bad things? Isn't that sin?

But the symptoms are not the problem; the REASON for the symptoms is the problem.

Likewise, our sinful behaviors show that we are sin-sick and in need of healing.

Matthew 5:21, 22



Sin is not a behavior problem. It's a heart problem. You have heard it said, "You shall not murder," but I tell you, anyone who is angry with another person damages their own character.

What is a sin-sick symptom of yours that helps you understand that you are in need of Jesus? _____

Cross out the letters in the word: JUMP
What words are left?

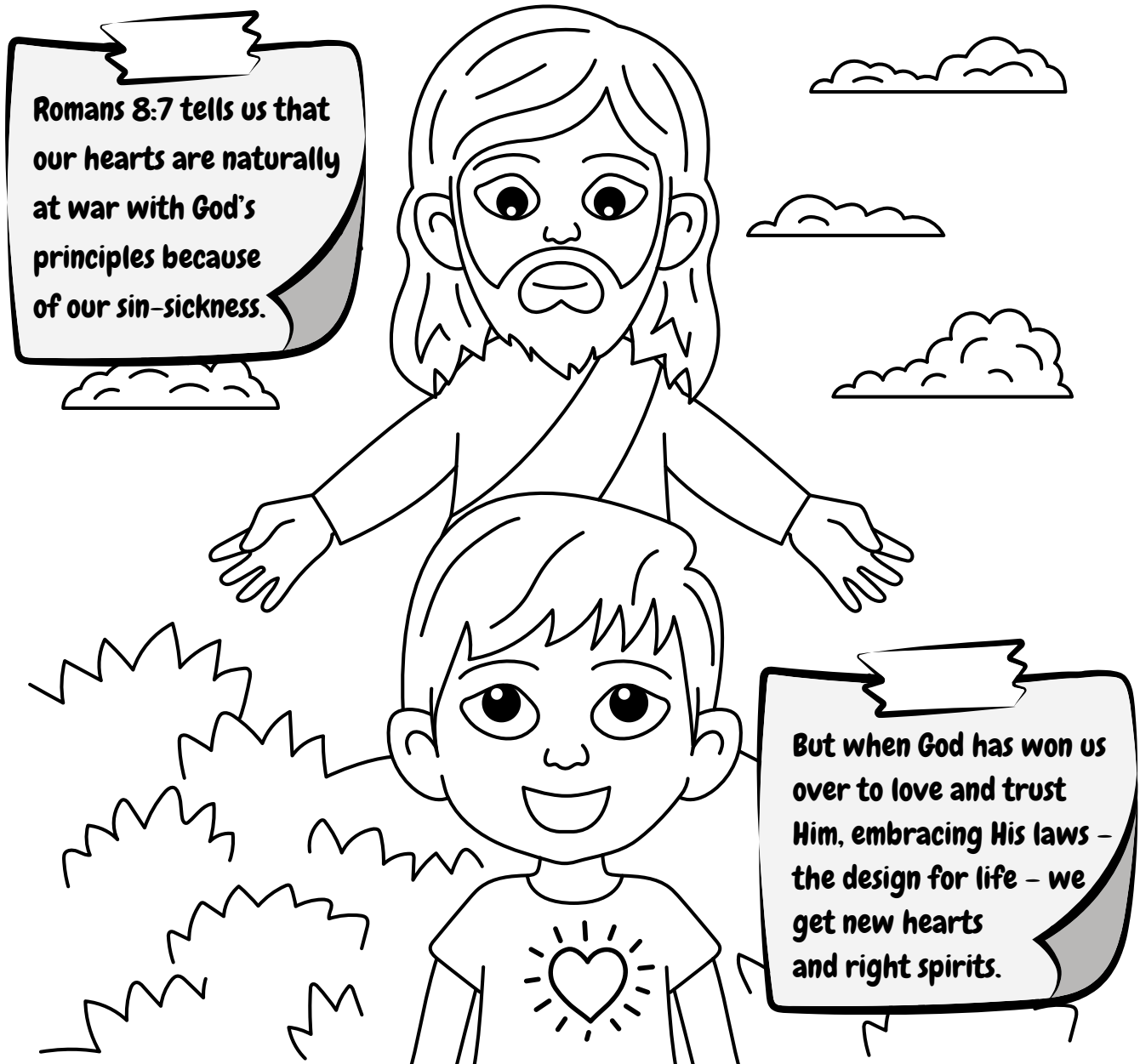
UPLJMPQJUVMPUEJ MIPSJU ULMJPIUMFPJUEMJ.

MJSPUMIJUNMU JIPSJM JDUPMEJPAUTMPHJM.

Romans
8:6, 13

Which statement is true?

- A. I am a sinner because I chose to become a sinner.
- B. I am a sinner because my parents chose to become sinners.
- C. I am a sinner because God creates humans as sinners.
- D. I am a sinner because Adam and Eve sinned, infected themselves with sin, and passed on the sin-sick condition to all humans. I did not choose to be a sinner. But I am still dying from my sin-sickness and need to be healed.



This is a literal transformation. This is SALVATION. This is what we will study next.

SALVATION

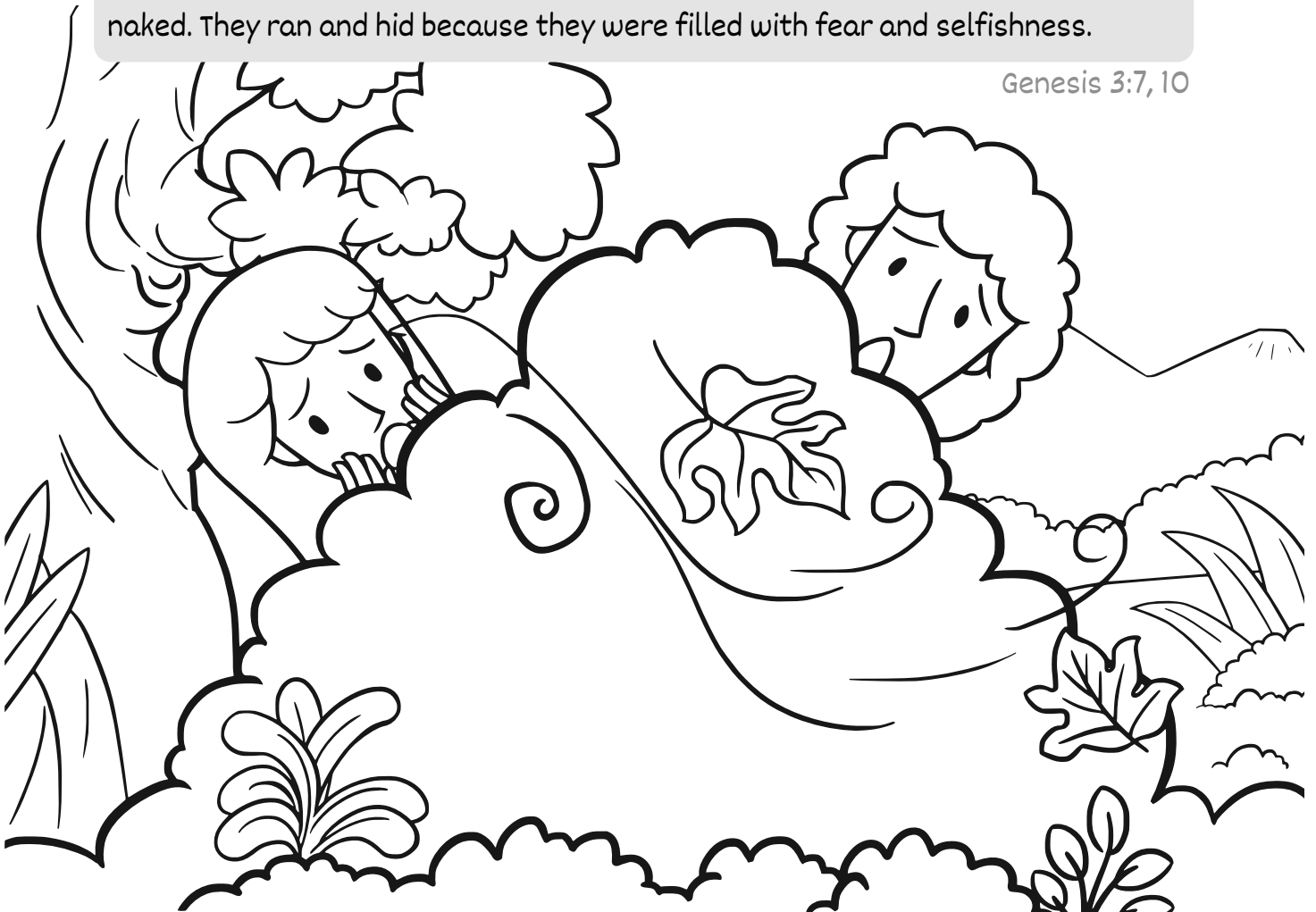
Salvation means to save. What are we being saved from? What is the problem with sin that we need saving from? Are we in legal trouble with God? Do we need to be saved from God's punishment for sin? Or do we need to be saved from sin itself?

When Adam and Eve sinned ...

... was God changed?	YES	NO
... was God's law changed?	YES	NO
... were Adam and Eve changed?	YES	NO

Immediately, Adam and Eve saw everything differently. They realized they were naked. They ran and hid because they were filled with fear and selfishness.

Genesis 3:7, 10



The Bible tells us that humans were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), created to reveal the character of God to the universe. But when Adam and Eve believed the lies of Satan, they were changed. They were no longer in harmony with God's design for life. Adam and Eve, and all of humanity, were now on a path toward death.

Read John 6:53–56. What does this text say about the flesh & blood of Jesus?

- A. We are to drink human blood and eat human flesh to be saved.
- B. Blood means wine & flesh means bread; we need to drink wine & eat bread to be saved.
- C. It's a metaphor for internalizing the life (blood) & truth (bread) of Jesus into our minds & hearts to be healed.
- D. It was just a joke. Jesus was playing a prank on His disciples.



Humanity needed a cure to their terminal condition.

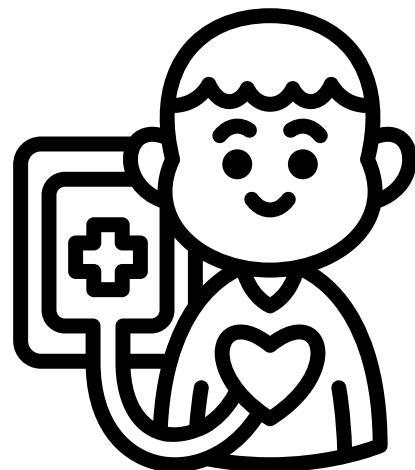
POWER IN THE BLOOD

What does it mean to be "saved by the blood"? Are we saved by the red blood cells that came from Jesus' body? What does blood DO in our bodies? It circulates in order to keep us alive. Blood = life. So to be "saved by the blood of Jesus" means to be saved by His life - the truth He presented to bring us into a trust relationship with the Father. As our hearts are won to trust, we open them to healing and restoration. The Holy Spirit takes what Jesus achieved (perfect character) and recreates it in us. We become partakers of the divine nature.

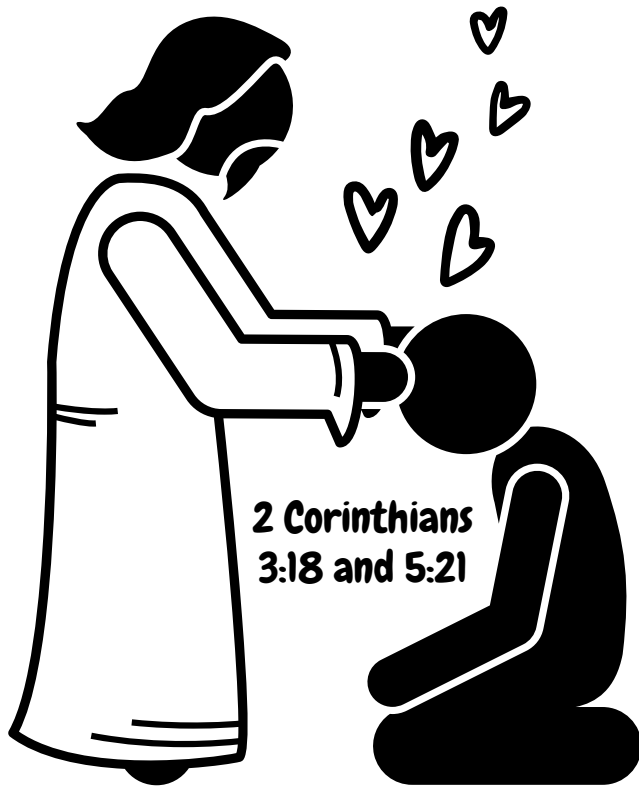
Hebrews 13:20, 21 | 2 Peter 1:4 | Colossians 3:10

The **LIFE** is in the
BLOOD!

Leviticus 17:11



The root word for salvation comes from the Latin “sal,” as in “salute,” which is to wish someone good health, and “salvage,” which means to restore. If you were bitten by a poisonous snake and you go to the doctor and say, “SAVE ME!” you mean “HEAL ME!” That’s exactly what salvation means. God’s plan of salvation is a plan of healing!



God wants to heal us from the damage of sin. He wants to restore our hearts and minds to His design for life. We will become like God in character, methods, and motive. The things our hearts desire and the attitudes we hold change as we are healed. We are transformed into God’s likeness. We actually become righteous.

Look up the following verses: **Psalm 51:10 | Ezekiel 11:19 | Ezekiel 36:26**

What are they all saying? _____

HOW are we healed from our **SIN-SICKNESS** ?

FREEDOM

TRUTH

LOVE

God presents _____, which destroys the lies of Satan. He gives us _____ to make the choice to trust Him or not. When we trust God, we open our hearts to His _____, which defeats fear and selfishness within us and brings us back into harmony with His design for life.

“ Do not continue to practice the destructive methods of selfishness, WHICH INFECT THE WORLD, but be

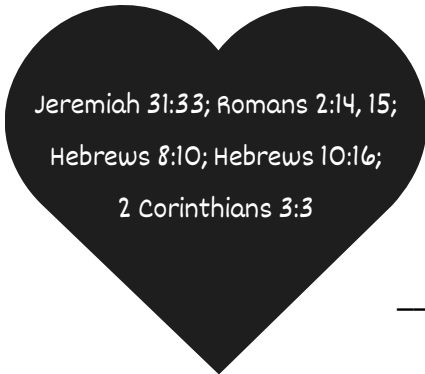
COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED

into God's image by the *renewing of your mind.*

Then you will value God's principles, practice His methods, and discern His will – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:2

(The Remedy)



Jeremiah 31:33; Romans 2:14, 15;
Hebrews 8:10; Hebrews 10:16;
2 Corinthians 3:3

The Bible talks about having the law “written on the heart.”
What do you think this means? What law?

What does salvation mean?

- A. When a lot of saliva pools in your mouth
- B. To be healed from sin
- C. Being legally declared as saved
- D. Going to heaven

**THERE IS
NOTHING
LEGAL ABOUT
SALVATION**

“There is no salvation in anyone else; there is no other **NAME** under heaven given to humanity that can possibly save us” (Acts 4:12 FBV).

The essential element of salvation is to be renewed in heart to love like God loves and to live in harmony with how our Creator God has built His universe to operate. All of this is made possible only through Jesus Christ, our Savior!

NAME

In the Bible, a name is used to represent who a person is - this is their character. For instance, the name Jacob means “deceiver,” but his name was changed to Israel - “he who, with God, overcomes” - when he overcame his selfish, deceitful heart (Genesis 32:28). So, this verse in Acts means that there’s no other character (than the character of selfless love that Jesus achieved) that can save us.

JESUS

After Adam and Eve broke trust and sinned, God announced the consequences of their choice - but then He gave them a promise...

Genesis 3:15

Satan, you may think you've won this battle, but one of the woman's offspring will crush your head while you are striking His heel.

God loved us too much to leave us to die from our sin-sickness. He had a plan to save us. He would send Jesus to achieve what Adam did not and to provide the cure to our sin-sickness. Once Satan realized God's plan to send Jesus, his mission was to stop it!

Keeping Open the Avenue for Jesus

Why do so many of the stories in the Old Testament seem to make God out to be angry, wrathful, and just plain mean? God had to take emergency measures, intervening in our sin-sick world in order to keep open the pathway for Jesus to come to earth to save us. For instance, at the time of Noah, the Bible tells us that the entire earth and all the people in it were wicked, evil, and violent all the time. The avenue for Jesus to be born was almost closed! So, God sent the Flood, in love, to make a way so that Jesus could be born and save us from our sin-sickness.

THINK ABOUT IT

Satan's mission was to get every human to hate God.

1 & 2 Kings

Would God use an evil woman, like Jezebel, to be the mother of Jesus?



Would God force a woman against her will to be the mother of Jesus?

God needed a righteous and willing woman to be the mother of Jesus!

Luke 1:38



Can you think of any other stories in the Bible in which Satan was working to get people to hate God and God had to intervene to keep open the pathway for Jesus to come?

What does it mean that “Jesus is our substitute”?

- A. He fills in when our regular teacher is sick.
- B. God punishes Jesus instead of us.
- C. God sees the perfect record of Jesus instead of our sinfulness.
- D. None of the above

Jesus was a special human. He came into the world differently. He was not created out of the dirt - sinless - like Adam and Eve. He was not born of a sinful mother and a sinful father like we were. Jesus came into this earth born of a sinful mother, but His father was God. In this way, Jesus took on our sin-sick condition and became the second Adam - overcoming sin and selfishness with love.



This is what “Jesus is our substitute” actually means!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Summarize what it says. _____

Jesus achieved what we could not. Will we trust God and accept the gift of healing that He freely offers? Think of it this way...



JESUS CHRIST *Explained*

God in human form

Colossians 1:15

**Creator &
Source of
ALL LIFE**

Colossians 1:16

James 1:18

**Exact
likeness
of God,
revealing
His character
of love**

Hebrews 1:3

John 14:9

John 17:4-6

**Source of
ALL TRUTH**

John 14:6

Luke 2:32

**Overcame sin
with selfless love**

Hebrews 4:15

Hebrews 9:26

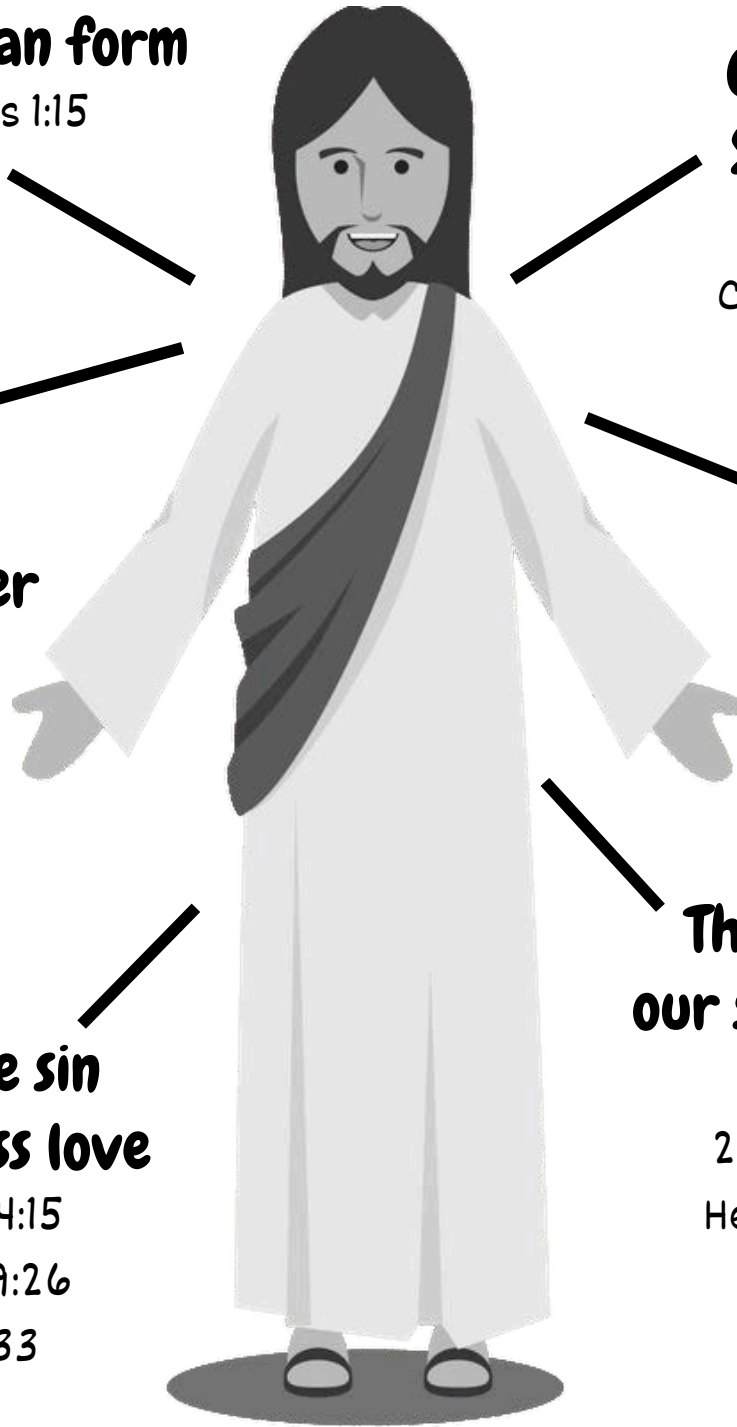
John 16:33

**The cure to
our sin-sickness**

1 John 3:5

2 Timothy 1:9

Hebrews 13:12



We will be like Jesus, for we will see Him as He is.

1 John 3:2

JESUS' TEACHINGS & PARABLES

Jesus came to the earth to bring humans back into harmony with God's design for life. He often broke religious rules and taught that fear-based rule-keeping was not what God wanted. Rather, Jesus emphasized behaviors of others-centered love. What do the following parables teach us about the reality of God's kingdom?

The Lamp

Matthew 5:14-16

What does a lamp naturally do? It shines! God's truth and love will always shine out through the lives of people who have it.

The Weeds Among the Wheat

Matthew 13:24-30

Weeds and wheat grow up together in the field. They are recognized by the reality of what they actually are. Weeds are weeds - and wheat is wheat.

The Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31, 32

The Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:10-14

The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:23-35

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:29-37



Why did Jesus have to die?

LOVE	DEATH	TRUTH
SELFISHNESS	LIES	

Fill in the blanks below using the words above.

It was the only way God could ...

- ... expose the _____ of Satan.
- ... reveal the _____ about Himself.
- ... destroy the infection of _____.
- ... put the law of _____ back into humanity.
- ... destroy _____, sin & the devil.

What is a sin-sick symptom of yours that you can ask Jesus to help you to change? Are you sometimes mean to your brother or sister? Do you have trouble sharing or helping around the house? Or maybe you get jealous of the things your friends have? Whatever it may be, Jesus can help. Say this prayer, filling in the blank with your sin-sick symptom(s):



Dear Jesus, I want to be like You, but I sometimes have a hard time with _____ . Please heal my selfish, sin-sick heart. Fill me with your truth and love, change my wants and desires, and help me to make good choices. I trust you and love you.

AMEN!

At the cross, Jesus demonstrated self-less love. He didn't use His power to save Himself. He gave His life freely that we might be saved. And in doing so, He developed the cure for our sin-sick condition so that we could become righteous and have life.

Because of Jesus' selfless act of giving His life in love, we can become like Him! All we have to do is realize we are sin-sick and invite Jesus into our hearts to heal us.

THE CROSS Explained

Show that He loves us too much to let us die.

John 3:16

Reveal truth to win us to trust

John 8:32

Destroy the devil & set us free from the fear of death

Hebrews 2:14, 15

Destroy death

2 Timothy 1:10

Fix what sin had done & make us righteous

2 Corinthians 5:21

Unite entire universe

Colossians 1:20

Destroy the devil's work & restore us to God's design

1 John 3:8

Jesus' death on the cross was what was necessary to fix all that sin had done to God's creation.

JUSTICE



When we regard justice with an imposed-law understanding, then rule-breakers must be punished by the rule-giver to maintain order. If the rules aren't enforced and punishment isn't inflicted, then there is no reason to obey the rules.

HUMAN
Understanding of
JUSTICE

Explain a time when you or someone you know broke a rule. What happened? Was the punishment fair? Did it fix the problem?

BIBLICAL
Understanding of
JUSTICE

Look up the following verses and summarize what they explain justice to be:

Isaiah 1:17 _____

Isaiah 30:18 _____

Ezekiel 45:9 _____

Zechariah 7:9, 10 _____

Why do you think our human idea of justice is different than the biblical explanation?

Justice is doing what is right according to the law.



In boxing, it is right to punch someone in the face.



In baseball, it is NOT right to punch someone in the face.

What is right according to God's law? _____

IMAGINE...

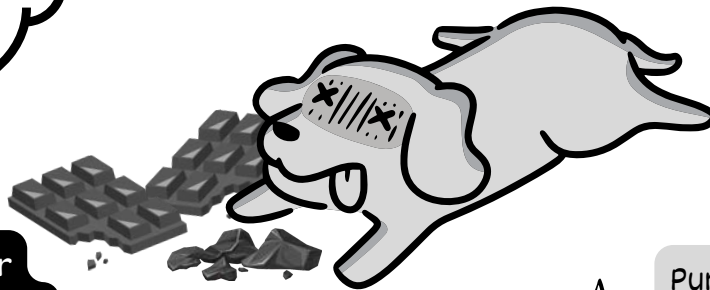
There is a rule in your house that your dog is not allowed to eat chocolate.

RULE

The dog is not allowed to eat chocolate.



But one day, you find your dog on the floor - very, very sick and dying because he found some chocolate and ate it - breaking the rule!



What would be the JUST thing to do?

A. Punish the dog for breaking the rule?

B. Get the dog to a veterinarian right away to save his life?

God's justice is always to do what is right - and that is to save us/heal us from the sin-sickness that is killing us.

JUDGMENT

Read John 12:47. What does it say Christ did and did not come to do?

Jesus came to _____ the world, not to _____ it.

Yet other verses of the Bible clearly talk about a day of judgment, or about God's judgment. On the one hand, Jesus did not come to judge us, but on the other hand, there will be a judgment. How can we harmonize these verses?

Does the word "judgment" scare you? No one likes to feel judged!
What do you think of when you hear the word judgment?

Do you think about a judge in a courtroom?



What about a doctor who has to make a judgment about a patient's condition?

**AKA
DIAGNOSIS**

What is the difference in these two understandings of judgment? What kind of law does a judge use? What kind of law does a doctor use?

**God is our heavenly Doctor –
He diagnoses our sin-sickness.**

We also make judgments about others around us. We make a judgment about the friends we want to have. We judge whether someone is worthy of our trust - or not. It is wise and right to have **DISCERNMENT**.

One important judgment we have to make is our judgment about God. Satan has been

lying about God from the start, and we need to decide if we will believe his lies and judge God to be like Satan says He is - or if we will believe the truth and judge God to be good, kind, loving, on our side, and trustworthy.

Being able to judge well.

The Bible tells us about **4** different judgments.

1

ROMANS 3:4

We judge God! Can we trust Him? - "That you might be justified ... when You are judged."

What is YOUR judgment of God?
A. God is trustworthy.
B. God is NOT trustworthy.

2

MALACHI 3:1-5

God examines our hearts in order to purify and cleanse them (like a refiner's fire or a launder's soap). God is our heavenly Doctor.

What do you need God to cleanse in you?

3

REVELATION 20:4-6

Judgment is given to the righteous to sit and evaluate all that's happened and see why God was unable to save the wicked.

Describe a time someone refused your help.

4

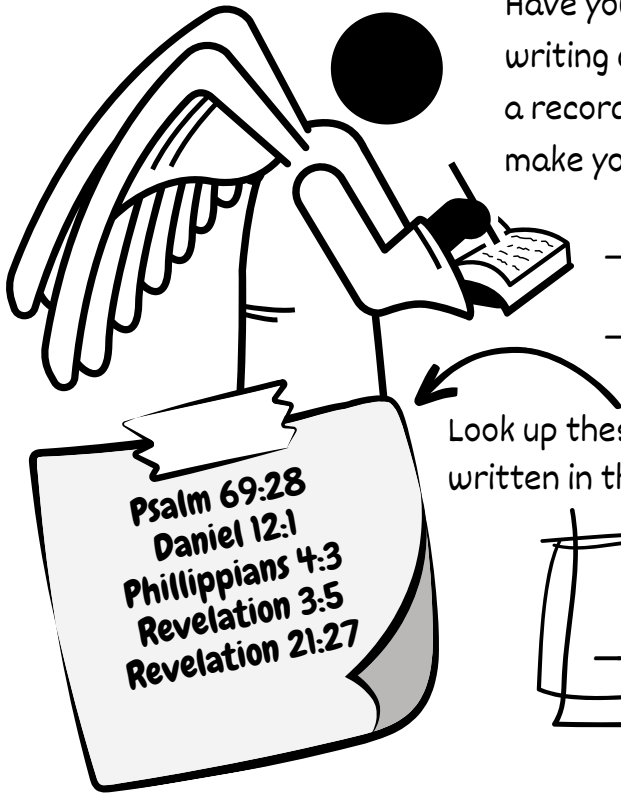
REVELATION 20:11, 12

The unhealed (wicked) are diagnosed by the reality of their condition as recorded in the heavenly record books.

More about the **HEAVENLY RECORD BOOKS** on the next page.

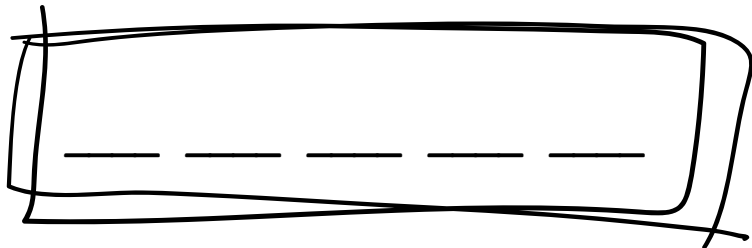
HEAVENLY RECORDS

The Bible talks about record books in heaven - referred to as the "Book of Life."



Have you ever envisioned an angel following you around and writing down all the things you do - good and bad - keeping a record by which you will be judged? How does this idea make you feel?

Look up these Bible verses to see what they say is actually written in this heavenly record book / Book of Life:



REVIEW QUESTION What does "name" mean in the Bible?



If names are what is recorded in the heavenly record book, and name means character, then it is our characters that are stored/kept/recorded in the book - not a list of all our good and bad deeds!

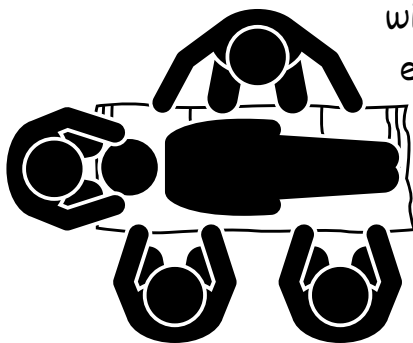
Why do you think it's important for God to have a record of our names/characters?

RECORD BOOKS *Explained*

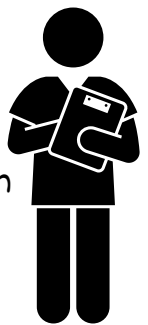
One day, there was a helicopter crash. Everyone was immediately rushed to the hospital. Doctors and nurses tended to every patient. But there was one patient, Rosaline, who refused the necessary, lifesaving blood transfusion that she needed. The nurses pleaded with Rosaline. She refused. The doctors explained the necessity of the procedure and told Rosaline that she would die



without it. She refused. The hospital lawyers even tried to get her to accept the treatment. She refused.



All this time, there was one nurse in the corner writing EVERYTHING down: every attempt to save Rosaline's life and every refusal she made. It was all documented in great detail. Everyone involved in that helicopter crash survived, except Rosaline – she died. Now, when Rosaline's



family members question the hospital as to why they didn't save Rosaline, but they saved everyone else who was involved in the crash, **what will come into evidence?**

- A. The record of all the times the doctors, nurses, and lawyers pled with Rosaline to accept the lifesaving treatment.
- B. The record of all the times Rosaline refused the lifesaving treatment.
- C. The record that the hospital did everything it could to try to save Rosaline's life.
- D. All of the above

Every time God has tried to reach us and offer His Remedy to heal us, our choice to either accept or reject Him is being recorded. Why? How does this story help you understand the heavenly records / Book of Life?

DEATH

What happens when we DIE??

People have many different views on this matter.
What do you think happens when we die?

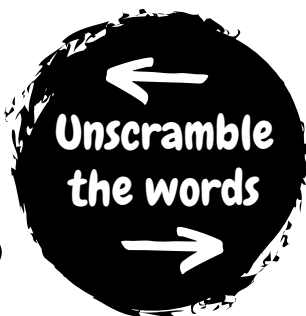


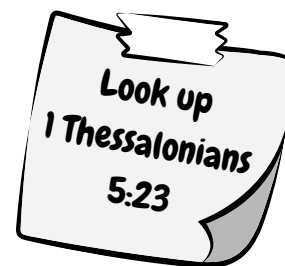
Humans consist of **3** parts to be a living being. What are the three parts?

OYDB

LUSO

TISIRP





LET'S LOOK AT THE GREEK

sōma → **Body**

psychē → **Soul / Character / Individuality**

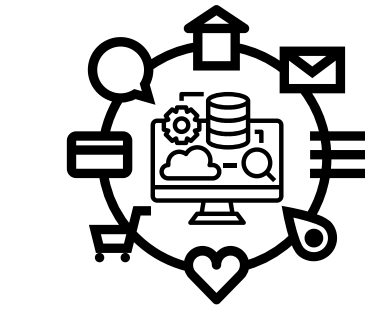
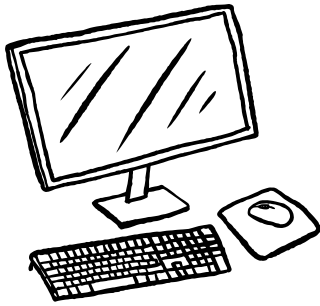
pneuma → **Spirit / Breath of Life**

as in psychology or psychiatry
(having to do with the mind/behavior)

as in pneumatic or pneumonia
(having to do with air/breath)

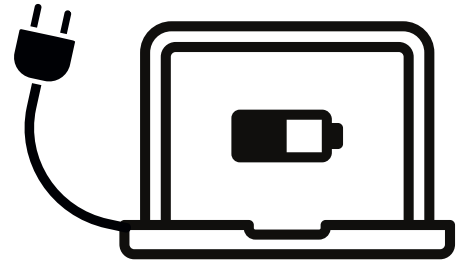
A computer can help us understand these three parts because it also requires three things to be a working machine. **Which human part compares to these computer parts?**

1 Hardware
the machine itself



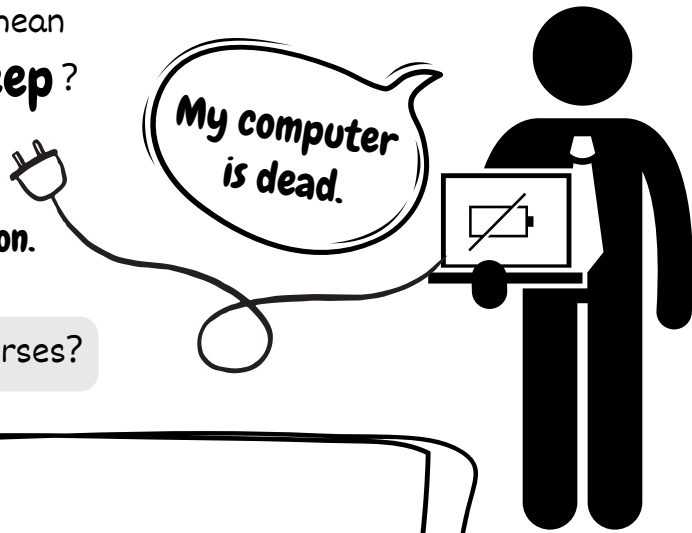
2 Software
the programs and data on the computer

3 Energy Source
the power to the machine



What happens to your computer when it runs out of energy?
Might you say, "It's dead," when you mean
the computer goes into a state of **sleep**?

Once plugged into an energy source, the computer turns back on.



What does Jesus call death in these verses?

Matthew 9:24

Mark 5:39

Luke 8:52

John 11:11-14

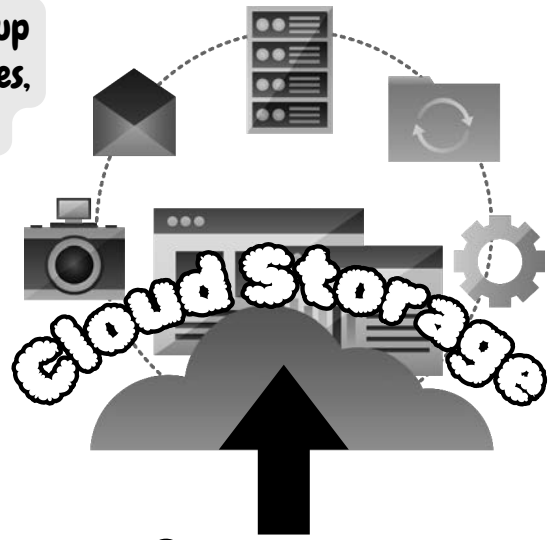


This death of sleep is what is known as the first death. All humans who have died here on the earth have experienced this first death, whether it is from a car accident, disease, old age, or even from the Old Testament acts of God – like the Flood. This first death is not a judgment from God; it is because of God's grace that we do not live eternally in this sin-sick, evil world.

Now, what would happen if you had a total backup of all your computer data – documents, pictures, settings, everything – stored on a cloud server ...

MIGHT YOU BE ABLE TO SAY:

I'm not afraid of anyone who would destroy my computer. All my data has been backed up. The damaged computer can be replaced, but it is the information - the data - that is the most important ... and that is safely stored on the cloud server!



With this understanding, how might you summarize Matthew 10:28?

What actually happens to people when they die the first death?

Match the verse to what it describes.

John 11:25, 26

Our bodies return to dust.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Our life energy source returns to God.

Revelation 20:12

Our souls/characters/individualities are stored with God in the heavenly "cloud server," the Lamb's Book of Life!

Genesis 3:19

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Have you ever known someone who has died? What makes you sad about their death?

If there is something called a “first death,” does that mean there is another death? Would it be the death that is the consequence of sin?

Yes! This is known as the “second death.” It has been described as the death from which there is no resurrection and the death that does not harm the righteous. The second death is eternal non-existence.



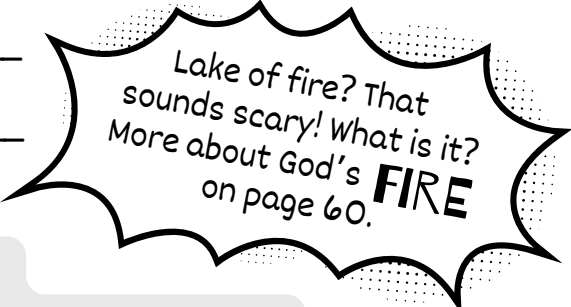
Look up the following verses. What do they tell us about the second death?

Revelation 2:11 _____

Revelation 20:6 _____

Revelation 20:14 _____

Revelation 21:8 _____



Unhealed sin-sickness leads to eternal death because it is being out of harmony with God's design for life.

When Adam and Eve died, which death did they die?

First Second

When God sent the Flood, which death did the people die?

First Second

When Moses, Israel, and Joseph died, which death was it?

First Second

When fire came down on Sodom and Gomorrah, which death was it?

First Second

When your great-great grandma died, which death did she die?

First Second

Has anyone died the second death yet? **NO!!**

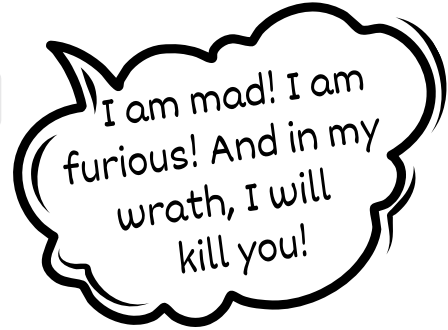


The second death, which is the wages of sin & is the death from which there is no resurrection, has not happened yet.

WRATH / ANGER



Several passages in the Bible refer to God's anger and wrath. He seems to shout and scream a lot.



YIKES!

Has your mom or dad ever yelled at you when you've done something dangerous or destructive? Why?

Have they ever threatened punishment to scare you into making better choices?

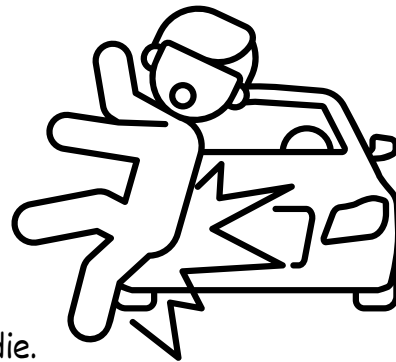
God often stepped into the role of inflictor of punishment toward the "children of Israel" in the Old Testament - like how a parent will step in to threaten punishment for a wayward child - to try to lead them on a different path.



Get out of the street right now, or you'll get a spanking!

What is the problem with playing in the street?

- A. Your parent will punish you.
- B. You could get hit by a car and die.



Why do you think God gets angry? Is He angry at us? Or is He angry when we do things that are destructive to us and others? Explain. _____

God is our heavenly Doctor, and like any other doctor, He is not angry at the patient (us); He is angry at the sin-sickness that is destroying us. He is angry when we refuse His treatment plan to be healed. He is angry because it doesn't have to be this way. But God will ultimately leave us free to reject Him and His healing - and He will let us go.

GOD'S WRATH *Explained*

Deuteronomy 31:17

All these disasters come because? _____

Deuteronomy 32:28–30

How could the nation be destroyed unless their Lord had _____.

Psalms 78:59, 60

What did God do in His anger? _____.

Isaiah 1:24, 25

In God's wrath, He purges / cleanses _____.

Isaiah 64:7

God gives them over to their _____.

Ezekiel 21:31

In His wrath, God _____ them over to cruel men.

Hosea 4:6

The people are destroyed because _____.

Hosea 11:8

It pains God to _____.

Romans 1:18–32

The wrath of God is being revealed . . . (vv. 24, 26, 28) _____.

2 Thessalonians 2:10

The wicked die because they refuse to _____.

When sin-sick humans refuse God's Remedy to be healed, He respects their freedom and lets them go to reap the consequence of their choice. This is God's wrath – to let go.

GOD'S FIRE

Does the idea of God's fire scare you? Why or why not?

The Bible tells us that **GOD** is a
CONSUMING FIRE.

Exodus 24:17

Deuteronomy 4:24

Hebrews 12:29

Read Isaiah 33:14, 15. Whom does it say can dwell in the consuming fire?

- A. It says the wicked burn in the fire.
- B. It says the righteous dwell in the fire.
- C. It says nobody can enter the fire.
- D. It says Jesus saves us from the fire.

**WAIT...
WHAT!?**

What is this fire? And what does it burn up?

First, let's look to see what else the Bible says about the fire of God. Read Exodus 3:2-4.

What does this say? _____

We are also told, in
2 Thessalonians 2:8, that
Satan is destroyed by
the _____
of Jesus' coming. Would
this be His fire?



Hmmm...

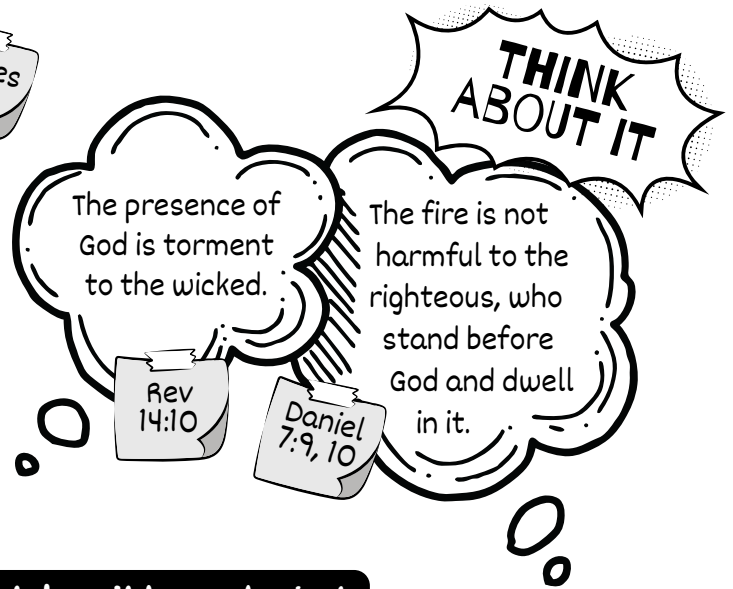
a fire that is the very presence of God, that does not burn up material things... a fire that the righteous dwell in but that will destroy Satan and the wicked?

What kind of fire is this!?

What is the difference between the wicked and the righteous?

- A. There is no difference.
- B. The righteous have legal pardon by claiming that they believe in Jesus, and the wicked never claim to know Jesus.
- C. The wicked don't go to church.
- D. The wicked refuse to love the truth and remain unhealed from sin-sickness.

2 Thes 2:10



If the fire burns up the enemies of God but doesn't burn physical materials, can we conclude that the fire burns up unhealed sin?

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Lies | C. Material objects (like a chair) |
| B. Selfishness | D. A and B |



What is it that burns up (destroys) lies? _____

What is it that burns up (destroys) selfishness? _____

TRUTH LOVE



**DAY OF PENTECOST
ACTS 2:1-4**

How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit?

John 15:26

Spirit of _____

Romans 5:5

God's _____ is poured out to us through the Holy Spirit.

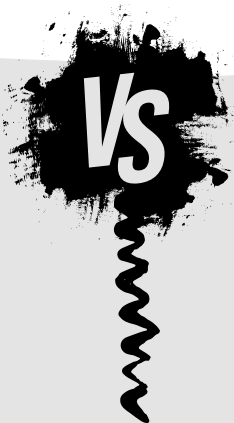
The Bible tells us about a time after the death and resurrection of Jesus when the believers gathered together and streams of fire came down on them. This fire did not harm them. It was the Holy Spirit - and these tongues of fire were the fires of God's truth and love!

PUNISHMENT vs Discipline

Do the words "punishment" and "discipline" sound different to you? Or do you see them as the same thing? Describe a time when you experienced punishment or discipline.

What is PUNISHMENT?

When an action is taken to cause harm to someone in order to make them suffer for some wrong that they did.



What is DISCIPLINE?

To teach someone that their actions or behaviors are not right and to lead them to make better choices next time.



With these two definitions in mind, which one do you think your parents use when you do something wrong? Are they trying to hurt you - or teach you? What about God?

- Deuteronomy 8:5
- Psalm 94:12
- Psalm 119:75
- Isaiah 26:16
- Hebrews 12:10

Read these verses

Then circle the correct answer

Does God ...

punish us or **discipline us?**

"For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he works to heal everyone who becomes his child."

Hebrews 12:6, The Remedy

Consequence

A consequence is a natural result of an action or of a condition. The consequence of sin is death. This is not an inflicted punishment; neither is it a discipline. It is the result of remaining sin-sick.

ATONEMENT

Have you ever heard the word “atonement” ... maybe in a Bible class or at church? The word “atonement” occurs in 70 verses in the KJV Bible. The Hebrew word is *kāpār*, and it means to cover, purge, make an atonement, or make reconciliation.

Sometimes, people will use the word “atonement” to mean appeasement.

To calm God down from His anger so He won't hurt us

God sent Jesus to make atonement for our sins. This means the death of Jesus appeases the wrath of God so that we can be saved!

Is this right?

Does Jesus appease God so that God won't kill us for our sinfulness? How can we understand this word differently?



Theories of ATONEMENT

There are many different theories (explanations) of atonement. These theories try to help us understand how we are saved. Do you know which theory of atonement your church or family believes in? (If not, ask a parent, teacher, or pastor.)

At-ONE-ment

Back when the Bible was translated into English, there was a word that meant to reconcile a relationship. A person would “one” someone else. If you were to bring two people back into a right relationship, you would “at one” them. This is where the word “atonement” comes from. Say it like this: AT-ONE-MENT. When used in the Bible, atonement means to reconcile us to God, to bring us into a right relationship with Him. It never means to appease Him!

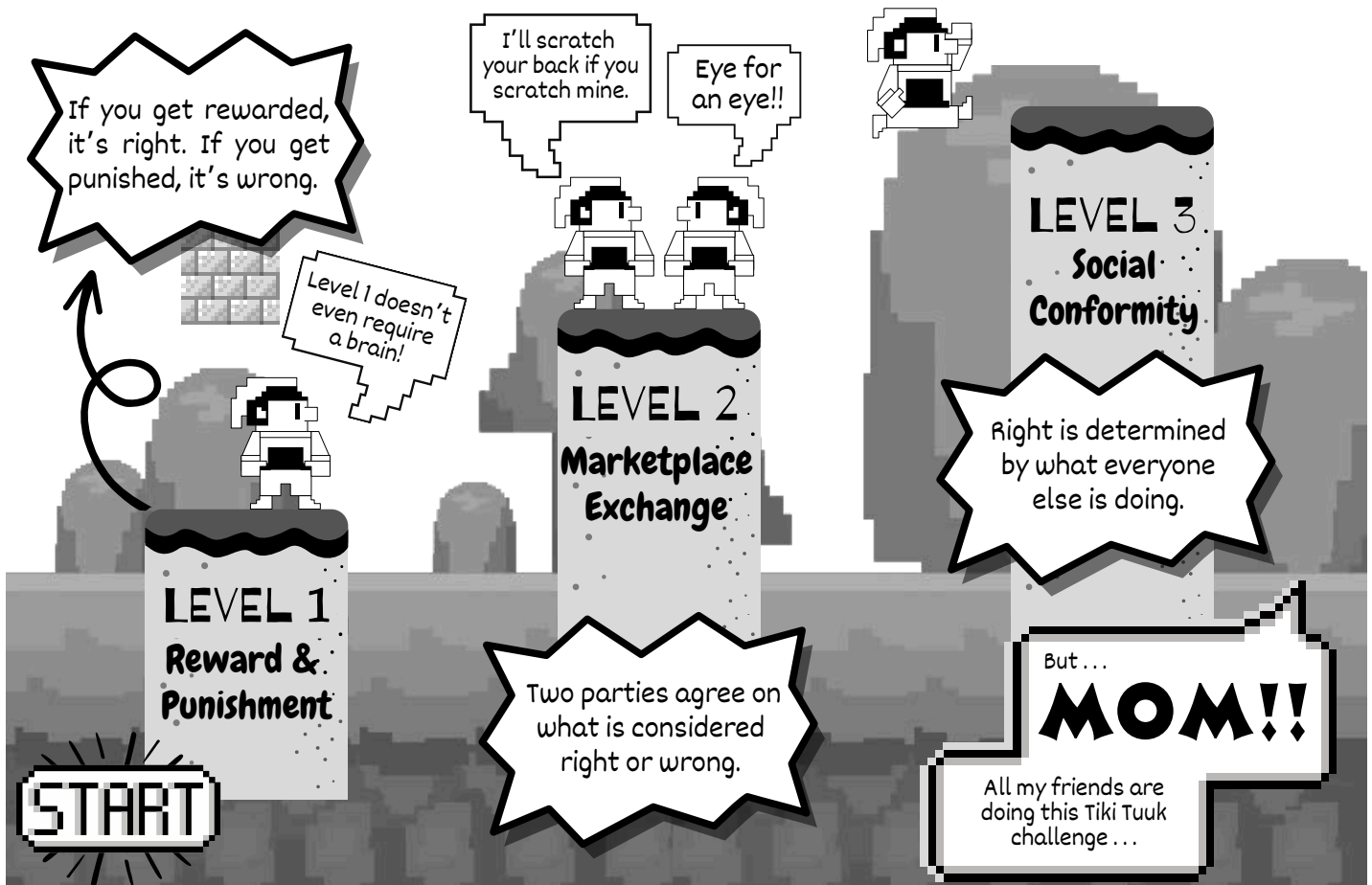
MORAL Decision-Making

Part of growing up is maturing in our decision-making abilities. When we are babies and toddlers, we understand things differently than when we are 9, 12, 15, 18, 25, 32, etc. Part of this is age-related, but it also has to do with our life experiences, the choices we make, and the things we believe.



When it comes to making good, moral decisions, there are several different levels of maturity that determine how we view right or wrong, which affects how we make choices. With these levels, we all start at level 1 and must progress to the next level to reach the highest level of moral decision-making.

Which level are you at now? And where do you want to be?



"Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the

Most people are stuck at **LEVEL 4** or below.

God's law is an imposed set of rules.

God says it is right because it IS right...

... because it is the way things actually are.

LEVEL 7
Understanding Friend of God

Right is ...

... having love for God and others

... living in harmony with God's design

... choosing to fulfill one's role in God's purposes.

LEVEL 6

Principle-Based Living

Right is understanding reality - the principles of life - and choosing to live in harmony with them.

LEVEL 5

Love for Others

Right is determined by doing what is in the best interest of others...

... regardless of what the rules say is right or wrong.

LEVEL 4

Law & Order

Right and wrong are determined by a set of rules.

If the law says it is wrong, it is wrong. If the law says it is right, it is right.

AUTHORITY is rarely questioned.

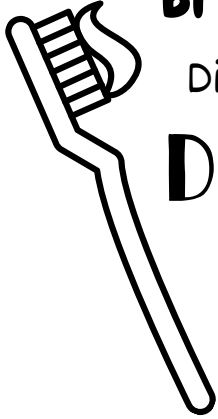


Someone at level 1, 2, 3, or 4 can NOT understand a person who is operating at level 6 or 7. It makes no sense to them, and they will be hostile & mean to those at 6 or 7. This is what happened to Jesus.

Explain a time when your moral understanding of something differed from another person's. _____

Scan this QR code to see atonement through the different levels!

mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." - Hebrews 5:13, 14 NIV



Brushing Your Teeth Through the Different Levels of MORAL DECISION-MAKING



Label the Levels

see the previous pages.

Level

1

It's wrong to not brush, because mom will be mad and I'll get punished if I don't. It's right to brush my teeth because I get praised for brushing.

2

If I brush my teeth, my mom will read me a bedtime story. If I don't brush my teeth, my mom won't read me a bedtime story.



3

If I don't brush my teeth, I'll get teased at school, because everyone else brushes their teeth. It's right to brush my teeth so that my friends will like me.

4

It is a family rule to brush our teeth. If I don't brush my teeth, I will lose my cell phone privileges - but if I do brush, I get to keep my cell phone privileges.

5

I brush my teeth because I love my mom and don't want her to have to take me to any extra dentist appointments and pay for expensive dental bills.

6

I understand that brushing my teeth keeps them clean and healthy and not brushing my teeth can lead to cavities and gum disease.

7

I love my mom and don't want her to take on any additional dental expenses; I understand that brushing my teeth keeps them clean and healthy; and I also realize that tooth pain can interfere with my ability to carry out God's purposes for my life - so I brush to be a good witness to my little brother and to show God's love for everyone!

PERFECTION

Read Matthew 5:48. What does it say? _____

Does the idea of being “perfect” seem like an overwhelming and impossible goal?

- A. Yes. I try really hard, but I seem to make a lot of mistakes - it’s so discouraging.
- B. Not really. I’m already perfect. I follow all the rules perfectly and don’t need help.
- C. It’s impossible to be perfect. Why even try?
- D. Jesus can make us perfect if we open our hearts/minds to His healing.

Does “perfect” mean sinless? Read Hebrews 5:9. The Bible describes how Jesus became the source of our salvation after He was MADE perfect.

Jesus was always sinless, but Bible perfection is about maturity of character. Below is Colossians 1:27, 28 (NIV).

Wait! Wasn't Jesus always perfect?!

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.”

Other translations say “complete” or “perfect.”

That's transformation!

Summarize Ephesians 4:11–24: _____

Bible perfection is not about perfect performance; it’s about mature character, which God produces in us when we trust Him and ask Him to do so. He transforms our hearts, making us holy, righteous, and perfectly in harmony with the way He designed us to be!

FORGIVENESS

When we ask God for forgiveness, what are we asking for?

If we see God's law as imposed, a list of rules, then when we break them and ask for forgiveness, we are asking for legal pardon. We are asking the lawgiver to not inflict punishment on us for breaking the law.

Dear Jesus,
Please forgive my sins!

This can cause us to fear that there is some sin we forgot to ask forgiveness for that will prevent us from being saved.

What law lens?

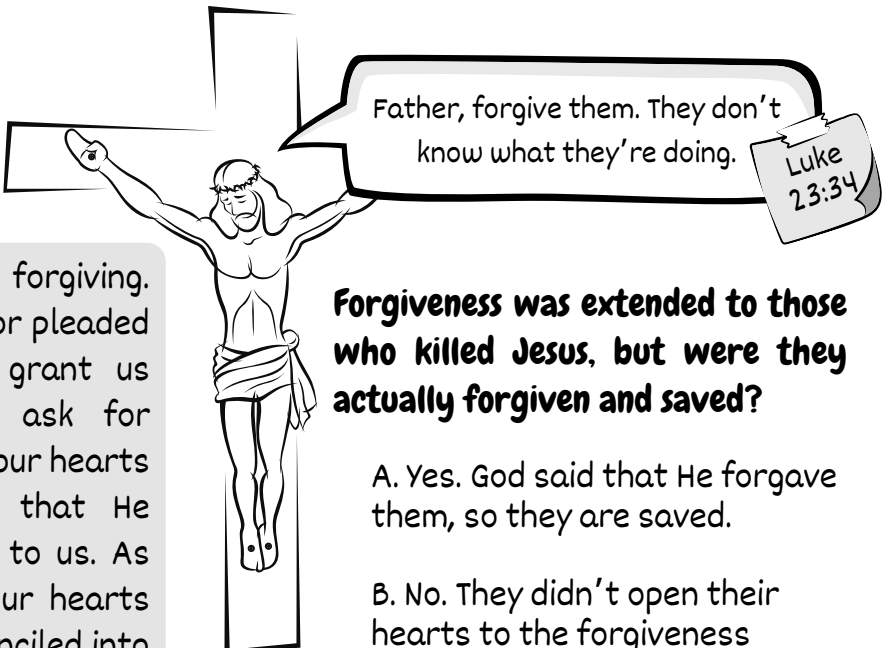


Think of a time you did something that disappointed or angered someone you know. How did it make you feel?

When we mess up, it often causes us to feel fear, guilt, and shame, which keeps us from experiencing peace. Forgiveness is the path to healing and reconciliation.

Will God forgive us only if we ASK for forgiveness?

God is love, and He is always forgiving. He doesn't need to be asked or pleaded with for Him to agree to grant us forgiveness. But when we ask for forgiveness, we need to open our hearts to receive the forgiveness that He freely and constantly offers to us. As we experience forgiveness, our hearts are softened and we are reconciled into a right relationship with God again.



Forgiveness was extended to those who killed Jesus, but were they actually forgiven and saved?

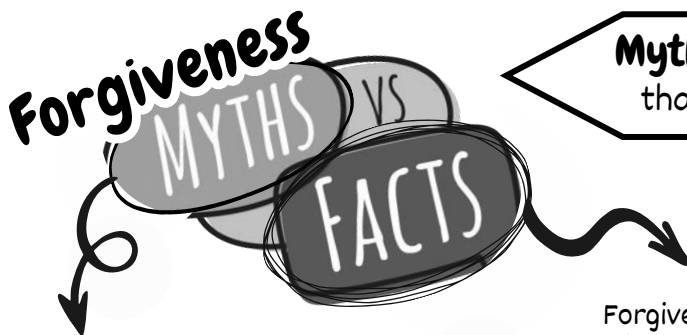
A. Yes. God said that He forgave them, so they are saved.

B. No. They didn't open their hearts to the forgiveness that God freely gave.

Forgiving Others

Forgiving others can be hard. We often want to hold on tight to the wrong that someone has caused us because we think that if we forgive them, it means we are saying that what they did was okay or that it means we have to trust them again. But that is not what forgiveness means. When we forgive others, it frees OUR hearts from being destroyed by anger, hurt, and bitterness.

Think of a time when you have been wronged by someone. How did it make you feel to forgive or not forgive? _____



Myth: an untrue belief or idea that is held by many people

Forgiveness = restored trust

Forgiveness doesn't automatically change the person who did wrong, nor does it make them trustworthy. However, it DOES free you, the one who was hurt, from the damage of holding on to anger and bitterness.

You can forgive someone only if they say they're sorry.

If you wait for an apology and don't get one, you might get even angrier! This puts the control over your health and well-being back into the hands of the one who hurt you in the first place.

Forgiving makes you weak.

When you are wronged, you might feel a lot of anger, and that anger can make you feel strong and in control of not being wronged again. However, this anger often seeps into every aspect of your life, which can cause you to lash out at people who haven't ever done you wrong.

Forgiveness = forgetting

When you forgive someone, it doesn't mean they can be trusted. It is wise to maintain boundaries and to keep your guard up.

Forgiving means the other person "gets away" with the wrong.

Forgiveness does not mean that what the other person did was okay. Forgiveness brings healing to the one who was hurt - and it opens the door for reconciliation.

FAITH

Does having faith mean believing without evidence?

Yes **No**

What is another word for FAITH?

14 24 5 26 14

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	16	12	19	6	2	11	25	17	21	8	18	3
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	13	20	22	24	26	14	5	7	23	15	9	4

How is it that you come to trust someone?

- A. A person who lies to you all the time claims that this time they aren't lying.
- B. A person you've never met claims that you can trust them.
- C. A person you know well has demonstrated that they want what is best for you.

Whenever you read a Bible verse that has **faith** in the text, try substituting it with the word **trust**!

SAVING FAITH IS A
TRUST
 TRANSACTION
 BETWEEN US AND GOD
 that results in REAL change!

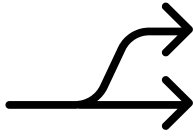


Let's dig deeper into how we exercise our faith.

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (KJV).

The Greek word for substance is **hypostasis**.



HYPO means low or under.

STASIS means standing.

Faith is our "**understanding** of things hoped for..."

Understanding has TWO meanings!



1

We have an understanding **OF** God.

We understand the truth of His character, His design, and His methods. This understanding wins us to trust in God.

Who is someone you personally know that you trust because of your understanding of who they are?

2

We have an understanding **WITH** God.

When we trust God, we enter into an agreement with Him - an understanding. We are in agreement with God's principles and wish to live in harmony with them, so we commit to being loyal to God and to work together with Him to overcome challenges.

Have you ever entered into an understanding with someone in which you promised to keep up your end of the agreement?

OBEDIENCE

What comes to mind when you think of obedience? _____



Imagine you had a garden and were outside pulling the weeds. Your 3-year-old little sister comes up behind you, sees what you're doing, pulls up a tomato plant, and with a huge smile on her face, says, "Help, sissy?" **Is the 3-year-old being disobedient?**

What about if your teenage brother is out in the garden pulling only weeds, but grumbling and cursing the entire time because he'd rather be inside playing video games?

Is obedience about perfect performance?

Describe a time when your intentions were to listen and obey but you fell short and did not perform perfectly. Were you being disobedient or not? Explain.

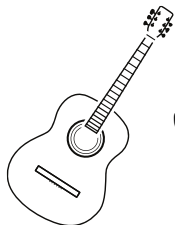
The Greek word for obedience in the New Testament is: **HYPAKOĒ**



HYPŌ

where we get the word hypoglycemic

means low or under



AKOŪŌ

where we get the word acoustics

means to hear or listen

Split into two parts, this word means...



In other words, obedience is . . .

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	16	12	19	6	2	11	25	17	21	8	18	3
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	13	20	22	24	26	14	5	7	23	15	9	4

10 25 5 3 16 18 6

23 17 18 18 17 1 11 1 6 26 26

14 13 18 17 26 14 6 1



WHEN SOMEONE SAYS TO YOU

Do you hear me?
Are you listening?

What is usually meant?

- A. "Was I talking loud enough?"
- B. "Are the sound waves coming from my mouth entering your ear canal?"
- C. "Do you understand what I am saying?"
- D. "Have you lost the ability to detect sound?"

Obedience is not about performance. Obedience is about having a heart attitude that is willing to listen to God's leading in your life and trust Him in that leading. As our hearts are healed from sin-sickness, our desires will change so that we want to follow God's principles, methods, and leading, but that doesn't mean we will always perform perfectly - and that's okay.

JUSTIFICATION & SANCTIFICATION



HUH?!

**Big religious words,
but what do
they mean?**



The word "justification" is the process of being "justified," and it usually causes religious people to think that it means salvation is a legal process; however, this legal idea was artificially introduced into the Bible because of the incorrect concept of God's law being an imposed law. Let's look at the other meanings of the word "justification":



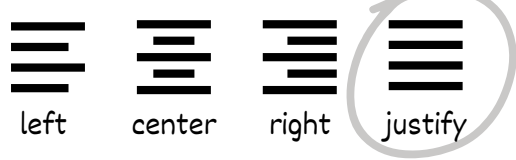
Justify Something

When you show or prove something to be right - like when you "justify" to your mom that it was right for you to push your little brother because you were getting him out of the road so he wouldn't get hit by the coming car.



Justify Your Margins

When you are typing up a document, there is an alignment setting called "justify" - which means to make the words line up perfectly with the margins.



Justification is the process of being justified - or set right. In other words, it is the **moment our hearts change from distrust in God to trust in God** so that He can heal our sin-sick hearts/minds and bring us back into alignment with His design for life!

What is it that wins us to trust God? _____

After we have been justified (set right / won to trust), **sanctification** is the daily process of applying God's truth, principles, and methods to our lives. It is the journey of growing, maturing, and developing our characters to be brought back into harmony with God's design for life. We may still make mistakes, but our hearts are bothered when it happens and we seek restoration and healing from our old responses. Over time, we see our wants and desires actually change and we become more like Jesus.

(Color this!) 

SANCTIFICATION

is an outworking of **GOD'S DESIGN LAWS:**

THE LAW OF
WORSHIP

&

THE LAW OF
EXERTION

(by beholding we are changed)

(if you want something to be stronger, you must exercise it)

Circle the ways you can apply God's truths, principles & methods to your life:

- Think about God's design for life
- Call others mean names
- Present truth in love, leaving people free
- Help others
- Steal things you can't afford
- Hold grudges
- Cheat to get ahead
- Be forgiving
- Remember God's character of love
- Pray for others
- Get revenge when others do wrong to you
- Force and threaten others to believe in the same things you believe in
- Use vulgar language
- Read the Bible
- Listen to music about God

OLD TESTAMENT

Have you ever read something in the Old Testament that confused you or made you question God's character? Some stories, on the surface, seem to make God out to be a murderous, angry, and horrible deity. Let's re-examine some important biblical concepts we have already gone over - and then explore some new ideas to consider while reading the Old Testament.

Page
26

There is a cosmic war raging between God and Satan.

After the fall of humanity, God promised to send a Savior, who would defeat the enemy. Satan was working HARD to prevent this Savior from coming. The entire Old Testament is the story of God working to keep open the avenue for Jesus to come so that He could save us, while Satan worked to turn the hearts of people away from God.

Page
64

Israel came out of Egypt with a slave mentality.

God stepped down to meet Israel at a level they could understand. Israel was at level one of moral decision-making, so they needed a powerful God to punish wrongdoing and reward right-doing for them to understand the difference between right and wrong. Eventually, God worked to help them grow through the different levels of moral decision-making. At the time of Jesus' birth, most of Israel was at level four - law and order. But in the New Testament, Jesus attempted to take their moral understanding to the next level - maturing into levels 5, 6, and 7 - love for others, principle-based living, and understanding friend of God.

Page
55

The first "sleep" death is not "the wages of sin" death.

When God brought the Flood and later destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, He was not inflicting punishment for sin. Everyone who died in the Old Testament, even from acts of God, is now in a state of sleep and will be resurrected either with the righteous or with the wicked - based completely on the actual reality of their condition.

1 Cor 4:9

Israel was acting out a theatrical representation of God's plan.

The people of Israel were like actors, and God was the director. They used a detailed stage, specific props, and intricate costumes to demonstrate and teach God's plan to heal us from sin. If an actor went off script, they needed to be removed from the performance. The Israelites were not saved by the Old Testament sanctuary system. Everything about it was symbolism that pointed to the plan of salvation. For instance, when the sinner confessed their sins on the HEAD of a goat or lamb, it signified that sin is a way of THINKING, an attitude in the mind. Then, the sinner had to cut off the head of the animal, symbolizing how sin severs the life (Leviticus 4:33; 17:11).

God sometimes gets blamed for things He doesn't actually do.

One example of this comes from the books of Samuel and Chronicles regarding the death of King Saul. In 1 Samuel 31:4-6, it describes how King Saul killed himself with his own sword, while in 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14, it says that the Lord put him to death. Another example is in the book of Job. Satan is the one who brings pain and suffering to Job, but God gets blamed. God is often described as doing that which He permits. But allowing something to happen is not the same thing as being the one to make it happen.

The Old Testament teaches the truth in 3 different ways and lines up with the Integrative, Evidence-Based Approach.

Page 17

Label the three threads of evidence:

AKA The Torah
which means "teaching"

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy

THE LAW
teaches through God's revelation of divine truth and instructions.

Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

THE PROPHETS
teach about the real-life consequences that are experienced when trust with God is broken.

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles

THE WRITINGS
teach through the lessons in the world and how reality works.
(observing the ants, birds, or the lilies of the field)

PAIN & SUFFERING

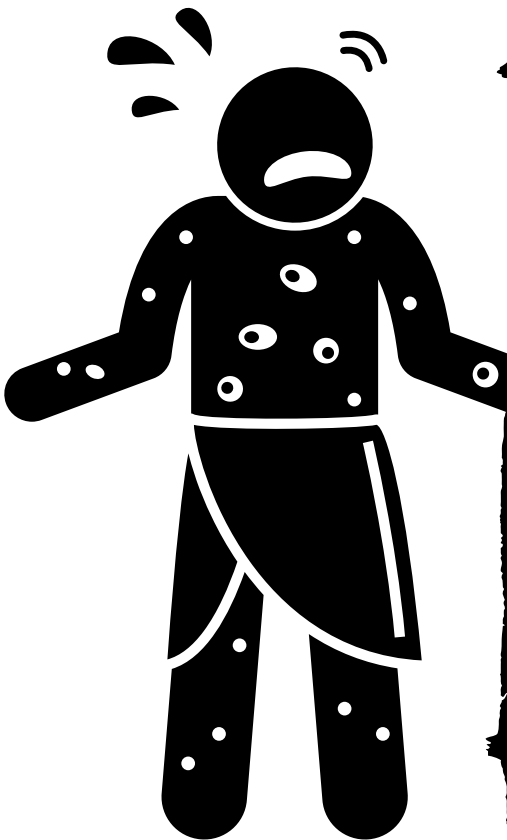
Why does a good God allow pain and suffering?

This is not a simple question with a simple answer. Many people have asked this question, and many different philosophies have emerged to try to give an explanation. The first question we must ask is this ... **is all pain bad?**

If you were to touch a hot stove, would the pain you experience be bad?

YES Obviously! It would hurt, and no one wants to feel any kind of pain.

NO The pain alerts you to the danger and causes you to pull your hand away from receiving any more damage.



LEPROSY is a powerful metaphor for sin.

Leprosy is a disease that damages the body's sensory nerves, making it so that you can't feel things. It makes you numb to any pain, so if you were to touch a hot stove, for instance, you would not feel your skin burning. You wouldn't move your hand from the hot stove until it was too late and the smell of burning flesh alerted you to the damage you had inflicted on yourself. Likewise, sin damages your conscience; it makes you numb to the damage you are causing yourself. When you persist in sin, your soul becomes more and more resistant to God's truth and love, which is trying to alert you to the damage that sin causes.

Sometimes, the things we experience feel painful or bad in the moment, but later on, we realize they were actually for our best.



When Lennox was 9 years old, she got poison ivy so bad that it had spread all over her body, even her face. She was miserable from the pain and itching of the poison ivy rash. Her mom took her to the doctor, and they suggested a shot that would help the poison ivy go away fairly quickly. However, the idea of a needle being poked into her arm made Lennox so terrified that she kicked and screamed to get away from her mom, the nurse, and the doctor. Lennox couldn't see past the pain that the shot would cause, but her mom knew what was best for her, so she held Lennox down while the girl screamed at the top of her lungs, "Why are you hurting me?" After the shot had been given, Lennox cried for a long time in the loving embrace of her mom until she was able to calm down. The next day, Lennox could already feel that the shot was helping take away the poison ivy, and she gratefully exclaimed, "Mom, thank you so much for helping me get that shot!"

Can you think of a time when you experienced something painful but that it was actually in your best interest? _____

What about pain and suffering in the world that comes from actual evil and there is nothing good about it?

Pain and suffering exist in the world because of sin. Sin is being out of harmony with the way God designed life to function, and it causes pain because it is not the way it is supposed to be. We live in a world where there is decay, disease, and death, which is not part of God's original design. Not only is our world out of harmony with God's design for how life is supposed to operate, but there are also people who make bad choices that have horrible consequences - like drunk drivers who put others on the road at risk. Not only that, but there are actual evil people in the world who choose to do bad and cause intentional harm to others. We are caught in the middle of a cosmic war zone where there are enemies of kindness, goodness, truth, and love.

But WHY does God ALLOW evil, disease, tragedy, and death?

- A. Because God doesn't care that we are suffering.
- B. Because God's design of love requires freedom, which He gives us - even when that freedom has severe consequences.
- C. Because God thinks we deserve to suffer for breaking His rules.
- D. Because God isn't powerful enough to stop the evil.



MARK OF THE BEAST

The Bible talks about two groups of people at the end of time: those with the “Mark of the Beast” and those with the “Seal of God.” But what exactly are these marks or seals? And what distinguishes who will be marked or sealed?



The Mark of the Beast can be found in two places. Which places are they? Unscramble the letters.

ADHN

HOFERADE

Is the Mark of the Beast a literal mark?

No. The Mark of the Beast symbolizes those who go along with Satan’s beastly methods. There are those who are marked on the forehead because they have accepted Satan’s lie and they think it’s RIGHT to force, coerce, threaten, pressure, and kill those who don’t agree with them. Then there are those who are marked on the hand. These are the ones who may not agree with the methods of Satan but who go along with them anyway - maybe because they don’t want to lose their jobs, houses, or lifestyles.

What about the number 666? What is that all about?

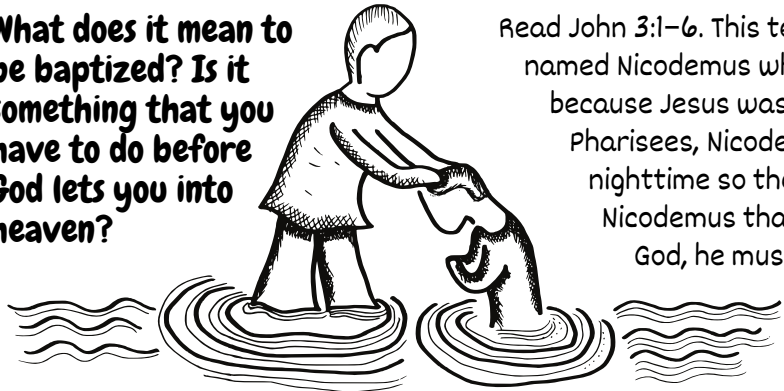
In the Bible, the number 6 represents humanity and the number 7 represents perfection and holiness. Jesus came to Earth as a human, but He purified humanity - this is what He offers to us: a purified human character. Since humans are made up of three parts - body, soul, and spirit - numerically, this purified humanity (body, soul & spirit) could be shown as 777. God is “holy, holy, holy” (Revelation 4:8). But Satan, who will come as an imposter of Jesus, is unholy, unholy, unholy - his name/character is represented as 666.



BAPTISM

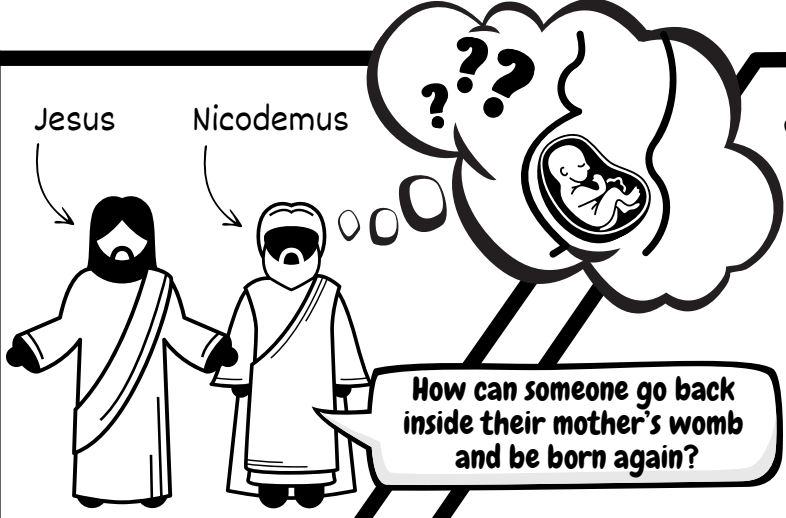
Do you want to be baptized? Why? _____

What does it mean to be baptized? Is it something that you have to do before God lets you into heaven?



Read John 3:1-6. This tells the story of a Pharisee named Nicodemus who was intrigued by Jesus, but because Jesus was not well-regarded by the other Pharisees, Nicodemus came to talk to Him at nighttime so they wouldn't be seen. Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to see the kingdom of God, he must be born again.

Jesus Nicodemus



How can someone go back inside their mother's womb and be born again?

Jesus answered him by saying...

When you were born of your mother, you were born with sin-sickness - but to be born again means to be born of the Spirit. This is a birth of a new heart and mind.


Born in sin...
Psalm 51:5



Reborn

Lord, I trust you to heal my sin-sickness.

Create in me a clean heart & a right spirit.
Psalm 51:10

Now, I would like to demonstrate, by a water baptism, how God has changed my life.

TRUE OR FALSE

You MUST be baptized with water in order to be saved.

TRUE

FALSE

You should get baptized because your parents tell you that you are old enough to be baptized.

TRUE

FALSE

You should get baptized because all your friends are getting baptized.

TRUE

FALSE

You should get baptized because you love and trust God and you want to show others of your commitment to follow God and let Him lead in your life.

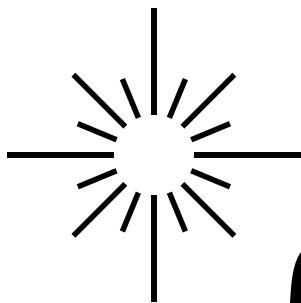
TRUE

FALSE

To be baptized in water is a symbolic representation of being reborn in the Spirit with a new heart & mind.

TRUE

FALSE



BAPTISM *Explained*



“—
Having been immersed into the truth of Christ Jesus, you have been immersed into selflessness and have died to selfishness, and through trusting in the power of God who called Christ back from the dead, you are renewed with his character and principles.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, He told His disciples to go and baptize the entire world in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, 20). This doesn't mean just saying the words "I baptize you in the name ...". It means to immerse hearts and minds into the character (remember "name" means character) of God, that is ... into love! Because God IS love!

THE 3 ANGELS' MESSAGES

Revelation 14:6-12

Revelation is a prophetic book of the Bible that can be difficult to understand because it's full of symbolism. However, it is an important book because it can help us understand how we can fulfill our purposes and prepare the world for Jesus' return.

Revelation includes a special end-time message commonly known as the "three angels' messages." Each angel brings a specific message, with the second and third angels' messages building on the prior angel's message. It is important to understand each message to be able to accurately understand the entire message. Here is a breakdown of the design-law understanding of the three angels' messages of Revelation!

The FIRST ANGEL'S Message

Worship the Creator

"Be in awe of God, and glorify him by living his methods of love, because the hour has come for everyone to make a judgment about God, and worship the Designer, Creator, and Builder who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water - all of which operate upon his law of love."

(The Remedy)

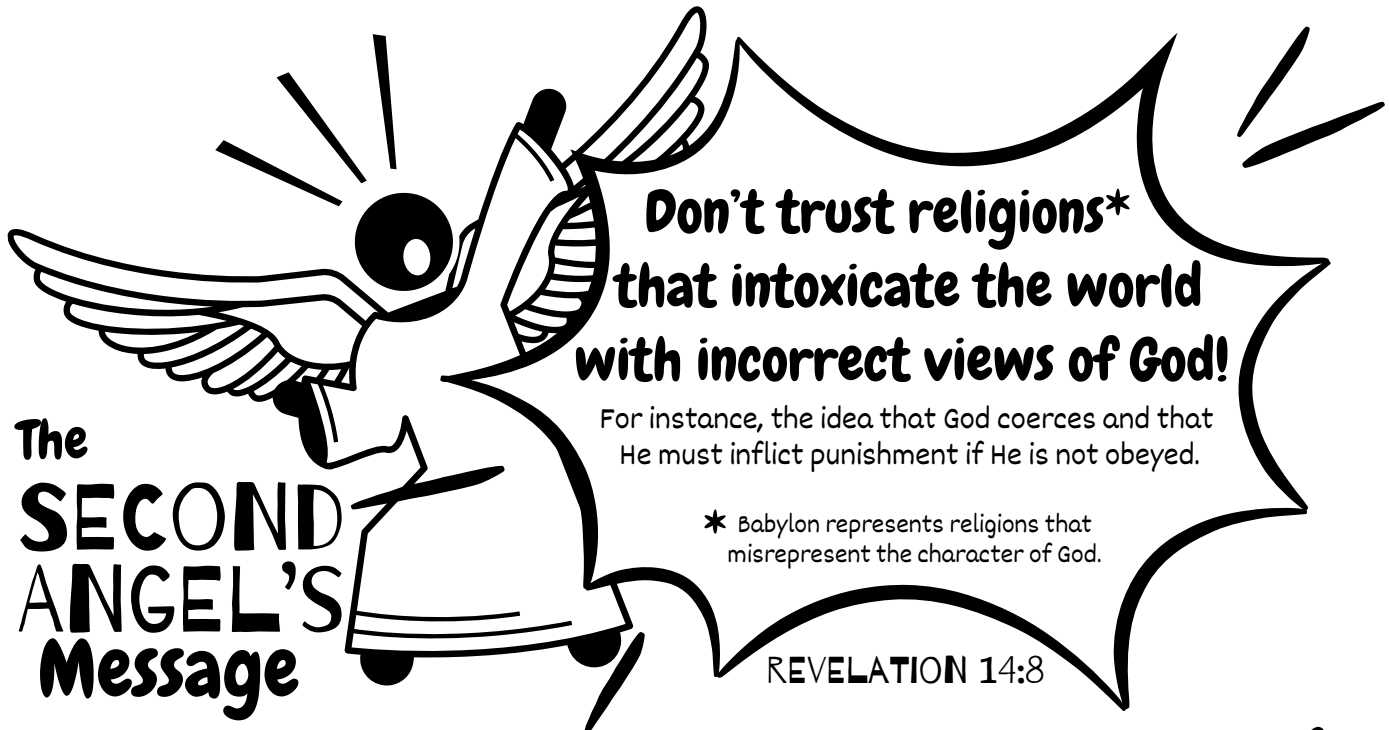


FEAR GOD?

REVELATION 14:6, 7

In most Bible translations, this text reads "fear" God, but in this context, the word "fear" actually means to have admiration for or to be in awe of our wonderful God.

Why do you think this first angel's message links the good news - aka the gospel - with worshipping God as the Creator?



The **SECOND ANGEL'S** Message

Don't trust religions* that intoxicate the world with incorrect views of God!

For instance, the idea that God coerces and that He must inflict punishment if He is not obeyed.

* Babylon represents religions that misrepresent the character of God.

REVELATION 14:8

The **THIRD ANGEL'S** Message

Those who choose Satan's beastly methods of coercion, being unhealed of sin-sickness, will experience the full weight of what sin does when God lets go.

REVELATION 14:9-11



Pg 60

REVIEW QUESTION:
Why does the fire of God cause the wicked to suffer?

WHOM WILL YOU WORSHIP?

Worship means to find worth in something greater than self.

SECOND COMING

Look up **Matthew 24:30** and **Revelation 1:7** for descriptions of Jesus' second coming.

Where will Jesus be seen? _____

Who will see Jesus coming? _____

When will Jesus come? _____

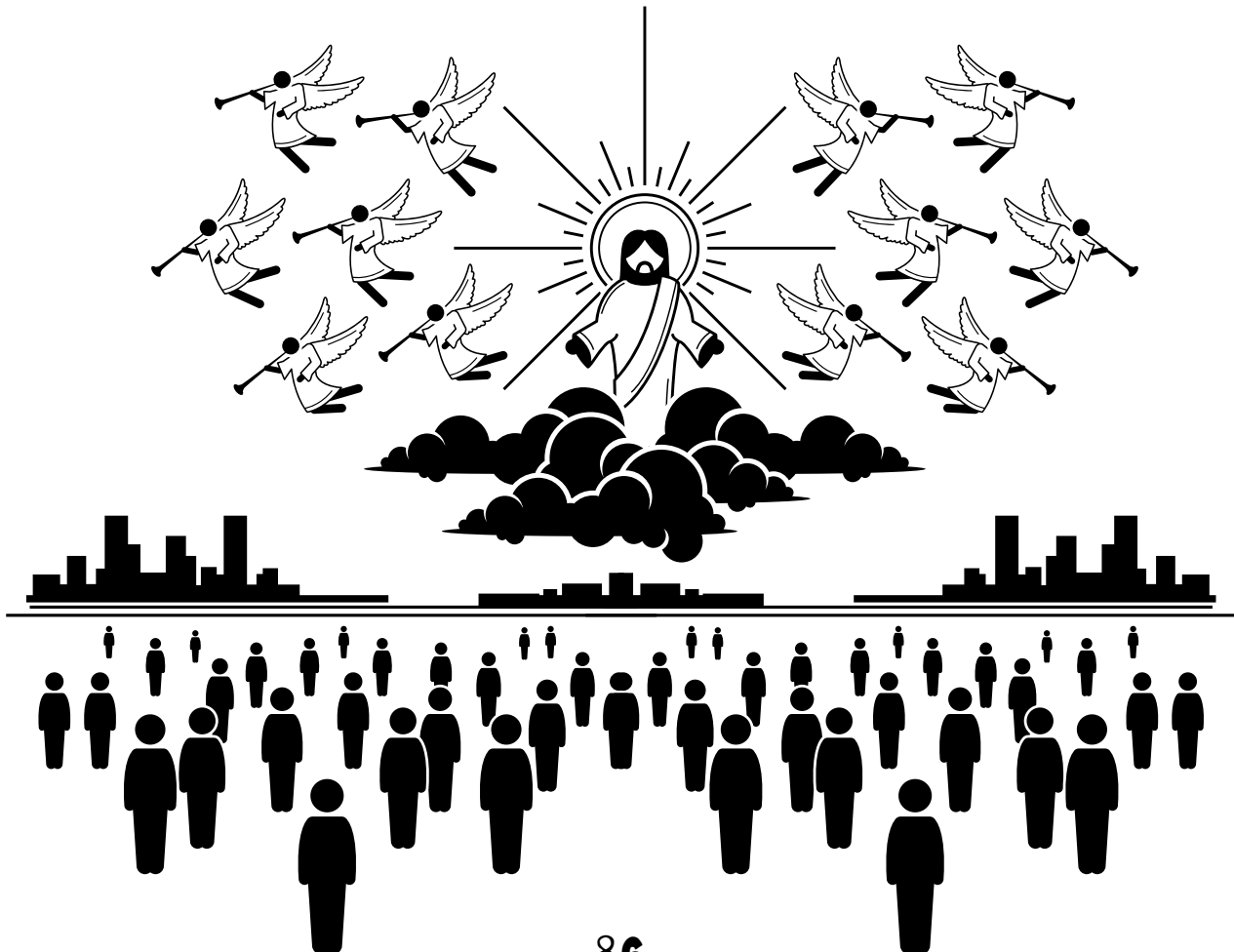
Mark
13:32



Describe what you think the second coming of Jesus will be like: _____

"For the coming of the Son of Man will be visible to the entire world."

Matthew 24:27 (The Remedy)



7 TRUTHS to Prepare Us for Jesus' Return

(from the book of Job)

We are caught up in a cosmic war.

Satan is the leader of the enemy force.

Pain, suffering & death come from Satan, but God gets blamed.

Being healthy is not proof of righteousness.

Loved ones can be used to tempt and discourage us.

Bible perfection is about love, trust & loyalty to God, not perfect performance.

We are all called to say what is right of God.

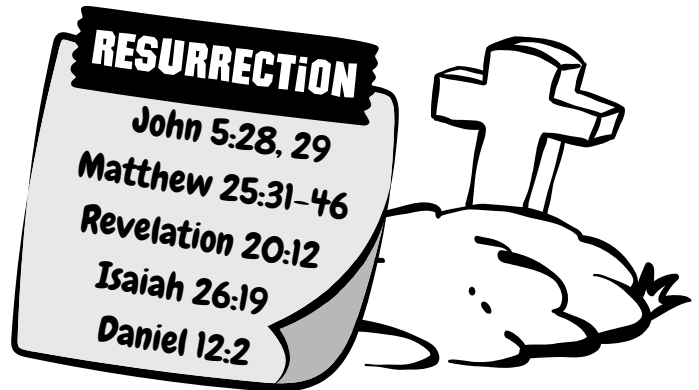


Scan the QR code for an in-depth look at these truths.

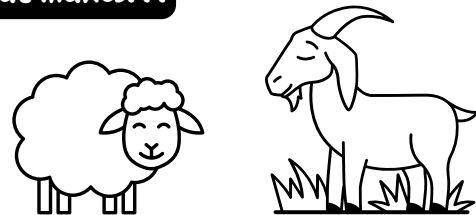
"Once I've gone and prepared a place for you, I will come again and take you back with me, so that you can be there with me too" (John 14:3 FBV).

Who is resurrected from the grave?

- A. No one is resurrected from the grave, because when we die, we either go straight to heaven or straight to hell.
- B. Only the wicked are raised from the dead in order to be judged, punished, and then sent to hell.
- C. Only the righteous are raised from the dead in order to go up to heaven.
- D. Both the wicked and the righteous will be resurrected from the grave. The reality of their condition will be the determination of their destiny - have they opened their heart to love and trust God and, thus, have life, or have they rejected the Remedy and, thus, rejected life?



What makes...



a sheep a sheep and a goat a goat?

The reality of what they are!

NEW EARTH

The Bible gives us a beautiful look into the truth that God will create a new heaven and a new earth. Look up Isaiah 65:17-25 and Revelation 21:1-5 and fill in the blanks below.

DISAPPEAR	HEAVEN	CRYING	SUFFERING
LAMB	REMEMBERED	DEATH	EARTH
JERUSALEM	HARM	KNOWLEDGE	LION
LORD	JOYFUL	HOLY	GOATS

There will be a new _____ and a new _____.

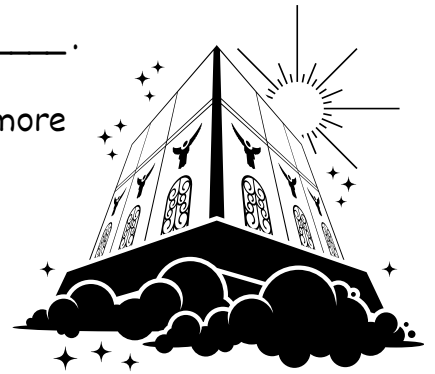


The things of the past won't be _____. The first earth - the one infected by Satan's rebellion - will _____.

The new city of _____ will be _____.

It will be a _____ place where there will be no more

_____, _____,
_____, or _____!



The wolf and the _____ will eat together, and the

_____ will eat straw like the ox. Leopards will lay next to young

_____. Children and babies will be _____ near

snakes and snake pits. Nothing will cause any _____ or danger.

The earth will be full of the _____ of the _____.



Draw what you think the new earth will be like ...

ANSWERS

Page 8: patient, kind, not envious, not jealous, doesn't boast, not proud, doesn't dishonor, not selfish, rejoices in truth, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrong, always protects, always trusts, never fails.

Page 9: D. All of the above
God wants us to love others.

V R A P L U A Y G R E O B R P S Z E M Q E V K F V
D J B F M M S T Z O X K M S E R T D O D G I G G A
J Y L C I L P W L Z D I G K Y S G O T H E R S B
G R S C H W R L K Z R N V T N H T L W I Y H V W
W F T P F X O O G W U D J C R A Z O V E J U K C
L C R C I L T V E O F H X J D U H T R I Y U U A C
N M U F O E E E M H O Y Y G Z D T I P E N I G Y Q
Z D S I L R C P A T I E N T M L T H L F S G J N B
A N T I X D T K Q V U L S W N C P P K K Y Y E S C
A K L K G M S Y R H N O Q O B E F D U A L T U H Q

Page 10: The Father | Jesus, the Son | The Holy Spirit
The Father sends the Holy Spirit to reveal all that Jesus has shown.

Page 13: Jn 10:30 - Jesus | The Father - They are one.
Jn 14:9 - Jesus | The Father - If you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father. Jesus shows us the Father.
Matt 28:19 - The Father | Jesus | The Holy Spirit - Go and baptize the people into the name (character) of all three - that is, love.
Gen 1:26 - The Father | Jesus | The Holy Spirit - All together, the three made humans in their image.
Jn 15:26 - The Father | Jesus | The Holy Spirit (Advocate). Jesus and the Father send the Holy Spirit to bring the truth about God.

Page 15: Romans 1:20 ----- Science/Nature
Psalm 34:8 ----- Experience
2 Timothy 3:16 ----- Scripture

Page 16: Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Matthew, Mark, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, 1 & 2 Peter, Hebrews, James, Revelation

Plants freely give away oxygen | We breathe in oxygen | We breathe out CO2 | Plants take in CO2

Page 17: INTEGRATIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

Page 19: Imposed, Design, Design, Imposed, Imposed, Design, Imposed, Imposed, Design, Imposed, Design, Design.

Page 20: G, F, H, J, B, D, A, I, E, C

Page 22: Other examples of giving - money in the economy, respiration - oxygen/CO2, plants - seed becomes plant producing seeds, life cycle, etc.

Page 24: Love for GOD | Love for OTHERS

Page 25: Rom 13:10 - Love, Law - The law is love.
Gal 5:14 - Law, Love - The law is love.
Matt 22:37-40 - Love, Love, Law - The law is love.
D. All of the above

Page 26: Type of weapons - B
... father of LIES.

Kinds of lies: Lies about God (He's not good; He can't be trusted; His laws are imposed; and He will punish/kill us for not obeying them, etc.), lies about others, lies about ourselves

ANSWERS

Page 26 (cont.): Destroys a lie - C. truth
Heavenly war over - A. the knowledge of God

Page 27: LIES BELIEVED BREAK LOVE AND TRUST
Emily ignored/avoided Kate because she believed a lie.
Restore their friendship - C. Kate giving evidence

Page 28: ... the truth sets us FREE.
Who leads us to truth? D. all of the above
D, C, A, B

Page 29: God's methods - good, gentle, consistent,
brings clarity, heals, encourages, brings order, etc.
Satan's methods - evil, abusive, inconsistent, causes
confusion, infects, discourages, brings chaos, etc.

Page 30: Job 38 describes God creating the earth
with the angels watching it happen & shouting for joy.
Days of Creation - 3, 1, 4, 5, 6, 2
Unique about humans - Created in God's image

Page 32: On the 7th day - God rested and blessed it.
Purpose of the 7th-day Sabbath - a sign to remind us
that God created us and makes us holy (healthy).

Page 33: Sabbath is evidence that: B. true freedom
Mark 2:27 - The Sabbath was made for MAN, not MAN
for the Sabbath.
True or False - False, True, False

Page 34: D. They would die

Page 35: LAWLESSNESS
What is sin? D. Selfishness/being out of harmony with
life - Rom 6:23 | Gal 6:8 | Jam 1:15 - Sin brings death.
Why? C. ...out of harmony with God's design for life

Page 36: LOVE IS LIFE. SIN IS DEATH.

Page 37: Which statement is true? D.

Page 38: NO, NO, YES

Page 39: C. It's a metaphor.

Page 40: Ps 51:10 | Ezek 11:19 | Ezek 36:26 - God gives
us new hearts and right spirits.
TRUTH, FREEDOM, LOVE

Page 41: God puts love in our hearts so that we will
act in love toward God and others - He brings us into
harmony with His design law of love.
Salvation means - B. To be healed from sin

Page 42: The plagues in Egypt, Sodom & Gomorrah,
Israel being instructed to kill entire cities.

Page 43: Jesus, our substitute - D. None of the above
2 Cor 5:21 - God sent Jesus to become human and
take on our sin-sick condition so that He could
overcome it, creating the cure so that we could be
healed of the sin-sickness and made righteous.

ANSWERS

Page 45: Mustard Seed - The gospel seed is planted in us, and when our hearts accept it, it grows in us a character of righteousness producing fruits of love, grace, and mercy.

The Lost Sheep - The lost sheep did not have to do anything to get the shepherd to come look for it.

The Unforgiving Servant - The forgiven servant did not allow grace to change his heart. He was legally right to demand a debt owed to him be paid, but salvation is not a legal issue; it's a heart issue.

The Good Samaritan - The man who was not considered a righteous man is the one God called righteous because he had love in his heart.

Page 46: LIES, TRUTH, SELFISHNESS, LOVE, DEATH

Page 48: Isa 1:17 - Do right, defend the oppressed

Isa 30:18 - God's justice is showing compassion

Ezek 45:9 - Do right, don't be violent & oppressive

Zech 7:9, 10 - Show mercy and compassion to others

The difference between the human understanding of justice and the biblical understanding is in how you view the law. Is God's law imposed or the design for life? Human justice is based on imposed law; biblical justice is based on design law.

Page 49: Doing right, showing mercy and compassion, and defending the oppressed is what is just according to God's design law of love.

Sick dog - JUST thing to do? - B. Get the dog to a veterinarian right away to save his life!

Page 50: Jn 12:47 - Jesus came to SAVE the world, not to JUDGE it.

Page 50 (cont.): The difference in the two understandings of judgment is what law lens you are looking through - imposed or design. Is God like a judge in a courtroom with imposed laws in which He judges and inflicts punishment for law-breaking? Or is God like a doctor, working within the laws of health (design laws), making an accurate diagnosis of our true condition?

Page 52: NAMES

Name means character - who a person is.

The record will show who we are and the choices we've made, which determine our outcome. A thief remains a thief if his heart has not been changed and won to love.

Page 53: Comes into evidence? D. All of the above

Page 54: BODY, SOUL, SPIRIT

Page 55: Hardware - BODY, Software - SOUL, Energy Source - SPIRIT

What does Jesus call death? - SLEEP

Page 56: Matt 10:28 - There's no reason to be afraid of anyone who can hurt or destroy your body; they can't change who you are - your character. Instead, be afraid of sin - fear and selfishness - which can warp your mind and destroy your character, resulting in eternal death.

Eccl 12:7 - Bodies return to dust AND

energy source returns to God

Gen 3:19 - Bodies return to dust

Eccl 3:20 - Bodies return to dust

ANSWERS

Page 57: Rev 2:11 - Those who love truth will be renewed by love and will not die the second death.
Rev 20:6 - The second death has no power over the righteous.
Rev 20:14 - The lake of fire, God's very presence, is the second death.
Rev 21:8 - The wicked will be consumed by the lake of fire - the second death.
FIRST, FIRST, FIRST, FIRST, FIRST

Page 58: Problem with playing in the street? B. You could get hit by a car and die.
God does not get angry at us. He is angry at the sin-sickness that infects us and damages us, and He is angry when we reject the free healing He offers because it doesn't have to be that way.

Page 59: Deut 31:17 - God is not with them.
Deut 32:28-30 - ... given them up.
Psalms 78:59, 60 - He turned away / rejected / abandoned them.
Isaiah 1:24, 25 - ... impurities.
Isaiah 64:7 - ... sins.
Ezekiel 21:31 - gives / hands
Hosea 4:6 - ... they don't know God.
Hosea 11:8 - ... give us up / let us go.
Rom 1:18-32 - God gives them over / lets them go.
2 Thess 2:10 - ... love the truth.

Page 60: B. It says the righteous dwell in the fire.
Exo 3:2-4 - God was in the bush, which was on fire, but it wasn't being burned up.
Satan is destroyed by the brightness of Jesus.

Page 61: D. The wicked refuse to love the truth and remain unhealed from sin-sickness.

Page 61 (cont.): Sin is made of lies & selfishness (D).
Truth burns up / destroys lies.
Love burns up / destroys selfishness.
John 15:26 - Spirit of Truth
Romans 5:5 - God's love is poured out to us through the Holy Spirit.

Page 62: Does God punish us or discipline us?

Page 66: Level 1 - Reward & Punishment
Level 2 - Marketplace Exchange
Level 3 - Social Conformity
Level 4 - Law & Order
Level 5 - Love for Others
Level 6 - Principle-Based Living
Level 7 - Understanding Friend of God

Page 67: Be perfect just like God is perfect.
D. Jesus can make us perfect if we open our hearts/minds to His healing.
We must mature in our understanding of God.

Page 68: B. No, they didn't open their hearts to the forgiveness that God freely gave.

Page 70: No!
Another word for FAITH - TRUST
C. A person that you know well has demonstrated that they want what is best for you.

Page 73: A HUMBLE WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN.
C. "Do you understand what I am saying?"

ANSWERS

Page 74: knowing the true character of God

Page 75: Circle the following - Think about God's design for life | Present truth, in love, leaving people free | Help others | Be forgiving | Remember God's character of love | Pray for others | Read the Bible | Listen to music about God

Page 77: The Law --- Scripture
The Prophets --- Experience
The Writings --- Science/Nature

Page 78: NO! Because the pain alerts you to the danger, it causes you to pull your hand away from receiving any more damage.

Page 79: B. Because God's design of love requires freedom, which He gives us even when that freedom has severe consequences.

Page 80: HAND | FOREHEAD

Page 81: TRUTH | LOVE | FREEDOM
Satan - 6 6 6 | Jesus - 7 7 7

Page 83: FALSE | FALSE | FALSE | TRUE | TRUE

PAGE 84: The good news, which is eternal, is that God is the Creator, whose laws are the design template for life to exist, not an imposed set of rules.

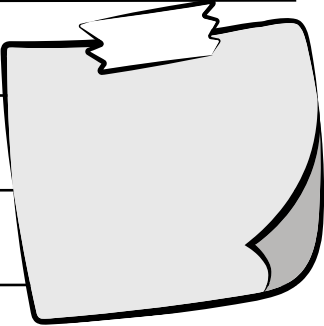
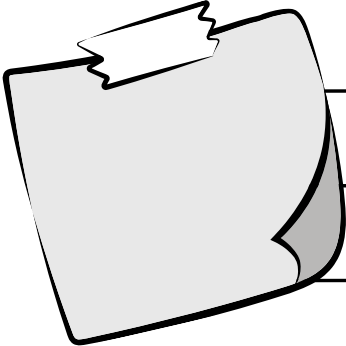
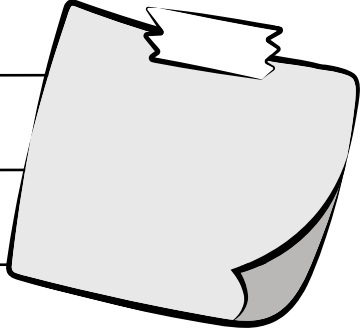
Page 85: The fire of God is truth & love. Truth is offensive and painful to those who cling to lies. Love is torture to those who prefer selfishness. The wicked would hate to be in the presence of infinite truth and love.

Page 86: Where - in heaven / the sky / the clouds
Who - all the nations / tribes / everyone
When - No one knows the day or hour

Page 87: D. Both the wicked and the righteous will be resurrected from the grave. The reality of their condition will be the determination of their destiny - have they opened their heart to love and trust God and, thus, have life, or have they rejected the Remedy and, thus, rejected life?

Page 88: There will be a new HEAVEN and a new EARTH. The things of the past won't be REMEMBERED. The first earth - the one infected by Satan's rebellion - will DISAPPEAR. The new city of JERUSALEM will be HOLY. It will be a JOYFUL place where there will be no more PAIN, SUFFERING, CRYING, or DEATH! The wolf and the LAMB will eat together and the LION will eat straw like the ox. Leopards will lay next to young GOATS. Children and babies will be SAFE near snakes and snake pits. Nothing will cause any HARM or danger. The earth will be full of the KNOWLEDGE of the LORD.

NOTES



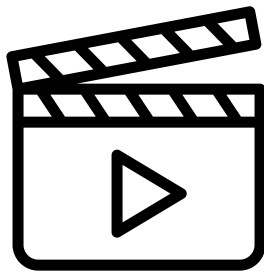


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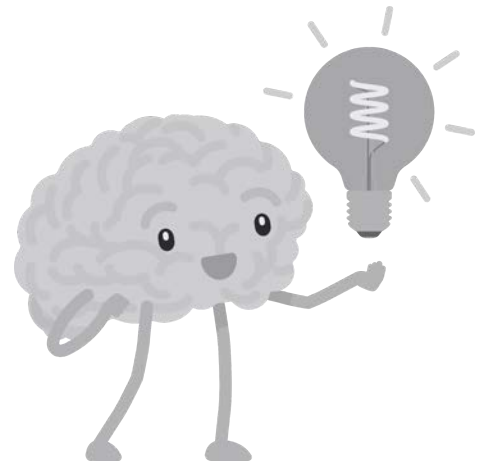
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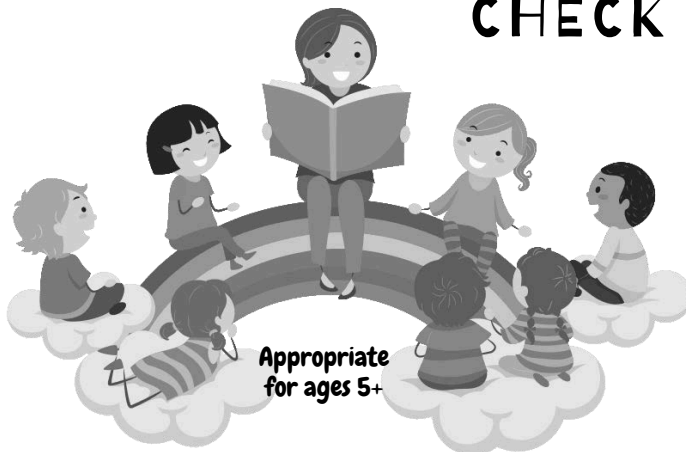
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