

Four Evangelistic Bible Studies

Study 1-Gods Purpose

Author of Creation.

It is difficult for a person to believe in something they cannot see, touch or feel. People with their limited knowledge cannot prove God as they can with a mathematical formula. However, we do have evidence of His existence all around us if we only have eyes to see.

What are the evidences of Gods existence? (Discuss)

Let's turn together to Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:19-20

What does the Bible say about those who deny the existence of God?

Turn to Psalm 14:1

People are born with a universal belief in a Supreme Being. No tribe has yet been discovered that lacks this. They know that some Being creates and controls. Life comes from life and the original life must come from a Being possessing eternal life- life that existed before physical life was created.

Where did God come from?

Turn to Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 90:2

God has no beginning and no end. He is eternal. The first verse in the Bible simply presents us with God. The rest of the Bible is an expansion on who God is, what He is like and what He is doing amongst us. The world came into being through the perfect will of the perfect God.

What are some of the ways in which the Bible describes what God the Creator is like?

Turn to Isaiah 40:25-26, Jeremiah 32:17, Acts 17:28

As author of all He has made, God is like an inventor over His creation, shaping it to conform to His designs. The beauty, order and majesty of the created world show that God is a God of power, order and purpose

What did God say about His creation?

Turn to Genesis 1:27

God's first man

Read Genesis 1:27 and 2:4-25

How was Adam created in the image of God?

Adam, the first human, was created in the image of God. One way in which he was 'like God' was in having moral and spiritual capacities. We are much more than the animals God created.

In all of Creation what was not good?

Turn to Genesis 2:18

God knew Adam needed a wife, so He caused a deep sleep to come on him. While he slept God took a rib from Adam's side and with it formed a wife for him- Eve (Genesis 2:18-23).

They were created as eternal beings, knowing no death to either body or Spirit. Right from the start they had eternal life and were made to live forever with God.

What are some of the responsibilities God gave to them?

Turn to Genesis 1:28

God placed them in a beautiful garden called Eden where they lived happily (Genesis 2:8).

What was God's main purpose for creating people?

Turn to Genesis 3:8

Adam and Eve were happy in the Garden of Eden. There they enjoyed wonderful fellowship with God their Creator. In the cool of the evening God would come and be with them. There they would walk and talk with one another. They had a personal, intimate relationship and friendship with Him. God created humans because He wanted a race of people who would love Him and have a close relationship with Him.

The Freedom to Choose.

At the beginning, Adam and Eve were pure. God made them perfect, good and sinless. They did no wrong. However it was possible for them to do wrong because God created them with a free will to choose to love and obey Him.

Why do you think God made man with a free will? (Discuss)

God did not want to force us to love Him. He wanted us to choose to love Him freely. What pleasure could there be with a race of robots!!

There were many different types of trees in the garden, but two trees were different from all the others. One of these was 'the tree of life' and the other 'the tree of knowledge of good and evil'. Adam and Eve were allowed to eat the fruit of any tree wished except for 'the tree of knowledge of good and evil'. God commanded that they not eat from this tree and warned them clearly that they would surely die if they ate its fruit (Genesis 2:9, 16-17).

Adam was free to choose to obey God or disobey Him. Free to choose to do what pleased himself and to do his own thing, or to do what pleased God, his Creator.

Summary:

Man was made for God. The Spirit of man was made to commune with God. Man was created to love the Lord and to enjoy life and nature. Man was made with the ability to think- consisting of a body, soul and a spirit.

To think about...

What is your purpose? Who are you? Why are you here?

There is built into people's hearts and souls a constant searching to find the answers to lasting peace, love and a sense of purpose and security. We see people trying to find these answers in their own pursuit of different religions and beliefs. Some, not finding fulfilment and peace in these may try to find happiness in money, alcohol, food, family, material or other things. Most of these bring fleeting fulfilment which does not last or fill that empty space inside them.

Why are most people today not enjoying the kind of love and peace experienced by God's first humans?

Study 2 – Man’s Problem

Review of previous lesson.

- God is the Creator and has a specific purpose for us
- God created man in His own image. Having moral and spiritual capacities
- He gave us the responsibility to look after His creation.
- God created us to have an intimate relationship with Himself.
- We were given a free-will to choose to obey and love God.

The Fall of Man

Adam and Eve were happy in the Garden of Eden where they fellowshiped with God. But one day a terrible thing happened.

Turn to Genesis 3:1-6 to find out what it was.

Let’s look at the steps of temptation that led to Adam and Eve’s disobedience.

Verse 1-3. Satan sought out Eve and led her to question God’s command not to eat from the forbidden tree.

Verse 4-5: Satan opposed what God had said and cast doubt on God’s motive in giving the command.

Why did Eve eat the fruit?

Turn to verse 6 and 1 and 1 Timothy 2:14.

Was Eve forced to eat fruit?

However it didn’t end there. Eve then took the fruit and offered it to Adam to eat. Adam was fully aware of God’s command but chose to disobey Him and ate the fruit as well. Adam had sinned! His sin was disobedience and rebellion against God. They both chose to satisfy their own will instead of choosing God’s will.

What was the root of Satan’s temptation?

Deception, distortion of the truth, and desire to draw people away from God was root of Satan’s temptation.

The Consequences

What did God say would be the immediate result of eating the fruit? (Genesis 2:16-17)

1) The immediate result of Adams disobedience was death.

That very day they died spiritually and began to die physically. They were cut off from the life of God. Their bodies would now experience physical death. In Adam’s case it took 930 years (Genesis 5:5). In people’s lives today it takes 70-80 years

How did Adam and Eve's behaviour change?

Turn to Genesis 3:7-13

2) Man was separated from God.

Death always brings separation. Their spirits were separated from God's Spirit. The intimate relationship they once enjoyed was broken. Sin separated them from friendship and fellowship with God. He is pure and holy. God hates sin. He cannot and will not allow sin in His presence. It blocks the way to Him and to Heaven. (*Isaiah 59:2 "Your iniquities have separated you from God..."*)

What Did God do to Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:21-24)

3) Sin and sickness were introduced into human history for the first time.

Turn to Genesis 3:20

Eve means life. Adam means mankind. He was head of the human race and through their first act of disobedience, sin started and spread through all their off-spring (Romans 5:12). Because Adam and Eve had children only after the fall, the whole of mankind has inherited Adam's fallen nature. The result of this is that we are all sinners before God. (Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10-12). The entire nature of man- mentally, morally, spiritually and physically has been affected by sin.

4) The whole world is under judgement.

What was God's Judgement for Adam and Eve's sin?

Read Genesis 3:23-24.

What does this mean for people today?

Read Roman's 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27.

What does it mean to sin?

Evil, wrong and sin are in the life of every soul born into this world. Have you ever noticed that you don't have to teach a child to be naughty? (Psalm 51:5)

Rebellion and selfishness, hatred, greed, and violence are everywhere. If we are honest with ourselves we also see it in our own lives. It is part of our very nature. (Mark 7:20-23)

What are some of the sins listed in the Bible?

You may not think you are so bad. You may even think you are a good person. But that's not the point. Sin is not just killing, stealing, lying or adultery for example. It is also the secret, inside thoughts and intentions of the heart like hate and resentment.

Sin is rebellion against God whether done consciously or unconsciously. It is when you want to go your own way and not God's way. The commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your strength and with all your soul and with all your mind". This is God's first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-38)

Where did sin and Satan originate from?

Read Ezekiel 28: 12-17 and Revelation 12:3-5.

Satan (meaning 'adversary') was once known as Lucifer (meaning 'light bearer'). He was an archangel created by God with a privileged place in Heaven. He became proud of His wisdom and beauty and wanted to become equal with God. He led a third of the angels in an unsuccessful rebellion against God and was cast out of Heaven with them as a result (Revelation 12:7-9).

When Satan rebelled he became the author of sin and evil. He and his kingdom of fallen angels and demons are totally opposed to God, their creator (1 Peter 5:8).

What does sin do to people?

Turn to Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 6:23.

Sin destroys our characters and affects our relationships with others. Such things as dishonesty, selfishness and gluttony, telling dirty jokes, lust, laziness, anger and thoughtlessness spread in us and can become habits that we are not even aware of.

Sin cuts us off from God in this life and in the life to come. It blocks the way to Him and Heaven.

Are forced to sin and make wrong choices?

Read James 1:14-15.

What is man's problem?

Romans 3:23.

Summary:

We are no longer what God intended us to be.

- Our original, intimate relationship with God has been broken by sin.
- As a consequence all people are born with a sinful nature.
- We have lost our eternal life.
- We naturally choose to live our way, and not God's way.
- We now stand under God's judgement for our wrong doing.

If sin results in our being cut off from God, is there no hope for us? Does God want nothing more to do with us?

Study 3 – God’s Answer

Review of previous lesson:

- **The original, intimate friendship has been broken by sin.**
- **As a consequence all people are born with a sinful nature**
- **We have lost our eternal life.**
- **We now stand under God’s judgement for our wrong doing.**
- **Death and sickness has entered the world.**
- **We naturally choose to live our way, and not God’s way.**
- **We are responsible for our own actions.**

What hope is there for us? Are we to be separated from God forever?

We cannot bridge the gap that exists no matter how hard we try. We can do our best to be a good person and to help others, but God will still remain distant and seem far off. The barrier of sin still exists. We are cut off from God.

Name some ways people have tried to bridge the gap?

Read Isaiah 64:6

Why does God have to punish sin?

Read Isaiah 13:11, Isaiah 6:3, Psalm 145:8,9, Psalm 101:1,2, 2 Peter 3:7

God is Holy, compassionate, loving and just. We prefer to see God as a God of love. However, He is also a God of justice. He will and does judge sin. There is a consequence for our sin. God punishes those who go their own way. The Lake of Fire is a judgement place prepared for Satan, but we are destined to go there also if we choose to follow Satan in Rebellion.

God’s attributes of love and justice are perfectly balanced and equal. His justice demands that He judge the sinner, but His love has caused Him to provide a way to escape that judgement. That’s mercy.

Read 2 Peter 3:9

God loves us so much and wants to save us from the death penalty. He put a plan into operation to enable us to escape judgement and to bridge the gap that now exists between us and Him. It is possible to have a close relationship with Him restored.

God still wants people who will love Him. This has never changed.

So, what is God’s answer?

Let’s read together John 3:16.

God came to Earth.

Turn to John 1:1-3; 10, 11, 14.

No ordinary man could show us the way back to God, as all men have a sin nature. God's answer to this was to come down to earth in the form of a man. Because no human was His father He was born without a sin nature and therefore was perfect. He was born to a virgin -Mary and entered this world called by the name of "Jesus" (which means Saviour) and "Immanuel" (God with us) Matthew 1:20-23. God in the person of Jesus Christ came to dwell with man to prepare the way and lead him back to God. (Read John 14:16).

Who is Jesus?

Turn to Matthew 16:16

This is a mystery. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is one Being, but three persons in the one Godhead. This trinity is clearly seen in Matthew 3:16, 17 and Isaiah 9:6. (The illustration of H₂O as either water and ice and steam is helpful)

What was Jesus' purpose on Earth?

Turn to Luke 19:10, John 1:29 and John 3:17.

He came to save the world from the tragedy that sin, Satan and death had brought about.

His Life

Jesus grew up in a world full of temptation but lived the whole of His life without committing one sin. Satan came and offered Him many things, trying to tempt Him to sin (Mark 1:13). However, Jesus did not yield to him as Adam and Eve had done in the Garden of Eden. He resisted and obeyed God the Father.

Read Hebrews 4:15

The Cross

Jesus was an innocent man hated by the religious people of that time. They accused Him of blasphemy. Jesus revealed to them that He was the Son of God and the miracles, signs and wonders He demonstrated were a witness to this. The religious leaders took Jesus before the Roman governor, Pilate, for trial. Jesus was stripped flogged, beaten, taunted and mocked. They put a crown on His head and He was made to drag a cross to 'Calvary' – the place of dreadful execution. There they nailed Him up and there He died (Mark 14-15).

How did He save us from our sins?

Turn to Romans 5:6-8, 1 Peter 2:24 and 1 Peter 3:18.

Sin's punishment is death. Instead of us dying for our sins and paying the eternal consequences, Jesus died in our place, taking those consequences upon himself. He is our substitute.

What does his death mean for you?

Turn to Colossians 1 v21-22 and romans 5 v10-11

What Jesus has done makes it possible for you to have a right relationship with God..

Forgiveness

Turn to mark 2 v10 and Colossians 2:13.

The way to receive forgiveness from God for our sins was made open for all people through Jesus Christ. His work of saving you from death and eternal destruction is finished

The resurrection

Read acts 10 v39-43 and Hebrews 2v14-15.

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb for three days and three nights. But he didn't stay dead. He won the victory over sin and death and rose again to life on the third day. Jesus showed himself to his disciples and then returned to heaven (Acts 1 v3). Jesus' death and resurrection defeated Satan. Satan thought he had killed God. Because Jesus rose from the dead, the relationship we had with God in the Garden of Eden is now able to be restored.

Jesus is alive today!

Summary:

- God's purpose: for us to have a relationship with him and to live eternally.
- Man's problem: sin has separated us from God. We have lost our eternal, for the consequences of sin is death. Ever since, people have tried to bridge the gap without success.
- God's answer: God came to earth as man – Jesus. He died on the cross for us taking our death penalty on Himself. Three days later he came back to life. Jesus Christ is the only one who is able to bridge the gap. God provided the way because of his love for us.

Study 4- Man's Response

Review of previous lesson:

- People are separated from God by sin.
- There is nothing we can do to bridge the gap that now exists.
- God came to earth as a man-Jesus Christ.
- He lived a pure sinless life, having been born without a sinful nature.
- Our punishment for sin was death, so Jesus came to die in our place as our substitute.
- He died on the cross, but came back to life three days later.

Wow that's great! The way back to God is now open. Is that all there is to it? Now everyone goes to heaven when they die?

NO!

Forgiveness and eternal life are not automatic: there is your part.

Turn to John 14:6

What is Jesus saying here?

Where is eternal-life found?

Read 1 John 5:11-12, Romans 6:23 and John 3:16

There is now a decision to be made. It is not enough knowing about Jesus with your head. You need to believe with your heart.

How do I receive the gift of eternal life?

The key is simply this: Christ in you!!

What do you need to do if you want Jesus to come into your life?

It's as simple as ABCD.

A. Something to Admit. Read 1 John 1:9

You must admit your need of God and especially that you have sinned and therefore need His forgiveness. Be deeply sorry for your sin. You have to be willing to turn away from every thought, word, action and habit that you know to be wrong and turn towards God's ways. This is called repentance.

B. Something to Believe. Read Acts 16:31 and Romans 10:10

You must believe Jesus died for you. He took the punishment of death on the cross for the wrong and bad things you have done. "Christ died for our sins once and for all. He the just, suffered for the

unjust to bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). When Jesus died for you, He made it possible for you to know the love of God forever.

C. Something to Consider. Read Matthew 16:24-27

Jesus must come first in your life. Jesus once said, "If any man should come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:24). We must be willing for Jesus to be Lord (controller, king) over every part of our lives: home, work, time and money, ambitions, relationships –everything! You must be willing to be known as a Christian, even if some may mock, oppose or misunderstand you. But don't be afraid of opening your life to the one Person who loves you and cares about you more than anyone else in the world. God wants only the best for your life. Jesus never promised it would be easy to follow Him.

D. Something to Do. Read Matthew 7:7-8.

Invite Jesus Christ into your life to be your lord, your saviour, and your friend; to guide you and be with you. Give your life to Jesus and as you do that, he will give his life to you by coming to live 'in you'. There is a difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus. So many people miss this last step. God has been calling all people back to himself since Adam and Eve disobeyed. Now he is calling you.

Consider this:

If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you have eternal life and would go to be with God forever in heaven?

Read Revelations 3 v20

Jesus Christ waits outside the door of your life for you to open it and receive him. He will not force the door open into your life. This is a free will decision. It is up to you. When you open the door he will come in and live in your heart and life. Then you will know what it means to become a Christian. You will receive God's free gift of salvation. You will be forgiven and be able to cross the bridge back to God. A supernatural act will take place. You will become alive spiritually and be able to begin a relationship with the living God.

If you want to take this step of asking Jesus into your life, if you have considered all that Jesus has done for you and what you are doing, then here is a suggested prayer inviting him into your life. You can say this with a Christian friend or go to a quiet place and say it to God by yourself. If you do make this commitment please let somebody in a church know.

Prayer suggestion:

Lord Jesus Christ.

I know I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. Thank you for dying on the cross for me, taking the punishment I deserve for my sins. Forgive me for everything I have done and know to be wrong. I am willing to turn from all that is wrong and bad in my life. And now I come to you. I ask you to come into my life and heart.

I give my life to you and serve and follow you for the rest of my life. Please give your life to me by your spirit and come to live with me forever as lord, saviour, and friend.

Thank you lord Jesus for saving me. Amen”