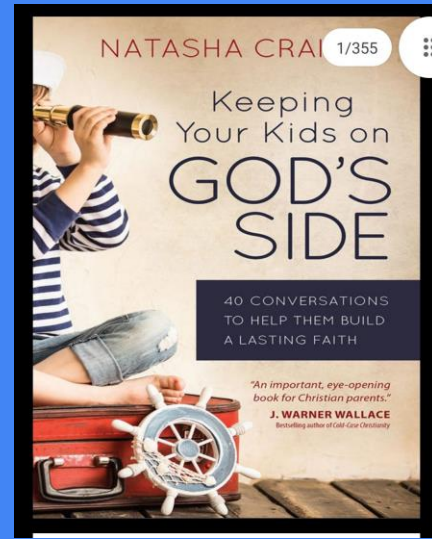


Keeping Your Kids On God's Side



40 Conversations To Help Them Build A Lasting Faith

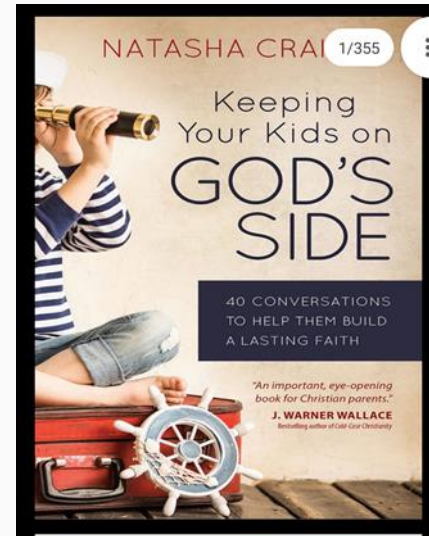


REMINDER

- OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the Church to equip themselves with answers to the difficult faith questions
 - AND
- Encourage parents to talk to their children about these topics to prepare them for the world

SOURCE MATERIAL



Grassroots Apologetics/Answers for Parents

- What is Apologetics?
 - *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect - 1 Peter 3:15 NIV*
- What is this program?
 - 40 Hot Topic conversations
 - Short overview of Answers to the difficult questions
- What this is NOT
 - Scripted final full answers
 - Continued self education is needed

Grassroots Apologetics/Answers for Parents

- WHAT EXISTENCE IS THERE FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE
- HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING
- WHY WOULD GOD COMMAND THE GENOCIDE OF THE CANAANITES
- HOW CAN A LOVING GOD SEND PEOPLE TO HELL

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Eight

- A Common Challenge

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- A Common Challenge
- Is Faith in God the Opposite of Reason?

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- What is Reason?

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- A Common Challenge
- Is Faith in God the Opposite of Reason?
- What is Reason?
- What is Faith?
- Confusion about Faith – Leads to Misconceptions

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Eight

- A Common Challenge
- Is Faith in God the Opposite of Reason?
- What is Reason?
- What is Faith?
- Confusion about Faith – Leads to Misconceptions
- Challenge: Faith is Opposite of Reason

Faith and Reason

1) What is Reason

Reason is fundamentally the act of engaging the mind—whether done intuitively or rigorously, poorly or flawlessly. It is, ideally, a process of careful thinking, always involving logic, and often drawing upon evidence.

- Peter Grice “True Reason”

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- We are doing it Now!
- Implied Charge – Christians do it poorly

Faith and Reason

1) What is Reason

Sam Harris: “Tell a devout Christian that his wife is cheating on him, or that frozen yogurt can make a man invisible, and he is likely to require as much evidence as anyone else, and to be persuaded only to the extent that you give it. Tell him that the book he keeps by his bed was written by an invisible deity who will punish him with fire for eternity if he fails to accept its every incredible claim about the universe, and he seems to require no evidence whatsoever.”

Faith and Reason

1) What is Reason

*Richard Dawkins: “Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, **the lack of evidence.**”*

Faith and Reason

1) What is Reason

William Harwood: “The difference between faith and insanity is that faith is the ability to hold firmly to a conclusion that is incompatible with the evidence, whereas insanity is the ability to hold firmly to a conclusion that is incompatible with the evidence.”

Faith and Reason

1) What is Reason

Bertrand Russell: “We may define ‘faith’ as the firm belief in something for which there is no evidence. Where there is evidence, no one speaks of ‘faith.’”

Faith and Reason

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- We are doing it Now!
- Implied Charge – Christians do it poorly

- Did you see it?
 - no evidence
 - the lack of evidence
 - incompatible with the evidence

Faith and Reason

1) What is Reason

The Accusation:

“There’s no evidence for God, so anyone who has faith in Him is necessarily using poor reasoning given that good reasoning is based on an intellectually honest response to evidence.”

Note The Essentials Here

- Christians who do reason poorly, but Christian Belief not based on poor Reasoning
- The assumption there is No God
- The Sceptic/Atheist definition is Faith without Evidence
“BLIND FAITH”

Faith and Reason

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Faith and Reason

- 1) What is Reason?
- 2) What is Faith?

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11: (NIV)

- The Phrase “Hope For”

Faith and Reason

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Hebrews 11: (NIV)

- The Phrase “Hope For”
- But Look Carefully
- **CONFIDENCE** in what we hope for
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Hebrews 11: (NIV)

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- But Look Carefully
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- Defining Faith:

Faith is the commitment to a belief – a commitment when you place your TRUST in something you have GOOD REASON to believe is TRUE

Faith and Reason

- 1) What is Reason?
- 2) What is Faith?

Based on that definition - We all Exercise Faith
Example – Getting on a Plane

The Bible Calls us to Good Reasoning

- Matthew 22:37
- 1 Corinthians 13:11
- 1 Corinthians 14:20
- 1 Peter 3:15

Jesus the Ultimate Example that God Values Evidence
and Good Reasoning

Read Matthew 11:1-5
Focus on Verse 4 and 5

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you HEAR and SEE: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”

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Faith and Reason

- 1) **What is Reason?**
- 2) **What is Faith?**
- 3) **Conculsion**

- **Biblical Faith and Reason Go Hand-in-Hand**

Faith and Reason

- 1) What is Reason?
- 2) What is Faith?
- 3) Conculsion

- Biblical Faith and Reason Go Hand-in-Hand
- Define Words and Phrases
- Ask the Question – What do you mean by that?

Faith and Reason

- 1) What is Reason?
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- Biblical Faith and Reason Go Hand-in-Hand
- Define Words and Phrases
- Ask the Question – What do you mean by that?

Don't Allow the Biblical Meaning of Faith to be Hijacked and Redefined

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Five

- How can God judge people who have never even heard about Jesus?
- “Hell is real. So what happens to all the people who never even heard about Jesus?”

**People are not concerned About Those Who Have not Heard
– it is an Excuse
Called Religious Pluralism**

What the Bible Says

1) Two Types of Revelation

- General Revelation
- God Reveals by Natural Means and Moral Conscience

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What the Bible Says

1) Two Types of Revelation

- **General Revelation**
- God Reveals by Natural Means and Moral Conscience
- Romans 1:19-20 (Creation Testifies of God)
- Romans 2:14-15 (Moral Conscience – Accuse or Excuse)
- Everyone has at least 'heard' of God

What the Bible Says

1) Two Types of Revelation

- General Revelation
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- Special Revelation
- God Revealing by Supernatural Means

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JESUS IS THE EXCLUSIVE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

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JESUS IS THE EXCLUSIVE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

- John 3:18
- John 14:6
- Romans 10:9
- 1 John 5:11-12

What the Bible Says

- 1) **Two Types of Revelation**
- 2) **Response**

- **Response**

What the Bible Says

- 1) **Two Types of Revelation**
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- **is Not to Add More Paths to God**

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What the Bible Says

1) Two Types of Revelation

2) Response

- Response
- is Not to Add More Paths to God
- But Offer Possible Answers Given Knowledge that
 - God is Fair (Last Week – Question 4)
 - Jesus the Only Path

What the Bible Says

- 1) **Two Types of Revelation**
- 2) **Response**
- 3) **General Without Special**

- **What About Those Who Have General Revelation But No Special Revelation?**

What the Bible Says

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- **What About Those Who Have General Revelation But No Special Revelation?**
- **Old Testament Heroes – Some are with God**

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- **Hebrews 11:13 & 16**
- **By Grace through Faith – Not the Law**
- **Abraham Believed and Received the Sacrifice Retroactively**
- **But what about those after Jesus?**

What the Bible Says

- 1) **Two Types of Revelation**
- 2) **Response**
- 3) **General Without Special**
- 4) **Possible Answers**

- **There Are Two Possible Answers**

What the Bible Says

- 1) Two Types of Revelation
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- There Are Two Possible Answers
 - **Restrictivism**
- God does not provide Salvation
- Except Small Children and mentally handicapped

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 - Only Reason is Jesus

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 - Believe if General Revelation can condemn you, then it is to save you

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- Different for Believers Today

➤ **Inclusivism**

- Only Reason is Jesus
- Those who have not heard – same salvation as OT Saints
- Believe if General Revelation can condemn you, then it is to save you
- This is NOT Pluralism

What the Bible Says

- 1) Two Types of Revelation
- 2) Response
- 3) General Without Special
- 4) Possible Answers
- 5) Conclusion

- Conclusion
 - Restrictivism
 - Inclusivism
- Whichever one you subscribe to
Only Certainty is that God is FAIR

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Six

- Why Would God Need People to Worship Him?
- Definition: Worship is Responding to all that God is with all that we are
- General Misunderstanding about Worship

Worshipping God – Need it or Want it?

1) All That God is

- Human Concept of Worship

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Worshipping God – Need it or Want it?

1) All That God is

- Human Concept of Worship
- Based on our relationship with each other

- God is NOT like any Human or Earthly Being
 - He is Perfect
 - He is Creator of All
 - He deserves Worship
- Starting Point of Worship

Worshipping God – Need it or Want it?

1) **All That God is**

2) **Does He Need Our Worship**

- **Simple Answer – NO**

Worshipping God – Need it or Want it?

- 1) All That God is
- 2) Does He Need Our Worship

- Simple Answer – NO

Acts 17:24-25 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

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- God is Perfectly Self-Sufficient
- Needing Our Worship is Unbiblical and Mistaken

Worshipping God – Need it or Want it?

- 1) All That God is
- 2) Does He Need Our Worship?
- 3) Does He Want Our Worship?

- Simple Answer – **YES**

1 Chronicles 16:29

John 4:23

Romans 12:1

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- Is it Arrogant to Want Our Worship?
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- We will be fulfilled in our worship of Him
- A Natural Response to an Appropriate Understanding of Who God is

Worshipping God – Need it or Want it?

- 1) **All That God is**
- 2) **Does He Need Our Worship?**
- 3) **Does He Want Our Worship?**
- 4) **Conclusion**

- **Responding With All That We are**
- **More than pre-service praise and worship**

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- **Responding to God's Glory with Humble Devotion of our WHOLE Lives**

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 - Bible Reading
 - Serving
 - Living the Christ-Like Life
 - Giving

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 - Praying
 - Bible Reading
 - Serving
 - Living the Christ-Like Life
 - Giving
- HOW We Worship matters
- It is a Lifestyle – Not a Routine

PART 1 - Conversations About God

Question Seven

- Why Is God So Hidden?
- A Very Big Challenger
 - If God exists He would make Himself obvious to us
 - God has not made Himself obvious to us
 - God must not exist

The Hiddenness of God

1) **Make Himself Obvious**

- “If God exists He would make Himself obvious to us”

The Hiddenness of God

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- Bible Wants All to Know Him – 1 Timothy 2:4
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- Reveal Too Much – take away our freedom of choice

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- So Why is He Hidden?
- **FREE WILL** (Question Two Last Week)
- Reveal Too Much – take away our freedom of choice
- Space to **SEEK** Him or **AVOID** Him
- He Can Be Found Through Diligent Seeking (Deut 4:29)

The Hiddenness of God

- 1) **Make Himself Obvious**
- 2) **He Is Not Obvious**

- **God Has not Shown Himself in Meaningful Ways**
- **We Believe Has Shown Himself**

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 - i. the existence of the universe,
 - ii. the existence of moral values,
 - iii. indication of intelligent design,
 - iv. the fine-tuning of the universe and earth,
 - v. the authenticity of Scripture,
 - vi. the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
 - vii. the witness of the Holy Spirit
- **To Some – No Evidence Will be Enough**

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- **To Some – No Evidence Will be Enough**
- **We Will Find it if We Look**

The Hiddenness of God

- 1) **Make Himself Obvious**
- 2) **He Is Not Obvious**
- 3) **Hidden But Not Absent**

FINAL THOUGHT!

**God Might Be Hidden
But He Is Not Absent**

QUESTIONS



NEXT WEEK

9. What is the difference between objective and subjective truth?
10. Do all religions point to the same truth?
11. How can Christians claim they know what is objectively true?
12. How can personal experience help determine what is true?

