

TALK IT OVER

It's OK to Ask

Week 1

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Icebreaker: If you could ask any question and you knew that God would answer, what would you ask?

2 Helpful Elements:

- ✓ Bible: All things are equally important, but not equally applicable.
- ✓ God always has a “why” behind the “what.”

It's OK to Ask

1. Why do we call Resurrection Day, “Easter”?

- ✓ Anglo-Saxon goddess *Eostre* – 700AD Venerable Bede
- ✓ Latin, “*in albis*” meaning “in white” – baptism
- ✓ Latin “*aperire*”, meaning “to open” – open tomb

2. Why is there so much evil, pain, and suffering in the world?

John 8:44 (NLT) He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 10:10 (NLT) The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

3. Does the Bible say that tattoos are a sin?

Leviticus 19:28 (NLT) “Do not cut your bodies for the dead, and do not mark your skin with tattoos.

Proverbs 16:2 (NLT) People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives.

4. Why are Christians so judgmental and mean?

Matthew 7:1 (NLT) "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged."

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (NLT) What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.

John 13:35 (NLT) "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Colossians 4:6 (NLT) Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

5. What does the Bible say about dinosaurs?

Hebrew word *tanniyn* = sea monster, serpent, dragon

Isaiah 27:1 NLT In that day the LORD will take his terrible, swift sword and punish Leviathan, the swiftly moving serpent, the coiling, writhing serpent. He will kill the dragon of the sea.

Job 40:15-19 (NLT) "Take a look at Behemoth, which I made, just as I made you. It eats grass like an ox. See its powerful loins and the muscles of its belly. Its tail is as strong as a cedar. The sinews of its thighs are knit tightly together. Its bones are tubes of bronze. Its limbs are bars of iron. It is a prime example of God's handiwork, and only its Creator can threaten it."

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it's ok to ask questions about faith, God, and the Bible?
2. What has been your experience with church how it approaches hard questions?
3. Of the 5 questions we covered today, which do you most resonate with?
4. Is there anything you grew up believing was wrong, or sinful, that you now see in a different light because of context?
5. Why do you think context and interpretation is so important when examining Biblical stories and commands?
6. Is there any issue you struggle to accept God's direction on?
7. When there is a conflict between what God says and what you feel, how do you resolve that tension?

References:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/>

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/how.we.get.the.word.easter/141566.htm>