



Youth Venture Junior Varsity

# **SO WHAT ... WHO CARES?**

Written by Mark Hoffman

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**Symbols used in this text:**



**Lesson Keys**

*If you remember one thing, remember this!*



**Check Up**

*Questions or activities to check for comprehension.*



**Bible Verse**

*What God says in His Word about the lesson.*

# 1

## So What ... Who Cares?

Do you ever say: *Why should I care? Why should I try?* Do you ever just feel like saying, *“Whatever ... Who cares?”* about everything? Most young people feel this way sometimes. It’s easy to become confused about how to fit in, how to succeed, or where our lives are going. Sometimes it seems that the people around us don’t care very much. Sometimes they don’t seem to be trying very hard. So why should you? I mean, what’s the point? Everyone, at some time, asks themselves:

*How did I get here?*

*Am I here just by accident or was I specially designed and planned?*

*Is there a reason that I am here on earth?*

*Is there a plan for my life?*

Our answers to these questions determine how we look at life and feel about ourselves. In fact, our answers to these questions determine how we feel about our future and whether we believe we can overcome our problems.

**Are YOU an Accident?** Some people tell us that we are here simply because millions upon millions upon millions of “accidents” somehow caused people to “evolve.” According to this view, one day, millions of years later, two people (your parents) just “happened” to get together. Your mother just “happened” to get pregnant and there you were. Nothing more than a long line of accidents. However, as we look around at the world that surrounds us, this is a little hard to believe. The world is too complicated to come together by accident. Think about it: How could the human eye be “accidentally put together,” or the human nervous system? And, how about the absolutely amazing and delicate balance in nature? Why, even our greatest computers pale in comparison to the human brain. Could such order and complexity be accidental? If you found a cell phone on the beach of a deserted island, would you think it just happened by itself, accidentally? Or would you know by looking at it that someone had designed and built it? The famous astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle studied all the “accidents” that would have to happen

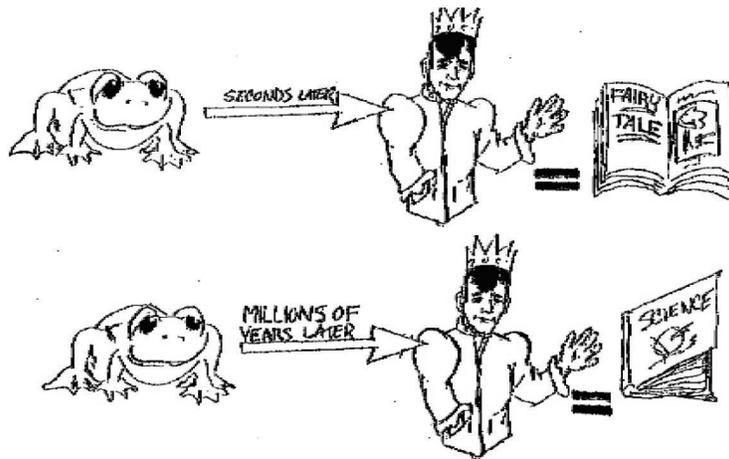


**The world is too complicated to come together by accident.**

for life to evolve on earth and concluded that there was only 1 chance in  $10^{40000}$  (the number 10 followed by 40,000 zeros). He made this interesting statement: "There is more chance of a tornado blowing through a junk yard and assembling a 747 jumbo jet than that life could have spontaneously evolved on earth."



**Does It Make Sense to You?** Evolution just doesn't make sense to most people, no matter how hard it is pushed on us or how many years old they try to tell us the earth is. A frog turning instantly into a prince is called a fairy tale, but a monkey taking 300 million years to turn into a man they want to call science.



**So If You Aren't Here By Accident – It Must Be God's Plan.** Most people believe what the Bible says, that God created the World and everything in it. This means that you are one of His special, unique creations. Rather than being "just an accident," God tells us in His Bible that you and I were specially planned by Him. Each of us was wanted and designed by Him.

Yes, the Bible assures us that even before our birth, God knew us, was working in our development, and set us apart as unique. In other words, He separated us out of the crowd and cared for us individually.



**"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." – Jeremiah 1:5**

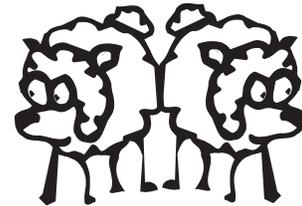
Not only did God know you and give you life in your mother's womb, He also developed a purpose and plan for your life. While some people believe their birth was unplanned, unwanted, or inconvenient, the Bible shows us that we were all planned and wanted by God. In fact, it tells us that God thinks about us constantly:



*“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and ‘saw’ each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book! How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly!”*  
(Psalm 139:14-17.)

**No Clones Please ...** God has made every person unique and different because He has a unique and different plan for each one. Think how custom and unique all people are.

1. No two people look exactly alike.
2. Every person has unique fingerprints.
3. The iris of your eye is unlike anyone else's.



(Many more examples of how God made you unique could be given.) God did not only make us different on the outside. Inside, we are unique, too. No one has exactly the same interests and dreams as you. God has also given you special talents and gifts. God has made each person special and has given each of us gifts and talents. You may not be like others, but you have been specially made to succeed. God has a plan for your life that you are uniquely made to accomplish. Only God can show you His plan for your life.

**What Do You See In The Mirror?** Every culture seems to develop a list of so-called ideal physical characteristics. For instance, in Africa they prefer plump women to thin women, and a large lower lip is a sign of beauty. In China they have

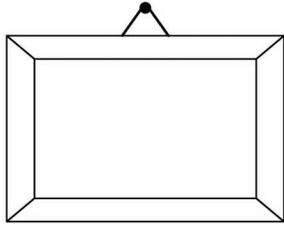


**“As God has given each one a special gift, put it to work in serving one another.” – I Peter 4:10**



**“This is what the Lord says, He who made you, who formed you in the womb and who will help you, ‘Do not be afraid.’” – Isaiah 44:2**

traditionally bound women's feet to stunt their growth and keep their feet tiny. However, God the Designer has no "ideal" (tall is not better than short, one skin color is not better than another, etc.) Rather, every person is a custom design to accomplish individual, special purposes.



Many young people waste much time and energy because they worry that some part of their body isn't just right. They worry about how their ears look, how big their feet are, or how many freckles they have. But in fact, there's no perfect physical standard to which we must measure up.

God will help you be successful and happy just the way you are. When an artist completes a painting, he must select a frame. There are many different types to choose from. No one style of frame is better than another. It all depends on what the artist painted. The purpose of the frame is to match the unique features of each painting. YOU are a painting God is creating. Our physical features and the events of our lives are like a frame. Some day you will look back and see how the circumstances of your life helped to show the unique "work of art" that God is creating in you. Stop comparing yourself to others. Stop worrying about things you can't change. Believe me, those things won't be a problem for God. The way to be happy is to stop comparing yourself to others, trust God, and thank Him for being at work in your life.

**Promises You Can Count On ...** God loves us all and has a special plan for each person. Therefore, He will make a personal and unbreakable commitment to you. *"For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can't. Life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God."* (Romans 8:38-39.)



**"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – Ephesians 2:10**



**"Even though my mother and father abandon me, the Lord will lift me up." – Psalm 27:10**



**"I will never leave you or abandon you." – Hebrews 13:5**



1. **Do you believe** that God will keep His promise to you?

Why do you believe that?

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**The Main Point!** What a person believes about God is the single most important factor in their life. It will have a greater impact on our lives than:

- What we look like
- Who our parents are
- How much money our families have
- And even how smart we are

Even though this is true, some people give very little thought to what they believe about God. Think about this: **What we believe about God ...**

... **determines** what we think about ourselves. Am I just an “accident” with no purpose or reason to exist? Or am I specially planned and created by someone who loves me and has a wonderful plan for my life?

... **determines** how we act. If I believe that there is a God who is personally watching over my life, it will affect how I act; I’ll know that I will always be rewarded for doing right, but that I will be punished for doing wrong.

... **determines** our outlook for the future. How do I feel about my future? Is there an all-powerful God who has promised to always be there to help me, or am I just facing the future alone? Is there a God who has given promises in the Bible that I can trust in, or are there no guarantees in life, and I just have to hope I get lucky? Will I be beaten by my problems and circumstances, or do I have someone really big on my side?



**“If God is for us what does it matter who is against us?” – Romans 8:31**

Think about this: The greatest adventure in life is to discover your Creator and His special plans and purpose for your life. God calls all of us to come to Him. *“Call to Me and I will answer you ...” (Jeremiah 33:3.)* But most of all He wants us to ask His Son Jesus to come into our lives. Jesus said, *“Come to me all of you who are tired and carrying a heavy burden, and I will give you rest ...” (Matthew 10:28.)* Jesus also told us, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in to Him ...” (Revelation 3:20.)*

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**1. Since God wants to protect and guide us, why would anyone reject Him?**

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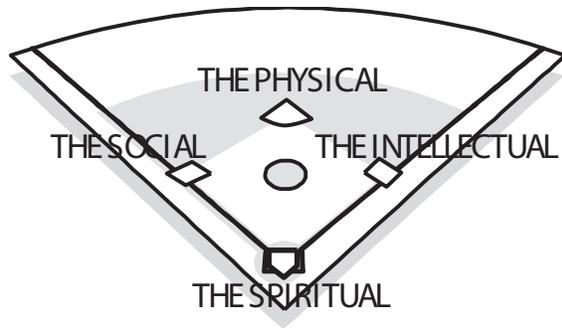
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**Touching All The Bases.** In baseball a runner must touch every base if he wants to score. If he misses touching a base, he will be called out. Your life is like that, too. Successful living requires a balanced life. We must give attention to all *four basic areas of our lives:*

- **The Physical Side**
- **The Intellectual Side**
- **The Social Side**
- **The Spiritual Side**

(Note: the physical side includes our bodies, the intellectual includes our mind and the worlds of ideas and thought, the social side is our friendships and relationships to other people, the spiritual side is our relationship to God.)



**Successful living requires a balanced life.**



1. How can you provide for each of these areas?

Four horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 1.

2. What happens when a person ignores any one of these areas?

Four horizontal lines for writing an answer to question 2.

3. Many people fail because they give little attention to the spiritual dimension. How would you rate yourself in these three areas? (circle a number; 1 is lowest, 10 is highest)

- a. Awareness of God . . . . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- b. Prayer Life. . . . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- c. Following God’s Way . . . . . 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

You may want to pray a prayer like this: God, thank You for making me and loving me. Thank You that You have plans for my life that no one can take from me. Help me to become more aware of You in my life. Teach me how to walk in Your ways and how to please You. Help me to discover Your special plans for my life.

## 2

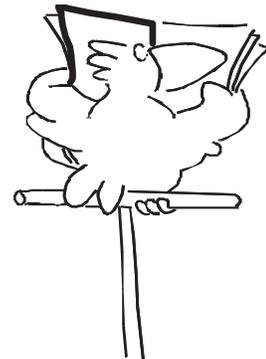
## Nobody Ever Broke the Law of Gravity ...

... **(But The Law Of Gravity Has Broken A Lot Of People.)** Every year people die from electrocution because they stuck a knife or fork down a toaster trying to retrieve a broken piece of their toast. A fork is good and a toaster is good, but like everything else, when they are misused and the warning on the toaster is disregarded, tragedy results. There are rules and directions that govern the use of everything. This is true of life as well. Since God made the world and everything in it, He owns everything and has the right to set rules on how things are used. As the Designer of everything, He alone understands the directions that must be followed for safe usage. His directions are contained in His Book, the Bible, which is like an owners' manual for life that must be followed for success.

*(Note: Discuss the purpose of an owners' manual.)*

**For Best Results Read Directions First.** When we use things without following the manufacturer's directions, we can destroy things. In the same way, when we misuse the things that God made, we damage them. We damage the environment, people, families, and even our own bodies when we disregard God's directions. For instance:

- Pollution comes from misusing the environment.
- Divorce and broken families result from not following God's directions for family life.
- Violence results from not treating others as God directs.



**There are rules and directions that govern the use of everything.**



**When we misuse the things that God made, we damage them.**



**1. What are some** of the problems caused by misuse in the following areas:

a. Alcohol or drugs?

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b. Money?

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c. Sex?

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d. Our Time?

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Are these things bad in themselves?

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**2. Why do you think** God makes rules about how the things He made must be used? (choose one answer below)

a. Because He is bigger than anyone else and wants to push people around.

b. Because He can't stand for anyone to be happy or have a good time.

c. Because He is really old and out of touch with the way things are.

d. None of the above

(If you chose #4, none of the above, then why do you think God sets rules as to how things must be used?)

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God made laws which govern the world. These laws operate whether we know of them or not and whether we believe and accept them or not! Examples:

- a. The Law of Gravity—A person who does not believe in gravity would fall just as fast from a walk off a 10-story building and would make just as big a mess when he hits.
- b. Germs made people sick long before scientists using microscopes “discovered” them.

God’s laws don’t just operate in the physical world. His laws also operate in every area of our life.

Whatever seeds you plant, that is what you will harvest. It’s God’s Law. This means that if you plant seeds of watermelons in your garden, your garden will grow watermelons. If you plant tomato seeds, don’t expect or hope for corn to grow. You will harvest what you plant. If you plant seeds of hate in your life, you will surely get hatred back. If you plant seeds of kindness, you will get kindness back. If you please God, He will please you; but if you disrespect Him, He will not bless you. For instance, the Bible says: *“You cannot fool God, so don’t make a fool of yourself! You will harvest what you plant. If you follow selfish desires, you will harvest sorrow and destruction. But if you follow God’s Spirit, you will harvest eternal life.”* (Galatians 6:7-8.)



It is foolish to think that we can break God’s laws and not pay the price. Many people create their own problems by the wrong decisions they make. Often people will argue with each other about whether a certain activity is wrong or not. But God alone determines what is right and wrong. He gives us His rules in the Bible.



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**Whatever seeds you plant, that is what you will harvest. It’s God’s Law.**



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**God alone determines what is right and wrong. He gives us His rules in the Bible.**

**Truth or Consequences.** Today there is much pain and suffering because people want to make up their own rules and ignore the direction God gives us in the owners' manual, the Bible. Many people think they will make themselves happy by breaking God's Commandments. But they find that rather than making them happy, it brings sadness and suffering into their lives. Sex and alcohol, for instance, are two areas where many young people ignore God's rules in the Bible. The result is not happiness, but unhappiness. Consider these facts:

- 40% of all young people who begin drinking alcohol before age 21 will become alcoholics.
- Over 1/3 of teenage girls will become pregnant.
- 2.5 million people under 20 years of age have a sexually transmitted disease.

The worst, of course, is AIDS. In San Diego County alone over 8,000 people have died of AIDS (This is more than twice the amount of people who died in the terrorist attacks of 9/11). In addition, we could mention the drug addiction, broken hearts, broken families, and broken lives that come when young people begin to break God's rules and misuse things. God's laws are meant to protect us from the pain that comes from misusing things and to bring happiness and joy into our lives. If you follow God's rules and directions, you need never fear getting AIDS or any other



sexual disease, becoming a teenage parent or an alcoholic, or getting in trouble with the police. You will be spared from much heartbreak, violence, addictions, broken relationships, and shame. Instead, God will fill your life with joy, peace, happiness, and freedom.

**What is Real Freedom?** We all want freedom and independence. Oftentimes, in pushing for freedom and independence, people push too hard and demand too much. We find that we are driving away the ones who love us. This happens because we misunderstand freedom.



**God's laws are meant to protect us from the pain that comes from misusing things and to bring happiness and joy into our life.**



1. **What do you think** freedom is? How do you define it?

Four horizontal lines for writing.

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Many people think true freedom means being able to do whatever they feel like whenever they feel like it. However, soon they find their feelings are in control and they are not free at all. In fact, they gradually begin to lose freedom by acting irresponsibly. Our prisons are full of people who do anything they feel like. True freedom is earned—not demanded. True freedom comes when we “play by the rules.”



- It’s give and take: Give respect and be trustworthy, get freedom and independence. As we prove ourselves trustworthy and responsible, more freedom will be given to us.
- Treat others as you wish to be treated (this is Jesus’ command that many call the Golden Rule). People will generally treat us the way we treat them.
- When we cheat and lie, we find that we actually begin to lose freedoms rather than gaining independence.

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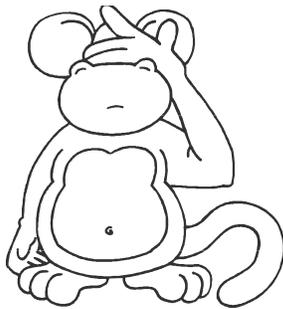
1. **What are some** freedoms that kids can lose by cheating and lying?

Three horizontal lines for writing.



**True freedom is earned—not demanded. True freedom comes when we “play by the rules.”**

It is only as we learn Jesus's directions and continue to follow them even in the face of temptations and difficulties that we can stay free. However, when we disregard God's rules and directions for life, then we find ourselves trapped. Jesus came to teach us God's Way. He said: *"If you continue in my Word, then you are truly disciples [followers] of mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."* (John 8:31-32.)



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**Catching a Monkey.** *In Africa they have an interesting way of catching monkeys. They cut a coconut in half and hollow it out. In one half of the coconut they cut a hole in the shell just big enough for a monkey's hand to pass through. Just before fastening together the two halves of the coconut again, they do one more thing. They put an orange or some other fruit in the hollow coconut. Finally, they tie the coconut to a tree with a rope. After that, they wait. Soon a monkey smells the orange and comes to get it. He reaches inside the coconut easily, but when he tries to take the orange out, it is too big to fit through the hole. The monkey tries and tries but the orange will not come out. Because he will not let go of the orange, he cannot get his hand out either. He is trapped. The hunters come and easily throw a net over the monkey.*

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The monkey made a terrible mistake. It thought it could have both the orange and its freedom. Often people are like that monkey. They think that they can go after certain things which are against God's laws and not get trapped. But sooner or later they find themselves caught. God has revealed His principles and directions to us so we can succeed. When we understand God's rules and follow them, God can bring success into our lives.



**"Be sure you obey all My commandments; do not turn from them to the left or to the right, so that you may have success wherever you go."**

**– Joshua 1:7**



**Lesson Quiz**

1. What are some things people go after that end up trapping them?

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2. Who or what influences kids in middle and high school the most?

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3. In your opinion, to whom should kids be listening?

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4. Do you believe you can trust God's direction on how to live your life?

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**You may want to pray a prayer like this: Lord, I know that You made everything and that only You know how things should be used. Thank You for loving me and for helping me to understand the world. Teach me Your rules and directions from the Bible and help me to follow them. Amen.**

## 3

**Across the Tightrope**

*A huge crowd of people watched the famous tightrope walker, Blondin, cross Niagara Falls one day in 1860. Blondin crossed the rope numerous times—a 1,000-foot trip, 160 feet above the raging water. The story is told that he spoke to the crowd, asking if they believed he could take one of them across. Of course, they all agreed that he could. Then Blondin approached a man and asked him to get on his back and go with him. The man who was invited refused to go. Next he asked several others who likewise refused. Not a single person was willing. All the people said that they believed Blondin could carry a person across, but none of them was willing to actually climb up on his back and cross Niagara Falls.*

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It is the same way with God. Many people say all the right things about God but are unwilling to really put their lives into God's hands. They are afraid to ever fully get on board with God by trusting and obeying Him. It is one thing to know the "right" answers about God, but it is another to believe in Him enough to follow what He says, even when it's hard or unpopular.

**Remember What We Learned in Our First Two Sessions?**

**First:** God made each of us different so that we might have a unique relationship with Him and discover His special plans for our lives (Lesson #1).

**Second:** He lovingly left us directions in the Bible on how life must be lived to be successful. The Bible is our owners' manual on life (Lesson #2).

Even so, for many people, God seems distant and far away. They are surprised to know that you can know God (have a personal relationship with Him!) But this is exactly what the Bible promises. Jesus said: *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."* (John 17:3.)



**It is one thing to know the "right" answers about God, but it is another to believe in Him enough to follow what He says, even when it's hard or unpopular.**

Eternal life is more than unending life in heaven. Eternal life is also a new quality of life available to us today. It is the new kind of life we have when we invite Christ into our lives and begin to know God as our Father. In our new Christian life, we:

- Experience God's love in our hearts every day.
- Receive God's forgiveness for past wrongs we have done.
- Receive God's guidance and strength for every day.
- See our prayers answered.
- See our character and habits changed for the better.

One of the sad facts of modern life is that many people seem to fall short of this kind of life—a life only God can give. Instead, the lives of so many are marked by sorrow, problems, and confusion. Consider these facts:

*Many people are addicted to drugs and alcohol.*

- 17 million Americans have alcohol abuse problems.
- Over twice as many Americans have been killed by drugs and alcohol as died during the Vietnam war.



*Many homes are marked by tension and violence.*

- 1/2 of all marriages end in divorce.
- In San Diego alone, there were over 62,000 cases of child abuse reported in one year.

*Crime has become a major concern for all of us.*

- One out of three households are touched by crime each year.



The problems are even more intense among our youth.

- 1 million teens run away from home every year
- In San Diego this past year, over 15,000 juveniles were arrested for crime.

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**“To get nowhere, follow the crowd.” – Charlie Brown**

The three leading causes of death among teens are:

- #1 Drunk Driving Accidents
- #2 Suicide – A reported 1 million teenagers will attempt suicide this year. In a recent government study over 27% of high school students reported having thought seriously about suicide in the previous 12 months.
- #3 Murder – In fact, youth are 3 times as likely to be a victim of a violent crime as an adult.

Many students seem to lack goals and direction for their lives and many drop out before graduating from high school. Why do so many young people stumble through life without experiencing the love and help that God seeks to give them? Perhaps the biggest reason is that many young people have never been told of God’s great love and plans for them. Others have heard, but have wandered away from God. As a result, they miss out on God’s plan for their lives and the happiness and success that comes with it.

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**1. Someone once** said, “Living without God is like trying to solve a nearly impossible math problem without a calculator.” What do you think they meant by that statement? Do you agree or disagree?

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**2. Everyone has** some things about himself or his life he wishes he could change. Before we can receive God’s help and start down the road to true achievement and success, we must admit to ourselves that we need God’s help. Are there any areas in which you especially need God’s help right now?

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**How to Know God.** God has made a way for all people to come into a relationship with Him. The way is explained in His book, the Bible. The Bible says that the way to have a relationship with God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that to know God we must invite Jesus into our lives and then follow Him. *“God has given us eternal life and that life is in His Son [Jesus Christ].” (1 John 5:11.)* Jesus said, *“I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6.)*

**Why Does The Bible Say We Must Come to God Through Jesus? What About Other Religions?** The facts show Jesus is totally different from the leaders and founders of all other religions:

- Of all religious teachers (like Mohammed, Buddha or Confucious), only Jesus claims to be God’s only Son, thus making Him equal to God. None of these other leaders claimed they were God.
- Of all of the founders of the religions of the world, only Jesus performed miracles such as healing the blind or raising the dead. Mohammed didn’t, Buddha didn’t, nor did any of the others who started religions.
- Finally, only Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified to die for our sins just like He said He would. You can visit the graves of Mohammed, Buddha, or Confucius and you will find their bones. But when you visit the tomb of Jesus you find it empty, because He rose to life again after three days ... just like He said He would.

**Why Did Jesus Have To Die On The Cross For Our Sins?** The Bible teaches us that our sins put up a wall between us and God. Our sins are all the things that we do that are wrong and against God’s Laws. The Bible teaches that all people have sinned and fallen short of God’s perfect standard. *“For everyone has sinned: we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23.) “Your sins have come between you and God.” (Isaiah 59:2.)* The Bible teaches that God punishes sins. Every person deserves punishment because of their sins. *“For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23.)* But Jesus came to die in our place so that all the punishment we deserved because of our sins would be paid for. This is why we call



**“Just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to live in Him.” – Colossians 2:6**

Jesus our Savior. He saved us from sin’s punishment. He brought us back to God. *“But God showed how much He loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.” (Romans 5:8.) “God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6.)*

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**There is an old saying** that goes like this: “Jesus paid a debt He didn’t owe because we owed a debt we could never pay.” What do you think that saying means?

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Jesus will be our Savior if we admit our sins and ask Him to forgive us and come into our hearts. Jesus said that He is standing at the door of our hearts, ready to come in. When we ask Jesus to forgive us and come into our hearts, we come alive to God. The Bible calls this being born again (or born a second time). Listen to what Jesus said to a man who wanted to know God: *“Unless someone is born again [or born a second time] he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.” (John 3:3.)*

**Born Again?** How can anyone be born twice? Jesus tells us, even as we are born into the physical world, we must be born into the awareness of God in the spiritual world. A person who is not born again by God’s Spirit is like an unborn baby in its mother’s womb. It is alive and yet all it is aware of is the womb. It does not see or know the outside world until it is born. If you could tell the baby that there was a whole world outside the womb, it might not believe you. But, we know that the baby is not conceived just to live in the womb. It is made to come into the wider world. When it is born, it sees and experiences the world for the first time and also touches its father for the first time. Previous to this, the baby’s father was nothing more than a dimly heard voice.



**Jesus said: “Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him ...” – Revelation 3:20**

To know your heavenly Father and be able to personally touch Him, you must be spiritually born again. Before people are born again, they are like that unborn infant. There is a whole world for which they were created, but of which they are unaware. They must be “born again” into a relationship of knowing their heavenly Father and walking with Him through life. Jesus taught us to pray: *“Our Father who is in heaven ...”*, but many people are like orphans who do not know their heavenly Father. They have yet to come into relationship with Him. Coming to God through Jesus is a homecoming in which we meet our Heavenly Father.

**How Does Life Change When We Ask Jesus Into Our Hearts?** What changes will we notice?

1. Fear and worry begin to disappear from our lives. Many people have lots of fears and worries. But when God’s love comes into our hearts, it drives out fear. The Bible says, *“[God’s] perfect love casts out all fear”* (1 John 4:18). We are no longer worried, because we know our loving heavenly Father is in control.
2. Our attitudes and desires begin to change. Bad temper, selfishness, and a rebellious attitude begin to give place to kindness, self-control, and confidence as God begins to change us inside. Rather than easily becoming angry or sad over circumstances, the new Christian experiences a lasting peace and joy.
3. We experience a new level of interest and hunger for God. We notice that the attraction and desire to do wrong activities is replaced by new desires to do things that please God like going to church, worshipping, and learning the Bible.



**Have you** ever asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart as your Lord and Savior? Would you like to do so now?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I would like to think about it some more

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**If you are ready to ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, you may pray the following prayer.** (If you are not ready, is there something else we could pray about?)

Dear Lord Jesus,  
I know I have sinned by breaking Your laws. I believe that You died on the cross to forgive my sins. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. I ask You to make me be born again. Thank You for saving me and giving me eternal life. Amen.



