

Seekers for Jesus 2Q 2017 Online Activities

Lesson 1

Sideline Question taken from page 6.

What are the benefits of trusting God?

When we trust God to handle all of our problems, it becomes a huge relief for us. It allows us to acknowledge our situation is out of our control. There's nothing we can do. While that may seem scary, it's actually freeing. God is always the One with ultimate control. Any control we think we have is just an illusion. But since He knows all, and can work things together for our good, it's for our benefit that we let Him do as He will. We can sit back, relaxed and unworried, because we know He can handle anything. It takes the pressure off of us to figure everything out; He's already got it figured out.

Lesson 2

Sideline Question taken from page 10.

What does it mean to be born again?

"Born again" is a Christian phrase for being saved. In the story about Nicodemus, Jesus tells the man that everyone who wishes to go to heaven someday must be born again. There is no other way. Being born again means that you believe Jesus died for your sins, rose from the dead, and that accepting His love is the only way to be forgiven. If you believe these things and ask Jesus to reside inside your heart, then you've been born again. Why do we use this phrase? Because it implies new life: a Christian is a new person. You are no longer bound to the old sins and punishments, but rather you've been set free. It's about second chances and fresh starts.

Lesson 3

Sideline Question taken from page 14.

What does it mean to be resurrected from the dead?

Being resurrected from the dead means that death has been defeated. When Jesus rose from the dead, it's not that He cheated death. Cheating death just means avoiding it or having a near-death experience, but not actually dying. The only way to defeat death is to rise again. It means that death can't hold you down. Death was unable to hold Jesus down, because He rose again three days later.

Lesson 4

Sideline Question taken from page 18.

Why was Jesus willing to die for us?

Jesus died for us out of His love for us. That is the bottom line out of all the reasons why. He did it because the cost for sin was too great for us to pay: death and eternal damnation. He loved us too much to let us suffer that future. So instead, He died so we could be given the choice. Do we choose Jesus and His everlasting love? Or do we choose to listen to our own selves, ignore His gift, and walk down the path of destruction? He died so we could pick for ourselves. His sacrifice is not forced upon us, and we're not born automatically programmed to be Christ-followers. It's a choice to become a Christian, and it's a daily choice to follow Jesus and His teachings.

Lesson 5

Sideline Question taken from page 22.

How is Jesus like a Shepherd?

Jesus is like a shepherd to us in many ways. He is our Defender and Protector when there is danger around. He watches out for us and guides our travels through life. He keeps us on the straight and safe paths, when we listen to His voice. He provides for all of our needs, from food in our stomachs to the air in our lungs. He comforts us when we're afraid. He's the only One with our best interests at heart. Others who will come into our lives will abandon us when problems arise or when trouble comes, but Jesus never will. He's always patient, faithful, and loving.

Lesson 6

Sideline Question taken from page 26.

Why did Jonah run from Nineveh?

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh and preach to the Ninevites. He disliked the command from God, and chose to disobey. Perhaps he disagreed with God's decision to offer the Ninevites forgiveness. Maybe he thought he was too good to be mingling with the evil city, too holier-than-thou. Regardless of his reasoning, he made a conscious decision to boldly disobey God. Because of his actions, God would have to teach him a lesson.

Lesson 7

Sideline Question taken from page 30.

Why did God save Jonah?

God is exponentially merciful and gracious. He never runs out of second chances to give people. His love is wide enough to cover all the mistakes we make. Also, God has a plan for each of our lives. The plan He had for Jonah's life was not complete yet, so God rescued him and gave him another chance to accomplish his mission. This rescue would later serve as an example to Jonah of the same mercy he should've extended toward the Ninevites.

Lesson 8

Sideline Question taken from page 34.

How did Jonah respond differently to God's command this time?

This time, Jonah obeyed immediately. He had learned his lesson from inside the big fish, and knew that God had given him a second chance. He didn't want to waste it. He walked straight to Nineveh to deliver the message that God had for the city. Jonah had learned that you can't run away from God or your responsibilities, so the second time around, he chose to face the mission head-on. Because he did what he was told, the Ninevites heard the message from God and realized their evil ways. They immediately began fasting and asking for forgiveness of their sins. Jonah's obedience led to the repentance of an entire nation of people.

Lesson 9

Sideline Question taken from page 38.

Why was God concerned about Nineveh?

God was concerned about Nineveh because God is concerned about every city on earth. He cares deeply for every person, because He's created all of us. It doesn't matter how sinful we are or how far we've fallen off the proper path. He still loves us and desires a relationship with us. He will never give up on anyone, just like He didn't give up on the Ninevites. He used a fish to deliver the prophet to them; that's how determined God was to get through to the people. Likewise, He will go to any lengths to meet you, as well.

Lesson 10

Sideline Question taken from page 42.

Why did Barak want Deborah to come along?

Barak could've asked Deborah for multiple reasons. He trusted her judgement, since she was a praised judge. All the people trusted in what she said and the decisions she made. He knew that she followed the Lord and His ways, so he would've felt confident to have her along by him. Maybe Barak was simply nervous about facing this huge army, and would've been reassured to have his friend coming with him. There was no reason to believe that the Israelites could've defeated this enemy, apart from the grace of God. Maybe it was all of these reasons that caused Barak to ask Deborah to come with him.

Lesson 11

Sideline Question taken from page 46.

Why did Gideon need a sign?

Gideon wanted to make sure he was hearing correctly from the Lord. Whenever we need confirmation, we can ask the Lord to provide us with a sign that we're hearing right. Sometimes, it's hard to tell if what we're thinking is from us, God, the world, or our enemy, the devil. So we can ask God to make it clear to us. We don't want to act out thoughts or ideas that don't come from God, because those thoughts and ideas will never prevail. God's ways are infinitely better, so we should always double check with Him that we're following His commands. That is the path to success.

Lesson 12

Sideline Question taken from page 50.

How was Jephthah prepared to lead?

Jephthah knew how to lead because he was the leader of a gang in a neighboring city. God used his poor childhood for Jephthah's good. Even though Jephthah would've been confused or angry, and definitely hurt, at that time, God was able to bring healing by working those painful feelings into something good. If Jephthah had not run away and become a gang leader, would he have learned the skills necessary to lead the people of Israel in battle? We don't know all the answers. We just know that God always has a plan, and He will work out everything for our good.

Lesson 13

Sideline Question taken from page 54.

What is a Nazirite?

A Nazirite is a person who has been set apart for God. They have to follow specific rules to demonstrate their separation from the world. The rules include various things, like being unable to drink alcohol, consume certain foods, cut their hair, or touch anything dead. Some Nazirites do this for a certain period of time, until they feel they've fulfilled their commitment to God. Other Nazirites are Nazirites for their whole lives. This is the kind that Samson was. In fact, he was chosen to be a Nazirite before he was even born. His mother followed the restrictions of a Nazirite life while he was still in the womb.