

## GOD IS REAL

Choose one of the following things you might use to share the reality of God with someone. Then outline or describe in detail how you would approach the conversation.

\_\_\_ The beauty of nature

\_\_\_ The design of creation

\_\_\_ God's Word

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The Conversation:

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"I always knew He was there, but I didn't know His name."

HELEN KELLER

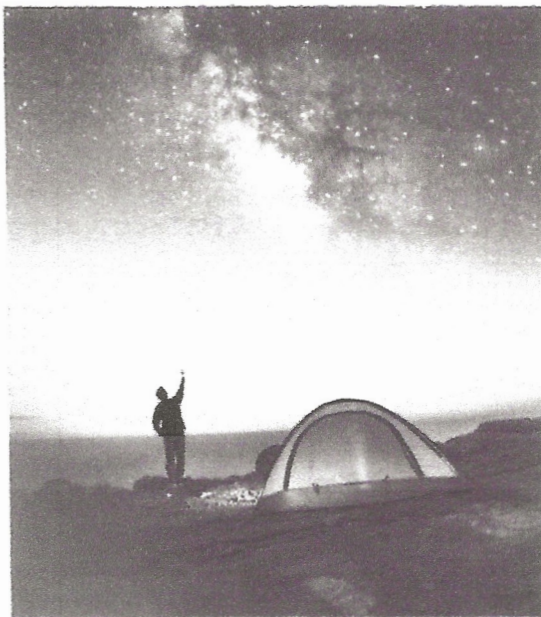
## THE POINT

The Word of God stands forever, and it empowers my walk with Christ. Therefore, it is not enough to know the Bible intellectually; in fact, we don't really know the Bible until we encounter it experientially. We learn God's truth as we apply it to our lives.

It's not enough to know about God's redemption; we must experience it for ourselves! God's Word is clear: we can never come into a right relationship with God on our own (Rom. 3:10-12). Thankfully, God "has sent redemption to his people" (v. 9) through Jesus Christ. The Scripture—God's trustworthy instruction—points us to Jesus, our Redeemer.

The psalmist's response to God's covenant was worship (v. 9). The universe around us reveals a God who is both awe-inspiring and holy—set apart from His creation; Scripture reveals the salvation and covenant of God—

aspects of His nature and character that are equally holy and awe-inspiring. Like the psalmist, we should be drawn to worship Him who loves us so.



## PSALM 111:10

**<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his instructions have good insight. His praise endures forever.**

What does it mean to have the "fear of the LORD"? The Hebrew word for fear in this passage is *yirah*; it means reverence and profound respect motivated by love. When we consider the extreme power and greatness of God and couple that with His unfailing love for us, we're moved to this type of fear.

### QUESTION 4:

***How would you describe a God-fearing person?***



Personally, I express this fear by beginning each day with these words, "God, what do you have for me today?" I choose to make His priorities my priorities. I am sensitive to His leadership in my life because I stand in worshipful awe of His plan and goodness.

Living before our God with fear puts us on the path to wisdom. Ultimately, the greatest Source of wisdom is in Christ, who is Himself the truth. When I fear God, I see His plan for my life—and I see it is better than my plan!

Doubting the wisdom of God—thinking we know better—is a clear picture of what happens when we don't fear the Lord. Living without this fear of God is dangerous. We pivot to wisdom or wickedness according to our fear of God. Just as "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom," so also a lack of godly fear is the beginning of wickedness.

Three men in Scripture found the wisdom that comes from fearing the Lord:

- ▶ **Job.** Before Job was restored by God, he expressed this reverential truth in the Lord. "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom. And to turn from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28).

- ▶ **David.** David saw the restorative power of fearing the Lord. "The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever" (Ps. 19:9).

- ▶ **Solomon.** Solomon, the Bible's wisest man, made some foolish mistakes, which he chronicled in the Book of Ecclesiastes. At last he arrived at this conclusion: "When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity" (Eccl. 12:13).

Numerous books tout wisdom, yet the Bible says wisdom begins with "the fear of the LORD." And this God-fearing wisdom shows us that right living is defined by a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That relationship changes everything.

**QUESTION 5:**

***What are some practical ways our group can impact our community's understanding of who God is?***



## LIVE IT OUT

How will you acknowledge the existence and presence of God? Choose one of the following applications:

- ▶ **Take a walk.** Get outside and observe nature around you. Gaze up at the night sky. Consider how all that you see points to God. Give God the glory for His creation.
- ▶ **Read the Word.** Commit to regular reading of God's Word. As you read and learn more about God and His ways, commit to live out the truths you discover.
- ▶ **Have a conversation.** Discuss with someone why you are convinced God exists. Explain what He has revealed to you through the created order and through His Word.

God is in all places at all times, and He has revealed Himself through creation—but most importantly, in His Word. Let's do our best to help others see the truth of who He is!

1 Jess Staufenberg, "The Six Countries in the World with the Most 'Convinced Atheists,'" *Independent*, March 23, 2016, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/atheists-countries-list-six-world-most-convinced-a6946291.html>.

2 Brandon Showalter, "China on Track to Have World's Largest Christian Population by 2030," *The Christian Post*, July 21, 2016, <https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-largest-christian-population-world-200-million-believers-despite-crackdown-166718/>.

3 Jeremiah J. Johnston, "Modern Day Martyrs: A Non-Christian's Chronicle of China's Dark Side," *Christian Research Journal* 35 (2012) 60.

MARCH 29

## **The Faith to Face Uncertainty**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in  
dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes  
with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*

DEUTERONOMY 31:6 (ESV)

MOSES ENCOURAGED HIS people to be calm in the face of chaos. Take this Scripture to heart. God goes with you. He has blessed you with gifts to serve others and further His kingdom. Because of His strength and provision, you can face the uncertainties ahead.

*Father God, You are my solid rock. Help me trust and rely  
on Your strength.*

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