

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



WARM UP

Do you tend to be a pessimist (glass half empty), optimist (glass half full), or realist (50% of the glass has water in it)?

Would you rather address a problem head on or wait and see if it resolves itself?

DIGGING DEEPER

Thinking about Life Sunday, what one thing do you hope we talk about as a group?

(If one of your group members brings up a topic or question that is not in the homework, feel free to run with it)

The Bible is full of insight about God and life. Read these passages and write down how God relates to life.

Deut 32:39 – God gives life and he takes it away

Job 33:4 – The breath of God gives life

Psalms 16:11 – God reveals the way of life

Psalms 36:9 – God is a fountain of life

John 1:3-4 – Jesus gave life to everything

John 11:25-26 – Jesus is life and gives everlasting life to those who believe in Him

John 17:3 – Life is knowing God and Jesus

Acts 3:15 – Jesus is the prince of life or author of life

Acts 17:25 – God gives life to all

During the sermon, we talked about suicide being a sin because God commands us not to murder (take life unjustly). But going beyond “God commanded it,” explain in your own words why suicide is wrong (reference passages like 1 Sam 2:6 and Gen 9:5-6).

1 Sam 2:6 – It is God’s right to give and take life

Gen 9:5-6 – Life is created in the very image of God

The right to give and take life (and when to give and take life) is God's alone. Suicide attempts to take that control out of God hands and "play God" with one's own life. It demonstrates a lack of trust and faith in God and his promises by saying "I don't trust God to be able to hand my pain so I will deal with it." On top of that, suicide destroys the very image of God. If we are "statues" of God that look like him, suicide defaces and ruins an image of God. (You can go much more in depth on any of these points)

If someone came to you and asked the question: "Can a true Christian commit suicide?", what would you say to them?

John 10:28-30 – True sheep of Jesus cannot be taken out of his hand by anyone (including themselves)

Rom 8:1 – There is NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Rom 8:32 – Death cannot separate us from the love of God

Hebrews 7:25 – Jesus is able to save forever and is always there to intercede for us

1 Peter 3:18 – Jesus died once for all sin (including suicide)

Jesus is able to save anyone based on God's choosing before the foundation of the world. His payment on the cross was for all sin for all time. That means when a true believer accepts Jesus his sins past and future are paid for, including the sin of suicide.

Ravi Zacharias, a famous evangelist and apologist, says: *When you think of it, really there are four fundamental questions of life. You've asked them, I've asked them, every thinking person asks them. They boil down to this; origin, meaning, morality and destiny. 'How did I come into being? What brings life meaning? How do I know right from wrong? Where am I headed after I die?'* With those four pillars in mind, why would life without God (or Christ) be meaningless and without hope?

Without a Christian worldview, ultimately our life ends in nothing, ultimately the universe ends in nothing, and there is no basis for good or bad. On top of that, life was simply an accident of random chance. So life has no purpose, it has no meaning (it ends the same), and there is nothing after death. That is why a creator God who made us to enjoy Him in this life and forever is such an important hope for those without meaning!

We all struggle with hope, joy, and meaning from time to time, and many people in the Bible did as well. Some were depressed or even expressed or acted on a desire to die. Read about one or more Bible characters who wrestled with hopelessness and observe how they dealt with their doubt. (Job, David, Jonah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Samson, Saul, Judas, etc)

David – 2 Sam 12:15-23 and 18:33/Ps 116:3/38:4/Ps 42:11/142:4

Elijah – 1 Kings 19:4

Jonah – Jonah 4

Job – Job 2:9/3:11-26/10:1/30:15-17

Jeremiah – Jeremiah 20:14-18

Samson – Judges 16:29-30

If you had the opportunity to comfort one of these Bible characters, what would you say and what verses would you use?

Ephesians 2:10 – We are God's workmanship, created for good things

Psalms 139 – God knows you intimately and He created you as a wonderful creation

Rom 8:18 – The sufferings of this time aren't even worth comparing to what God has planned for us

Rom 8:31-37 – God is for us!

Isaiah 46 – God is sovereign

Psalms 16 – God will act as our refuge, treasure, sovereign, and counselor to bring us through life and death to joy in His presence

What would you say to someone who has tried to commit suicide and failed? What Biblical comfort would you give them?

Rom 8:28 – All things will work for good to those who love God

Ecc 9:4 – Anyone who is among the living has hope

Isaiah 41:10 – Do not fear for I Am with you.

Isaiah 38:17 Yes, this anguish was good for me,

for you have rescued me from death

and forgiven all my sins.