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”

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

WARM UP

1. What is something you have made or created that you are most proud of?

2. Share a time when you were told to do something that you didn't understand that was a good thing in the end.

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Atheists say that we are products of chance not a Creator. If that were true, how would that change the way you live and view life?

* If there is no God, then life has no purpose because it was not designed for anything. Life also has no ultimate meaning because when you die you simply cease to exist. And life would have no real value. Humans would be no more valuable than any other life or any non-life for that matter because there is no standard of value to compare us to. Ultimately, no Creator means there is no purpose, meaning, or value to life, and if that thought is taken to its logical conclusion there is really no reason to live and there is especially no reason to live selflessly.

4. Read Psalm 33:6-9 & 2 Peter 3:5-7. What do these passages tell us about God and how He created?

* God is powerful beyond what we can imagine and God created everything with His word. He simply spoke and everything came into being. Not only that but 2 Peter says that He sustains everything with His word as well.
* How does John 1:1-2 shed further light on the role of the Word in creation?
* According to Psalm 33:6-9, what should our reaction be to God's power in creation?

5. Read Isa 55:11-13. What does this passage tell us about God's word?

* This passage tells us:
  + God word does not fail. It will always succeed and bear fruit.
  + God's word always does what pleases and delights God.
  + God's word has purpose and intent.

What is the purpose of God's word (V12-13)?

* + God's word is ultimately designed by God to bring honor to His name. Or to put it another way, God's word always succeeds in bringing God glory. Part of that purpose is joy (satisfaction in God) and peace (freedom to enjoy unbroken relationship with God) for humanity. So the unfailing purpose of God's word is His glory and our joy!

6. If God created and sustains by His word, what conclusions can you draw about creation from Isaiah 55?

* Creation has a purpose. If God's word is intended by God for a purpose and He used that word to create, then creation has a purpose that God intended for it. In fact, according to Isaiah 55, we know the purpose of God's word is His glory and our joy. So the conclusion is that God created everything with the purpose being to put His glory on display and secure our joy in that glory.

7. Read Psalm 16. God created with purpose, but that is not good news until we know God's character and intentions.

a) What observations can you make about God in V1-2?

* God is a source of refuge and protection.
* God is our Lord or Master (*Adoni*). That means we have a duty to obey Him and He deserves our allegiance.
* Ultimately, God is the source of everything good we have! The ESV says "I have no good apart from you." The indication is that all other "goods" are nothing compared to God. Or to say it another way, God is the best and He is the source of the best.

b) What does it mean for God to be your portion in V5?

* My portion is another way to say my reward or my share or my treasure. The Psalmist is saying out of all the things I could want or have, Yahweh is the greatest. He is the thing I value most. When everything is divided up and handed out, the only portion I need and want is God.
* Portion can also have the idea of daily food rations. So God is all I need to survive. This is a statement of supreme contentment in God.
* According to Lam 3:24, what is the result of God being your portion?

c) Literally verse 6 says "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasures." What does that mean with respect to God's guidelines?

* It is important to note that David is talking about restrictive boundaries here. There is an area that he ought to stay within but within those regulations are pleasures and delights. The word for pleasures in verse 6 is the same word used to describe God's presence in verse 11. The borders that God set up fence us in to God himself. The boundaries result in total satisfaction instead of longing for whatever is outside. God gives us guidelines so we can know Him and thrive.

d) Based on V8-11, what God's intended benefits for us when we stay within His purposes for us?

* V8 - Security and the ability to stand against anything
* V9 - A glad heart and soul-felt rejoicing
* V9 - Rest and hope in this life
* V10 - Eternal security
* V11 - Life, complete joy and everlasting delight
  + You cannot get fuller than full or longer than everlasting. God's goal for humanity is to see His glory in His presence and that will result in full and eternal happiness.
* According to John 14:6, who is the way of life?

8. How do the truths of Psalm 16 and Isa 55:11 help you think about God as creator and his purposes for us?

* Simply put, God is good and His purposes for us are best. He designed us to glorify Him by knowing Him and enjoying Him. If Gods' character is good and His purposes are good, then we can have total confidence to trust his guidelines for us even when we don't fully understand them. Instead of rebelling against His boundaries, we should run to them as the only way to for humans to thrive.

How does knowing God's character and intentions help you practically live within His guidelines?

* This is an applicational question designed to get people to think about guidelines God has given that they do not understand but that they can trust are good.
* Tip: Relate this question to some of the stories from question #2.