****C3 Questions

*C3 exists to glorify God and edify the body by knowing and delighting in the Father through the joy and love of the Spirit and unity in the Son.*

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

Since we are concluding the series When God Seems Bad, focus this week on what God has shown you about himself in this series and spend time answering the Satisfied questions.

GOT MILK?

As you took communion on Sunday, did anything you learned in this series help you appreciate what Christ has done for you on the cross?

* In your own words, what is the gospel? And how has this series deepened your understanding and appreciation of what Christ did on the cross?
* How has the reality of Hell and the just wrath of God increased your view of God's mercy and grace?
* Romans 5:9 says that Jesus bore the wrath of God. How has this series helped you understand the horror of that?

What Scripture (or topic) in this series was the most challenging to understand or come to grips with concerning God?

Have your group look over their notes and C3 questions from the whole series and pick out the Bible verses or topics they wrestled with the most.

Where’s the Beef?

In this series, we have set up a framework to help understand hard things about God. To put that way of thinking into practice, read Jonah 3:10 and 1 Samuel 15:11 which talk about God repenting or regretting. Knowing that God is holy, all-good, unchanging, and not like humans, how can you deal with God repenting (changing His mind)? (Bible help: 1 Sam 15:29 & Isa 55:8-9)

* Before you try to tackle the question of what God repenting actually means in Scripture try to process the idea just on face value with the concepts we have learned in this series about who God is. This question is designed to be a practical application of this series.
* We know that God is omni-benevolent (all good - Ps 33:5 & James 1:17) Therefore, he cannot sin or do wrong. So however God repents, it cannot be because He has sinned or did wrong. He did not mess up when he made Saul king or said He would punish Nineveh.
* We know that God does not change (immutable - Mal 3:6). Therefore, he cannot learn or gain knowledge because that would be a change. So God's repenting cannot be because he learned something he did not know before or because he was ignorant of what was going to happen. He knew Nineveh would repent and Saul would disobey before he created the world.
* We know that God is holy (Isa 6:3) which means he is infinitely valuable, utterly unique, and morally perfect. Therefore, God always acts in a way that displays and upholds His worth. In whatever, God does he magnifies His glory. So God's repenting cannot violate God's holiness and glory but must somehow magnify Him.
* We know that God is not like us (Ps 50:21). God is not a big human. Therefore, God does not experience emotions or passions like we do. So however God repents, God's repentance is unique to God. We cannot project on God what human regret or change of mind looks like.
* So if we knew nothing else about God's regret or repentance, we at least know God does not repent like we do or because he learned something or because he messed up (sinned) or because he disgraced His holiness.
  + Pastor John Piper puts it this way: "We should probably say that there is a sense in which God does repent, and there is a sense in which he does not. 1 Samuel 15:29 and Numbers 23:19 are intended to keep us from seeing the repentance of God in a way that would put him in the limited category of a man. God’s repentance is not like man’s. I take that to mean that God is not taken off guard by unexpected turns of events like we are. He knows all the future. (Isaiah 42:9). Nor does God ever sin. So his repentance is not owing to lack of foresight nor to folly."
* So how should we understand God changing His mind?
  + This is a helpful 9 minute explanation of God's repentance:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmAk9g23Cvs>

Satisfied?

What truth in this series was most helpful to you in knowing God and seeing the truth of who He is?

* How did hell help you understand the glory and worth of God?
* How did God's jealousy help you see God's love and goodness?
* How did God's wrath help you see his justice?
* How did God's hate help you see God's grace and mercy?

How has this series deepened your love for God or deepened your joy in God?

* How has a better understanding of the holiness and glory of God helped you be more satisfied in God?
* How has a greater knowledge of the cross helped you love Christ more?

Practically, how has this series motivated you to display God to others? How has it increased your urgency to share Christ?

* Have you shared Christ with anyone recently? Why not?
* Has understanding the worth of God changed how much you want to talk about him?