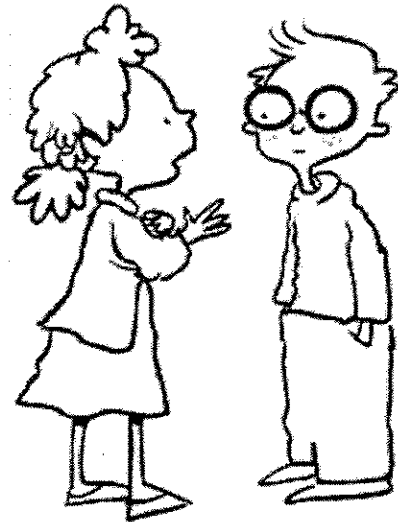


# ASK the toughest questions!

By  
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## Children Ask The Toughest Questions

***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*** (Matthew 19:14)

***For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*** (Isaiah 55:8)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. Can he make my brother get better?
  - a. God can do anything, in fact in Matthew 19:26 we read that with God nothing is impossible, and everything is possible. God also promises us that in John 15:7. Yes God can make your brother better.
  
2. Why would God make the earth if he knew we would sin?
  - a. When God made us he didn't want to make us robots or clones or people who would blindly follow and worship him. God did not need that nor want that. In reading the following verses we can learn much about God's reasons for creating us, even knowing we would sin. Revelation 4:11, Romans 5:20, Ephesians 2:7, and Ephesians 2:10. From these we can see four reasons:
    - i. For his pleasure
    - ii. So that He could demonstrate to us His great grace
    - iii. So that He could demonstrate His great love
    - iv. So that through Jesus we could do the great works He has prepared for us to do.
  
3. How come God didn't make us perfect?
  - a. God knew that by creating us as perfect and needing nothing we could become full of pride, boasting that we didn't need God, and that we were better than God. This is what happened to the angel Lucifer who became the devil. He was created perfectly and decided he did not need God, and the he could be higher than God. This is why God will cast him out of heaven and into the Lake of Fire for all eternity. (Ezekiel 28:12-15 and Isaiah 14:3-14) So God created us to become His children, the children of God, so He could care for us, love us, and keep us from falling into the trap of sin like the devil had and keep us from spending eternity in the Lake of Fire with the devil.

4. Can he make my family not feel so sad (Grandmother died)?
  - a. We all feel very sad when someone we love dies. Even Jesus cried when he saw the suffering of Mary and Martha over Lazarus' death. But He is also faithful in comforting us and in granting us a peace that goes past anything we can understand. That peace tells us that our loved one who died is now with Him in heaven and that gives us comfort and joy. We'll always miss the one who died until we get to heaven to be with them, but while we remain on earth God is faithful in being with us, comforting us and granting us His great peace. (John 11:13-35, Philipians 4:7 and Psalm 126:5-6)
  
5. Can he make my Great Grandmother feel better?
  - a. Yes, see question 1.
  
6. How long will I live?
  - a. God does not tell each of us how long we will live. This means we are to live each day doing the very best we can (1 Corinthians 10:21). God does give us some guidelines to live by so that we may have a longer life. These are:
    - i. Honor your father and your mother, Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:2-3
    - ii. Keeping Gods law, Proverbs 3:1-2
    - iii. Following wisdom, Proverbs 3:13 and 16
    - iv. Fearing, or respecting, the Lord, Psalm 128:1-6
    - v. Keeping from evil, Psalm 34:11-14
  
7. Will we (our country) be attacked?
  - a. Only God knows the answer to that question. However, what's more important is for us to depend on God to protect us and if we were ever attacked to give us the victory over our enemies. Even God's people come under attack, sometimes because we are God's people. Jesus tells us if we love him the world will not love us because they hate Jesus. But we know that God is our protector, our King, and he will protect us whenever our enemies attack us. (Psalm 37:28) (John 15:18-19)

8. Why did God punish us for Adam and Eve's sin?
  - a. Genesis 3:14-19. God intended for Adam and Eve to be the parents of all mankind when he created them. When Adam and Eve sinned they destroyed God's original intention because now that they had eaten the forbidden fruit all of their children would be born with this desire to sin. God put a curse on Satan, and the earth and which created a corrupt and decaying environment for Adam and Eve to live and work in. (Genesis 3:14-19) As each of their children were born they in-turn were subject to these same curses, it would only be through God's great grace and Jesus shed blood that mankind could ever be saved once Adam and Eve sinned because their sin ruined the earth and all that God had created. Today we are sinful people living in a corrupt and decaying world, God did not want us to be punished so He sent his son Jesus to die for us, so that when we leave this earth we go to be with Him in Heaven where there is no sin, no tears, no death. He is preparing a better place for all of us who put our trust in Christ. (John 3:16, 14:1-3 and Revelation 21:3-5)
  
9. Did David trust God for the rest of his life (after he killed Goliath)?
  - a. Yes he did, in fact many examples of David's faith after he killed Goliath can be found in the Bible. For example in 1 Samuel chapter 23 you can read of David's faith in the Lord granting him a battle victory, then later protecting David from Saul who came after him to kill him. In both cases you'll read about others not believing in God's instructions, but David who was strong in faith led them all to follow what God had told him, and they won the victory in the battle, and were protected by God when Saul came to kill David. All through David's life there are many, many examples of his great faith in God and his determination to do whatever he could to please God. This is why God called David a man after His own heart. (Acts 13:22)
  
10. Did Saul trust God before God anointed him?
  - a. This is difficult to say, in looking at how God anointed Saul to be king it would be easy to assume Saul trusted God, however as you study Saul's entire life he appears as someone who acted like, or pretended to be, a righteous person following God, but in fact he was not. It's difficult to find examples where Saul actually ever trusted God more than Saul trusted himself. In the end Saul's kingdom is taken from him and David, a real man after God's own heart becomes king. (1 Samuel chapters 9 and 10) (1 Samuel Chapters 11 through 31, and 2 Samuel Chapters 1 and 2)

11. How come people don't act like Christians after they've been baptized? That is, after a person has been baptized, why does he act like he hasn't been baptized?

- a. This is a good question. We need to remember that baptism is an outward expression of what has occurred in a person's life inwardly. And we need to realize that even though we accept Christ, repent of our sins and try to live as Christ wants us to our old nature, of wanting to do things that cause us to sin, is still with us. Even Paul, one of the men with the greatest of faith struggled with this. It is difficult for us to see people who follow Christ act in ways that aren't Christ like, and we need to remember that when we sin, others have the same reaction looking at us. But above all through Christ we can win that struggle and live the life Christ has for us, baptism in and of itself isn't the answer alone, we need Christ as the center of our lives, then we'll have the victory. (Romans 7:21-25)

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. What is heaven like? Is it like earth?

- a. Heaven is a wonderful place, the Bible calls it Paradise. It is not like earth, there is no night there and God is there. Everything in heaven accomplishes God's will unlike earth where Satan is busy trying to cause man to sin and trying to ruin the earth. The Bible tells us Heaven is so wonderful it can't be described, but when we get there we'll see just how wonderful it is. (2 Cor 12:1-4)

2. What is my purpose for life?

- a. I can't answer this for you, but God knows and will reveal it to you. God had a plan and purpose for you before He even created you. Once we completely turn our lives over to Him he'll reveal that plan to us one day at a time. This is the excitement and adventure that we experience in living each day for Him. You can know for a fact that God cares for you and He has a great plan for you, all you need to do is trust Him and live each day for him. (Matthew 6:33 and Jeremiah 29:11)

3. How will the world end?

- a. In the end Jesus will bring a new heaven and a new earth for us to live in and the old earth will be burned up. We'll be given a new home with no devil, no sin, no illness or death, no tears, no pain. The old ways and the old earth will be gone and God will replace it with a brand new one that He comes to live in with us. (Revelation 21:1-4)

4. Will heaven ever be over crowded?
  - a. No it will never be crowded, but there will be a lot of people there. The Bible tells us the number of those in heaven will be so large we can't count them, and yet compared to the number of people who won't get into heaven the number will be small. (Matthew 7:13-14 and Revelation 7:9)
  
5. How did the other religions come to be?
  - a. Other religions, other ways of searching for God, have been with humans ever since God cast them out of the Garden of Eden. The Bible warns us not to follow people who try to create a religion or teach things that wrong. It tells us that many people will try to follow crazy ideas and think they can get to heaven by doing good works or by thinking big thoughts, but the only way to heaven is through Jesus. When people don't want to follow what Jesus taught they invent their own religions that others follow. Jesus warns us not to follow them, and to only follow him. (Matthew 7:13-14, Colossians 2:8 and Isaiah 55:8)
  
6. When you die, do you immediately go to heaven or is it a journey?
  - a. When we die the Bible tells us we go right to be with Jesus. In fact it tells us when we die angels come and carry us to heaven. We need to remember, God is the God of the living, not the dead – death isn't an end for us we go on living in heaven. (Matthew 22:32. Luke 16:19-26, Luke 23:43)
  
7. Is heaven years the same as earth years?
  - a. No heaven has a different time. In heaven there is no night there. People can rest and be at peace because they are with God. They don't need to hurry anywhere or worry about time because they are with God. The Bible tells us to God one year to him is like a thousand years to us. So in heaven we'll have lots of time to visit with God and all those who are in heaven, won't that be neat? (Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8)
  
8. Would we recognize people in heaven?
  - a. Absolutely. I think we know this from many things the Bible tells us about heaven and the stories Jesus taught about what happens when you die that we talked about in question 6. From these stories we can see that not only will we recognize each other but we'll recognize others as well, people like Moses and Elijah that we've read about in the Bible. (Matthew 17:1-4, Luke 16:19-26 Luke 24:27-31)

9. Do animals go to heaven?

- a. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly, but I believe they do. Heaven is a place so wonderful it can't be described, and God is so wonderful we cannot find enough words to describe Him either. With His great love for us and His creation I think it's very possible the animals we love and who love us go to be with God in heaven when they die. I also think when Jesus brings down the new heaven and new earth and we are raised up into our new bodies he will do the same with the animals. The Bible tells us that all of God's creation awaits the day when sin will be overcome and everything God created will be resurrected. I think that means the animals as well. Heaven is full of love it won't surprise me to find animals to love there as well. (Romans 8:21-23)

10. Do we get older in heaven?

- a. No, in fact we get new bodies that never age and never get sick. We'll be perfect in every way, even our age. God will make us just the right age, give us clothes to wear, and food to eat that keep us perfect and healthy so we can live with Him forever. (Revelation 22:1-5)

11. Who invented purgatory?

- a. The teachings on purgatory go back some 1700 years to the early writings of the Catholic Church and are based on the belief that the saved soul must still suffer to pay for their sins on earth and be cleansed before they can enter heaven. However, nowhere in the Bible can anything be found that relates to purgatory. This caused many to leave or not follow Catholic teachings and the Protestant churches of today do not believe in or teach about purgatory. We believe the Bible is clear that Christ paid for our sins and that when we die we go directly to be with Jesus in heaven. (Psalm 103:11-12, Luke 23:43, Hebrews 8:12, Hebrews 10:17)

12. Why did Muhammad think he was a greater prophet than Jesus?
- a. I think we would have to ask him that, and unfortunately he died hundreds of years ago. He did write that he believed he was a messenger of God on the order of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus, and that he was the last great prophet God had chosen. I think he saw himself as greater because of two primary things, one he came along after Jesus and two he believed he had a more accurate and updated message from God. Unfortunately he did not recognize Jesus as the true Messiah, the anointed one from God, and Muhammad did not put his trust and faith in Him and in the Holy Word of God that Jesus proclaimed but chose a different path that led to the creation of the Islam religion. We know he was wrong as Jesus himself told us that he was God and that He was the only way to God – no one else can save us but Jesus. (Isaiah 43:11 and John 10:30)

### Steve's Class

1. How do people stay up in heaven and not fall through the clouds?
  - a. The heaven that's above the clouds is what we call sky. In the sky we see clouds, the sun and the moon and billions of stars. But the heaven God is in, the heaven we go to when we die is way, way, way, above that heaven in another place and that is where we'll live with God. The Bible calls it paradise. We won't have to worry about falling through the clouds as we'll be in a different place way above the clouds. (Gen 1:6-8 and Luke 23:43)
2. What do we wear in heaven?
  - a. The Bible tells us we will be wearing white robes, won't that be neat? We'll get new bodies, new clothes, a new name, and new heaven and a new earth. We won't grow old, we get sick, there will be no pain, no tears and we'll have beautiful robes to wear. Heaven is a beautiful place and God will give us beautiful clothes to wear. (Revelation 7:9, 19:8 and 21:1-4)
3. How do you rise from the grave?
  - a. Actually you don't, Jesus will do it for you. When it's time for us to get our new bodies a trumpet will sound and Jesus will call our bodies out of the grave and they will be brand new ones, just like the one He got when God raised him from the grave. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)
4. How did the rock get pushed away from Jesus tomb?
  - a. The Bible tells us an angel came and rolled the stone away. (Matthew 28:2)

5. Why does God live in the Church?
  - a. God does not physically live in the "church", it is a place we call the house of God where we come to worship Him. God lives in the Heavens far above us but His son Jesus is building a new heaven and a new earth where someday we'll live with God in the same place He is, and it will be a very beautiful city. Today we come to God's house, the church building, to worship Him, in the future we'll live where God lives and we'll see Him everyday. (Revelation 21:1-4)
  
6. How can God be everywhere? Does He have a lot of eyes?
  - a. God is a Spirit and as a spirit he doesn't have physical eyes like we have but he is able to see everything. It's one of those mysteries we won't understand about God until we're in heaven with him. But the Bible tells us He sees everything and nothing is hidden from him, he is everywhere at all times and sees everything. This means no matter where we are God knows we're there and because He sees everything He knows what we need before we know it, isn't God awesome? (Hebrews 4:13)
  
7. Who put Jesus on the cross?
  - a. The people who actually put Jesus on the Cross were Roman Soldiers. In fact the Roman army had special units of soldiers who were trained on how to crucify people. They were the ones who nailed Jesus to the cross then stood guard and made sure that Jesus died before they took Him down. (Matthew 27:27-31 and John 19:32-34)
  
8. How did the devil become the devil?
  - a. See similar question above.
  
9. Who is God's brother?
  - a. God doesn't have a brother. God is God; there was no one before God. God does show Himself to us in three ways, as God our Father in heaven, as the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts, and as Jesus as God's only son who came and died on the cross for us. Because of Jesus we are the children of God and He is our Holy Father who loves us very much and wants us to love Him in return. (Genesis 1:1, Romans 8:16, Isaiah 43:11, Isaiah 44:6, 45:5, 45:18, 45:21-22 and Isaiah 46:9)

10. How did the fire get started (burning bush and Moses), and did it really happen?
- a. When Moses saw the burning bush the Bible tells us the Angel of Lord came as flame and it was in the middle of the burning bush, so the Angel of the Lord started it burning. It also says the bush didn't burn, that the fire didn't burn up the bush; this was a real miracle and attracted Moses to the bush. This is also the fire God tells us about in hell, the one that burns forever in the Lake of Fire where the Devil and all his followers will be sent forever. They will burn night and day and never die, never be burned up, just like the bush that burned but didn't get burnt. And yes it really happened; God wouldn't put a lie in the Bible. (Exodus 3:1-3, Matthew 25:44, Mark 9:47-48, Revelation 14:11, Revelation 20:10, and Revelation 20:14.)
11. How can we hear God talk?
- a. We can hear God talk if we stop, look and listen. God speaks to us in many, many ways. He speaks to us through His Holy Word, the Bible, and all those people he sends to speak to us for Him, like your pastor or your teacher, he speaks to us through the world around us that He created – you can learn a lot about God by looking very carefully at His creation, and at times He will actually speak to us in a voice we can hear and understand, you just need to listen. (Exodus 3:1-4, Exodus 15:26, Numbers 7:89, Isaiah 6:8 and Matthew 17:5)
12. How did God create the whole world?
- a. He spoke. God is more powerful than anything we can imagine. The Bible tells us He created the earth, the sky and the whole universe just by speaking. If he is that powerful imagine how much He can help you when you ask Him for help? And, imagine how much God loves you that as powerful as He is He chose to create you and to make a place for you in heaven. (Genesis 1:1-3 and Matthew 25:34)

13. Why would God create animals that hurt people?

- a. God didn't create animals that hurt people, but that is what happened after Adam and Eve sinned and went against God's command. In the beginning all of the animals were friendly to people, they ate grass and other vegetation; it wasn't until after God destroyed His original creation with the flood that animals and people became enemies, and they both began to eat meat and flesh. God tells us that when Jesus comes back and builds a new heaven and a new earth the animals will be friendly with people again and we can play with lions and snakes and all sorts of animals and they won't hurt us at all, but today that's not so and we have to be careful around animals or they will hurt us. (Genesis 1:29-30 and 9:1-3 and Isaiah 11:6-9)

14. Why do we come to Church?

- a. Because we want to worship Jesus and because it is Jesus who builds the church. He does this so that we may come together to worship Him, to learn about Him, and to pray to Him. The Bible tells us we are to gather together to encourage each other and to help each other live the life Jesus wants each of us to live. The church is our gathering place where Jesus to speaks all of us at one time and helps us help others. (Matthew 16:18 and Hebrews 10:24-25)

15. Was the devil a devil or an angel?

- a. The devil is an angel; the Bible calls him a fallen angel. When God created the angels he created one that was more beautiful and special than all the other angels, Lucifer was his name. But Lucifer thought because he was so special he didn't need God, and he thought that he could rise above God and to prove it he wanted to ruin God's plan of creating us and having us live in Heaven with Him. Satan is what the Bible calls him now and God is going to cast Lucifer down and all the angels who follow Lucifer into the Lake of Fire, and anyone on earth who follows after Satan and rejects Jesus will also go there forever, never to see Heaven. But all of the other angles who followed God and all of us who accept Jesus will go to heaven and live there with God forever. (Ezekiel 28:12-15 and Isaiah 14:3-14)