

F.A.Q's: Frequently Asked Questions

Lesson 1—Don't All Religions Lead to God?

OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: John 14:6; 2 Peter 3:9

Key Verse: Romans 1:20—"From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse."

NOTE: These lessons this month are set up to "tease" your students to help them question what they believe and why? Let them discuss the questions you ask. Give them time to interact. Ask if anyone has a different opinion from what was expressed. In other words, don't be too quick to give them the right answers. Let them hunt around for it if they need to and if you see that there is disagreement or deeper discussion, let them look up the verse(s) that are cited alongside the answer for each question.

BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- Why do you believe that Jesus is the only way to Heaven?
- Do you believe that everyone is given the opportunity to give his or her life to Christ?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.
- Contact guests who have visited your class to let them and their parents know how much you care.

CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.

CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.

CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.

THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, "It really doesn't matter if you're here or not." Small things communicate great messages. Let the three "small" things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.

OPENING ACTIVITY

SAY: Today we're beginning a five week unit called F.A.Q.s—Frequently Asked Questions, but first let's talk about your week.

- *Go around the room and let everyone share one highlight and one low point from their week. (If you have a large class, you may want to just take a few volunteers.)*

KEY VERSE

Topic: How many ways are there to Heaven?

- *Go around the room and let each person describe the way they came to church this morning. Ask if this is the best way from their home to the church or if there is a better way. (If you have a large class, just take a few volunteers.)*
- *What would you say to me if I said that getting to Heaven is similar to what you just described—that there is a “best” way to get there, but there are also other ways as well? (Of course, your students should immediately show the fault with this, stating that there is only one way to Heaven.)*
- *But what if a person never did anything wrong—wouldn't they be able to go to Heaven? (If they say, “That's impossible,” ask them why?) (The answer is yes—a perfect person would not need forgiveness, but this is also impossible. As the result of Adam's sin, each of us was born with a sin nature. It's in our nature to rebel against God and to do what's wrong until we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The moment a person is saved he receives the Holy Spirit and is re-created in the image of Christ, not the image of Adam—If your students ask questions about this, refer to 1 Cor. 15:45-49, Rom. 5:12-15, 2 Cor. 5:17.)*
- *What is the only way to Heaven?*
- *Show me where the Bible says that Jesus is the only way to Heaven? (We say we believe certain things, but do we really know what the Bible has to say about them?. The most common verse that students give for this question is John 14:6. Also see 1 Tim. 2:3-6, etc.)*

Choose a volunteer to read—Read John 14:6

BIBLE LESSON

Topic: What happens to people with other religions?

- *Since Jesus is the only way to Heaven, what happens to people of other religions?* (The Bible is clear that anyone who rejects Christ will spend eternity separated from God in Hell—For questions, refer to Rev. 20:11-15.)
- *Is this fair?* (“Fair” is a very abused word. A better word would be “just.” This is just because God is just.)
- *Do you believe that Hell is real? Show me in the Bible why you believe this.* (We say we believe certain things, but do we really know what the Bible has to say about them or do we just believe them because someone told us to— There are many references in the Bible concerning Hell: Two of the most descriptive are Luke 16:19-30 and Rev. 20:10-15)
- *Who made Hell?* (Some people mistakenly believe that the devil made Hell as his throne—Not true. God created Hell as the just punishment for sin, nor did God create it for people. According to Matt. 25:41 Hell was created “for the devil and his angels,” but when Man sinned, this became his punishment as well.)
- *Is the devil already in Hell?* (No, unlike God he can only be in one place at one time and he will not be sent to Hell until the end of time. See Rev. 20:10.)
- *What will the devil do in Hell?* (Hell is his punishment as well. It’s not a place over which he will rule or reign but, according to Rev. 20:10, it’s a place where he will be “tormented day and night forever and ever.” It’s a place that even the devil and demons dread.)
- *How could a God of love make and send people to a place like Hell?* (God doesn’t condemn anyone to hell—People are already condemned by their sins. Likewise, God doesn’t *send* anyone to Hell—People send themselves there by their choice to reject Jesus as Lord and Savior. God has done everything possible to provide salvation for all—1 Tim. 2:3-4.)

Choose a volunteer to read—Read 2 Peter 3:9

- *What happens when a person dies: Do they immediately go to Heaven or Hell or does this wait until the end of time? Why do you believe this?* (In 2 Cor. 5:5-8, Paul talks about being “at home in the body” but “absent from the Lord” although he looked forward to being “absent from the body” [dead] and “present with the Lord.” When people die they immediately go either to be in God’s presence [Phil. 1:23] or to a place called Hades [Luke 19:23, Matt. 11:23].)

- *What is Hades?* (Hades is the same as Hell but with one difference. Hades is where people who have rejected Christ go until the final judgment. At that time “death and Hades” will cough up the dead that are in them for what has been named “The Great White Throne Judgment,” as seen in Rev. 20:11-15. At this time the lost will be judged, sentenced, and thrown into the lake of fire. The only difference between Hades and Hell is that Hades is before the final judgment; Hell is after. Hades has a momentary break from torment during the judgment; Hell offers no release or relief at all forever.)

KEY VERSE

Topic: How were people in the Old Testament saved?

- *How were people saved before Jesus died? What do you believe and why?* (They were saved the same way we are today: By grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). The difference is that we are saved by faith looking back at what Christ did on the cross. They were saved by faith looking forward to what God was going to do in the future. An example of this is Abraham. The Bible is clear that he was justified by faith. See Genesis 15:6 and Gal. 3:6.)

Topic: What happens to someone who never hears about Jesus?

- *What happens to people who never hear about Jesus? What happens to them when they die—after all they never rejected Christ, right? What do you believe about this?*

The Bible is clear on this matter:

- (1) That salvation has been provided for all people (Titus 2:11).
- (2) That God has built “eternity” in people’s hearts (Ecc. 3:11) which means that every lost person has a built-in longing for more than this life can give.
- (3) That if out of this longing, a person “seeks” God, the Bible is clear that he will “find” Him (Matt. 7:8; Acts 17:26-27; James 4:8).
- (4) That God has provided all people with a testimony of salvation inside of creation (Romans 1:20) so that people are without excuse.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Romans 1:20

SAY: A person who lives without hearing the Gospel and dies without Christ is still without excuse. God has given them a supernatural witness both in the longing of their hearts and in creation, so that they are “without excuse” in not knowing Christ.

Consider this story:

Earlier this century a native in an unreached and isolated area considered the mean and cruel gods his tribe worshipped. He also looked at creation, at the beautiful flowers and the streams, and he decided that his people must be wrong about their worship. Mean and cruel deities would not create such beauty and

splendor. So every day he would go into the jungle and worship what he called “The Unknown God.” One day, while he was praying to this God, he fell asleep and had a dream. He dreamed that a white person (which he had never seen a white person nor had he ever even heard of their existence) would come to his village carrying something black in her hand. A voice told him that this person could tell him who He was. A year later he looked out of his hut to see a white missionary woman who had come to their village. He ran to her, actually knocking her down. At first she thought she was being attacked but he was eventually able to communicate to her that he had been worshipping her God though He didn’t know what to call Him. He kept pointing at the black thing in her hand wanting to know what it was—It was her Bible.

SAY: Even those who have never heard the Gospel are without excuse. If they just look around at the witness of creation and listen to the longing of their own hearts, and then if they seek God, God will make a way for them to hear the Good News.

Consider this:

If *not* hearing the Gospel meant that someone would go to Heaven, then wouldn’t it be best just to keep the Gospel a secret. Why send missionaries overseas to tell people about Christ and take the chance that they might reject Him? If this were true, why not just let them live and die in ignorance and go to Heaven? But this isn’t true. The only way to Heaven is through a personal relationship with God through Jesus. That’s why it’s so important that we spread the Good News.

WRAP IT UP

Prayer Time

Pray specifically today that your students will be a witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ both in how they live and in what they say. Pray also that they will always know what they believe and why they believe it and that they will always turn to God’s Word for the answer to any question.

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

Prayer Requests