

# Trusting God

## Application Questions

**Chapter 1 Can You Trust God?** ~ Central Idea: God is completely sovereign, infinite in wisdom, perfect in love, and therefore worthy of our trust. God's desire for us is that we learn to trust Him.

1. Do you have a harder time trusting God in the major trials of your life or in relatively minor things? Explain why you think this is the case.

2. How are trusting God and obedience related?

3. God desires that we learn to trust Him. What do you learn about trust from the following verses?

Psalm 32:10

Proverbs 3:5

John 14:1

4. According to Isaiah 55:9 and Romans 11:33, why is it important for us to trust God even when we don't understand what He is doing?

5. What do these verses say about our privilege of knowing God?

Psalm 9:10

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Philippians 3:8-11

6. Knowing God is more than simply knowing facts about Him. What does it mean to know God?

**Chapter 2 & 3 Is God In Control? & The Sovereignty of God** ~ Central Idea: God is in control. He has a purpose and a plan for you, and He has the power to carry out that plan.

1. What is God's providence?
2. In what ways do you act as though God's providence is limited even though you may believe that it isn't?
3. What evidence do you see, from your past or present, for His involvement in your life?
4. What conclusions about God and what He does can you draw from these verses?

Job 42:2

Psalm 115:3

Isaiah 46:10

Daniel 4:34-35

5. In his book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Rabbi Kushner concludes that God cannot be both sovereign and good, so Kushner chooses to believe in a God who is good.
  - a. What do you think about Rabbi Kushner's conclusion?
  - b. How do you reconcile God's goodness and His sovereignty? That is, if God is able to prevent evil, and if He is committed to good, then why doesn't He prevent evil?

**Chapter 4 God's Sovereignty Over People** ~ Central Idea: God works in the hearts of people to move them to fulfill His purposes. Any treatment, good or bad, that we receive from another can be seen as part of God's plan for us.

1. According to the following verses, how do the sinful actions of man affect God's purposes?

Genesis 50:20

Acts 4:27-28

Revelation 17:15-18

2. Why should confidence in God's sovereignty in the lives of people keep us from becoming resentful and bitter when we are treated unjustly or maliciously by others?
3. Are there people who have treated you unfairly whom you have not forgiven? Spend some time with the Lord, asking Him to cleanse you of all bitterness toward others. Pray Psalm 51:10.

**Chapter 6 God's Power Over Nature** ~ Central Idea: God has established certain physical laws for the operation of His universe. Moment by moment those laws operate according to His direct will.

1. Summarize in your own words what each of these verses says about God's role in natural phenomena.

Job 37:3,6,10-13

Psalms 147:8,16-18

Jeremiah 10:13, 14:22

Amos 4:7-9

2. Read John 9:1-3. Explain in your own words the reason Jesus gives for the man's blindness.

3. The idea that God claims responsibility for deadly earthquakes, droughts, blindness and childlessness prompts sensitive people to ask questions.

- a. Are there limits to the kinds of questions we should ask of God? If so, what limits? If not, why not?

- b. What kinds of attitudes are acceptable when questioning God? What kinds are unacceptable?

- c. Give some possible reasons why God leaves many of our questions unanswered.

4. Describe an experience in your life that caused you to doubt God's control and to ask why.

**Chapter 7 God's Sovereignty and Our Responsibility** ~ Central Idea: We are responsible for all our actions. We must seek God in prayer, act with prudence at all times, and trust God to work out His good purposes in our lives.

1. Read Nehemiah 4:6-9. In what two ways did the Israelites respond to the threat of attack?

- a. What does their response indicate about their understanding of the relationship between prayer and prudence?
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2. Since God is in control and His purpose will inevitably prevail, why do we need to pray?

**Chapter 8 The Wisdom of God** ~ Central Idea: God is infinite in wisdom. He always knows what is best for us, and He knows the best way to bring it about.

1. How do these verses describe God's wisdom?

Psalm 147:5

Jeremiah 10:12

Romans 11:33-34

2. What is the ultimate purpose of all things according to Romans 11:36 and  
Corinthians 10:31? 1

- a. What does it mean to glorify God?
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3. What attitude is expressed in Job 42:1-3 and Psalm 131:1?

- a. What happens when we let go of our questions and trust God?
  - b. Is it hard for you to let go of your unanswered questions? Why or why not?
4. What would you say to a friend who is struggling with the question "Why" in the face of difficult circumstances?

**Chapter 9 & 10 Knowing and Experiencing God's Love** ~ Central Idea: We can trust God's love, because He loves us with a perfect and infinite love, which was demonstrated on Calvary. Because of our union with Christ, we are secure in that love.

1. In what event do we see the supreme demonstration of God's love for us? Read 1 John 4:9-10.
  - a. Restate Romans 5:6-8 in your own words.
2. How does John 15:1-8 describe our relationship with Jesus?
  - a. What does pruning have to do with love (see John 15:2)? What is the purpose of God's pruning?

**Chapter 12 Growing Through Adversity** ~ Central Idea: Adversity causes us to develop Christlike character. For the believer all pain has meaning; all adversity is profitable.

1. Think about the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. How does adversity encourage development of the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

2. Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4. What should our attitude be in the midst of adversity, and why?
  
3. What portions of Scripture have become especially important to you during trying times?
  
4. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 and 12:10. How does adversity teach us to depend on God?

**Chapter 13 Choosing to Trust God** ~ Central Idea: We must choose, by an act of our will, to trust God in major and minor difficulties. We can do this regardless of how we may feel, because we know that God is sovereign, wise, and loving.

1. Read Psalm 56:3-4. When David chose to trust God, how did his feelings change?
  
2. Have you had an experience in which you chose to trust God despite your emotions? If so, what happened to your emotions after you decided to trust God?
  - a. Why do you think emotions work that way?
  
3. How would you explain to an unbeliever why you choose to trust God?