

## CELL GROUP

### WEEK FOUR

Go over apologetics and teach the Biblical response to commonly asked tough questions. Begin with what each girl found on her question and then add to that what you have.

1. Why is there evil and suffering in the world if your God is so good?

The assumption here is either God is all powerful but not all good and therefore doesn't stop evil, or He is all good but unable to stop evil and therefore not all powerful. Man wants to blame God and pass on all responsibility for evil to Him.

1. God created man perfect, not evil, but with free will to obey or disobey God. The first man who rebelled led all men to sin (Rom 5:12) therefore man is responsible for sin. God could have made man so he wouldn't sin but then he would be a robot and love is voluntary.

2. God could stamp out evil, but would have to do it completely, including lies, etc. Who would be left if He did? He did do something about evil through his love and grace by sending his son Jesus Christ.

3. Good deeds are rewarded and bad are punished. This is not true. God does not deal with man on the basis of behavior (Ps 103:10-11) and we should be thankful he doesn't.

4. Sometimes suffering is needed to improve our character (I Pet 5:10). However if we suffer a consequence to one of our actions, this is not necessarily discipline (Gal 6:7)

5. Satan accounts for the source of some evil (see Job). God does allow it and Satan finds pleasure in causing misery and suffering to God's creation. He cannot reach the one in close fellowship with Christ (Jas 4:7). Satan is free to work his evil deeds until judgement.

6. God has met the problem of evil in Jesus Christ.

II. How do you know the Bible is true and written by God? Isn't it full of contradictions?

The Bible claims in 2 Tim 3:16 to be inspired or "God breathed" by God and refers not to writers but to what was written. The divine origin is also emphasized in 2 Pet 1:20-21.

1. Not like the writers were punched like a typewriter. Each had his own style and God worked through the human personality and guided and controlled their writing so that what they wrote was what he wanted written.

2. What did Christ think of the scriptures? Mt 5:18 and Mt 26:54-56 (fulfillments of scripture) and Jn 10:35. If we accept Jesus, we must accept his word.

3. Fulfilled prophecies which are provable in detail. Duet. 18; 21-22 says by this you will know the Lord spoke. The Bible predicts messiah, events and the history of the Jews. Jesus refers to prophecies of Himself Lk 24:25-27, Is 52:13-53:12=most out-

standing prophecy of Christ.

4.O.T. : can it have been changed over the years? Highly unlikely since the Jewish religion is based on righteousness and knowing the scripture word for word like their fathers

5. More than 4000 parts of the NT survived to our time and date to within the lifetime of Christ. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947 containing parts of Isaiah, Samuel and Habakkuk. Other historical texts are found to support the historical context of the Bible.

6. The crucial issue for salvation is one's view of Jesus Christ and a relationship to Him, not necessarily his view of the Bible.

III. All religions are the same with different names for God. Others are as sincere as you in their belief, why are you right and they are wrong?

All cannot be true because they teach things that are opposite.

All are not true because one excludes the other.

Only Christianity not based on works.

Jesus is not the God in Islam or Mormonism.

Salvation obtained by grace and trust. If God of the Bible is true God, then other gods are non-existent and should not be worshipped.

1. Christian asserting the only way to God is thru JC is often accused of being bigoted; he thinks he is right and better than all others. Need to put aside this issue and investigate JC.

2. Acts 4:12 no other name=salvation. We believe not because it is our rule, but God's. Jn 14:6 Christians, therefore can't affirm anything else. TRUTH NOT ARROGANCE. Example: Law of Gravity. Can't decide to suspend it and jump off roof or you'll go splat. There are inherent spiritual laws just as there are inherent physical laws. Would it be arrogant for me to stop you from jumping because you didn't want to believe in the law of gravity. God's revelation of Himself in Christ and Christ's death as the only means to reconcile man to God.

3. In proclaiming the exclusiveness of JC, do not assume a superior posture. Explain you are one sinner telling another how to find forgiveness; the same as one beggar telling another how to find food. The Christian has nothing to gain by unbeliever's conversion, only the unbeliever has everything to gain.

4. Move on to truth. Just because you sincerely believe something does not make it true (because the Muslims are sincere, does not make it true). Just like nurse who sincerely believed she was putting eyedrops in newborn's eyes, but put in chemicals instead causing permanent blindness.

Just the same as failing to believe something is true, makes it false. Facts are facts. Example: Christianity affirms the fact of the deity, death and resurrection of Christ. Islam denies this. No matter how sincere both matter how sincere both are, one believes in a false view.

5. Most religions center on man's problem of not knowing what he should do and studying that. Christianity says man's problem is

not having the power to do what he should and Christ offers his power for righteousness and forgiveness.

6. Other relg. give swimming lessons to a drowning man. Christianity gives a life preserver.

7. Other relg. focus on good works, Christianity focus on grace.

"in order to" in other relg and "therefore" with Christ.

"do" in other relg and "done" with Christ.

Man works to God in other relg and God reaches to man with Christ.

8. Other relg. offer fear of future due to questionable standing before God from one day to the next. Christianity offers peace with assurance of salvation once and for all.

9. Muslim and Judiasm only relg which believe in God in personal terms. Muslim "allah", Mohammed not claim to be God but only taught of him. Relationship with God distant without able to contact. Jews not believe Jesus was God. Jn 8:42-47.

10. Missionaries confirm those who believe in other gods and then turn in faith to the truth of Jesus Christ, immediately realize He is the true God whom they have been seeking.

11. Christ alone claims diety. Others follow teaching of a man (Mohammed, Buddha, Confucious). Christ Jn 6:29.

11. Sincerety is ok in what you believe as long as you believe it. Not so. Hitler believed in race supremacy yet he was wrong. Many ways to Jesus Christ, but must be through Jesus Christ to God.

IV. What about the heathen in Africa who has never seen a Bible or heard of Jesus Christ? Will he be judged?

First, this has no effect on whether Christianity is true, this lies only in the truth of Jesus Christ. No one comes to Father except through JC (Jn 14:6)

1. Many think this means that those who have heard of JC will be automatically damned. Not necessarily the case. The scripture infers that someone who has never heard of JC can be saved. We belv every person has opportunity to repent and not excluded because born in wrong place or wrong time Jn 7:17

2. Bible says no one is with out excuse Rom 1:19-20  
-Creator of creation is universal. Know he exists, yet willfully ignorant. "Holding down the truth in unrighteousness" Literal translation of Rom 1:18

-Not seeking but running from Him Rom 3:11. Not that God refuses to get his truth to someone who is searching

3. God desires none should perish 2 Pet 3:9, Rom 5:8

4. Acts 17:31 God is going to judge fairly and righteously. No one able to accuse him of unfairness. We may not know how He'll deal with people, but we can believe it will be fair.

5. Bible Teaches Rev 5:9, people will hear and respond from every people group Acts 10:34-35. Those with limited knowledge of Him not condemned for not hearing. Rom 2:12-16

What about you who has heard??

Assignment Week four

The book Out of the Salt Shaker due next week

Test in two weeks.