

explore God™

The 7 Big Questions

Devotional Booklet

This devotional is intended to provide you with an opportunity to have personal study time to explore the 7 faith questions. The booklet is divided into 7 weeks. Every week will follow along with the Sermon. Each devotion will include the Sermon Scripture, with a few connection points between the Scripture and the question, a space to take sermon and/or personal reflection notes and additional Scripture to allow you to explore each question further.

Introduction to the 7 week series:

Everyone has questions. While our questions may be many or few, most of us have at least seven: Does life have a purpose? Is there a God? Why does God allow pain and suffering? Is Christianity too narrow? Is Jesus really God? Is the Bible reliable? Can I know God personally? These questions are grappled with by scholars, school children and everyone in between. They are the seven big questions everyone has when they get honest about exploring God. In partnership with many churches in the Historic Triangle, the Explore God sermon series, coupled with intentional processing and discussion in small groups, will help our community wrestle with these questions together and invite others to explore with us.

QUESTION 3:

Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

ANSWER:

Because God is greater than we are, we cannot fully understand or explain all of the problems we encounter. However, we can be certain of God's power, His perfect timing, His perfect purpose, and His perfect love.

SERMON SCRIPTURE:

John 2:1-12

CONNECTION POINTS:

- While we may never find an answer to this question that satisfies us, Jesus Christ and the new creation He brings is God's answer to the problem of pain and suffering.
- Jesus Christ is with us in our pain and suffering.
- Something mysteriously redemptive happens through our suffering.

QUESTION 4:

Is Christianity Too Narrow?

ANSWER:

God provided a way for everyone to have peace. This is profoundly inclusive—not exclusive. Following Jesus is different from every other faith on earth in that He sacrificed to get to us, rather than us sacrificing to get to Him. Most religions boil down to humanity trying to reach God, but Christianity is God reaching humanity.

SERMON SCRIPTURE:

John 3:1-19

CONNECTION POINTS:

- Jesus is the one true way to God.
- Jesus offers Himself to everyone and anyone who would believe.
- Jesus gives everyone an inclusive invitation to an exclusive approach to God.





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Williamsburg Community Chapel

wcchapel.org • 757-229-7152

3899 John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg, VA 23185

   @wcchapel757