

# tough Questions

*Is the Bible Reliable?*

## ***SERMON NOTES***

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

### 1. Historically Verifiable

- The New Testament records were written way too early
- The New Testament accounts are too counterproductive
- The New Testament accounts are too detailed

### 2. Culturally Confronting

### 3. Personally Relatable

APPEALING TO THE MIND AND HEART AND FINDING THE PERSON BEHIND THE BIBLE

# ***APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

## ***IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?***

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

**Q1. Is it important whether the stories in the Bible are 100% accurate or not?**

**Q2. Which of the reasons given do you like the most and why?**

**Q3. What do you think of RJ's comment that 'if the Bible is not confronting you, then you are probably reading it wrong'?**

# tough Questions

*Can We Know What God Is Like?*

## ***SERMON NOTES***

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020 | MARCUS WONG

### **1. How can I know God exists?**

- Clue 1: Big Bang Beginning
- Clue 2: The Fine-Tuning Argument
- Clue 3: Natural Theology

### **2. Even if God exists, how can I know what God is like?**

- "I may not know God fully, but I can know God truly."
- **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

# ***SERMON NOTES***

## ***CAN WE KNOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE?***

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020 | MARCUS WONG

### **3. Even if I know what God is like, how do I know how God feels about me?**

- How God feels about you depends on what you think and believe about Jesus.
- **18** No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. - **John 1:18**
- **6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." - **John 14:6-7**
- **9**...We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, **10** so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God... - **Colossians 1:9-10**

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

#### **Books:**

- The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism (Timothy Keller)
- Knowing God (J.I. Packer)

#### **Podcasts:**

- [Bible Project Podcast - Character of God Series](#)
- [Bible Project - Character of God - Exodus 34:6-7 Show Notes](#)
- [Knowing Faith Podcast - Ep#54 - Who is God?](#)

# ***APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

## ***CAN WE KNOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE?***

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020 | MARCUS WONG

**Q1. Have you ever wondered or felt unsure about what God is like? Why?**

**Q2. What can you do to help yourself and others know God "truly" and to grow in knowledge of Him?**

**Q3. Do you agree with Marcus when he said "how God 'feels' about you depends on what you think and believe about Jesus?" Why or why not?**

# tough Questions

*Can other religions also be true?*

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

## Sermon notes

**Introduction** - How can there be just one true faith?

1. The problem with exclusive claims
2. Everyone is making an exclusive claim
3. Christianity has a logical and appealing reason
  - Incarnation of Jesus
  - Type of salvation
  - The way of salvation

### **Conclusion**

Christianity claims an exclusive way, but it is inclusive to all people.

# tough Questions

*Can other religions also be true?*

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

## discussion questions

Q1. How would you respond to someone who says that religion has been the cause of many conflicts around the world?

Q2. Do you think it's really impossible to keep religion private? Why or why not?

Q3. How does Christianity help promote peace even in a non-Christian society?

# tough Questions

*How could a loving God allow suffering and pain*

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## Scripture

### **Present Suffering and Future Glory**

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



# tough Questions

*How could a loving God allow suffering and pain*

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## Sermon notes

**Intro:** It's personal; every single one of us has felt it

**The problem of evil**

1. An all-loving God would not allow evil, suffering, and pain
2. An all-powerful God could do something about it
3. There is so much suffering in the world
4. Therefore God is not all-loving or not all-powerful ... or simply does not exist

**Statement 1:** "An all-loving God would not allow evil, suffering, and pain"

- Pain can be good
- Something worse than evil
- Free will theory
- Greater good theory
- Soul building theory

**Statement 2:** "An all-powerful God could do something about it"

- He did
- He still is
- We can be part of it

**Recommended resources:**

- 'The Problem of Pain' by C.S. Lewis
- 'Where Is God When It Hurts?' and/or 'Disappointment with God' by Philip Yancey

# tough Questions

*How could a loving God allow suffering and pain*

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## discussion questions

Q1. What could be even worse than the suffering and pain we see and experience in this world?

Q2. How can we embrace and be part of the solution God offers?

Reframing the problem of evil

1. An all-loving God hates evil but allows it because... [Answer to Q1]
2. An all-powerful God did do something about it, and continues to. We can be part of it
3. There is so much suffering in the world
4. Therefore ... [Answer to Q2]

# tough Questions

*Has Science Made God Irrelevant?*

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020 | REV. DR CHRIS MULHERIN

## Scripture

### **Psalms 19**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. 11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

# tough Questions

*Has Science Made God Irrelevant?*

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020 | REV. DR CHRIS MULHERIN

## Sermon notes

### Intro:

- A taste of the universe
- Scientists and also Christians

### Psalm 19 - three ways to know God:

1. The book of God's Works
2. The book of God's Words
3. The Gospel of Forgiveness of Sins

### The relationship between science and faith:

- There are questions science cannot answer
- Mechanism vs Meaning
- How? and Why?

# tough Questions

*Has Science Made God Irrelevant?*

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020 | REV. DR CHRIS MULHERIN

## Discussion questions

Q1. Are you surprised by how many pioneers of modern science were/are also Christians?

Q2. Does it make sense that science and faith seek to answer different questions? What do you think of Chris' explanation of Mechanism vs Meaning?

# tough Questions

*Why make such a big deal about sex and sin?*

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## Sermon notes

### Recap 'Tough Questions' series:

1. Is the Bible reliable?
2. Can I know what God is like?
3. Can other religions also be true?
4. How could a loving God allow suffering and pain?
5. Has science made God irrelevant?

**Intro:** When it comes to sex and sin, is there such a thing as right and wrong? Who decides?

Four big questions every human being must answer:

1. Origin
2. Purpose
3. Morality
4. Destiny

**Recommended resource:** [What Is a Worldview? Ravi Zacharias on Origin, Meaning, Morality, and Destiny.](#)

### The world as it was made [Origin]

- Genesis chs. 1 and 2
- Cf. Matt 19:4-5
- Cf. Eph 5:28-32

# tough Questions

*Why make such a big deal about sex and sin?*

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## **The world as it is [Does it match God's purpose?]**

- Not always simple
- Sometimes real pain

## **The world how God hopes it to be [Morality]**

- How can we know what God wants? Romans 7:7
- Not necessity
- Love is not sex

## **The world as it will be [Destiny]**

- John 14:15-24
- Sin is 'lawlessness' cf. 1 John 3:4

**Recommended resource:** [Rosaria Butterfield - FAQs](#)

**Conclusion:** A choice we each have to make

# tough Questions

*Why make such a big deal about sex and sin?*

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## Discussion questions

Q1. When it comes to sex and sexuality, is there such a thing as right and wrong?

Q2. If yes, what makes it right or wrong? If no, does it sit well with you that every sexual expression is therefore morally acceptable?