

LIFEWISE ACADEMY



DIFFICULT QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

Quick Reference Guide

LifeWise Academy's mission field, the American public school system, exists in a pluralistic, religiously free environment. As a result, LifeWise students have been exposed to various worldviews and have many questions regarding the Bible's perspective on cultural issues, as well as faith and practice. Use this brief guide to address students' questions with compassion, humility and respect.

Existence Questions

- ◆ **Who created God?**
 - ◇ God is fundamentally different from you and me. He is eternal, which means He is without beginning or end. That means no one created Him. God has always existed and will always exist in the future.
 - ◇ Scripture: Ps. 90:1-2; Jn. 1:1-3; Deut. 33:27
- ◆ **What does God look like?**
 - ◇ God doesn't have a body and isn't made of flesh and bones. He is a spiritual being, so we can't see Him, just like we can't see the wind. No one has seen what God looks like (1 John 4:12), but the Bible tells us what He is like and how much He loves us.
 - ◇ Scripture: Jn. 1:18; Rev. 4:3; Dan. 7:9
- ◆ **What are angels?**
 - ◇ Angels are beings, created by God to worship and serve Him and to help God's people. Angels deliver God's messages, provide protection, give strength and bring judgment. God created angels distinctly from people in the very beginning.
 - ◇ Scripture: Ps. 148:5; Heb. 1:14; Gen. 18-19, 22:11-14; Is. 6:2-3; Daniel 10: 5-21; Rev. 7:11-14
- ◆ **Where did Satan come from?**
 - ◇ The Bible doesn't give a lot of clear details about when and why Satan was created, but it does tell us that God created Satan as a spirit, and Satan rebelled against God, becoming God's enemy. Satan is an evil spiritual being who lies, tempts us and seeks to destroy our lives. God has defeated Satan's power over us through Jesus' death and resurrection, and one day, Jesus will win the final battle against Satan, sending him to a place of eternal punishment.
 - ◇ Scripture: Rev 12:7-9; Job 1-2; Jn. 8:44, 10:10, 12:31

Family Questions

- ◆ **How can I honor my parents (step-parents, grandparents, live-ins) who do not follow God?**
 - ◇ We can't expect people who don't love God to follow Him, but we should still be respectful toward them and try to live peacefully with them. When faced with a choice to obey God or our parents, we should always obey God first.
 - ◇ Scripture: Acts 5:29; Rom. 12:18; 1 Pet. 2:13-17
- ◆ **My mom's boyfriend lives with us. Is that a sin?**

- ◇ In Genesis 2, God created the first man and woman to have a romantic relationship within the boundaries of marriage. This is His special and best plan. When two people reject God's plan and choose to live together without getting married first, God says it is sin.
- ◇ Scripture: Gen. 2; 1 Cor. 7:2
- ◆ **My parents are divorced. Did they break God's rules?**
 - ◇ Mark 10:5-9 tells us that when two people get married, they are joined together in a very special way. God does not want this bond to be broken apart. But God promises that when we repent and confess our sin, He will forgive us.
 - ◇ Scripture: Gen. 2:24; Mic. 2:16; 1 Jn. 1:9

Gender, Identity, Sex Questions

- ◆ **What would God think if I changed my gender?**
 - ◇ The Bible teaches that God made us male or female. No matter how we feel, or how confused we are, we should trust and respect God's perfect design and how He created us.
 - ◇ Scripture: Gen. 1:27; Ps. 139:13-16; Mk. 10:6; Jn. 10:10
- ◆ **What does the Bible say about being in a same-sex relationship?**
 - ◇ God designed the first man and woman to have a loving relationship with one another in marriage (Genesis 2). This was and still is God's perfect plan. God's Word tells us that anything different from this kind of romantic relationship between a husband and a wife is sin.
 - ◇ Scripture: Rom. 1:24-27; Lev. 18:22; 1 Cor. 6:9-11
- ◆ **Does God hate people in the LGBTQ+ community?**
 - ◇ God loves each person (Jn. 3:16) no matter what they do. But God is also perfect. All sin angers Him and makes Him sad. God wants us to turn away from sin and do what is right.
 - ◇ Scripture: Rom. 1:24-27; Lev. 18:22; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17
- ◆ **I am being asked what my pronouns are in school. Which pronouns should I use?**
 - ◇ This is something you should discuss with your parents.
 - ◇ In LifeWise class, we will call you by your name.
- ◆ **A boy in my class uses female pronouns. Should I use his preferred pronouns?**
 - ◇ Talk to your parents/guardians about this.
 - ◇ *Note: If disciplinary action is possible at the school, the student's parents/guardians can talk to the principal for further clarification and discussion.*
- ◆ **Is it okay to have sex before you are married?**
 - ◇ God created sexual intimacy to be experienced only within a marriage relationship between a man and a woman.
 - ◇ Scripture: 1 Cor. 7:2; Heb. 4:15; 1 Thes. 4:3-5, 7

Heaven Questions

- ◆ **What is Heaven like?**
 - ◇ The Bible doesn't tell us very much about Heaven. The most important thing we know is that we will be with God forever. God promises that anyone who believes in Jesus, His sacrifice for sin on the cross and His resurrection from the dead will go to be with God and live with Him forever!
 - ◇ Scripture: John 3:16; 1 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23
- ◆ **What will the New Heaven and Earth be like?**

- ❖ When Jesus returns, Heaven and Earth will be replaced with the New Heaven and Earth. It will be a place filled with joy; there will be no crying or sadness, no pain or hurt there. It will be filled with God's light and beauty. The Tree of Life and River of Life will be there. God will provide everything we need to live with Him.
- ❖ Scripture: Rev. 21:4; Rev. 21:23-35
- ◆ **Will my pets be in Heaven?**
 - ❖ The Bible doesn't clearly tell us, but when God created animals He said they were "good" (Gen. 1:25). God loves all animals, is concerned for and cares about them. He also cares about us and says we will be happy and completely fulfilled when we live with God.
 - ❖ Scripture: Ps. 147:9; Ps. 104:21; Lk. 12:6; Ps. 145:9
- ◆ **Will I see my family again in Heaven?**
 - ❖ The Bible says that those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus to save them from sin through His death on the cross will be able to go to Heaven. If both you and your loved ones have chosen to follow Jesus, then you will see them again in Heaven.
 - ❖ Scripture: 1 Thes. 4:13-18
- ◆ **Will I recognize my relatives in Heaven?**
 - ❖ The Bible doesn't say if we will look the same or different. It does say that after Jesus returns, God will give us new bodies without a sin nature. Our new bodies will be like Jesus' resurrected body; they will never grow old, sick or tired.
 - ❖ 1 Cor. 15:50-53; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2