

THE TRUTH ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

For ages
Grade 6+
(2011)

Activities
and NYE theme:
"Legends"

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love love?

relationships and the meaning of life

with only the top 40 and the top 10...

but why?

because of...

1. what you were made _____

2. what you were made _____

3. _____ you were made **BY... and **LIKE...** and **FOR...****

the bottom line...

Relationships ARE the meaning of life

INTRODUCTION

heart broken?

relationships and why they hurt

in search of perfection...

but why?

because we forget...

1. what we were made _____

because we neglect...

2. what we were made _____

because we reject...

3. who we were made BY... and LIKE... and FOR...

the solution?...

relationships and why they hurt

Check out the conversation cards below, created by the very cool Latrobe Uni Christian Union, and then ask yourself (again):

1. Which would **your friends** choose? And why?
2. Which would **you** choose? And why? (be honest...)
3. Which would **God** choose? And why?



What's Wrong?

- Suffering. Poverty, disease and injustice ruin the world we live in.
- Intolerance. There is no 'truth'. All truth claims are just power plays to judge, exclude and oppress.
- Greed. Because we always want more we fail to live in harmony with nature and each other.
- Self-centeredness. People reject their responsibilities, live for themselves and shame their family.
- Moral failure. The world has problems because we fail to do the right thing.
- Messed up love. We love self or work or status more than God. This is why we create cultures based on money, sex and power that ruin the world and bring God's judgment.

www.latrobe.cu.org.au
Design by: www.designministries.com.au

Let's look again at where the problem started...

Read Genesis 3:1-7.

Where did ALL our problems start?

Where did Adam and Eve go wrong?

When are we in danger of doing the same?

Read Genesis 3:8-24.

What are the consequences for our relationship with God?

What are the consequences for our relationships with one another?

Where do you see those consequences played out in the world around you?

Where do you see those consequences played out in your own life and relationships?

What would it take to reverse the hurt caused by them and by us?

What is one thing you could pass on to someone else from what you have learnt?
(Who will you tell?)

Spend some time confessing your part in the hurt of broken relationships.
And then thank God for the healing he offers in Jesus!

the relationship revolution

relationships and the One who got them right

the one solitary life...that changed EVERYTHING!

the disciples

_____ ; _____ ; _____

the Christ

_____ ; _____ ; _____

the pattern of His life

the pardon of His death

will you join the revolution?

TALK TWO

relationships and the One who got them right

Read Mark 10:35-37.

What do James and John ask for? Why?

Who is at the centre of their request?

How do they treat Jesus?

When do we do the same?

Read Mark 10:41-45

How is Jesus' approach to people and relationships **different** to that of James and John?

How is Jesus' approach to people and relationships **better** than that of James and John?

How is Jesus the perfect model of how to get relationships right? (see also Philippians 2:3-11)

Back to Mark 10...

Jesus IS the perfect model of relationships. But before we are able to follow his model, we desperately need him to do something else for us. What is it? (Hint: Mark 10:45)

from **Dictionary.com...**

ran·som [**ran**-suh m]

noun

- 1.** the redemption of a prisoner, slave, or kidnapped person, of captured goods, etc., for a price.
- 2.** the sum or price paid or demanded.
- 3.** a means of deliverance or rescue from punishment for sin, especially the payment of a redemptive fine.

verb (used with object)

- 4.** to redeem from captivity, bondage, detention, etc., by paying a demanded price.
- 5.** to release or restore on receipt of a ransom.
- 6.** to deliver or redeem from punishment for sin.

Have YOU accepted Jesus life as a ransom for you?

Are YOU following His perfect model of relationships? How?

What is one thing you could pass on to someone else from what you have learnt?
(Who will you tell?)

Praise God for the life and death (and resurrected rule) of Jesus!

STUDY TWO

true romance?

relationships and how to get them right #1

intro...

three things you NEED to know...

1. THAT God made it

- good
- special
- optional

2. WHY God made it

- for marriage

3. WHAT that means for now

relationships and how to get them right #1

Let's go back to the beginning (again...).

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:18-25.

What examples can you think of where our world denies, or distorts, or damages...

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

What is God's warning to those who deny Him and distort, and damage his good design for love, sex and romance?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:11

What hope is there in Jesus?

What advice (=commands!) does God give for how to get it right before and outside of marriage?

Job 31:1

Song of Songs 2:7 (cf. 3:5, 8:4)

Ephesians 5:3-4

1 Corinthians 6:18

1 Corinthians 7:8-9

Philippians 4:12-13

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

1 Timothy 5:1-2

What is one (specific and practical) way you could live out what you've learnt?

What is one thing you could pass on to someone else from what you have learnt?
(Who will you tell?)

Spend some time thanking God for his perfect pattern of romance.

And pray that He would help you trust Him - that he knows what's best and wants what's best for you.

STUDY THREE

bff?

relationships and how to get them right #2

friends...

we all want them... we all need them... and yet...

how to be a GREAT friend...

be _____

be _____

be _____

be _____

be like _____

TALK FOUR

relationships and how to get them right #2

Brainstorm together and come up with two lists: one of what good friends do, and one of what they don't.

good friends do...	good friends don't...

And now let's see if God agrees...

Look up the following parts of Gods Word and write God's lists of 'friendship do's and 'friendship don'ts.

- Proverbs 11:12-13; 22:24-25; 24:28-29
- Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:10
- Proverbs 27:6; 28:23; 29:5
- Proverbs 24:26; 27:9, 17
- Proverbs 25:17, 20; 26:18-19; 27:14; 17:9
- John 15:13

good friends do...	good friends don't...

In what ways is Jesus the VERY best example of a VERY great friend?

What are one or two (specific and practical) ways you could avoid the don'ts and do the dos listed?

What is one thing you could pass on to someone else from what you have learnt?
(Who will you tell?)

Spend some time thanking God for his perfect pattern of friendship.
And pray He would help you be a great friend (like Jesus).

STUDY FOUR

the Truth about Relationships

Relationships & YOU

the LOVE test...

part 1: theory

part 2: practical

one - wednesday december 28th

pray

Dear Lord God, today as I sit quietly for this time, please help me to understand what I read, and to remember all that you are. Open my heart to know what I need to know, I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

read

Question 1

What is our chief purpose in life?

Our chief purpose in life is to glorify God in everything we do, and to enjoy Him forever

Have you got a pen in your hand at the moment? What is the purpose of that pen? Is it to be eaten? Perhaps it is used for washing? What about using the pen for updating your Facebook status? No? None of these? What about using the pen for writing?

At last you've found the purpose for this pen. You can use it to write about anything, but its purpose is to write, not to be eaten or washed or Facebooked; just for writing.

The first question of the catechism asks about our chief purpose in life. "Chief purpose" is like saying "This is the main thing in my life" - for a pen it is writing; for you it is to glorify God and enjoy Him in everything that you do. When you think about what you want to do with your life, your decision will be different to those around you. Some will be a teacher, or a software engineer, or even an accountant. (Yes, I know it's hard to believe, but there really are people who choose to do that!)

Regardless of our job, all of us have a chief purpose in life - to glorify God in everything we do and enjoy Him forever - and that should guide us no matter what we do.

write

What does the word "chief" mean in this question?

What do you plan to do with your life?

How can you glorify God in this?

meditate

Read 1 Cor 10:23-33, but focus on v31.

Spend a few minutes thinking about this verse and write down how you can glorify God in what you eat, drink, and in what you do.

discuss

talk about this with others to see how you can all glorify God in your lives.

two - thursday december 29th

pray

Lord, as I come to you today, thankful for food and friends, help me to understand you more and more. Amen

read

Question 5 Is there more than one God?
No, there is only one true and living God.

Question 6 How many persons are there in the Godhead?
There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are one God, identical in being, and equal in power and glory.

Friends and family are important for us all. That's because God has created us to be social creatures. So relationships are important for us. Sometimes those relationships go bad, but not always.

These questions from the catechism help us see that God understands relationships because he is in relationship. While there is only one God, there are three persons in this Godhead and this is a perfect relationship. It is a simple description of what is called the Trinity – One God in Three Persons.

write

What makes someone a good friend?

How does Jesus help us in our relationships?

meditate

Read Jeremiah 10:1-10, and try to memorise verse 10. Write it below:

Read Matthew 28:16-20 and see how Jesus affirms the place of the trinity.

Spend a few minutes thinking about the importance of a God who understands relationships.

discuss

Talk with others about the importance of relationships and how God is able to help you.

three - friday december 30th

pray

Dear Lord, there is so much in this universe that is hard to understand, so I pray that you will help me understand what I need to know. Help me to understand your wonderful gift to me in Jesus. Amen.

read

Question 20 Did God leave all humanity to perish in sin and misery?
No. From all eternity, God in his good pleasure elected a certain number of people to eternal life. He entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them from their sin and misery, and bring them to salvation by a Redeemer.

Question 21 Who is the redeemer of God's elect?
The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who being the eternal Son of God became man. He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever. See 1 Tim 2:5-6

We all know that the world is often a troubled place. There are people who are suffering because the government of their country is hopelessly corrupt. Others are trying to earn a living but are being terribly exploited by their employers. And all are sinners. But there is a hope, and questions 20 and 21 help us to see that hope - his name is Jesus.

write

Who is the only redeemer of mankind?

Is it important that in Jesus, God has become human? Why?

meditate

read 1 Timothy 2:1-6. Focus on verse 5.

Spend some time thinking about the significance of the phrase "only one mediator" and what this means when people tell you that you don't need Jesus to get to heaven.

discuss

Talk with others about all that Jesus has done for them, and for yourself.

four - saturday december 31st

pray

Dear Lord, as we look into the heavens we see the magnificent beauty of creation, and as we look around us we see the beauty of creation in different colours and textures and sights. Thank you also for creating men and women and for the beauty of your design. Help us to recognise this beauty without abusing it.

read

Question 70

What is the seventh commandment?

The seventh commandment is: 'You shall not commit adultery'

Question 71

What does the seventh commandment require?

The seventh commandment requires us to preserve our own and other people's sexual purity, in heart, speech and behaviour.

It would be good if people read Exodus 20 as the Ten Commandments and not just "some good ideas for living." These are the basic laws of God, and as such should be obeyed by all people. The first of these commandments is vitally important, and we would encourage you to look carefully at that, but with all we have worked through in this camp, it's good to look at the seventh commandment.

Most people understand adultery to mean "be sexually faithful to your husband/wife", and that's a good definition. But what if you're not married? Can you be guilty of committing adultery? (The answer is 'Yes').

write

how is it possible to commit adultery when you're not married?

How can you do what the answer to question 71 asks you to do?

meditate

read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

Look at verse 3. Spend some time thinking about why God sees this to be important.

Now look at verse 6 and think about why it is important for our friends that we are like this?

discuss

Talk with others about what you thought about in the meditation time.

five - sunday january 1st 2012

pray

Lord, as this camp comes to a conclusion, and I leave this place where I've been able to spend time learning and praying, please help me to continue this when I get home. Amen

read

Question 86 What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace by which we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered to us in the gospel.

Some people seem to struggle to have faith in anything. This is really weird, because in reality they use faith everyday of their lives! They put faith in their doctor and take the medicine she prescribes. They put faith in other drivers when driving down the road. They exercise faith that the bus driver will follow the route he is supposed to take. So faith shouldn't be a strange concept to people.

Faith in this context isn't about medicine or getting home on time, but on what God has done in Jesus to free us from our sins. A key word in this question and answer is the word alone. It is only in Jesus that we can find salvation. Nothing else. Nothing. Zip. Zilch. Only Jesus.

And instead of being a limiting thought, it sets us free from worrying if we've found the right formula or guru to knowing immediately there is a way to be free, and his name is Jesus. What a great thought.

meditate

Read Philippians 3:1-11, particularly verses 8-9. Spend some time thinking about these words: the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

discuss

Talk with others about God's grace.

What have you learned about this grace?

How have you experienced God's grace?

Take a moment to pray with your friends as you prepare to leave Summer Camp and start 2012.

QUIET TIMES