



Did God Really Say...?

Family Discussion Guide

Did God Really Say Series // September 18, 2022

Discussion Questions for Kids

- 1. When God makes something a certain way, how do you think He feels when we don't follow His plan? The Bible tells us that when we don't follow God's plan for marriage, the consequences can be really bad (Romans 1:18). Do consequences mean God doesn't love us anymore? Do you think Jesus knew about marriage and how people sometimes don't follow God's plan for it? Why or why not?**
 - It makes God sad when we don't follow His plan. But He is ready to forgive us when we ask for it (Romans 8:1-2; Romans 10:9-10).
 - If you disobey, does your name get changed to The Disobeyer and everyone knows you by that name now? No! You're still you, not the wrong thing you did. God does not see us as our sin. He never stops loving us and wants us to ask Him to forgive us (Romans 8:1-2; Romans 10:9-10). God takes away our sin, but not the consequences (God forgave Moses for his disobedience, but he still didn't get to enter the Promised Land).
 - Jesus said marriage should be for a man and a woman for their whole lives (Matthew 19:3-6). He would have known all about people not following God's plan for marriage, because that was happening when he lived.



2. Have you ever barked like a dog? Or have you ever wanted to be a cute puppy? Did that mean you suddenly became a dog and started eating dog food, playing with dog toys, or sleeping in a dog bed? No! Our identity (who God made us) doesn't change because of our behaviors or desires. Why do you think we are tempted to say a person is a bigger sinner because of their behavior? Why does it matter how we behave or if we follow God's plan?

- The Bible says we are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27) and our identity (who God made us) is found in Christ, not in what we do (Galatians 3:27-28).
- As followers of Christ, our identity comes from what God says about us, not our actions or what other people say. God says that as believers, we are His children (John 1:12-13), joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:16-17), a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), and cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). There's nothing there about whether we play sports, go to dance classes, or like to climb trees. Those things are not eternal. The identity God gives us lasts through eternity.
- The Bible says we have all sinned (Romans 3:23). Acting different from someone else doesn't make us better, worse, or more holy. If our sin is different from someone else's, we can be tempted to think we are better or worse than them because our actions are different. God doesn't categorize us by our sin. Neither should we. Just as we do not receive our identity from our desires or behaviors, we don't receive our identity from our sin.
- The Bible never says of any sin, "Don't do that unless it feels right to you. Then, it's totally fine." Truly trusting the Bible as the Word of God means we change ourselves to fit God's Word, we don't change God's Word to fit what we want.

3. Do you think God still loves us when we sin? Why or why not? How should we love others when they sin? How can we love someone but not the things they do? Do you think we can ever do anything too bad for God to forgive us?

- God always loves us and our friends and family more than we can ever imagine. He wants the absolute best for us, even when we sin. The Bible says He IS love (1 John 4:8)!



- It is possible to love someone, show kindness, grace, and mercy and not agree with what they do or how they act. Knowing that we all have sin in our lives and are tempted to sin helps us remember how important it is to love others.
- The Bible tells us there is no condemnation for us when we become a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). When we are following Jesus, the Holy Spirit will convict us of our sin. Conviction pushes us toward God through repentance and a changed heart. Condemnation is from Satan and pushes us away from God through feelings of guilt and shame.
- Even things outside of God's plan are not outside of His forgiveness and redemption. If you or someone you know is convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, God is waiting to forgive, begin the healing process, and allow you to move forward with a changed heart.

Discussion Questions for Students

1. **The Bible is clear that homosexuality is against God's design because He designed sex for marriage, which is for one man and one woman for one lifetime (Genesis 2:23-24). The language the New Testament uses to condemn sexual sin is quite extreme (Romans 1:18, 24-27). Why do you think that is? Is there a distinction between a person and their behavior? Can a person feel an attraction to someone of the same sex and still be a Christian? Can we know if something is a sin if Jesus never talked about it? Did homosexuality exist when Jesus was on earth?**
 - The Bible shows us that the danger with sexual sin is that God allows us to continue in it, which leads to devastating personal consequences.
 - There's a difference between attraction and action. Jesus makes clear that lusting or acting on an inappropriate attraction of any kind is sin, not the attraction itself (Matthew 5:27).
 - We are all sinners (Romans 3:23), so being left to our own devices is never beneficial to us.
 - We are not our sin. Romans 8:1-2 tells us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Romans 10:9-10 tells us everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.



- Jesus didn't have to specifically mention everything in order for us to know if it's a sin or not. Jesus didn't mention human trafficking, but we know it is condemned by the Bible. In Matthew 19:3-6, Jesus affirms that sex is exclusively for a man and a woman within the boundaries of marriage.
- Jesus would have been very aware of homosexuality. It was widely accepted in world cultures at that time, even further back than Alexander the Great, hundreds of years before Jesus lived on earth. At that time, homosexuality was only condemned by the Jewish people and Christians who followed Jesus.

2. Are you tempted to define yourself by your sexual orientation? Why or why not? Do you think our culture tries to define us by our sexuality? Do you think having only heterosexual temptations makes someone a better person or less of a sinner? How do we separate the sin from the person? Why isn't this an issue where we can just let everyone do what feels right to them?

- We must never reduce our identity to our desires or behaviors. Our desires may explain behavior, but should never define who we are. We are God's image-bearers and our identity is found in Christ, not in what we do (Galatians 3:27-28).
- As followers of Christ, our identity comes from what God says about us. God says that as believers, we are His children (John 1:12-13), joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:16-17), a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), and cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). There's nothing there about sexuality - or race, nationality, social status, or any other category we like to place ourselves in. Those categories are not eternal. The identity God gives us lasts through eternity.
- Having only heterosexual temptations doesn't make you holy. The Bible is clear that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23). Jesus tells us we are to die to ourselves and our desires every day in order to follow Him (Luke 9:23). We are born with a sin nature, which shows itself in all kinds of ways. Sexual sin (of any kind) is just one way.
- We all sin (Romans 3:9-10). We might be tempted to judge someone whose sin is different from ours, but the truth is that God doesn't categorize us by our sin. Neither should we. Just as we do not



receive our identity from our desires, we don't receive our identity from our sin.

- The Bible never says of any sin, "Don't do that unless it feels right to you. Then, it's totally fine." Any time Paul addresses sexual sin, he clearly says we should run from it (1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22). Truly trusting the Bible as the Word of God means we change ourselves to fit God's Word, we don't change God's Word to fit our desires.

3. What do you think of the "love is love" attitude of our culture today? And why does it even matter? What if someone was born this way?

- Love does not celebrate sin, but truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). Sometimes love seems tough because sometimes the truth is tough. The Bible, God's ultimate book of truth, says that any sexual intimacy outside of God's design is sin.
- The Bible has many definitions and descriptions of love, which focus on selflessness, not selfishness (1 Corinthians 13).
- We are all born with a sin nature (Romans 3:10). What matters is not how we were born, but what we do once we are confronted with our sin. Jesus would say we must be born again (John 3:3).
- The answer to our sin problem is not changing our behavior, it's allowing Jesus to change our heart. Only by being born again and seeking holiness through our relationship with Jesus can our hearts be changed. We don't need to try to fix ourselves before coming to Jesus. Through Christ, we can still be tempted to sin without committing the sinful act. The challenge is to recognize sin for what it is, confess it, and ruthlessly eradicate it in our lives. That can only be done through a relationship with Christ.

4. What if I know someone who is living a homosexual lifestyle? What should I say or do? What if this is something I struggle with?

- God loves our friends and family more than we ever could. He wants the absolute best for them.
- It is possible to love someone, show kindness, grace, and mercy while not affirming how they live. Remembering that we all have sin in our lives and are tempted to sin helps us gain perspective on loving others.



- The Bible tells us there is no condemnation for us when we become a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). When we are following Jesus, the Holy Spirit will convict us of our sin. Conviction pushes us toward God through repentance and a changed heart. Condemnation is from Satan and pushes us away from God through guilt and shame.
- Even things outside of God's plan are not outside of His redemption. If you or someone you know is convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, God is waiting to forgive, begin the healing process, and allow you to move forward with a changed heart.

