

GOD IS...

GOD IS PEACE

*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,
to the which also ye are called in one body;
and be ye thankful.*

COLOSSIANS 3:15

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The peace in Colossians 3:15 is a peace that results from the gospel. It is a peace that permeates through all of life and relationships. Leading up to this verse, Paul commands us to put on: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, a forgiving spirit, and above all else love. These are the attributes which result in peace.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Do you know where true peace comes from? True peace comes from being saved into God's family and then walking in righteousness with God. These are two types of related peace.
- Is there peace in your family? Why or why not?
- Describe a time in your life when you had peace because you were at peace with God? (You are trying to connect walking in righteousness with having peace in life and its relationship.)
- Personal Story Option: Talk about a time in your life when you had peace with God because you were doing right.

GOD IS WITH US

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

JOSHUA 1:9

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This is the last verse of Joshua's commission. Moses has passed into eternity. The nation of Israel is on the doorstep of the Promised Land. Nearly three million Israelites are looking for direction and leadership. All of these pressures are bearing down on Joshua. But God says to him, "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither dismayed". Why can Joshua be encouraged in the face of a daunting task? Because God is with him. Imagine playing a basketball game of two on two against two teenagers who are very proficient compared to you. But you get to play with Michael Jordan on your team. Regardless of your strength or skill, you are on the winning team because of who is on your side. Just like in this analogy, God is on your side. Therefore, it does not matter what you are up against, with God on your side, you will overcome the obstacles of life.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- If you were playing a game of two on two, who would you want on your team if you could have anyone in the world? Who would you rather have on your team than God Himself?
- If God is with us, why can't we see Him? *This is why we need to have faith. Hebrews 11:1 says that our faith is the evidence of things not seen.*
- Do you ever need to do something all on your own? *God is always ready and willing to help you.*
- God is with you. But how do you access His help? *Prayer.*
- Personal Story Option: Talk about a time in your life where you faced something difficult, but God was with you and brought you through it.

GOD IS HOPE

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

ROMANS 15:13

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Paul quotes verse after verse from the Old Testament in Romans 15, all of which speak about the hope Gentiles have in Christ. All of our hope comes from knowing the gospel and trusting in Christ. It is only because of what Christ did on the cross that we can hope, even in the middle of hardships. Because of our salvation, not even the most difficult trials of this life can diminish our joy.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are hoping for your birthday? For Christmas? When you die?
- What is hope? *Our hope is that we get to spend an eternity with God, instead of an eternity in hell. Hope is what I look forward to, and what I wait for.*
- Where does hope come from? *The gospel and ultimately God.*
- What is the worst thing that could ever happen to you and why could you even have hope then?
- Personal Story Option: Talk about a difficult circumstance that did not diminish your hope.

GOD IS A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

PSALM 46:1

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Where there is danger, help must be readily available. Lifeguards are stationed right on the water because they need to be a very present help when there is trouble. At times, we struggle in the waters of life. We begin to drown as storms stir the sea of life. But God is there all the while, ready to rescue you.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Have you ever had to call 911? If so, how long did it take for them to get there? Did you know that God was there the whole time?
- Are you going through a trial?
- Have you been in trouble? What was the first thing you did? *The first thing we need to do is pray.*
- Personal Story Option: Talk about a trial you faced and reacted to with prayer.

GOD IS MY GUIDE

*For this God is our God for ever and ever:
he will be our guide even unto death.*

PSALM 48:14

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Have you ever come to a fork in the road, unable to decide which way to go? This happens countless times in life. Every day we are faced with decisions that we need God's wisdom for. God is our guide.

Psalm 48:14 combines God's infinite nature and faithfulness with His guidance. The result of this powerful combination is that there will never be a decision God will not guide you through, whether by His Word or providence.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- When do we need a guide? *When we don't know the way to go.*
- Do we need a guide for our life decisions?
- What does God's Word have to say about any decision you are making now?
- Personal Story Option: Talk about the any life decisions that God clearly lead you through.

GOD IS LOVE

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 JOHN 4:7-8

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

You are like your parents. That is to say, you resemble your family. God loves. If you are a child of His, you will love. To be unloving is not God-like. 1 Corinthians 13 says love is patient, kind, not envious or boasting, not arrogant or rude, not stubborn, not irritable or resentful. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and never ends. We must behave this way towards others.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is love? *God choosing to love you before you loved Him is the most vivid image of unconditional, biblical love.*
- Besides the cross, what is the greatest act of love you have witnessed? *Use this conversation starter to talk about the love of the cross.*
- Who do you struggle to love the most? *People who don't love you. Christ loved everyone, even those who hated Him.*
- Personal Story Option: Talk about when you received the gospel and first experience God's true love.

GOD IS INFINITE

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,
saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to
come, the Almighty.*

REVELATION 1:8

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

According to Noah Webster, this means that God is “without limits; boundless; God is infinite in duration, having neither beginning nor end of existence. He is also infinite in presence and his perfections are infinite.” As humans, our minds cannot even begin to understand what it means to be infinite.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- How big is God?
- What does infinite mean? *Without end. Just keep going It means that if you attempted to count from zero to infinity, you would run out of breathe before you ever ran out of numbers.*
- Who made God? *No one. It takes an uncreated creator to have the world we have. Every other theory of our beginning starts with something that was caused by something before it, going back forever, evolution for one. But this is flawed even logically. God has always been, making Him the uncaused cause.*
- What happens when you apply being infinite to the rest of God's attributes?
- Personal Experiment Option: Go to the wooden sign we have for “God is Infinite” and have your camper trace their finger on the sideways 8. Tell them that they can stop when they come to the end of the line. This is what it means to be infinite.
- Personal Story Option: Tell a story that illustrates that the bottom line is that God is much bigger than you.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE

*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee
from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art
there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.
If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the
uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand
lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

PSALM 139:7-10

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Hide-and-seek with God is truly unfair. He is all places. He sees everything. And because he sees everything, he knows everything that is happening. God sees you when you sin; when you cry; and when you are in danger.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Did you have a favorite hiding spot as a kid where you kept your treasures? Do you think God knows where it is? *Yes.*
- Have you ever run from home or from a problem you had? Can you run from God? *We cannot. God is everywhere.*
- If God is everywhere, when can I talk to Him? *Anytime.*
- If God is everywhere, what does He know? *Everything.*

GOD IS GOOD

*O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good:
for his mercy endureth forever.*

PSALM 136:1

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

People are often tempted to doubt God's goodness because of evil. It is essential to understand that God is good in spite of evil. Remember that it was humans who chose sin and consequently received the sin-curse. Because of God's goodness, He chose to send His Son so that we could have eternal life. God is good even though we do not deserve it. It is good to be near to God. Life is good when I am upright and therefore walking in fellowship with my heavenly Father. The good life is being relationally close to my heavenly Father.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is the good life? *The nearness of God is good according to Psalm 73:28. Being around God as much as possible is good.*
- If God is good, how do we explain bad things? *Bad is a result of sin which humans chose in the Garden of Eden.*
- What was Satan's first lie? *God is not good.*
- How is God good to us? *The gospel.*
- What does God mean when He says that all things will work together for good? *Romans 8:28 is defined by verse 29 which identifies God's purpose as conforming His people to Christ's image.*

GOD IS FAITHFUL

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Faithful means forever. God is forever the same. His promises are always true. He keeps His word. God will never fail you. He will never let the temptations of this life overwhelm you. He is always merciful and gracious. There are approximately 3,573 promises in the Bible. God has fulfilled and will fulfill all of them.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Do you have a faithful friend?
- Have you ever been let down by someone?
- Will God ever let you down? Can you trust God? *God will never let you down. You can always trust Him.*
- Where do you need to be more faithful like God is?

CONSIDER THE ANT

*Go to the ant, thou sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.*

PROVERBS 6:6

Ants can carry items 50 times the mass of their body. Worker ants sleep for about five hours a day. They are constantly working. Ants move an average of 50 tons of soil each year in one square mile. They have a biblical work ethic.

**THE LESSON HERE IS . . .
DON'T BE LAZY, BUT BE LIKE THE ANT!**

CONSIDER THE RAVENS

Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

LUKE 12:24

Americans, the most prosperous people in the world, suffer the most from worry and stress. In Luke 12, Jesus is exhorting the people to trust God for their supply. A raven could be purchased in the marketplace in Christ's day for the equivalent of 25 cents. This bird can do nothing to produce the food it needs for its survival. Yet, they continue. Why? Because God provides for even the raven. How much more will God provide for you?

**THE LESSON HERE IS . . .
DON'T WORRY; TRUST GOD INSTEAD.**

CONSIDER YOUR PRECEPTS

*Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord,
according to thy lovingkindness. Thy word is true
from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous
judgments endureth forever.*

PSALM 119:159-160

In Psalm 119, David is contrasting his love for God's Word with the disregard of God's Word by the world. David loved God's Word because it is truth and forever right. There are no flaws in God's Word. Also, it is the source of our knowledge of God. If we love God, we will love His Word because it is our bridge to knowing Him.

THE LESSON HERE IS . . .

**YOU WILL LOVE GOD'S WORD IF YOU LOVE GOD. GOD'S WORD IS
THE OBJECTIVE WAY TO KNOW WHO GOD IS AS A PERSON.**

CONSIDER A MAN

*For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth
all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death,
where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.*

*For he will not lay upon man more than right;
that he should enter into judgment with God.*

JOB 34:21–23

When we look at a man there are many things that we do not know. We do not know how smart he is or how musical he is. We may see from looking at him that he is strong, but we do not know if he is emotionally strong or if he is spiritually mature. These verses are telling us that God does not need to consider a man. He is not trying to figure man out. He knows everything about man, and man can't hide anything from Him. Nothing is hidden from God. We may consider a man because we don't know much about him. God does not need to consider a man, because He knows everything about him.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- How do you know if someone is smart? Have you ever met someone that was different on the inside than you expected from the outside? *We consider a man because we don't know about them but God does.*
- How much do you know about me? Not much? Who knows everything about me? *It is hard to know much about people unless they tell us or unless we have known them for a long time. God knows everything about me because he sees all and knows all and has always been around me.*
- Can you play hide and seek with God? *No. God knows your every move and it is impossible to hide from God. God will never wonder where you are or what you have done.*
- Personal story option: Have you ever tried to run away from God. For most people they have a story of a time they tried to run away or hide from something. Tell the story of how God never lost track of you and what He did to bring you closer to Him.

THE LESSON HERE IS . . .

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT A MAN.

CONSIDER HOW A MAN IS NOT ABLE TO HIDE FROM GOD.

CONSIDER THE LILIES

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you,

○ ye of little faith?

MATTHEW 6:28–30

Flowers are beautiful. But they can do nothing to dress themselves. They can't sow an outfit for themselves. Rather, God is the one who dresses them in their beauty. King Solomon, one of the wealthiest men to live, could not clothe himself as beautifully as God clothes His creation.

THE LESSON HERE IS . . .

THE FLOWERS AND BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION
REMINDE US DAILY THAT GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF US.
IF HE CARES FOR A FLOWER WHICH QUICKLY FADES AND DIES,
HOW MUCH MORE WILL HE CARE FOR YOU?

CONSIDER GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE FOR YOU

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

1 SAMUEL 12:24

Fearing God is: loving God so much that you do not want to do anything that will hurt Him respecting God so much that you do not want to do anything that will bring His wrath upon your life. We are to serve God with our whole lives. But why should we fear and serve God? Because of the awe-inspiring things God has done for us.

THE LESSON HERE IS . . .

GOD HAS MADE ETERNAL LIFE AVAILABLE TO YOU. HE HAS SENT HIS SON TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR YOU. IT IS GOD'S AMAZING LOVE THAT LEADS US TO FEAR AND THEN SERVE HIM.

CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER

*And let us consider one another
to provoke unto love and good works.*

HEBREW 10:24

What would it take to create a culture of loving others and doing right? This is what the author of Hebrews is asking us to brainstorm. By considering one another, we stir others to love and good works.

THE LESSON HERE IS . . .

**CONSIDERING SOMEONE ELSE AND PUTTING HIM OR HER
BEFORE YOU HAS A VERY POWERFUL EFFECT. YOU BEGIN
TO CREATE A CULTURE OF LOVE AND GOOD WORKS.**

CONSIDER THE HEAVENS

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

PSALM 8:3-4

There are 4,800 known planets in the universe. Did you know that you could fit over 300,000 earths inside the sun? One light year is the distance light travels in a year which is equivalent to 5.88 trillion miles. Our galaxy is 100,000 light years wide. There are 200,000,000,000 stars in our galaxy alone. There are thousands of galaxies that we know about.

THE LESSON HERE IS . . .

**THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT THE UNIVERSE,
THE SMALLER WE REALIZE WE ARE. YET GOD THINKS
ABOUT US AND CARES FOR US. YOU ARE A SPECK OF DUST
ON THE HORIZON OF THE GALAXY, UNIDENTIFIABLE WITHOUT
THE HELP OF A TELESCOPE. YET GOD LOVES YOU.**



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