

Essential Questions of Life

Making God Real Review

Family Study Guides • Making God Real Series

The Essential Questions of Life

This Family Study Guide is a brief review of the main topics covered in the Making God Real series which reviewed God's Doctrines and the Fundamental Beliefs of United Church of God. These concepts are the most basic understanding of God and His plan for mankind. We suggest you use this Family Study Guide as a review to challenge your family's understanding of these basic concepts.

Question 1: Does God Exist?

Key Scripture

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1. God has always existed, He has always been.

Isaiah 46:9-10, Revelation 1:8, Hebrews 13:8

- a. *Acts 15:18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works."*
- b. If God is real, why can't we see Him?
 - God reveals Himself to us through Scripture.
 - God reveals Himself to us through His creation.
 - Belief in God takes faith (*Hebrews 11:1, 6*).
 - For those who refuse to believe in God, no evidence will convince them (*Romans 1:21*).

2. Where is God?

- a. God is in heaven (*Ecclesiastes 5:2*).
- b. God created three heavens (*2 Corinthians 12:2*).
 - First heaven—where planes and birds fly.
 - Second heaven—where planets, sun, moon and stars are.
 - Third heaven—Where God's throne is (*Psalms 11:4, Isaiah 66:1*).
- c. What is the third heaven (God's throne) like?
 - God sits on a throne (*Matthew 5:34*).
 - Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God (*Hebrews 12:2*).
 - Revelation chapter 4 gives a description of God's throne.
- d. Who is with God in the third heaven?
 - Angels are all around the throne (*Revelation 7:11*).
 - Twenty-four elders sit around the throne of God (*Revelation 11:16*).
 - There are four living creatures at the throne of God (*Revelations 7:11*).
- e. Who is able to come to the throne of God?

- We can through prayer.
- Angels

3. God is everywhere.

- a. God is omnipresent which means that God is present everywhere.
- b. Because God is everywhere, we cannot hide from God (*Psalms 139:7-10*).
- c. God sees all things and nothing can be hidden from His knowledge (*Psalms 44:21, Hebrews 4:13*).

Question 2: Who and What is God?

1. God is spirit.

- a. A spirit is something we can't see, feel or hear. We can't see God because He is spirit, but we can see the things He has done.

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. God is love.

(1 John 4:7-8, 1 John 4:16)

3. God looks like man

Actually, man looks like God.

- a. We are created in God's image (*Genesis 1:26*).
- b. God has arms, hands, face and eyes (*Exodus 33:18-23, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Job 40:9, Isaiah 59:1*).

4. God is Omnipotent

He is the supreme ruler.

- a. Omnipotent means all-ruling or almighty (*Job 38:1—39:30*).
- b. God has rulership and authority over all creation (*Isaiah 46:10-11*).
- c. God rules over people (*Psalms 66:5-7, Daniel 4:17*).

5. God has personality

He is a powerful being with emotions.

- a. God leads a life full of joy (*Jeremiah 32:41, Luke 15:10-32*).
- b. God laughs (sometimes in derision) (*Psalms 59:8*).
- c. God feels deep compassion (*Luke 15*).
- d. God gets angry (*Deuteronomy 9:8, 20*).
- c. God can change His mind (*Deuteronomy 9*).
- d. God has a sense of humor (*Numbers 22:28*).
- e. God is patient (*Romans 15:5*).

6. God is...

- a. God is a father (*Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6*).
 - God is older and wiser. He has always been.
 - God concerned about us and is kind, generous and understanding.
 - God loves His children and corrects them (*Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6*).
 - God is merciful and forgives us when we sin (*Psalms 103:8-14*).
- b. God is a generous provider.
 - God provides us with food, clothing and shelter (*Matthew 6:8*).
 - God gives us not only things but time and of Himself
- c. God is a friend.
 - Abraham was called a friend of God (*James 2:23*).
 - God wants to share His kingdom with us (*Luke 12:32*).
- d. God is a teacher.
 - God gives us rules to live by. He gave us the 10 Commandments (*Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5*).
 - God teaches us how to love one another (*John 13:34-35, John 15:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9*).
 - God teaches us from our youth (*Psalms 71:17-18*).
- e. God listens to us (*Job 22:27, Psalm 6:9, Psalm 66:19, Proverbs 15:29, 1 John 5:14*).
 - God listens to our prayers. Our prayers go before Him (*Psalm 88:1-2*).
 - Prayers are a delight to God (*Proverbs 15:8*).
 - God wants us to pray (*Philippians 4:6*).
- f. God is a creator and planner.
 - God appreciates beauty. This is demonstrated by the variety of flowers, trees, birds, insects and other creatures He made.
 - God created the world in which we live (*Genesis 1:1–2:7*).
 - God created the Sabbath and Holy Days to reveal his plan for mankind.

Question 4: What is God's Purpose

Key Scripture: 1 John 3:1a

1. God's Purpose is to have a family.

- God is a creator and is creating a family.
- God wants many people to be called to glory.

2. He is creating the family of God.

- a. God the Father has a Son, Jesus Christ. They look alike (*Genesis 1:26*).
 - Jesus Christ does the will of His Father (*John 6:44*).
- b. God is our Father.
When we pray, say "Our Father, which art in heaven..." (*Matthew 6:8-15*)
- c. We are sons and daughters (*2 Corinthians 6:18*). We are sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ (*Galatians 3:26*). We are children of God (*Romans 8:15-17*).
 - The whole family in heaven and earth is named after God (*Ephesians 3:14-15*).
 - God wants us to be a part of His family in His kingdom.

Questions 5 & 6: Who and What is Man?

Key Scriptures: Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 64:8

1. Who is man?

- a. Man is a physical, temporary being created by God to think, reason, plan and make choices.
- b. Man is a fearfully and wonderfully made being (*Psalms 139:13-16*).
- c. Man is a future son of God (*Revelation 21:7*).

2. What is man?

- a. Man is a physical being created by God (*Genesis 1:26-28*).
- b. Man was made from the dust of the earth (*Genesis 2:7, Ecclesiastes 3:20; 12:7*).
- c. God breathed the breath of life into man (*Genesis 2:7*).
- d. Woman was made from the rib of man (*Genesis 2:21-23*).
- e. Man is made in the image of God (*Genesis 1:26-28*).

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Question 7: What is Man's Purpose?

Key Scripture: Romans 8:16-17a

1. What is man's purpose?

- a. To have dominion over the earth. To care and tend what God created.
- b. To develop holy, righteous character and qualify to become a part of the family of God (*Matthew 6:33*).
- c. To become like God, to be a part of God's family (*Revelation 21:3*).
- d. To have eternal life through Jesus Christ (*1 John 5:11*).

2. What does God require of man?

- a. To fear Him and keep His commandments (*Ecclesiastes 12:13*).
- b. To do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God (*Micah 6:8*).
- c. To love Him. (*1 John 4:8, Matthew 22:37*—heart, soul & mind)
- d. God needs to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we will love and obey Him completely.

Additional Resources

- **UCG Family Study Guides**

<https://www.ucg.org/members/family-study-guides>

- **Booklet:** *UCG Fundamental Beliefs*

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/fundamental-beliefs-of-the-united-church-of-god-0>