

# Essential Questions of Life

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Making God Real Review

Family Study Guides • Making God Real Series

# The Essential Questions of Life

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This Family Study Guide is a brief overview of the essential questions of lifewhich cover God’s Doctrines and the Fundamental Beliefs of United Church of God. This Guide can be used as a summary.

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## Question 1: Does God Exist?

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### 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 (*Eccl. 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.**

- God is omnipresent which means that God is present everywhere.
- Because God is everywhere, we cannot hide from God (*Psalms 139:7-10*).
- 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 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.*

- We are created in God's image (*Genesis 1:26*).
- 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.*

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

### **5. God has personality**

*He is a powerful being with emotions.*

- God leads a life full of joy (*Jeremiah 32:41, Luke 15:10-32*).
- God laughs (in derision) (*Psalms. 59:8*).
- God feels deep compassion (*Luke 15*).
- God gets angry (*Deuteronomy 9:8, 20*).
- God can change His mind (*Deuteronomy 9*).
- God has a sense of humor (*Numbers 22:28*).
- 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, Deut 5*).
  - God teaches us how to love one another (*John 13:34-35, John 15:12, 1 Thess. 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 (*Psalms. 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, in sects 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.

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## Question 4: What is God's Purpose

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*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 sons 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.

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## Questions 5 & 6: Who and What is Man?

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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, Ecclesiastics 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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## Questions 5 & 6: Who and What is Man?

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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 (*Revelations 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 (*Ecclesiastics 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.

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## Additional Resources

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### • 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>