


TRUST ISSUES



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

1/28/2018

The question “Who is God?” is complex and each person approaches it from a different angle. The authors of the Bible use several names to describe who this God is, each of them reveals something about the character of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What statements did John make or what points did he raise that were unexpected or new?
2. When you think of God, what names or descriptions about his character come to mind? Why?
3. Re-read Psalm 8. What is something that spoke to you out of this passage?
4. Given that meanings of names may not be as significant today as they were in antiquity, is there something to knowing someone’s name?
5. What might it mean to be on a “first-name basis” with someone? How could it benefit or hurt one’s reputation?
6. In the New International Version of the Bible, Psalm 8 reads “LORD, our Lord.” The first “LORD” refers to the name revealed to Moses and the Israelites when he brought them out of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3 and 6). The second refers more generally to a “sovereign,” “master” or “ruler.” How might this background information inform our understanding of who God is in Psalm 8?
7. How does Psalm 8 portray the relationship of God to man?

8. Words like “majestic” in Psalm 8 and “hallowed” in the Lord’s Prayer aren’t necessarily common words. What do they convey? How do they apply to God’s name?

9. There is a common theme in the Bible of not taking the Lord’s name in vain or bringing shame to his name (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12). If you’ve heard this before, how have you previously understood it?

10. How does John’s point, “The name of God represents the character of God” inform our understanding of taking his name in vain or bringing shame to it?

11. Psalm 8 connects us intimately to the power and rule of God. Does this affect how you view your actions? If yes, how?

12. Reflecting individually, do you feel that those actions rise to the challenge of being associated with God?

13. When one’s heart and actions are aligned with the purposes and heart of God, we are reminded that God’s name is effective in answering prayer (John 14:14 – “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it”). What would you like to see happen in your own heart and actions over the next seven weeks that will bring you more in alignment with the purposes and promises of God?

Closing Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.