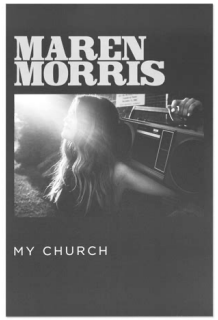


STEP UP IN FAITH

GOD THE CREATOR (PART 2)

OPENING THOUGHT



Head to YouTube and listen to Maren Morris' "My Church."

- How does she experience God based on this song?
- What do you think about that? Do you agree that that is how we can experience God?

QUICK REVIEW

- The Bible isn't just a list of details and facts about God. The Bible is the _____ of God.
- The Great 2 Questions of the human life are:
 - _____
 - _____
- Creation is unimaginably huge. What can we learn about God from creation? From our senses?
- If you believe and confess that created all of this, the only logical choice you have is to let him write the story, as opposed to trying to write the story yourself.

 LAST SESSION HOMEWORK: HOW WOULD YOU FILL IN THESE BLANKS?

God is _____, and I experience God the most when I _____.

SO IF THERE IS A GOD, WHO IS HE?

Read Job 38:1-15. Here God introduces himself to Job, a man who had been through a lot in his life. How does he introduce himself? What does he say he did?



STEP UP IN FAITH

GOD THE CREATOR (PART 2)

The First Article: Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GOD AS CREATOR?

- God has had no beginning and will have no end. All that we experience in this world comes from his creative power. (Job 38:1-15; Psalm 8:3-4; Revelation 22:13)
- God made everything from nothing in the beginning. (Genesis 1:1)
- God created man in his own image. (Genesis 1:27)
 - This means that we are different from animals!
- God created the world and man to be "very good." (Genesis 1:31)
- God creates each of us individually, and knows everything about us. (Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 12:7)
- God's not just a random power! He has a name and traits about him that we can know. (Exodus 3:14)
- God's work of creation is not finished. God continues to create, each and every day. (Job 38:12; Isaiah 45:7)
- God's ultimate purpose is to recreate what is broken. (Isaiah 66:22; 1 Corinthians 2:9)



STEP UP IN FAITH

GOD THE CREATOR (PART 2)



Reflection time:

- What are some of the weirdest animals that God created?
- What is the most incredible place you've ever been? What did you feel when you were there?

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD CREATED. BUT CAN WE REALLY HAVE PROOF THAT HE DID?

Romans 1.19-20: ...¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

John 20:31: These [acts of Jesus] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and being sure about what we do not see.

1 Corinthians 1:18: For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS YOU HAVE WHEN YOU THINK OF CREATION:

Either God made all of it. Or all of it just showed up for no reason.

- What are some of the consequences you face if you say that God didn't actually make all of this?
- Go back and look at the explanation of the First Article of the Creed. What are some of the things that God provides for us as our creator?



MORIAH'S STORY:

- Is what Moriah describes something you struggle with, too?
- How can believing that God defines who you are, as opposed to yourself or those around you, bring comfort to you?

 HOMEWORK: FILL IN THE BLANKS AS YOU SEE FIT.

Sometimes life isn't fair. Some people have it better or easier than others do, and it doesn't have anything to do with how good you are.

God, why did you create the world in a way that _____ ?