

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Approaching God ~ Discussion Questions

1. Does God ask us to seek him or is it man's idea to seek God? (Isaiah 55:6-9, Amos 5:4-6, Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9, James 4:8a)
2. In approaching God, does the Father attract and draw us to himself or does he wait for us to take the initiative to seek him? (John 6:35, 40, 44, especially 6:44)
3. How did Jesus tell us that we should approach the Father? (John 14:6, Romans 5:2, Ephesians 3:12, 1 Peter 3:18. See especially NLT, CEV or Worldwide English translations.)
4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in approaching the Father? (Eph 2:17-18)
5. To approach God and have him accept us, we must do four things:
 - A) _____ (Romans 5:2, Hebrews 11:6)
 - B) _____ (Psalm 24:3-5, Matthew 5:8)
 - C) _____ (Matthew 6:6)
 - D) _____ (Psalm 145:18)
6. There are many promises for those who approach God. Here are six of them:
 - A) _____ (Deuteronomy 4:29, 2 Chronicles 15:2b)
 - B) _____ (2 Kings 13:4)
 - C) _____ (2 Chronicles 7:14)
 - D) _____ (Isaiah 55:3)
 - E) _____ (Psalm 65:4)
 - F) _____ (Ephesians 3:12, Hebrews 4:16, 1 John 5:14)

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1. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” But then in Matthew 6:9, he told his followers to pray directly to the Father, saying, “Our Father in heaven....” How do you reconcile these seemingly contradictory statements?
2. When you pray, to whom do you address your prayers? A) Father, B) Heavenly Father, C) Father God, D) Lord God, E) Almighty God, or F) something else _____.
3. Do you think of God mostly as A) the creator of the universe, B) a king or ruler, C) a harsh but fair judge, D) a loving dad, E) a shepherd, or F) something else _____. What led you to this view?
4. Here are some times and places when people felt they were closest to God: large Christian rally like Promise Keepers, prayer meeting, singing praise music in church, birth of a baby, reading the Bible, walking alone in a quiet place, with a small group of friends. Where and in what situation do you feel closest to God?
5. In Jeremiah 33:3, God says, “Call to me and I will _____.” What does this mean to you?
6. In Psalm 50:15, God says, “Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will _____.” Does this mean that God will bail you out of any kind of trouble?
7. In Acts 2:21, Luke says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will _____.”
8. There is a saying, “there are no atheists in a foxhole.” What does this mean? Do you think God listens to and answers the prayers of someone who has never prayed before and has no past relationship with God?