**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 3**

1. **Why is there man in the world?**

**Answer:** Because God created him

* + Genesis 1:26-27 **26**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28**And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **29**And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. **30**And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. **31**And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
* Further Points:
  + We do not know why God created man *rather than not creating him*. What we do know is that
    - God’s primary motive for all things is love (1 John 4:7-12), and all things inevitably work out for his glory and for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28)
    - God did not *have to* create man.
    - God does not depend on man for anything, but man is entirely dependent upon God.
  + In summary, where scripture doesn’t disclose God’s specific motivation (e.g., why did He create, rather than not create), we should not feel the need to speculate, but instead humble ourselves before the fact that God’s ways are higher than our ways, and if He does not reveal something to us, we do not need to know it.
    - Romans 11:33-34 - **33**Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! **34**“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” **35**“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” **36**For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
    - Isaiah 55:8-9 - **8**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. **9**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
    - Job 38:1-4 - Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: **2**“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? **3**Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. **4**“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
    - 1 Cor. 1:19, 25 - **19**For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”…**25**For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1. **What is man’s purpose?**

**Answer:** To fear, love and trust in God above all things, through believing in His Son Jesus Christ.

This includes:

* + To hear and believe God’s Word (Deut 8:3, Mat 4:4, John 1). This is accomplished through Jesus Christ.
    - God’s purpose for us is to conform us to the image of God’s Son (Romans 8:29), **28**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29**For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30**And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
    - To hear and believe God’s Word is to hear and believe Jesus (John 1:14) “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”
      * Jesus taught the Bible.
    - To be reconciled ro God, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Eph 2:16; Col. 1:20).
  + To obey God’s commands; this is accomplished through Jesus Christ who gives us the victory over sin, and who commands us to love one another as he has loved us.
    - Love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself
    - 10 Commandments
    - Vocation: Be fruitful and multiply, have dominion over the earth.
      * Husbands love your wives, wives submit to your husbands
      * Children obey parents (Ephesians 5)
      * Parents raise children in the fear and instruction of the Lord
      * Subjects obey rulers (Romans 13)
      * Congregations obey Ministers (Hebrews 13:7)
    - For sinners: Repent and believe the truth (1 Tim 2:4); Believe and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
  + To Receive every Good thing from God with thanksgiving; This is done through Jesus Christ who gave us the Lord’s Prayer which asks God for:
    - Earthly Goods – Give us our daily bread (4th petition of the Lord’s prayer); Every good gift comes from above (James 1)
    - Spiritual Blessings – Forgiveness; life, salvation (5th, 6th, and 7th petitions of the Lord’s prayer., which come through the atonement of Jesus Christ.