



## **Discussion Questions**





## **Chapter One: What is God Like?**

1. Is it easy or difficult for you to think of God as a “Dad”? Why?

2. What are some aspects of our culture which make it especially challenging to raise kids to be wise and virtuous Christians?

## **Chapter Two: Where Did God Come From?**

1. What aspects of the nature of God do you find hardest to comprehend? Why?

2. Do you ever doubt the existence of God? If so, how do you deal with your doubts? If not, is there anything that *could* make you doubt that God exists?

## **Chapter Three: Where Does God Live?**

1. Do you find more comfort in the fact that God is everywhere or the fact that he took on bodily form in Christ? Why?

2. Although some Christians lose sight of this fact, the resurrected Christ still has a body. Why is this important? Why do you suppose this truth is lost on some Christians?



### **Chapter Four: How Much Does God Know?**

1. What are some helpful guidelines for deciding what sorts of films and TV shows are appropriate for children?

2. What are some specific areas in your life in which you believe God has told you to “just trust me”?

### **Chapter Five: Why Do Some People Not Believe in God?**

1. Does it bother you that there are atheists and agnostics? Why or why not?

2. Spiegel maintains that atheists are, in a sense, delusional. What is your response to this claim?

### **Chapter Six: Why Does God Love Us?**

1. Some contemporary preachers (such as those who preach a “prosperity gospel”) intentionally avoid discussing sin. How is this approach actually harmful to the church?

2. Spiegel suggests that God’s love for us has more to do with who he is than who we are? Do you agree? Why or why not?



## **Chapter Seven: How Can God Fix Us?**

1. Many people in our culture, some Christians included, find the doctrine of original sin offensive. Why do you think this is so?

2. Spiegel claims that one reason people have difficulty comprehending the gospel is because sin causes “cognitive malfunction.” Do you think it is possible for Christians to malfunction cognitively because of their sin?

## **Chapter Eight: Why is it Hard to be Good?**

1. When it comes to your spiritual growth, are you more inclined to think of this as God’s work or your own?

2. When going through a trial do you typically consider how God is using it to sanctify you? Why or why not?

## **Chapter Nine: Do Unto What?**

1. Spiegel suggests that anyone who ignores the arts is “morally stunted.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

2. If pearl formation is a good metaphor for how virtues develop in us, can you think of how some trials or difficulties have positively impacted your spiritual growth, producing “gems” of virtue?



### **Chapter Ten: What Was Jesus Like?**

1. With which aspect of the divine incarnation do you most struggle believing—Jesus' full humanity or his full divinity? Why?

2. If Jesus suddenly appeared in your bedroom one morning and said, "Let's hang out today; we'll do whatever you want to do," what sorts of activities would you plan for the two of you?

### **Chapter Eleven: How Will We Know Jesus When We See Him?**

1. Although Gnosticism is an ancient heresy, Spiegel notes that many Christians are tempted by it today, especially the Gnostic notion that the material world is inherently bad. Why do you think Christians are still tempted by this idea?

2. Spiegel observes that the regularities in nature are just as much signs of God's sovereignty as miracles. Why does he say this, and do you agree?

### **Chapter Twelve: When Will We See Jesus?**

1. Fortune telling, séances, palm reading, and other occult practices are wildly popular in our culture. Why do you suppose this is so?

2. God keeps most of the future hidden from us. What are some of the benefits of this? What are some of the frustrations?



### **Chapter Thirteen: What Will We Do in Heaven?**

1. Have you ever had a close friend or family member die? If so, how has this impacted your faith?

2. Spiegel suggests that everyone wants to live forever. Do you think this is true? If so, what do you think accounts for this desire?

### **Chapter Fourteen: Who Gets to Go to Heaven?**

1. Have you ever worried that God will forget about you? Why or why not?

2. Spiegel proposes that although people are only saved through Christ, a person who has never heard the gospel may nonetheless be saved via what he calls “implicit faith.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

### **Chapter Fifteen: If Heaven’s So Great, Why Am I Afraid to Die?**

1. Are you afraid to die? If so, what frightens you most about dying?

2. Why do you suppose God has not revealed to us more about heaven than he has?



## **Chapter Sixteen: What If I Sin in Heaven?**

1. Jesus never sinned, so what do you think is meant by the statement that he “learned obedience from what he suffered” (Heb. 5:8)?

2. Spiegel cites the story of Joni Eareckson Tada as an example of God bringing great joy and redemption out of a tragic event. Can you think of some other examples (whether from Scripture or your own experience)?

## **Chapter Seventeen: The Way Back Home**

1. How does it affect you to know that all of your days have been ordained (cf. Ps. 139:16)?

2. Do you tend to think of your life as a narrative drama? If not, why not? If so, then what do you think is the theme of your life narrative?