

Mythbusters #1

Icebreaker: Ask everyone to draw on a piece of paper what they think of when they hear “God.” This is intentionally broad. Have everyone introduce themselves and describe their picture.

As we can tell from these drawing, there are many different ways people see God. But what does God say about himself? There are many truths out there about God, but also many myths, and if we want a real relationship with the real God, we have to know who the real God is.

Myth #1: God is an old man in the sky...not really personable.

Big Idea: God is a relentless, passionate, involved God desperate to find his treasured possession. Not an old man in the sky or a light in heaven

Luke 15:1-10

Question: Why is Jesus telling this parable?

Question: What measures do the shepherd and the woman take to find the sheep/coin?

- All in, everything, shepherd: through mud and heat, woman: on hands and knees on a dirt floor.

Question: What is their reaction to finding the sheep/coin?

- Celebration, how many of you would throw a party if you found your dorm key?

Question: Why would they care so much about the one sheep/coin?

Question: Who is the shepherd/woman?

Question: Who is the sheep/coin?

Question: If this is true, how does call feel about you? What is his real character?

- He is a relentless, passionate, involved God desperate to find his treasured possession. Not an old man in the sky or a light in heaven.

Question: How would a misperception about God and his love for us affect our relationship with him?

Question: What should our reaction to this new knowledge be?

Question: How can begin/build a relationship with God, starting tomorrow?

Question: Why would I want a relationship with him?

- True Life, True Love, he wanted us first.

Conclusion: The world and renaissance paintings tell us God is an old man in a chair—distant and emotionless, maybe untouchable, but obviously this is ridiculous. The real God is a relentless, passionate God driving for a real relationship with you, his treasured possession! Let’s go after God as he has gone after us, and have a real relationship with the one true God.

Mythbusters #2

We're in the middle of a series about busting myths about God. We are busting preconceived notions in a search for the real God, the God of the bible.

Myth #2: An all-loving God wouldn't judge me

Big Idea: God loves us but he does expect righteousness, godliness, and repentance and if we don't have those there will be consequences.

Luke 13:6-9

Question: Why was the owner expecting fruit?

Question: How do you think he felt the first year? How about the third year?

Question: Why did the gardener stand up for the tree?

Question: What did both the owner and gardener want for the tree?

- Fruit, fulfillment of its purpose
- **KEY POINT:** The owner does not want destruction, he too wants the tree to bear fruit and fulfill its purpose.

Question: Who is the owner? Who is the tree? Who is the gardener?

Question: What kind of fruit does God expect from us?

- Read Luke 13:1-5, in context this parable is about repentance!
- Follow-up question: What is repentance? Choice to change

Question: What does it mean to get cut down?

- Read Luke 13:5—It means to perish. What does that mean?
- Perishing: two types 1. Eternally—Judgment/Hell and 2. Temporarily—Being humbled by God. **God does judge!**

Question: If God loves us so much why would he cut us down when we don't bear fruit?

Question: What are some things God expects us to repent of?

- *Follow-up question:* How can we know what God wants us to change?

Question: Today is (insert day of the week), what are some examples of fruit we can bear Friday?

Closing Question: Why does God give second chances when we clearly don't deserve them?

Conclusion: Last week we saw how God loves us and relentlessly searches for us. But as we see now the God that the world has in mind, the one that is too loving to judge, does not exist! Yes he loves us but he does expect things from us that we were designed to produce. Righteousness and Godliness are the fruit we were designed to bear. If you are unsure if you are bearing godly fruit, or how to bear godly fruit, ask someone here to study the Bible with you.....*myth: God does not judge:* False and Myth Busted.

God loves and God judges. Let's know our God, love our God, and live the life he designed us to live. Amen!

Mythbusters #3:

Question: What myths have we already busted?

Tonight we're going to look at more of God's character and talk about one of the big reasons people don't trust God today.

Question: Why don't people trust God today?

--"Look at all the evil today, would a loving God do all that?"

--"I'm fine on my own, what do I need God for?"

Myth #3: God cannot be trusted—he's like a kid with a magnifying glass, burning ants.

Big Idea: God is not like people and we can trust him. He is not like people who have hurt us. We can't let the sin of people change our trust in God!

James 1:13-15

Question: Why would people say God is tempting me?

Question: If God can't be tempted what does that tell us about God's character?

Question: How are people different from God?

Question: How is our relationship with God different than with people?

1 Samuel 15:29

Question: How do you feel when someone lies to you?

Question: How does knowing that God does not change his mind or lie affect your relationship?

Question: How can our relationship with people affect our relationship with God?

Question: How can we put more faith/trust in him?

Question: Why would I want to trust God?

Closing: Ask yourself today, have I been treating God like he is a person? If yes then your understanding of God is not accurate.

Isaiah 55:9-- His ways are higher than ours. And thank God for that! It happens to all of us, we deal with people most of the time why would we treat God differently? And the reason is because he is God and he is above human error like lying. We can trust the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving and yet just God of the Universe. If you're unsure how to put your trust in him I encourage you to ask for help in studying the Bible, to ensure that your relationship with God is godly and not worldly. *Myth: God cannot be trusted. False and myth busted.* God's ways are higher than ours, so let's not bring him down by treating him like a mere man.

Mythbusters #4

Today we're going to deal with a myth about what most people say God expects from us. You've probably heard this a lot, and honestly it sounds good but according to the Bible it is just a myth.

Opening Question: What does it mean to be a "good person"?

Myth #4: God just wants us to be good people

Big Idea: God does want us to be good, but we can't earn being good by our deeds. Only by giving up everything and having treasure in heaven can we be made good by God!

Luke 18:18-30

Question: Why did this man ask this question to Jesus?

Question: Why does Jesus say what he says?

■ **Follow up question:** Who is good? God alone

[Visual illustration: Have everyone stand up. Ask people to sit down as they hear a commandment they have broken at some point in their life. Read the commands in v.20 but **Point:** So this guy had kept these commands and was a great person, none of us can compare. He was all-star religious.]

Question: What does Jesus tell the man he still lacks?

Question: How did the man respond?

Question: Where was this man's treasure?

Question: Why was his earthly treasure more important to him

Big Question: Why wasn't his good, good enough to be saved?

■ **Key Point:** When Jesus says with man this is impossible, he means it!

Question: So what do we do? How can we have treasure in heaven rather than earth?

Question: What might stop us from realizing our good deeds aren't enough?

Question: Why does God want your heart not your deeds?

■ Because none of us can measure up to God's goodness, our good deeds are like "filthy rags" before him (Isaiah 64:6). If we give our hearts he can clean us, if we give our deeds or hearts remain filthy

Conclusion: So much of the world says "I'm a good person" but compared to whom? Our sin, even just one disqualifies us from being "good." But God is merciful and wants us to become "good" but only by coming to him and giving our entire hearts and being to him. *Myth: God just wants us to be good people. Myth totally busted.*

Let's be real that we can't earn salvation but we can work to purify our hearts before God. Let's approach him not thinking we are good but knowing that he is good and having faith that he alone can save us.

Mythbusters #5

Myth #5: There are many paths to God.

Big Idea: Even though God doesn't want anyone to go to hell, if you don't go through Jesus you don't get to the father.

John 14:1-7

Question: What do you get from this passage?

Question: What is Jesus saying about himself in this passage?

Question: What does Jesus' claim mean for all other religions?

Question: How do you *feel* about this statement and as you apply it to other faiths and religions?

Question: Why would God make it this exclusive?

1 Timothy 2:3-6

Question: What does it mean for Jesus to be our "mediator"?

- The reconciler between two parties at odds
- The "score settler"

Question: What does this verse tell us about God's heart?

- Doesn't want men to perish but to be saved
- God does not desire exclusivity

Question: If this is the case, why do we need a mediator?

- SIN
- The issue is on our side because God gave us free will to choose or reject his righteousness, and we reject it freely.

Question: Why can only Jesus be our mediator?

- He is the only one on good terms with God...sinless
- Jesus is not only the mediator, he is the payment that forgives our sin.

Question: If Jesus is not your mediator, are your sins forgiven? Why not?

- Jesus is the only ransom that God can accept: sinless and spotless.

Question: But good news: v.6—Jesus is the savior for all men. But if this is true, why does it somehow still feel exclusive?

- Because it still takes people to choose Jesus to be their savior, and not everyone does that

Question: If this is true, how should this change your life?

Question: What might stop you from acting like Jesus is the only way?

Conclusion: The world tells us that there are many ways to get to heaven or even have a relationship with God. Some people say, "an all-loving God would understand and not care whether it was Jesus or not." Jesus was very clear about how to get to God--and he is the only way! Let's make sure we don't get taken in by the world and the pluralism that comes from today's world. Let's know that Jesus is the only way and tell everyone we know!

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