



EXPLORATION GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE **EXPLORATION GUIDE!**

As you read and learn about God through your Discovery Guide, you might find some words or ideas that you haven't heard before. That's what this guide is for! It lists some of the most important ideas that Christians believe and can help you understand what you are reading about in the Discovery Guide and in the Bible.

Even after reading this, you might still have questions. That's great! You can ask your parent or guardian to e-mail us with your questions at campcommotion@ccclife.org and we'd love to answer them.

Happy learning!

The Camp Commotion Team

GOD'S CREATION

We believe that the world, and everything in it (including humans), was created by God. From nothing, God created everything. How could God do this? He is all-powerful, meaning he can do anything, and all-knowing, meaning there's nothing that can stump him or confuse him. All life comes through God.

GOD'S LOVE

We believe that God is love. Not just that He loves things or people, but that God is love. Everything God does comes out of His love, including creation. God made us because He loves us, and for us to experience love from Him.

SIN

Here's another word you might not have heard before. Sin is a word we use for the wrong things that we do. Even since the first person, people have been rebelling against and rejecting God through their actions and choices. That includes you and me. God is perfect in every way, and our sin (our wrongdoing) keeps us separate from God.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN

So, what is the result of sin? Sin means separation from God for all eternity, even after we die here on earth. You see, God is perfect and so sin (wrongdoing) against Him deserves punishment. Often, we try to make up for sin by doing what we think is the right thing or by being what we think is a good person, but sin can't be defeated just by being good.

In fact, at one time, it may have looked like things would never get better. Until Jesus came along.

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus was a man who lived over 2000 years ago in a part of the world called Israel. During his time on earth, Jesus performed miracles and taught many people about God. But there was something even more special about Jesus - he was also the Son of God.

Jesus had a very special mission here on earth. His mission was to rescue all people, like you and me, from sin. Although Jesus was a person, he wasn't exactly like you and me - he was perfect in every way. Jesus never sinned, and he showed people the right way to live how God created them to live.

WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS?

After only a few years of traveling and teaching people about God, Jesus was killed. Even though he had done nothing wrong, people did not like the way Jesus taught about God and so they plotted to kill him. He suffered a terrible death by being hung on a tall cross, and was nailed to it to hold him in place.

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

Remember Jesus' special mission to save everyone on the earth from sin? This was the reason he died. By dying on the cross, perfect and without any blame, Jesus took the punishment for our sin. That's right! Even though he had done nothing wrong, he took the punishment for the sin of the people who killed him. Not only that, but he took the punishment for everyone, everywhere, for all time! That includes you and me!

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JESUS DIED?

The people who followed Jesus (we call them disciples) were very sad about Jesus' death, but God was not done yet! After three days, Jesus rose again from the dead and came back to life. We call this the resurrection.

In doing this, Jesus showed that sin was dealt with. It was no longer stopping people from being with God, and he told his followers to go out into the rest of the world and tell them all about what He had done. The whole world could now be free of sin and live with God forever!

Not only that, but God sent His Holy Spirit to live among the people who believe in Him, and to help them know and become more like God!

We learn about the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit (and much, much more) through the Bible.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a very important book that tells the story of how God created the world, how the world rebelled against God, and how God set things right through Jesus. We sometimes call this “The Big God Story” because it’s all about the story of God’s work in the world and how we can be a part of it.

WHERE CAN I GET A BIBLE?

If you don’t have a Bible at home and would like one to read and learn more about God, let us know and we will be happy to send you one and more information about what to do next!

BEGINNING A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Imagine you are standing on a bridge. You are on one side and God is on the other. Jesus’ death on the cross bridged the gap between us and God, and invited us to cross over and be with God.

One of the most important decisions we can make in our lives is a decision to put our faith and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. In doing this, we recognize that we have sinned, but that he has forgiven us and washed away our sin by his death on the cross - he is our Savior. We also want to commit our lives to Him today and for the future - that’s what it means to make Jesus our Lord.

If you have decided you would like to accept the gift that Jesus offers and to put your faith and trust in him as your Lord and Savior, you can pray a prayer like this one to commit your life to Jesus:

“God, I recognize that you created me to enjoy a personal relationship with you and a purposeful life. My sin—rebelliously going my own way instead of yours—has separated me from you. I cannot do anything to repair the damage done by my sin. I’m in need of forgiveness and new life.

I believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay sin’s penalty and break sin’s power. By faith, I surrender to you as my Savior and King. I want to obediently follow you. Please forgive my sins, give me the gift of eternal life, and send your Spirit to help me become more and more like Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

WHAT’S NEXT?

If you have surrendered your life to Jesus and prayed the prayer above, then you’re at the start of a wonderful journey with Jesus! We have lots of great resources available to help you and would love to share them with you.

Visit **[CCCLIFE.ORG/CAMPRESOURCES](https://www.ccclife.org/campresources)**

Click on “Next Steps” to learn more about your new journey with Jesus as your Lord and Savior!

If you haven’t made the decision to follow Jesus yet, that’s OK! We still want to hear from you and help support you. Visit the site above and you can find other ways to learn more about who Jesus is and what he has done for you and me.