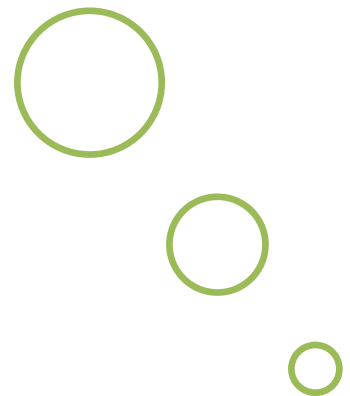


*Answering
Team Four
questions*



Howdy Team 4!

Here is our book of questions...all the questions you asked – the deep and profound ones, the practical and the quirky –all of your questions were worth asking and worth answering.

I have given some answers that reflect the ideas of the Christian faith across the ages, and what I've read in the Bible and things I've heard other Christians say: but these aren't the only answers to these questions. It's good to ask lots of people what they think, and ultimately it's up to you to make up your own mind about stuff.

So I have also left blank spaces, because your answers to these questions are as important as mine...so over time, you can have a go at writing your own answers to the questions each other has asked.

I hope you are not disappointed that I am not saying that here are all the right answers...

But that is how Christianity is. Ultimately, it is about being friends with God, and this is more important than statements of belief or right answers to questions.

Some of your questions were quite similar to each other, so I've grouped them together, and answered them with a little paragraph, so not every individual question has it's own answer.

In the end, these are only my answers to these questions, and they are not as important as your answers to these questions, because you have to live by your answers, just as I live by my answers.

Keep thinking and wondering and questioning. God is with you.

From Mrs B

(Beth Barnett, Team 4 CRE teacher)

What proof is there of God?

Is God alive?

How does everyone know when God was born?

Who created God?

Who made God?

What is the name of God's mother and father?

Is God fake?

Where did God come from?

How did God get powerful?

How does God exist when the moon and all of the planets didn't exist except for the sun & stars?

Is God Immortal?

How long will God live?

Who is God? Is he a spirit? Will God ever die?

Why is God a man?

Is God a male or female?

***In many ways there is both no proof and total proof of God. The proof for God is that if you know God, you know. Nobody can take that away from you. To prove something, like in an experiment means you can control it and put it in a test tube or a cage or something. If you could control God like that God wouldn't be God anymore. Being God means being beyond any other power or thing... So if God came from somewhere, or was born, and had a beginning or a mum/dad, it would mean God wasn't really God. Wherever God came from would be greater than God. The Bible says
God is the one with no beginning and no end.***

Immortal literally means 'not mortal' mortal means having a body. God is not limited to a body...so that makes God 'Immortal'. The Word Spirit or spiritual can be used to describe God, and humans are also said to have a spirit: this simply means there is more to us than just our bodies. In this way, God is more than just alive, God is Life, so by definition God can't die.

Also, not having a body, God can't be identified as male or female. The bible says that God made humans(males and females) in God's image (which means to be like God). The Bible describes God as strong and powerful, gentle and compassionate, fair and kind, wise and loving.

Great questions
Team 4!

Did God really make everything? (or is it all in our heads?)

How did God create the world?

What do you believe in evolutionism or creationism?

I've been told that God created people and everything, but I have also heard that it was formed over many years. Which one is true?

When was the world made?

How did he make it?

How could God create people?

Why did God create the world and humans?

Did God really create the world? How?

How does God make children?

Does God put other humans on other planets?

Does God make storms? If he does, How?

How does God make thunder and lightning?

If God exists how come there are so many bad things happening in the world, such as diseases wars and death?

If God's trying to make the world good why are there bad people ? Why can't he hit them with lightning?

Why does God take people off this earth when they're good people?

Why does God let bad things happen?

Many Christians believe that there is no conflict between the process of creation described in the Bible and the process of evolution described by scientists. Science is really helpful in explaining how children are made, what kind of things live on other planets, weather patterns etc. The Bible is really helpful in letting us know that we are loved and that the processes of the universe aren't random, that God can be trusted. Some Christians aren't too enthusiastic about the theories of evolution, because they explain things without including God. Personally, I find it hard to think about anything without God...so when I'm thinking about evolution I'm thinking about God right in there all the way.

God created humans as part of his whole amazing universe, but especially to be loved and to love God and each other.

Christians believe that God is totally Good: that God made everything good, including humans, but gave humans choice in the way they live. So evil exists because of the choices that humans have made over the centuries and continue to make. The Bible is really clear that God is really unimpressed when bad things happen to good people, and that in the end God will stop all of the suffering. In the mean time the Bible says that God suffers with us, that God feels every bit of suffering that is in the world. Which, if God is really everywhere, that kind of makes sense.

What do you think?

Why would God kill people that didn't do anything wrong?

Christians believe that death wasn't God's original plan for humans. But because humans have chosen hurt, God has allowed us to die, so that we won't have to live forever on Earth with pain, suffering, diseases and evil.

Why would he (let) terrorists bomb?
Everyone has been given free choice, and responsibility for our actions. God doesn't even take that free choice away from terrorists. But he has shown us that even if we die, it's not the end for us, and not the end of God's love for us.

Does God like evil?
Christians believe that by definition, evil is the opposite of God. God is Good, God is Love, God is Truth, God is Peace.

Is it God that makes war? Or disagreements about religion/God?
There have been lots of wars over thousands of years that have involved religion. But most of these wars were also for something else. For example, the Crusades of the 12th century are often given as an example of a war that was about God. The people who fought it even called it a Holy War...but the English knights weren't just fighting so they could worship God; they were trying to get a whole city (Jerusalem). So it can be hard to tell if it was really about God or about real estate!

In the Bible Jesus is called the prince of peace. God talks about peace and reconciliation (the opposite of being enemies) heaps. There are lots of war stories in the Bible, but most of them show one side not actually fighting, but singing or praying and ending up the winners.



Do you think that people who make others suffer deserve to suffer themselves?

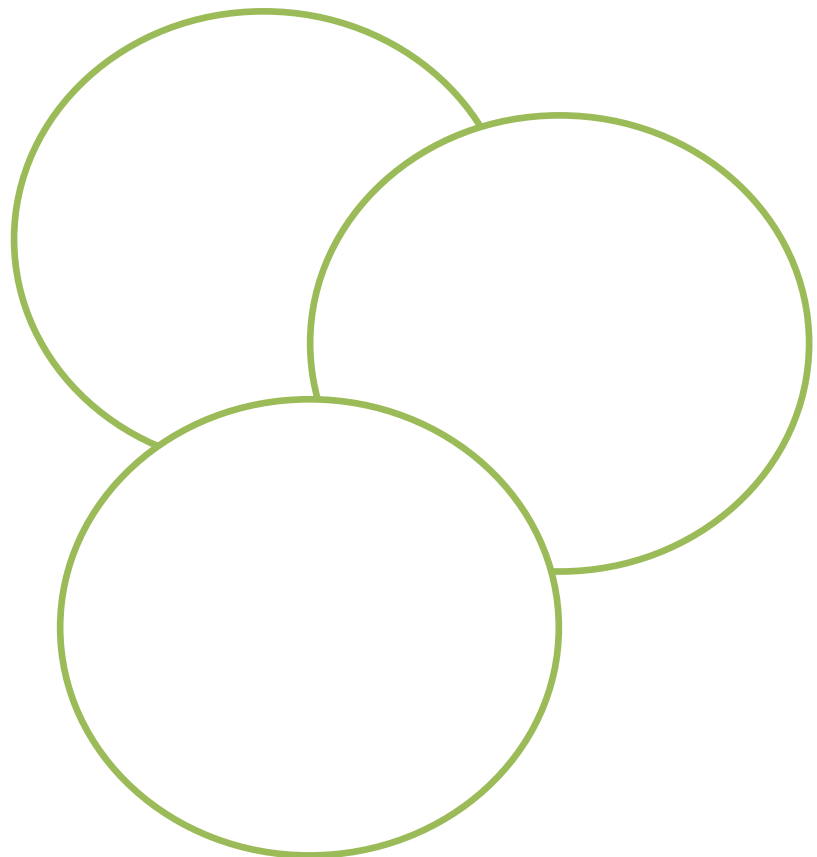
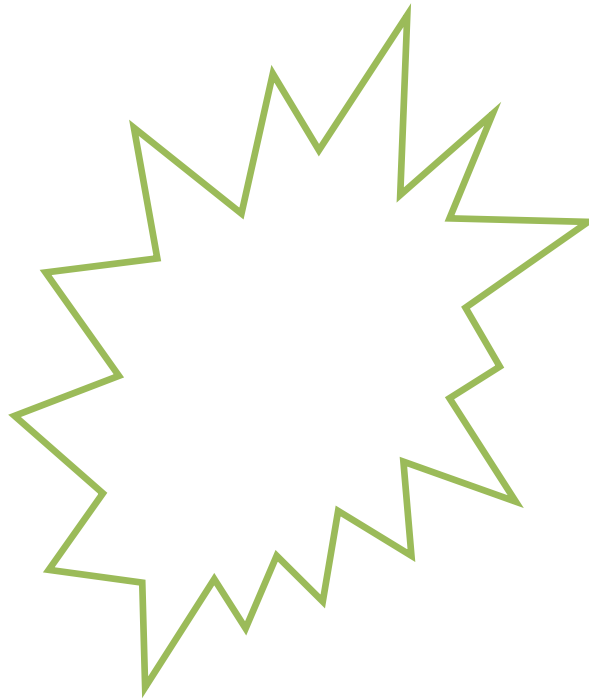
Why does God let so many diseases spread?

Why would God love people who murder and kill and are psychopaths as much as they love praying kind of people. Personally, I don't believe that God actually exists, but I do believe in heaven and hell!!!!

The bible clearly says that murder and killing is against God's ways. So is gossiping, and wishing we had more stuff, just cos someone else does, not because we really need it. Christians believe that we all do bad stuff at some time or another and God just keeps loving us because God can't stop loving, because God is Love. God loves us and wants to help us change the bad bits of our lives.

Does God believe that there is goodness in the hearts of everyone?
Christians believe that God made humans good, and "in God's image" in other words, good like God. The whole point of life for Christians is to let God overcome anything bad in our lives with goodness, the way God originally intended

Does God make good things happen? Or the self belief of humans?
Prayer is a really important thing that Christians believe in and do. Christians believe that God wants only good to happen in the world that he made. When humans want that Good to happen, and pray/ask God for it to occur, it's like God and people working together for the same things.



Does God make people die or is it luck?

Can God be inside us?

Can God tell the future?

How does God Love?

The Bible says God is total love. God loves, just by being, and everything God does is loving.

Where does God and Jesus live?

The Bible speaks about God in three different ways: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This helps us understand how God is a)the source and life of everything that exists way back in time and way forward in the future, to infinity and beyond

b)Jesus was God coming as a person in history so we could know more about him, see how much he loves us in and to show us practically how to live.

c)The Holy Spirit is how we experience God with us, and the power of God doing stuff in the world now.

When Christians talk about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit they're talking about the same thing: God.

What does God do in the rain?

What does God sleep on?

What does God wear?

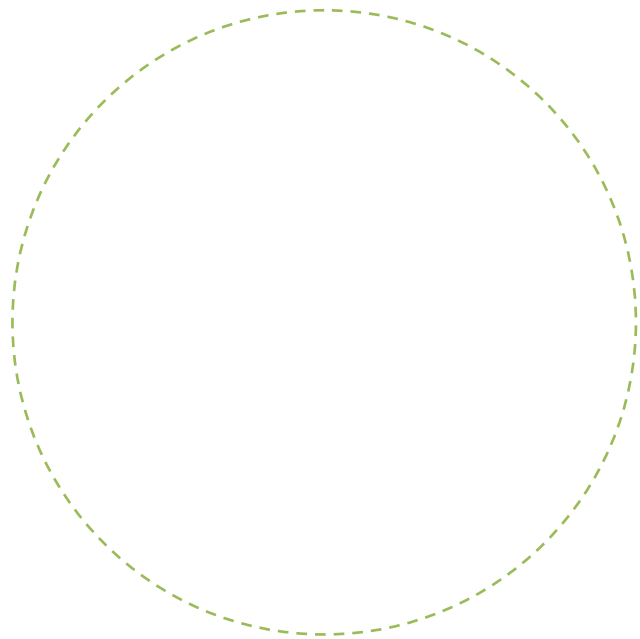
Does God have a wife?

How does God eat?

Does God have any pets?

Does God like playing sports?

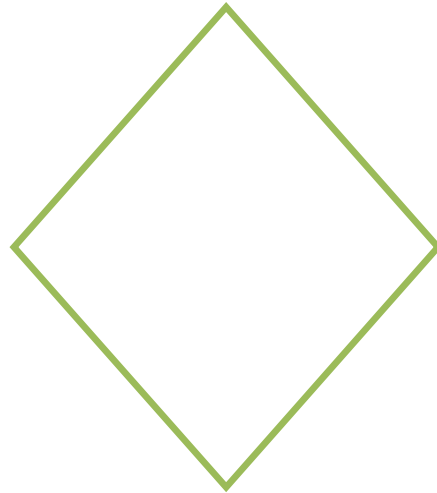
The Bible says that because God is God, there is no where in the entire universe that is out of reach of God: whether that is outerspace or inner space inside us, inside our thoughts and feelings. And God is in the past and the present and future all at the same time: God created Time, so God is not bound by time.



God is not limited in a body, so God doesn't need to sleep, eat or wear anything. God is Spirit, and is present in everything we do, so when we eat or sleep or play sport, God is a part of that.

If God was real and if he could overcome death, why doesn't he bring everyone back to life?

The bible says the God has overcome death, and that we look forward to a day when all of the sadness, pain, disease, evil and injustice of the world will end and everyone who chooses God will be given new everlasting life in God's perfect new heaven and new earth.



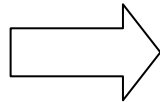
What is the meaning of life?

What is the meaning of the universe?

According to Christian Belief: Love is the meaning of life the universe and everything. (Remember: God is Love)

Why do Christians believe that God made the world when they know there are other religions?

How can we decide which God to believe in?



I can really only answer personally as to how I came to believe in the Christian God. It has a lot to do with my family being Christians, and if you belong to a culture that follows a particular religion or set of beliefs it is a really good thing to respect that. That doesn't mean you can't think about it or ask questions and get to understand it better, which is what I have done. The main thing which I think is good about the Christian God, is that he loves you no matter what, whether you're good or bad, a winner or a loser, and you don't have to try to do anything to get to heaven. God just loving you is enough. I like that because I know that I'm not perfect and if it were up to me I probably wouldn't be good enough.

Does God love people who choose not to believe in him?

Our choices change us, but they don't change God. God is total love, and no matter what we do or are, it is God's character to keep on loving us no matter what.

Why does God leave us choice if he knows people are upset?

If he is God, why doesn't he make everyone believe in him?

Why does God make some people bad?

Is there heaven and if so is there hell?

Why did God make heaven and hell when God is meant to love everyone?

Is it Christmas everyday in heaven?

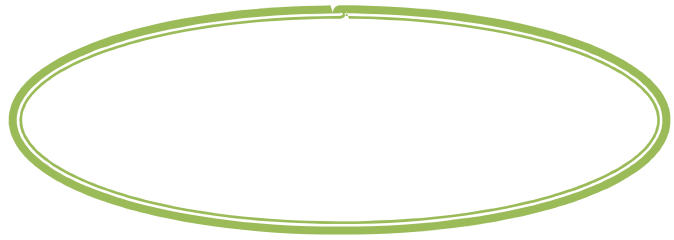
Is it God who chooses who goes to heaven or hell?

God has given the choice to us. If we want to be with God, and choose him, he accepts us.

Why does God love everyone? Why does he love dead people? (because technically they aren't people anymore. They don't exist?)

Were there churches when Jesus was around?

When Jesus was around his (jewish) culture worshipped God in a temple in Jerusalem, and in synagogues or meeting places in smaller towns where they read scriptures, prayed and discussed things. But Christian churches began after Jesus time, as his followers started getting together to remember Jesus' teachings, share their belongings & help the poor.



Heaven is where we see God face to face as God truly is, and there is no limit to his love for us.

Hell can be defined as the complete opposite of that. God has given us the choice to ignore and reject him, and if we do that, we 'create' hell for ourselves, that is, a place where we choose not to have God's presence and love and power.

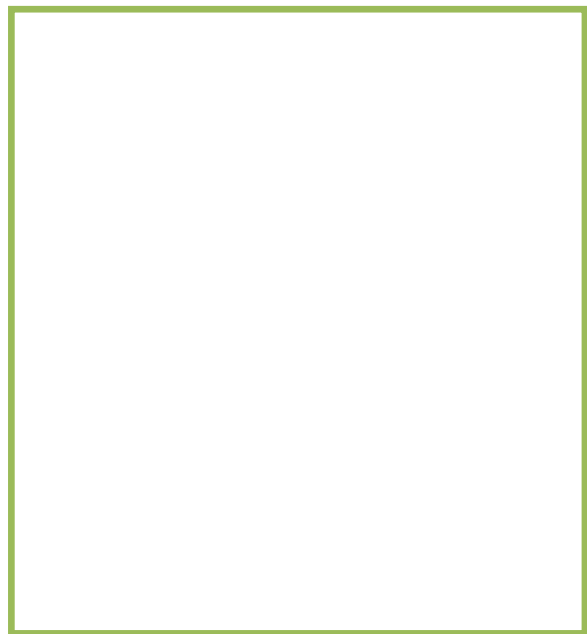
Warning: The pictures of heaven and hell that you might see in movies mostly don't have anything to do with Christian belief or the Bible...these ideas of what heaven and hell are like and who goes there come from other religions – but have been mixed up with Christianity.



What would you think about humans and has your thought ever changed?
I used to think humans were basically bad, but now I'm thinking more about how we were originally made to be good and loving like God...and to try to see the best of God's nature in everybody, and to let that become stronger in me too.



How long was his (Jesus?) hair?
Jesus did so many weird and radical things that it seems no one thought to write down for us how long his hair was! But as Jesus was a human being, you can probably assume that his hair grew at a rate of about 1cm every 3 weeks, just like yours and mine does. He might have had it cut short or grown long. Whatever it was, he probably did what was normal for guys in those days.

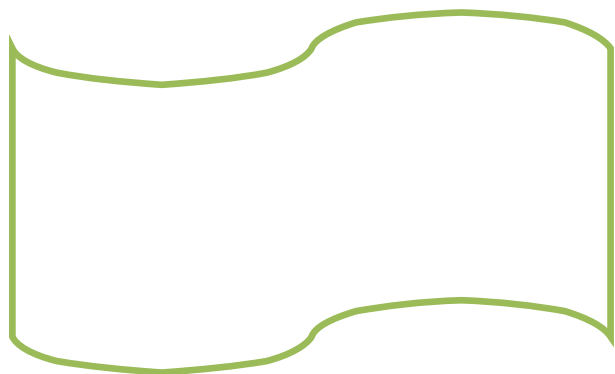


How much did God weigh when he died?
Again this is one that nobody thought to jot down for us.

How big was the cross?
Big enough to hold up a grown man and not fall over. Several meters high.

Do you think that God is very powerful?
Totally - otherwise God wouldn't be God!

What is God's real name?
In the Bible God is called many names, by people who are trying to get a grip on what God is like. God introduces himself to one guy as "I am I am". Which kind of means 'Ultimate Being' – which is more or less what we mean by 'God' anyway. On a more friendly note God is called 'Yahweh' or 'the Lord' and Jesus teaches his followers to call God 'Dad'



How did 2 people create everyone?
I'm guessing you are thinking of the Stories in Genesis that talk about Adam and Eve as the first humans. Not all Christians agree on this one. The Bible doesn't clearly say that all people came from these two: For example Adam and Eve have 3 sons, and two of the sons marry women, that the Bible doesn't explain where they came from. The point that the Bible is making is not that everyone came from Adam and Eve, but that everything and everyone comes from God.



What is the point of praying to God if you don't believe in him? It feels like you are talking to nothing. I don't but I did last year at the end of each lesson.

I guess if you don't believe in God, praying probably doesn't make much sense, but if you are just unsure there is plenty of encouragement in the Bible to start talking to God, and then it's up to God to answer you isn't it?

