1. God’s Being

How can we relate to God if we cannot see him?

Write down a couple of observations about God’s glory.

What things show God to be a personal being?

Knowing that God can do all things, is there anything that you should ask and trust him to do?

How do you feel about God knowing everything? How does it encourage or challenge you?

2. God’s Character

What is “holiness”?

_____

_____

If God is good, how can anger be one of his characteristics?

_____

_____

Explain in your own words what the Bible means by saying: “God is love” (1Jn 4:8, 16)?

_____

_____

What does “compassion” mean? How does God show compassion?

_____

_____

Is God's jealousy a good or bad thing? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

3. Jesus Christ

Choose one verse or phrase from Colossians 1:15-18 that you find particularly significant - and say why?

What is one attribute of Jesus Christ that you need to be more mindful of in your daily living? How would doing so affect you?

What does the Bible mean in saying that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? In what sense is he God's Son?

What reasons are there to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

In what way/s are Jesus Christ and God one?

4. The Holy Spirit

What does the Bible mean in describing the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of God”?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit communicate? (Write down any that you know of.)

What things might indicate that the Holy Spirit is a personal being rather than simply a thing?

What reasons are there to associate or identify the Holy Spirit with God and Jesus Christ?

Write down things you could say about the Holy Spirit in explaining him to someone who had not heard of him.

5. Angels, Satan and Demons

Why are angels so special?

In what ways do angels help God's people?

What is one way that Satan deceives people?

Why should you be wary of but not frightened of Satan?

Do you know of any indicators that a person may be possessed by a demon?

6. God's Creation

Do you believe that God created the world? Why or why not?

What does God being our creator mean for our relationship with him?

What is our "spirit"?

How should the fact that people are made in God's image influence us?

How could you use the world as evidence for God’s existence, when talking to a non-Christian?

_____

_____

7. God’s Sovereignty

What makes you think that God reigns supreme in the world?

_____

_____

What plans has God carried out - in the world and/or in the lives of people you know?

_____

_____

How should the teaching that God has control over evil influence us?

_____

_____

To what degree does God impose his control over the nations? What does he do?

_____

_____

In what way/s does God exert control over our lives? (In your answer you could make reference to your own life.)

_____

_____

8. God’s Word

Should we accept every verse of Scripture as God’s word? What dangers are there in not doing so?

In what way/s is God’s word active and powerful?

How does - or how should - God’s word impact the lives of his people?

Which of the Ten Commandments do you need to be more mindful of? How would doing so affect you/ your life?

Is God’s covenant with Israel relevant in any way to God’s relationship with his people today? If so, how?

9. The Problem of Sin

Give a definition of sin.

Why is sin so bad?

What is involved in being separated from God (as a consequence of sin)? What are the implications?

Why does sin result in people facing God's anger?

Explain as simply as you can the concept of making atonement for a person who has sinned.

10. God’s Judgment

How should the statement that God is the judge of the world encourage us?

What factors make God’s judgment just?

How do you think God may carry out his judicial retribution in the present time? Are there any happenings that you think may be God’s judgment?

Why do you think that God’s judgment of the wicked is not more immediate?

If God did not judge us, would there have been any need for Jesus Christ to die?

11. God’s Promised Messiah

Who or what is the “Messiah” that the Old Testament Scriptures speak about?

What elements of the gospel message are in the passages from Isaiah 53?

What reasons are there to believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah?

What does the teaching that God sent Jesus - including the reasons for him doing so - show us about God?

Why was it necessary for Jesus to become a human being?

_____

_____

12. Jesus Christ's Mission

Is there anything you could do to better imitate Jesus' example of living a life focused on carrying out God's will?

What things about Jesus' life and teaching set him apart from other great teachers and their teaching?

What makes you think Jesus was raised from the dead? (The group could make a list of reasons which could be used in talking to someone who is skeptical about it.)

What did God do for Jesus following his death?

Can you see a link between being humble and obeying God (cf. Philippians 2:8)? If so, what?

13. Salvation through Jesus Christ

How does Jesus Christ's death bring God's forgiveness of sins?

In what sense are we free from sin's control, through Jesus Christ's death?

Why is it so important that Jesus was raised from the dead?

Do you think that people can be saved only through Jesus Christ? Explain your reasoning.

How can simply believing (or having faith) in Jesus bring eternal life?

14. The New Order

What does the Bible mean in saying that we are put right in God's sight by his "grace"?

What is the new covenant that God introduced through Jesus Christ?

What does Jesus Christ do in his role as high priest? How is this encouraging for us?

What is the kingdom of God?

How should the fact that Jesus Christ is "Lord of all" affect us?

15. ‘The Last Things’

Are there any signs in the world today that indicate that Jesus Christ’s return is nearer now than it was a century ago?

How does the teaching about Christ’s return motivate and encourage you?

What factors will be taken into account when each person is judged?

How should we respond to the teaching about hell, both in regard to ourselves and to others?

List three things that you really look forward to about eternity.

16. The Standing of God’s People

In what sense do Christians belong to God?

What does being a child of God mean to you?

What is God’s “church”?

In your own words explain what being “in Jesus Christ” means.

What do you think relating to God through Jesus Christ involves?

_____

_____

17. Keys to God's Interaction with His People

How should knowing that God is always with his people affect the way we think and act?

How do or how can we actually know God?

How has God shown his love and/or his faithfulness to you?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us?

Are you aware of the Holy Spirit's work in your life? If so, how? If not, what can you do about it?

18. God’s Transformation of His People

Explain in your own words the “spiritual life” that believers have.

What changes are you seeing in yourself, compared to before you became a Christian? How are you more like Jesus Christ?

Choose one of love, faith and hope - and say what is unique about the believer’s experience of it.

To what degree do you experience God’s joy and peace? What should we do to know more of this joy and peace?

What does God do to transform his people?

19. God’s Care of His People

What troubles have you had in which God has helped you?

How should believing that God is always able to save, affect the way we act and think?

Even with all the great promises in the Bible, bad things still happen to some of God’s people. Why do you think this is so?

How does God provide for you? How do you and/or how should you respond to this?

In what ways does God strengthen his people? (Answer as if you were explaining this to a new Christian.)

20. God’s Plans for His People

How specific do you think God’s plans are for each Christian?

Are you aware of a particular role or kind of work that God wants you to do? If not, what can you do to be open to God guiding you towards the work he wants you to do?

In what ways does God’s power work through his people?

How does God guide us?

What encouragement can believers today draw from the prophecies of God’s renewal of Israel?

21. Being Right with God

Explain in your own words what one needs to do to get right with God.

Why do we need to become like little children to enter God’s kingdom (cf. Matthew 18:2-4)?

How can we be sure we are right with God - and of salvation?

Why is it important for believers to do good deeds?

How do we live by the Holy Spirit?

22. Having Faith in God

What does having faith in God involve doing?

What is something that you need to learn to have faith in God to do?

Why is hope important for faith? Can you think of any other reasons why hope is important?

What will you do the next time you get afraid or worried? (You could nominate a verse to learn, in order to recall when faced with fear or worry.)

What things do you have a tendency to trust in, instead of trusting in God?

23. Loving, Fearing and Obeying God

Why do you think that loving God is the most important thing to do?

How is fearing God different to fearing people or things?

How does fearing God help and/or benefit us?

What measures could you take to more effectively read and learn God's word?

Choose one aspect of Jesus Christ's example that you should imitate better. What is a situation you are likely to encounter in which you could do so?

24. Communing with God

What do you think about during times of inactivity (e.g. travelling on the train)? What could you do to remind yourself to focus on God in such times - as well as at other times?

Do you need to make better provision in your daily routine for meeting with God? If so, what could you do?

How is knowing God similar and/or different to knowing another person?

How does one “pray in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 1:20)?

If you believe, will you receive whatever you ask for in prayer? Explain your answer.

25. Exalting God

What is one thing in your everyday life that you would approach differently if you kept in mind the command to “do everything for the glory of God” (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31)?

What effect does praising and thanking God have on you?

What measures could you take to help yourself to consistently praise and give thanks to God?

What are you or should you be thankful for?

How does one “rejoice”? What does it mean?

26. Being One Body

Why is it important to meet together with other Christians?

How do we benefit by participating and sharing in things with other believers?

How do you show love to people in your church? What else can you do?

What steps could you take to pray more consistently for members of your church?

Can you think of a time when another person encouraged you? How did this affect you? Who can you encourage?

27. Worshiping God

In your own words, explain what it means to worship God “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23–24)?

How can we worship God “with reverence and awe” (Heb 12:28)?

What do you do to worship God? Is there anything else that you should do?

Why is it important to give to God?

Is there any change you should make in how or what you give to God?

28. Serving God

How do you serve God? What other work could you do for him?

How can we ensure our work will produce “the kind of fruit that will last” (John 15:16)?

What are the advantages of working with other believers in serving God?

Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you think you have? If you are not sure, how could you find out?

What should one do in seeking to be guided by God?

29. Significant Practices

What is meant by being baptized in (or into) the name of Jesus Christ?

Does a person need to be baptized to be a Christian?

Explain the significance or meaning of the Lord’s Supper?

What does “confessing” Jesus Christ involve?

What are the advantages or benefits of keeping the Sabbath holy?

30. Church Leadership

State two or three key ways in which a leader should be an example for others to follow.

What things should a church leader do to strengthen members in the faith?

What can you do to encourage or help your church leaders?

Why is the Bible critical for Christian teaching?

How can we recognize false teachers and teaching?

31. Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 mentions a number of characteristics of love. Which of these do you: value the most; and/or need to bear in mind the most (in order to better love others)?

Do you have enemies? What can you do to love them?

How are we better off for forgiving someone, than not forgiving them? (Do not limit your answer to just what is mentioned in the verses.)

In what ways do you judge others? How can you avoid doing this?

How do you deal with your anger? Do you have any tips on how to control anger?

32. Justice

Why is it more important to do what is right and just than to make sacrifices to God (Prov 21:3)?

Are there any situations where you find it hard not to show favoritism?

Is telling a lie ever justifiable?

Why is giving justice to the poor linked with knowing God (Jer 22:15b–16a)?

Who are the needy that you can help? How could you help them?

33. Wisdom

How can one distinguish between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom? What is the difference?

Do you actively try to gain more wisdom? What things should you do - or do differently - to achieve this?

What personality traits or attitudes help us to readily accept correction?

How do our hearts determine our words (cf. Matthew 12:34-35)?

What areas of weakness do you have in regard to your speech? What can you do about them?

34. Common Relationships

What are some specific things husbands should do in applying the teaching regarding loving their wives?

Should wives submit to their husbands? Explain your answer.

Is there anything that you need to do or change in how you relate to one or more of your family members?

Is there a situation where you find it hard to obey the governing authorities? Is there anything that you can or should do about it?

What do you need to keep in mind the most, in relating to your employer or employees?

35. Spreading the Gospel

What do you think are the main points to mention when telling someone the gospel?

What should we tell people about the kingdom of God?

What has God done for you that you can tell others about?

What is one teaching in this section that you find particularly motivating or helpful for spreading the gospel?

Who do you know that you could share the gospel with? What steps could you take in order to do this?

36. Standing Firm

What challenges do you face in remaining faithful to God? What advice could you give to someone facing similar challenges?

What could you do in order to more persistently meditate on God's word?

Are you ready for Jesus Christ's return? If you knew he was returning in the next twelve months, what would you do differently?

Some people worry a lot about Satan, while others are not concerned at all. How should we view him?

Choose one of the things mentioned in the spiritual weapons and armor listed and say how it does or could help you in spiritual warfare.

37. Rejecting Sin

What should we do about sin that we have committed?

How does God’s word help us to avoid sin?

Explain in your own words what it means to “live according to the Spirit” (cf. Romans 8:3b-5)?

How does being preoccupied with doing what is right - including doing good deeds - help us to avoid sin? What right or good things could you be more focused on doing?

What is involved in being holy?

38. Major Pitfalls

Why is pride so bad?

What is “self-righteousness”? How can we avoid it?

How does one “be humble”? What attitudes and actions does it involve?

How do riches form a barrier to our relationship with God?

In what ways is sexual sin detrimental to oneself?

39. Hard Times

How do you think you would find it helpful to mourn over loss “before” God?

_____

_____

What is involved in trusting in God during hard times?

_____

_____

What is meant by “pour out your heart” to God (cf. Psalms 62:8)? How does doing this help in suffering?

_____

_____

Apart from God’s response, how does persisting in prayer benefit a suffering person - both during the suffering and afterwards?

_____

_____

What is one thing mentioned (or perhaps a verse) that you ought to keep in mind when facing hard times? How would it help you?

_____

_____

40. Persecution

What kinds of persecution, if any, have you faced because of your faith?

What is your understanding of the concept of an antichrist of the end times?

What attitude and actions should be part of our response to those who persecute us?

When facing persecution and difficulties, how could you bring yourself to rejoice?

Believers in some countries face intense persecution. What obligations do we have to them as fellow believers? How can we support them?