

Introduction: The Sufficiency of Scripture

Question: What is the Bible about? What is the purpose of the Bible?

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Questions

What kinds of problems is the Bible good for? *Math vs beer; priorities; spiritual, soul problems*

Scenario

Twelve-year-old Tim was the only son of Dawn Isaacson. His father had left a few years ago, but his presence in their lives had been so withdrawn it was not a major impact. Dawn was working at home part-time, but it was getting harder to make ends meet. She would eventually need to find a career to support them both.

Tim had been friends with Samantha for years, but when she accidentally broke his remote controlled quadcopter, he simply couldn't forgive her. Tim had only purchased it by saving birthday money and earnings over more than a year. He would have no way to afford a replacement in the foreseeable future. How could he possibly just forgive Samantha, when she knew how much he treasured it!

Samantha tried repeatedly over the next few months to apologize and win his friendship back, but Tim never acknowledged her or gave signs of forgiveness. They grew apart, and Tim grew increasingly bitter.

Questions

What is the most important problem in Tim's life? *Sin; is he a believer?*

What guidance does the Bible give Tim for forgiveness? *Matthew 18:21-35*

What is the first step Tim should take? *Get saved, and if saved, learn to comprehend God's forgiveness.*

Scenario

When Tim was in 5th grade, Michael moved into the neighborhood. Michael could be a jerk sometimes but Tim usually thought of him as a pretty cool kid. Michael’s parents were both doctors of some kind and it seemed like they were always working. They made a lot of money.

Michael’s parents bought him anything he ever wanted. He didn’t just have a normal spinner, he had some sort of special machined stainless steel spinner, it practically spun forever. He didn’t just have a scooter, he had an electric scooter that was literally as fast as Tim’s bike. Michael didn’t just have the newest iPhone, but he actually had his own Apple Watch, and he could text his friends right from his wrist!

Tim didn’t even have a phone at all! What was worse is that his Mom hardly made enough money to just get normal groceries and stuff. He’d never be able to have a phone, much less an iPhone with an Apple Watch!

The things is, Michael didn’t even care about some of his stuff. He almost never carried his spinner with him, it was just put on a shelf in his room. If Tim had a spinner like that he’d treasure it! It was so unfair!

Tim began saying little things like, “I wish I had stuff like that.” The truth was, Tim became bitterly jealous. When Michael came over to show Tim his new remote controlled airplane, Tim exploded.

“You just get everything, don’t you! It’s so unfair!” Why was God like this? Everyone says that God is supposed to be all loving, and fair, and whatever. Tim hated God. God was totally unfair, and it just wasn’t fair.

Tim felt awful inside because he knew he was missing something, but he didn’t know what it was. And he didn’t want to know.

Questions

What can Tim do to make his life more fair?

Is God unfair to Tim? How can Tim better understand how God works in his life?

What kinds of sins is Tim caught up in?

What can Tim do to grow and change?

Scenario

Samantha had gotten straight A's every semester in middle school. She loved seeing her name on the Dean's List that was posted in the school hall, but she loved how her mom served a special dessert after dinner in honor of Samantha's hard work and how her dad smiled when she showed him her report card even more. She knew they were proud of her, and everyone at school thought of her as one of the "smart kids".

When Samantha's teacher handed back her math test, she knew there would be no special dessert this semester. She had gotten a C on it! Math was her hardest class but she had studied hard and gotten A's and B's on all the other tests this semester. Every evening leading up to the test something had come up and kept her from studying. There was a show she really wanted to watch one evening, then a friend invited her to go roller skating another evening. It seemed something always came up and she didn't have time to study until late the night before.

Now she had ruined everything with her bad choices! She knew she didn't deserve a special dessert, or for her parents to be proud of her. Her name wouldn't be on the Dean's List and everyone would know she had done poorly! Samantha just wanted to slink down in her seat and disappear. It already felt like everyone in class was looking at her. She wished she could just run away.

<Her identity and value are caught up in her performance. Her problem is misplaced identity and pride.>

Questions:

What does Samantha think her problem is? *Her poor performance; everyone's judgement of her.*

What might an unsaved friend say to try and comfort her? *"That's ok; you'll do better next time."
"You still did better than me."*

What is the true problem that Samantha faces? *Her evaluation of herself in light of performance; her reliance on being better than others.*

How can you help Samantha realize what her problem really is?

How can you help Samantha work on addressing her true problem?

Scenario

Twelve-year-old Tim knew that he had failed God. He obviously just didn't have enough faith! What was he to do?

A week ago he had witnessed the greatest moment of his entire life. Dwane Macintosh, the greatest baseball player of all time had come to his town and given a message in his church—in Tim's very own church, Holy Rock Fellowship! During the entire time Tim was just waiting to hear it: the secret of his success!

He had always known Dwane was a Christian, but he was also a terrific batter! He publicly spoke out about his faith in Christ, and Tim was so encouraged by that! Tim had always loved baseball, and Dwane Mac was the reason.

Unfortunately for Tim, he wasn't any good at baseball himself. And now he knew why. During Dwane Mac's speech at church, at the end he had explained the secret of his success. "To sum it all up," Dwane's deep voice rumbled, "I'd like to say that God's responsible for my success." Tim's ears were humming and his heart was pounding!

"Let me just share a verse that has meant so much to me over the years," Dwane went on. "Philippians 4:13. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. That's the reason for my success."

Dwane continued and eventually finished his speech, but Tim didn't hear the rest at all. He had been thinking and pondering over the verse Dwane had quoted. It was so unfair! "I can do all things..." Why could Dwane do all things? Why could Dwane be a baseball superstar? Why couldn't Tim?

The more Tim thought about that verse, the more depressed he became. A few days later his Mother had to ask him if he was feeling all right. The truth was, he was not.

It must be that he didn't have enough faith. That was the only explanation as to why God didn't give Tim success the same way he had given Dwane!