



WHY DO WE BELIEVE & SEEK GOD?



GOSPEL



ANSWERS

THE TWO DISCIPLES HEARD WHAT HE SAID AND FOLLOWED JESUS. JESUS TURNED AND SAW THEM FOLLOWING HIM AND SAID TO THEM, "WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?" THEY SAID TO HIM, "RABBI, WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?" HE SAID TO THEM, "COME, AND YOU WILL SEE." - JOHN 1:35-43

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

ST JOHN EUDES

The little that we know about the life of St John Eudes points to one truth that he lived- he was a man of deep faith and inspired others to seek God. He did not only giving conferences and retreats helping lead people to God but he served those in need and inspired others with his example with the poor.



FRANK PARATER

Frank spent his short earthly life doing all he could to show others the faith he had in God and he sought to please God in all he did. This led him to be an exemplary leader and ultimately pursue the priesthood.



TALK ABOUT IT!

TEAM DISCUSSION

After reading over the YOUCAT numbers on the following pages, how do you think the Youth Catechism answers the question of the week? Were there any words or ideas that you did not fully understand that you would like to understand better?

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:



YOUCAT NUMBERS FOR THIS WEEK



#1: FOR WHAT PURPOSE ARE WE HERE ON EARTH?

We are here on earth in order to know and to love God, to do good according to his will, and to go someday to heaven. To be a human being means to come from God and to go to God. Our origin goes back farther than our parents. We come from God, in whom all the happiness of heaven and earth is at home, and we are expected in his everlasting, infinite blessedness. Meanwhile we live on this earth. Sometimes we feel that our Creator is near; often we feel nothing at all. So that

we might find the way home, God sent us his Son, who freed us from sin, delivers us from all evil, and leads us unerringly into true life. He is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6).

#2: WHY DID GOD CREATE US?

God created us out of free and unselfish love. When a man loves, his heart overflows. He would like to share his joy with others. He gets this from his Creator. Although God is a mystery, we can still think about him in a human way and say: Out of the "surplus" of his love he created us. He wanted to share his endless joy with us, who are creatures of his love.

#3: WHY DO WE SEEK GOD?

God has placed in our hearts a longing to seek and find him. St. Augustine says, "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." We call this longing for God religion. It is natural for man to seek God. All of our striving for truth and happiness is ultimately a search for the one who supports us absolutely.

#5: WHY DO PEOPLE DENY THAT GOD EXISTS, IF THEY CAN KNOW HIM BY REASON?

To know the invisible God is a great challenge for the human mind. Many are scared off by it. Another reason why some do not want to know God is because they would then have to change their life. Anyone who says that the question about God is meaningless because it cannot be answered is making things too easy for himself.

#6: CAN WE GRASP GOD AT ALL IN CONCEPTS? IS IT POSSIBLE TO SPEAK ABOUT HIM MEANINGFULLY?

Although we men are limited and the infinite greatness of God never fits into finite human concepts, we can nevertheless speak rightly about God. In order to express something about God, we use imperfect images and limited notions. So everything we say about God is subject to the reservation that our language is not equal to God's greatness. We must constantly purify and improve our speech about God.

#4: CAN WE KNOW THE EXISTENCE OF GOD BY OUR REASON?

Yes. Human reason can know God with certainty. The world cannot have its origin and its destination within itself. In everything that exists, there is more than we see. The order, the beauty, and the development of the world point beyond themselves toward God. Every man is receptive to what is true, good, and beautiful. He hears within himself the voice of conscience, which urges him to what is good and warns him against what is evil. Anyone who follows this path reasonably finds God.



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE



#342: ARE WE ALL SUPPOSED TO BECOME "SAINTS"?

Yes. The purpose of our life is to be united with God in love and to correspond entirely to God's wishes. We should allow God "to live his life in us" (Mother Teresa). That is what it means to be holy: a "saint". Every man asks himself the question: Who am I and why am I here, how do I find myself? Faith answers: Only in holiness does man become that for which God created him. Only in holiness does man find real harmony between himself and his Creator. Holiness, however, is not some sort of self-made perfection; rather, it is union with the incarnate love that is Christ. Anyone who gains new life in this way finds himself and becomes holy.

#352: WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE COMMANDMENT, "I AM THE LORD, YOUR GOD" (Ex 20:2)?

Because the Almighty has revealed himself to us as our God and Lord, we must not place anything above him or consider anything more important or give any other thing or person priority over him. To know God and to serve and worship him has absolute priority in our life. God expects us to give him our full faith; we should place all our hope in him and direct all the strength of our love toward him. The commandment to love God is the most important of all commandments and the key to all the others. That is why it stands at the beginning of the Ten Commandments.

#353: WHY DO WE WORSHIP GOD?

We worship God because he exists and because reverence and worship are the appropriate response to his revelation and his presence. "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" (Mt 4:10). Worshipping God, however, is also beneficial to men, for it frees them from servitude to the powers of this world. When God is no longer worshipped and when he is no longer thought to be Lord over life and death, others assume that position and put human dignity at risk.

#354: CAN PEOPLE BE FORCED TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

No. No one may force others to believe, not even one's own children, just as no one may be forced to be an unbeliever. A person can make the decision to believe only in complete freedom. Christians, however, are called to help other people, by word and example, to find the way to faith.

#355: "YOU SHALL NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

This commandment forbids us: to adore other gods and pagan deities or to worship an earthly idol or to devote oneself entirely to some earthly good (money, influence, success, beauty, youth, and so on) to be superstitious, which means to adhere to esoteric, magic, or occult or New Age practices or to get involved with fortune telling or spiritualism, instead of believing in God's power, providence, and →BLESSINGS to provoke God by word or deed to commit a →SACRILEGE to acquire spiritual power through corruption and to desecrate what is holy through trafficking (simony).