

Topics of the Bible ~ Blasphemy ~ Discussion Questions

1. The word “blasphemy” comes from the Greek word *blasphemia*, which literally means *to speak harm*. From a religious point of view, it means showing contempt or the utmost disrespect or defiance toward God. A second meaning is claiming the attributes of the Lord (or actually to be God). In Biblical times, what was the punishment for cursing or blaspheming the name of the Lord? (Leviticus 24:15-16, Matthew 26:65-66, John 10:33)

Is this penalty still in effect today? (Think about it now, but we’ll answer it when we get to Q 5 and 6 below.)

2. How can one blaspheme God? The Bible tells us six ways:

A. Leviticus 24:11 _____

B. Acts 6:11 _____

C. Ezekiel 20:27-31 (esp vs 27) _____

D. 1 Timothy 1:13 _____

E. James 2:2-7 _____

F. Revelation 13:1 _____

3. Have you ever blasphemed God? (Most of us have.) Which one(s) of the six ways above have snagged you or continue to be troublesome to you? Why?

4. The Bible differentiates between (A) blasphemy against God and against Jesus, and (B) blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. What’s the difference? (Matthew 12:22-31. Look at the New Living Translation if possible. Also see Mark 3:29-30)

5. Blasphemy against God and Jesus can be forgiven (1 Timothy 1:12-14), but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the *only unforgivable sin* in the Bible. Why is this? (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10, Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26, 29)

6. Have you ever been (or are you now) concerned that you may have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and cannot be forgiven? Put another way, can a Christian believer commit the unforgivable sin? (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 10:27-28, Romans 6:14, 1 John 1:7)

Topics of the Bible ~ Blasphemy ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. In Judges 17:1-5, does the man, Micah, commit blasphemy? If so, is it forgivable or not?
2. In 2 Kings 6:33, do you think King Ben-hadad of Aram committed blasphemy? Why or why not?
3. In 2 Chronicles 32:17, do you think King Sennacherib of Assyria committed blasphemy?
4. In 2 Chronicles 33:1-8, does Manasseh commit blasphemy? What did the Lord say about Manasseh? (2 Kings 21:11) What happened to Israel as a result of Manasseh's sins? (2 Kings 21:12-14) Are you getting some idea of how seriously the Lord regards blasphemy?
5. Here are several selected verses from Psalm 73. How would you answer the question that the writer, Asaph, poses in the last verse (11)?

Psalm 73: ³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. ⁵ They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. ⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. ⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. ¹¹ They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" [NLT]

6. What is the blasphemy in Isaiah 5:18-19? Or is it blasphemy at all?
7. Herod committed many sins, but what did the Lord finally strike him down for? (Acts 12:21-23)
8. What are some ways of guarding yourself from committing blasphemy?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____