HOPE when life doesn’t make sense December 16, 2018

*Isaiah 40:12-26 Series: Christmas Hope*

Us questioning how God runs the world is like a seven-year-old questioning the mathematical calculations of a world-class physicist. – Tim Keller

Intro: We all ask questions about our faith. Have you asked questions about your doubt?

1. What if God is infinitely wiser than you can imagine?
2. God’s science experiments leave ours in the dust.

v. 12 *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?*

1. God doesn’t need a second opinion.

v. 13 *Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?*

v. 14 *Whom did he consult, and who made him understand?*

1. Our combined knowledge doesn’t add up to much.

v. 15 *Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.*

Psalm 147:5 *Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.*

1 John 3:20 *for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.*

* Why do you think God asks so many questions in Scripture?
* How should God’s infinite wisdom help you think differently about areas in your life that don’t make sense?

1. What if God is infinitely more powerful than you can imagine?
2. God isn’t like anything you’ve ever made.

v. 18 *To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?*

v. 19 *An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.*

v. 20 *He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.*

1. God isn’t like anyone you’ve ever met.

v. 22 *It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers …*

v. 23 *who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness*

v. 24 *when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble*

Matthew 19:26 *But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

Jeremiah 32:27 *Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?*

* What’s so wrong with comparing God to a gold idol?
* How would verses 23 and 24 have encouraged the Israelites when they were in exile in Babylon?
* How does God’s infinite power and knowledge help you see the theories and conclusions of modern science differently?

1. What if God is infinitely more personal than you can imagine?
2. What kind of God names the stars?

v. 25 *To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.*

v. 26a *Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?*

1. If God can protect the stars, how much more can He care for you?

v. 26b *He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.*

* What does it tell you about God that He names the stars?
* God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky (Genesis 15:5). How would God’s protection of every last star have encouraged the Israelites?
* How might this passage encourage you when life doesn’t seem to make any sense?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Isaiah 40:27-31

Notes