



EPISODE 3 HINTS

PITSTOP

1. If there is a God, then isn't he responsible for the mess this world is in?

Some people point the finger at God but remember that God made the world perfect to begin with. He gave human beings the responsibility to look after his world but sadly they did not want to take care of it, they wanted to take control of it. The world has never been the same since.

2. Do you think human beings are capable of sorting out this world's biggest problems?

It's great to know that there are so many people and organisations who care enough to try and make this world a better place. But however hard we try and however much money we spend this world doesn't seem to be getting any better, only worse. Maybe it's because we are only tackling the symptoms of the problem when we should be focusing on the cause (sin).

3. Do you ever sense there's something more or long for something better?

Maybe these deep feelings and emotions are longings for the perfect world we once had and a desire to put things right with the God whose world we have messed up.

FINDING DIRECTION

Bible Reading Mark chapter 2 verses 1-12

1. Why do you think that so many people had gathered to see Jesus? (v1-2)

News had begun to spread. Jesus was saying and doing some amazing things, including healing the seriously ill and disabled. This was just the kind of reaction you would expect.

2. Did you find what Jesus said in verse 5 shocking? Why or why not?

It may sound shocking to you because Jesus seems to ignore the fact that this man was paralysed (couldn't move). This man's greatest need seemed obvious, he was paralysed but Jesus was more concerned about his sin.

3. What is sin and why is God so bothered about it?

Sin can be described in a number of ways. It is to fall short of God's standard or it could be described as a rebellion against the loving God who made this world. It's to reject the God who gives you your life as a gift. God is bothered about sin because of its destructive power. It has spoilt this world and it has spoilt the relationship we once had with God.

4. Were the religious teachers right in thinking that it's only God who can forgive sins? (v7)

Yes, they were right. If sin is a wrong that we have committed against God, then it's only God who can forgive that sin. The teachers were wrong in not believing that Jesus was God.



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FINDING DIRECTION CONTINUED

5. Find two things in the story which prove that Jesus was in fact God and therefore able to forgive sins. (v8, v10-12)

Jesus heard their thoughts and he healed a man who couldn't move just by speaking to him.

6. Which was easier, to forgive his sin or heal him completely?

Jesus asked this same question to prove a point – both are impossible for ordinary human beings. The answer we should come up with is that only God can forgive sins and only God can heal in this way. Jesus wants us to see his true identity as God.

7. The man and his friends had faith, they believed Jesus could make a difference. What difference do you think faith-in-Jesus could make to your life?

Faith in Jesus is the only way for you to have your sins forgiven.