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Finding God In Difficult Times

There comes a time in a person's life when he or she must leave the comfort of what is familiar to them and branch out into uncertainty. Personally, I am at this point in my life and I have never been more scared. As an incoming college freshman, I am moving hours away from my home, my family, and my friends to obtain upper level education in order to prepare me for my future. This transition will be difficult but I know that it is something that must happen. To get me through this hard time, I remember the one constant that will always remain the same: my faith in God. No matter the circumstance I am in, my trust in Him is strong and keeps me from falling apart. My unshakable faith stems all the way back to elementary religion lessons and grew stronger over the years as I participated in numerous retreats, masses, and other religious activities my school and church held. However, I would be lying if I said that I was not worried about how I would continue developing my relationship with God during this new and uncharted season of my life. Before beginning this study, I thought that I could only learn about God through religious teachings or events. Growing up, I knew no other means to do so. I had access to reliable mentors and teachers who always provided me with adequate resources to further establish my faith in God. Yet, after concluding the study, I can confidently say that I have learned how to see God in every aspect of life, especially in the various biblical worldviews mentioned in the course.

Moving through the book, it was easy to establish a connection between God and some of the biblical worldviews listed. Theology, biology, and ethics were three of the easiest for me to recognize God's character and principles in. Theology basically speaks for itself; this worldview

surrounds the idea of God and how He is involved in the world around us. Because of this, it was rather obvious on how I can find Him through this specific worldview. By diving into the topic of theology, I can prove that God is real and that He is everywhere. Next, I looked into the study of biology. This specific topic spiked a large amount of interest within me because it dealt with the origin of life, which I have had numerous lessons on in high school. I have always known that God is the Creator of everything but after reading through this section, it became difficult to understand how someone can think there is any other answer besides Him. He is the Creator of all things and because of this, He designed humans to be made in His image and likeness, thus securing his place in this biblical worldview. Looking back, I believe that this section of the study will have a lasting impact on me because of my dream to one day work in the medical field as a physical therapist. Learning more about God's presence in biology can especially guide me through my medical schooling because it can keep me grounded in my faith when I may feel overwhelmed with schoolwork and assessments. Moving on to the next worldview, I found that I could point out God's place in ethics fairly easily. Ethics surrounds the idea of what is right and wrong and also covers the basis of one's morality. When trying to figure out if something is morally right, one can turn to God's character for the true answer. By looking at His nature and personality, the answer becomes very clear on whether something is good or bad. Due to the fact that one turns to God's character for confirmation, it can be easily proven that He is evident in the study of ethics. Overall, these three worldviews certainly stand out to me because of how powerful each lesson is. All present sturdy facts that I will remember and use in my day to day life when trying to find God in the world around me.

Going back to when I first started this study, I was somewhat skeptical on how reading through and filling out a workbook could change my perspective of how I see God in the world

around me, especially in law and politics. I did not understand how the Creator of the universe could be involved in something as secular as establishing the laws or governing whole countries. Reading through these particular sections of the book opened my eyes to a deeper knowledge of how God's character influences present-day law and politics. It can be seen in many government documents how God's principles shape the way the country is run. There are certain decisions made that reflect Christian beliefs and further prove that God has an impact on everyday American society. This section also opened my eyes to how I should frame my political beliefs. As a Christian, it is my responsibility to uphold God's principles in whatever way possible. For instance, when a new legislature is presented and the citizens are asked to vote on if it should be passed or not, I am responsible to vote in favor of the choice that encourages the most Christian-like lifestyle. So, I am especially grateful for having studied those particular sections because it has led me to further understanding my role as a citizen. With having just turned 18 a few months ago and now having the ability to vote, I am thankful that I came across these teachings because it reminds me that I must keep God centered in every aspect of life, even the most secular ones.

When I finally flipped past the last page of the workbook, I felt a strong sense of ease wash over me. I experienced the sensation, not because I completed something that can be viewed as schoolwork, but because I gained so much from this study that I feel prepared for my life beyond high school. I remember being so worried about how I was going to carry on living my Christian lifestyle in college due to the lack of constant reminders to read my Bible or say grace before my meals. However, this study opened my eyes to the possibility that those small reminders are all around me. In the different biblical worldviews mentioned, I was able to go in depth and study how to find God in each one. For example, I can look at any living, breathing

thing and see God as the Creator in it. I can also read any political document and point out God's principle in its framework. Learning these skills over the past couple of weeks truly prepared me for this upcoming season in my life by ensuring that, regardless of which path I take, I can always find God nearby.