

Large Group Handout - Between Your Ears Who is at the Center of Your Universe?

11.4.20 Middle School

11.11.20 High School

Lesson Overview:

Tonight, Pastor JR explains one of the most important concepts that Christians often fail to live out: God is the center of the universe. The Bible teaches us that God created the world, God sustains and controls the world, and that God rules over the world. As Christians, we may say we believe these truths, but do our lives show that to be true? We are reminded that how we live determines what we really believe in our hearts.

Most of us live in a way to display the following beliefs: 1) Nothing is the center of the universe; 2) I am the center of the universe; or 3) God is at the center of the universe. Oftentimes, if we're honest, our lives might reflect more than one of those beliefs, sometimes making God-centered choices, and sometimes making me-centered choices. The more we have God-centered thoughts, the more we will live God-centered lives. When we live God-centered lives, we live for *His* glory and to make *His* name famous, not ours.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is something that spoke to you in Pastor JR's message? Anything you agree/disagree with?
2. Describe the most amazing place you've been or thing you've seen in God's creation?
3. Pastor JR stated that even though God knows everything that will happen in your life, and even though he is in control of everything, he is not necessarily responsible for everything that happens to you. How can you make sense of this?
 - Leaders - if students have difficulty answering this, pose some examples for them:
 - If someone is hit by a drunk driver, is that God's doing?
 - If my boyfriend/girlfriend breaks up with me, is that God's doing?
 - If my mom gets cancer, is that God's doing?
 - We want to make sure students understand that all pain, sickness, and death is ultimately due to sin entering the world. Though God does cause some things to happen (for reasons we may not understand), many things are a result of continued sin and free choice.
4. What are some reasons God might allow tragedies to happen? Refer to [Romans 5:3-5](#) for some ideas.
5. Pastor JR says that God has a right to tell us how to live. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
6. Pastor JR talked about 3 "buckets" you might fall into, when it comes to what you believe: **1) Nothing is at the center; 2) I am at the center; 3) God is at the center.** Which do you most relate with?
7. If you can relate to either of the inaccurate views, what thoughts/actions in your life reflect that?
 - How can you take steps to replace those inaccurate thoughts with accurate ones? See [2 Corinthians 10:5](#).
 - Remember our steps: **1) Identify the lies; 2) Admit the lies; 3) Replace with truth**
8. What would you need to change to put Jesus at the center of everything? How would your life look differently?