

WHAT IF?



WHAT IF?

It's a reality of life: We dream. Dreams are thought to be flighty and flaky, and to be sure, some dreams are. The exercise that follows is designed to inspire the greatest and grandest of dreaming: dreams flowing from the reality of God.

Each page of this exercise has a thought. These thoughts are designed to stimulate your imagination with truth from Scripture. As you consider these thoughts, let them inspire the *What if?* question. Following the thought is an open section on the page. Before you write, pause prayerfully. Listen. Dream. Talk to God about this area of your life. As you talk, ask for renewed imagination and vision for your life, both now and for all eternity. Let the question linger. Be suspicious of impulses. This is a place where first impulses may be rooted in the old imagination. Prayerfully engage a new imagination by letting the fresh vision for God and the deeper understanding of your heart inspire the greatest and grandest of dreams.

Then put it on the page, below the *What if...*, and as always, color outside the lines.

Tomorrow

Scripture beckons us to be free from the worry of tomorrow. We are told to “*not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself*” (Matthew 6:34). This freedom from worry is inspired by love for God. Rather than let worry reign in our lives as we attempt to be god, we are set free from worry as we let God be God. We get to live in the moment. We get to see the world around us. This very moment, the moment we are in, passes in an instant. Worry for tomorrow will rob us of this moment. It robs us of the joy of this moment. It robs us of the opportunity in this moment. It robs us of the need in this moment.

What if I really did it?

What if I love God by letting him be God of tomorrow?

Using as many of the points below as needed, how would life be different if God were God of tomorrow?



WHAT IF?

Appetites

We crave food. We crave drink. We crave brownie fudge pie with ice cream and chocolate sauce. We crave sex. We crave buzzes and adrenaline and rushes and thrills. Cravings can be healthy, normal, and good. Cravings can be destructive, controlling, and dangerous.

Which is it?

Is it a normal desire to satisfy an appetite?

Is it escapist behavior as we seek to anesthetize life's struggles?

Scripture tells us, for some, *"Their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame"* (Philippians 3:19). Do we walk to the refrigerator with normal cravings for food? Or do we escape to the pantry as we bow down to our appetites? Do we enjoy the drink and give thanks to God? Or do we embrace three more drinks and make them our god?

What if love for God set us free? Using as many of the points below as needed, how would life be different if God were God of our appetites?



WHAT IF?

People

Let's be honest: There are some people we like, and there are some people we don't like.

Let's be honest again: There are some people who like us, and there are some people who don't like us.

Scripture calls us to be in relationship with people.

Fair enough. There's more.

Scripture calls us to love people.

Fair enough. There's more.

Scripture calls us to...

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44).

That's asking a lot. But what if? What if I were *free* from the control of difficult relationships? Not free from the relationships; there will always be difficult relationships. But what if my love for God set me free so that the difficult person no longer held godlike sway over my life?

Using as many of the points below as needed, how would life be different, if God were God of your relationships?



WHAT IF?

Rest

Life is filled with limitations. We have limited time, limited money, limited resources. One more...

Limited energy.

Christ beckons us...

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

How do we rest? What or whom do we look to for rest for our souls? Will rest be found through another round of channel surfing. Just one more pass through all the shows. One of them will do it. One of them will give me the rest I want and need.

Maybe. Maybe not.

A quiet night of entertainment may be right and good as we rest our bodies, but it is not equipped to rest our souls. Seek to rest the soul with methods only strong enough to rest our bodies, and rest will forever evade us.

What if love for God gave us rest? Using as many of the points below as needed, how would life be different if God were God of our rest?



WHAT IF?

Work

It's a reality of life. We work.

Sometimes we like it. We're in the zone. We're doing what we feel created to do.

Other times we loathe it. We're in the ditch. We're moaning and groaning as we do what we have to do.

Scripture call us to...

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

How does a life centered on God influence your work? Do you work more? Do you work less?

Using as many of the points below as needed, how would life be different if God were God of your work?



WHAT IF?

Cause

We live in a broken world.

There is hunger and hardship, sorrow and suffering.

Scripture tells us...

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 1:27).

A life centered on God is a life liberated to serve those around us. Using as many of the points below as needed, how will your life be different with God ever-increasingly at the center of your life?



WHAT IF?

What Else?

What if...

Using as many of the points below as needed, how would life be different in any area not yet mentioned in these categories?



WHAT IF?