

S4 CRE

SECTION E

SUB THEME 1: MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD.

SUB THEME 11: MAN'S EVASION OF GOD.

SUB THEME 111: CHRISTIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD.

MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD.

ATTRIBUTES/QUALITIES OF GOD.

QN1. Who is God?

QN2. Describe the qualities of God as found in the Bible

God is universal, he is found everywhere at the same time and he is a God for everyone regardless of status, sex etc.

God is holy, perfect, and faithful that is why people search for him to become more holy, perfect and faithful.

God is impartial; He loves and treats all people equally without discrimination.

God is alpha and omega he has no beginning and end that is why people search for him.

God is everlasting, He will never die so people search for him to get everlasting life.

God is a forgiving that is why he sent his only son to die for our sins, so people search for God in order to be forgiven their sins.

God is kind he welcomes everyone like sinners, outcasts, rich and poor, young and old.

God is supreme no man on earth is above him and because of this reason people have gone ahead to search for him.

God is patient he gives man time to repent and turn back to him.

God is Omni-present, he is believed to be everywhere at the same time, he is believed to be on earth and heaven at the same time so people search for his protection.

God is Omni-potent, he is powerful and he is believed to have power over everything and even knows the unsaid words.

God is wise and no man on earth is wiser than God, he is wiser than any creature so people search for God to get wisdom.

God is merciful that is why he sent Moses to liberate the Israelites from the bondage of slavery in Egypt, he clothed Adam and Eve before chasing them away.

God is a provider and sustainer of life, whoever prays to him gets what he or she prays for. For example, when the Israelites were feeling thirsty and hungry God provided for them.

QUALITIES OF GOD AS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

God is a miracle performer for example through Moses he separated the sea for the Israelites to cross.

He is a provider for example he provided to the Israelites food and water while in the wilderness.

He is a judge for example he gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites to guide them through Moses.

God is the creator for example he created the universe and everything in it.

God is merciful for example he sent Moses to Egypt to liberate the Israelites from the bondage of slavery and he also sent his only son Jesus to die for our sins.

God is an army commander he enabled the Israelites to defeat their enemies for example he enabled King David to defeat giant Goliath.

God is fire for example he manifested himself to Moses through a burning bush.

God is a Guider for example he guided the Israelites all the way from Egypt to the promises land of Canaan.

God is the savior for example he saved the Israelites from Slavery in Egypt.

God is holy for example he told Moses to remove his sandals while speaking to him because he was stepping on the holy ground.

WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE SEARCH FOR GOD TODAY.

People search for God today by denouncing their traditional cultural practices for example many Born-Again Christians have denounced their cultural practices like performance of the last funeral rites.

By fulfilling the church sacraments for example many Christians have accepted baptism, Confirmation and Holy matrimony.

By offering charitable services to the needy in the society for example Christians in watoto church under child care projects are paying school fees for their children.

Some Christians have attached themselves to church work for example some men are serving as priests, pastors, bishops and reverends.

By preaching the word of God to others for example pastor Robert kayanja of Rubaga miracle center has preached the word of God to very many people.

By organizing fellowships and miracle Crusade for example pastor Robert kayanja organized the 77days of glory crusade in December 2018 where many people witnessed different miracles.

By publishing Christian books and distributed to different people in order to understand God better for example the Bible society of Uganda has published bibles in different languages.

Some people search for God by composing songs that praise and worship God for example Hon. Judith Babirye has composed many songs that praise God like “Yesu beera nage, Nzijukira ”

Some Christians search for God by putting in place Christian films which have helped people to get deeply rooted in Christ for example the film of passion of Christ, heaven is for real have helped some people to get deeply rooted in Christ.

Many people search for God through confessing their sins and denouncing all the evil deeds.

People search for God by giving offerings and tithing to God thanking him for what he has done for them.

Through carrying out holy journeys to holy places for example the Protestants and Catholics always visit Namugongo Shrine every 3rd June each year.

Through self-denials in order to serve God better for examples in the Catholic Church priests and nuns have decided to live a celibacy life in order to serve God better.

- Fasting
- Reading the bible.
- Sharing the Eucharist.
- Praying regularly.

HINDERANCES TO MAN'S SEARCH FOR GOD/ CHALLENGES.

The increasing levels of poverty has made it hard for man to search for God and they have looked for other alternatives to get rid of poverty for example many women have resorted to prostitution because of poverty.

Bad examples shown by religious leaders has discouraged many people from worshipping God for example when pastor Joseph Kibwetere of Kanungu in western Uganda burnt all his believers in his church it discouraged very many people to worship God.

Failure of man to get what he or she prays for which makes them curse God and look at God as non-existing for example when an S.4 candidate prays for a first grade in UNEB Examination and ends up failing.

The existence of many religions has ended up confusing many people because each religion criticizes the other leading to confusion among believers for example the Muslims criticize Christians and Christians criticize Muslims.

The unseen nature of God makes Christians doubt God's existence because no man on earth has ever seen God physically but just imagine.

Man's ability to control natural disasters that affect man in life has proved to be a great challenge to man's quest for God because man ends up trusting himself because he has ability to control disaster.

Having everything one needs in life has made it hard for man to search for God for example in developed countries few people attend to public prayers because they feel they have everything they need and think that God is for the poor people who have to pray to God to get what they lack.

The presence of witchcraft has proved to be a challenge to man's search for God because many people have claimed to have succeeded in life by use of witchcraft which makes people doubt God.

The success of non-believers has discouraged many people from searching for God like many non-believers have fancy cars, posh houses yet some people who are committed to God lack such things.

Greed for material wealth has proved to be a challenge to man's quest for God for example it's alleged that kato kajubi sacrificed joseph kasirye to a witch doctor in Masaka in order to become richer.

The introduction of formal education has proved to be a hindrance to man's search for God where people get knowledge in different fields which sometimes criticizes God's existence for example the philosophers tend to criticize God's existence to some extent.

The development of science and technology has caused a lot of doubt in man's mind about God's existence because it has provided solution to man's problem for example some barren women have got a solution to barrenness by using test tube babies which is common in south Africa.

MAN'S SEARCH FOR GOD IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

DIFFERENT NAMES GIVEN TO GOD BY AFRICAN SOCIETIES.

1. Baganda –Katonda, Lisodene, Rugaba, Dunda
2. Batooro/ Banyoro –Ruhanga, Iruga.
3. Banyarwanda – Imana.
4. Nigerians – Kineke.
5. Itesots – Edeke.
6. Basoga- Kibumba.

REASONS WHY THE AFRICANS SEARCHED FOR GOD.

- To be blessed with children.
- To have good harvest which drove them into performing rituals.
- To strengthen their relationship with God, this drove them into praying.
- To be protected against epidemic diseases which drove them into offering of sacrifices.
- To be successful in war.
- To get courage in doing their activities.
- To express appreciation to God like after getting good harvests.
- To get a new understanding with God.
- To have their ceremonies blessed by God like initiation ceremonies.
- To attain peace following the various wars of expansion.

WAYS THROUGH WHICH AFRICANS SEARCHED FOR GOD.

People searched for God through praying and they conducted prayers in shrines, on mountains and under trees for example among the Baganda of central Uganda before carrying out any activity they always first prayed for God's blessings.

Through performing rituals that were symbolic in action for example among the Baganda of central Uganda they carried out libations by pouring drinks on the ground to appease the spirits.

Through giving offerings and sacrifices to God thanking him for what he had for them and also request for what they wanted for example among the

Baganda and Basoga of eastern Uganda during the time of drought and famine they offered Sacrifices to gods and God.

By remaining committed to God through carrying out acts of kindness and generosity to the disadvantaged groups for example among the Baganda they cared for the elderly people, the lame, and the sick as they searched for God.

They remained committed to the act of praising and worshipping God where they used to dance and sing for God during the time of praising God.

Through use of intermediaries (small gods) who acted as mediators between God and those who lived physically for example among the Baganda of central Uganda they prayed to Ddungu when going for hunting in order to be successful and also prayed to mukasa for rain.

Through respecting traditional leaders like medicine men, ritual leaders and fore seers who were believed to be God's representatives on earth.

Through giving names to their children which glorified God's name for example among the Baganda of central Uganda they named their children "musasizi" meaning merciful and among the banyonkole of western Uganda they named children "Agaba" meaning the giver.

Through respecting the living dead who were believed to have joined the spiritual world and were close to God. They were also believed to bless and curse the living.

Through respecting sacred places and objects that were believed to be holy for example among the Basonga they respected the shrines because they were used as places of worship.

Through living morally upright because they believed that the God they worshipped was holy and wanted people who were holy.

By building shrines which were used as places of worship where they carried out all the religious activities for example among the baganda

cleansing people with bad omen was done in shrines, praying and sacrificing to God was also done in shrines.

By composing songs that praised and worshipped God's goodness and kindness.

QN.1 "Africans were notoriously religious" how true was this statement?

QN.2 What are some of the beliefs that existed in African Traditional Society?

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY AND PRESENT SITUATION.

- Both societies search for God through prayers.
- Both societies search for God through carrying out charitable services.
- Both societies search for God through respecting sacred places and objects.
- Both search for God through building places of worship.
- Both search for God by exercising forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Both search for God by composing songs that praise and worship God.
- Both search for God by respecting religious leaders.
- Both search for God by living morally up right.
- Both search for God by giving names to their children which glorify God's power.

DIFFERENCES.

In Christianity Jesus is the mediator between man and God whereas in ATS the living dead and small gods acted as mediators between God and man.

In Christianity the holy spirit guides Christians in their search for God whereas in ATS the ancestral spirits guided people in their search for God.

In Christianity baptism initiates one into God's family whereas in ATS performance of initiation rites like circumcision initiated one into a family.

Christians search for their God in their hearts while in ATS they used religious objects like sticks, drums etc.

In Christianity people use scientific methods when searching for God like pianos, speakers whereas in ATS they used traditional methods like drums.

In Christianity people search for God by reading scriptures while in ATS it was done orally through telling stories and reciting poems.

MAN'S SEARCH FOR GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY.

Through preaching the word of God for example ST. Paul moved to the Gentile land and preached to the people he found there and St. Francis of Assisi preached to his followers.

Through writing encouraging letters to the new converts for example St. Paul wrote encouraging letters to the Corinthians and Galatians.

Through establishing churches for the new converts for example St Francis of Assisi established a church for his followers and St. Paul established a church at Corinth.

Through performing miracles to prove to the people God's love and power among the people for example St. Peter and St. John healed a lame man who was sitting at the entrance of the beautiful temple.

Through offering charitable services to the needy people for example St Francis of Assisi sold off his wealth and shared with the needy.

Through repenting for example St. Augustine of Hippo repented for his sins as he searched for God.

Through carrying out Scripture studies/ Bible studies in order to understand God better.

Through organizing and attending fellowships where they encouraged each other which strengthened their faith.

Through baptizing new converts in order to initiate them into God's family for example St. Paul baptized all the people he found in Lydia's house.

Through accepting persecution for the sake of Christ for example St. Stephen accepted to persecute for the sake of his faith.

Through remaining committed to the act of sharing the Eucharist in memory of the poured blood of Jesus.

Through composing hymns that praise God for example Bishop Milton Ambrose composed hymns that praised God.

They searched for God through praying as a way of communicating with God.

PERSONALITIES IN CHURCH HISTORY WHO SEARCHED FOR GOD.

GENERAL POINTS.

- Preaching the word of God.
- offering charitable services.
- praying.
- reading the word of God.
- repenting.

ST. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA.

QN. How did St Augustine of Hippo and St Clement of Alexandria search for God?

-He was born in Athens in the Greek city around 150AD.

-His parents were pagans but he was converted to the Christian faith.

-He undertook the study of philosophy in order to understand more about God.

-He was humble enough to learn from the communities where he lived, he learnt different languages.

-He searched for God through praying.

-He searched for God by offering charitable services to the needy people in the society.

-He searched for God by accepting baptism.

-He carried out missionary journey to Syria as he searched for God.

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO.

He was born in 354AD in Numidia in North Africa.

-Though St. Augustine was born of a Christian mother Monica he was not a committed Christian in the beginning.

-His search for God took him to Milan in North Italy where he found Bishop Ambrose.

-Bishop Ambrose's teachings impressed St. Augustine and he began to understand the meaning of the scriptures.

-He got baptized and this marked the beginning for his search for God for a deeper understanding of Christian faith.

-He wrote a lot about Christian literature which helped to inspire many of his followers for example he wrote a book "The convention and The city of God".

-He searched for God through preaching the word to very many people.

-He searched for God through remaining committed to the act of praising and worshipping God.

-He searched for God by carrying out Bible studies to understand God better.

BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT MAN'S SEARCH FOR GOD.

WAYS THROUGH WHICH PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SEARCHED FOR GOD.

QN. Using examples show how people in the Old Testament searched for God.

Through making pilgrimages to holy places for example the Israelites always visited the Jerusalem temple where they praised and worshipped God.

Through praying for example Hannah the wife to Elkanah searched for God by praying regularly so as to be blessed by her own child.

Through repenting for example king David repented to God after committing the sin of Adultery with Bathsheba Uriah's wife.

Through offering sacrifices to God for example Moses offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the Israelites.

Through preaching the word of God for example Moses preached the word of God to the Israelites.

By respecting God's messengers (prophets) for example king David respected the message delivered to him by prophet Nathan about the sin of adultery and murder that he had committed and he repented to God.

Through composing hymns that praised God for example David composed hymns that praised God.

By carrying out annual celebrations for example the Israelites used to carry out the Passover celebrations annually in memory of what God had done for them during the pass over night.

By accepting circumcision as an initial sign to have joined God's family for example all the descendants of Abraham accepted to be circumcised.

People in the Old Testament searched for God by respecting the Sabbath day that was set aside by God as a day of rest.

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD.

QN1. What factors did Jesus emphasize as a necessity for successful search for God?

QN2. Give the New Testament teaching about man's search for God.

The New Testament teaches that those who search for God should be baptized as an initial sign to have joined God's family for example Jesus demonstrated this when he accepted to be baptized by John the Baptist.

The New Testament teaches that those who search for God should be obedient to Jesus' teachings since Jesus died for man's sins.

The New Testament teaches that those who search for God should repent for their sins and also resist temptations as Jesus resisted the devil when he was tempted.

The New Testament calls upon those who search for God to have spiritual rebirth and become born again as they search for God.

The new testament teaches that those who search for God should resist and do away with worldly riches because they become barriers in man's search for God.

The New Testament calls upon those who search for God to have the virtue of servant hood for example Jesus demonstrated this by washing the feet of his disciples.

The New Testament teaches that those who search for God should have pity for others by helping those in need for example Jesus demonstrated this by feeding 5000 men who were hungry.

The New Testament teaches that those who search for God should have love for God and fellow man, he encouraged people to love their neighbors the way they love themselves.

The New Testament calls upon those who search for God to have actual faith by putting it into practice that is why he challenged those who came for miracles with no faith.

The new testament calls upon those who search for God to pray and fast for example Jesus demonstrated this when he spent 40 days praying and fasting.

The New Testament teaches that those who search for God should always treat and serve people equally without discrimination for example Jesus demonstrated this by serving the Jews and the Gentiles, men and women, children and elderly people, outcasts and sinners.

WAYS THROUGH WHICH GOD MANIFESTED HIMSELF IN THE BIBLE.

QN. Using examples show how God revealed himself to the people in the bible.

OLD TESTAMENT.

God manifested himself in the old testament to the people in form of fire for example he manifested himself to Moses in form of fire through the burning bush.

God manifested himself to the people in form of a voice for example he revealed himself to Samuel in form of a voice.

God manifested himself to the people in form of clouds for example he manifested himself to the Israelites while in the desert in form of a pillar of clouds.

Through performance of miracles for example he separated the red sea for the Israelites to cross through Moses.

Through angels for example god manifested himself to prophet Elijah in form of an angel.

Through sacred objects for example the presence of the covenant box showed God's presence among Israelites.

Through historical events for example during the Passover event God manifested his presence when he killed all the first born sons of Egyptians and spared the first born sons of Israelites.

Through creation when he created the universe and everything in it.

Through fighting and winning battles for Israelites for example when he enabled king David to defeat giant Goliath.

NEW TESTAMENT.

God revealed himself in form of a voice Mathew 3:17 which states that "This is my own son with whom am pleased with"

Through performance of miracles by Jesus for example when he healed the blind man and when he changed water in wine during the wedding at Cana which revealed God's presence.

God revealed himself through his son Jesus Christ.

Through a dove for example during Jesus's baptism a dove appeared Mathew 3:16.

In form of light for example during Jesus's baptism God revealed himself in form of light Mathew 3:16.

God manifested himself in form of trinity for example during Jesus's baptism God revealed himself as the father, the son and holy spirit.

WAYS THROUGH WHICH GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TODAY.

Through answering people's prayers for example when barren women conceive it reveals God's presence.

Through performance of miracles by religious leaders for example when Pastor Robert kayanja of Rubaga miracle center performed miracles during the 77days of glory crusade

Through Dreams and Visions as he reveals message to religious leaders to preach to Christians

Through his creative nature as he continues to create things like stars, moon and sky.

Through personalities like pastors, bishops, priests, etc who do God's work of preaching the gospel.

Through religious sacraments that Christians receive for example the sacrament of holy communion and baptism.

Through Holy Scriptures when people read and become inspired in their experience of searching for God, they understand more about God.

Through his son Jesus Christ who is the way to the father and so Christians pray through Jesus Christ today.

Through religious historical celebrations like Christmas day, Easter day etc which are celebrated and help to renew God's presence in their lives.

Through having stable marriage and families indicates God's love for mankind.

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