

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What's the craziest dare you ever took?

1. Pastor Tom pointed out that the Christian faith is not a “blind faith” but, rather, is “based on reason, facts, and prior experience.” In addition to the Scriptures, how have these other evidences helped to strengthen your faith over the years?
2. “The universe is a gigantic, complex, and well-ordered place. It exists, so its existence has to be explained.” Read **Hebrews 11:1** and **Psalms 19:1-4**. How has the principle of cause and effect challenged or strengthened your understanding of our universe and how might it help you point others to God’s “eternal, unlimited, and all-powerful” nature?
3. Pastor Tom asked why people are so passionate about things they believe to be right or wrong, seeking justice based on these beliefs. He answered by reading **Romans 2:14-15**. When have your moral values helped point you or others to God and when have they caused separation from Him? Explain.
4. Pastor Tom stated, “The existence and nature of the universe blares the news that there is a God. The real issue for most of us is not, *Is there a God?*, but, *Will I trust Him?*” What objections do you (or others you know) have that keep them from trusting God, and how might you help overcome these?
5. Chapters 2 and 3 of *Is God Real?* covered the evidence for our universe needing a “Fine-Tuner,” and our DNA demanding a Designer. As you read through these chapters, what was most surprising or encouraging to you?

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read the Chapter 2-3 (pages 35-69) of *Is God Real?*

Not in a small group? Go to **GROUPLINK** after services today. Watching online? Use the GroupFinder at **MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER!**



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



IS GOD REAL?

MESSAGE NOTES

“How Did All This Get Here?”
Sept 15, 2024 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



"How Did All This Get Here?"

Sept 15, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Last Sunday we launched our all-church spiritual journey that's based on a question that is googled 200 times a second = *Is God* _____?

Everyone _____ about God from time to time (note **Hebrews 11:1**).

Faith is something we exercise _____.

Life comes without _____, only expressions of faith.
But the Christian faith isn't _____ faith.

It's based on reason, _____, and prior experience (note **Psalm 19:1-4**).
What are some of the pointers to God's _____?

1. The Existence of _____

_____ not only happens..._____ exists...
The _____ is real...it exists.

Principle of _____ and _____.
For every effect/thing, there has to be _____ that caused it.

2. The Nature of Stuff (the _____)

The _____ is a gigantic, complex, and well-ordered place.
It exists, so its existence has to be _____.
Not self-_____.

Nothing we observe appears to be completely self-_____/self-reliant...
...so the principle of _____ causes us to ask, *If all that exists is dependent, fragile, and temporary, who or what is responsible for all these objects and beings?*

Hula-hoop illustration = by definition, whatever is outside the circle must be independent and absolutely self-caused/self-reliant (i.e., eternal, _____, and all-powerful).

Note **Psalm 19:1** and **Romans 1:20**

3. Our Sense of Right and Wrong (_____ Sense)

Why do people feel so passionately about certain things being right and wrong and a longing for _____?
All people admit that they haven't lived up to their moral standard because their moral standard is _____ than they are.

How can we explain that all of us have within us a sense of moral values that are _____ us?
The most reasonable explanation = morals are not self-_____, but come from a higher moral source. (note **Romans 2:14-15**).

So is God real?:

Connect these dots:

- We have an eternal, powerful, smart, beautiful, loving and moral _____.
- The alternative is _____ chance/circumstance.
- Which takes more _____?
- Which is more intellectually _____?

So think about this:

- The God who created the constellations, who plumbed the depths of the seas, who invented oxygen and molecules and _____ not only sees you, notices you, and cares for you, He went to great lengths so you can _____ His care for you.
- He condescended all the way to this little blue ball rolling around the Sun and lowered Himself into the form of a human being like you to live as a man and die as a criminal, so that one day you would know how great His _____ is for you.
- The existence and nature of the universe _____ the news that there is a God.
- The real issue for most of us is not, *Is there a God?*, but, *Will I _____ Him?*
- If I will trust Him, then it makes _____ sense that I will receive Him as my Leader and Forgiver.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



MESSAGE NOTES

"How Did All This Get Here?"

Sept 15, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

Last Sunday we launched our all-church spiritual journey that's based on a question that is googled 200 times a second = *Is God Real?* Everyone wonders about God from time to time (note **Hebrews 11:1**). Faith is something we exercise daily.

Life comes without guarantees, only expressions of faith. But the Christian faith isn't blind faith.

It's based on reason, facts, and prior experience (note **Psalms 19:1-4**). What are some of the pointers to God's existence?

1. The Existence of Stuff

Stuff not only happens...stuff exists...
The universe is real...it exists.

Principle of cause and effect.
For every effect/thing, there has to be something that caused it.

2. The Nature of Stuff (the Universe)

The universe is a gigantic, complex, and well-ordered place. It exists, so its existence has to be explained.
Not self-created...

Nothing we observe appears to be completely self-caused/self-reliant...
...so the principle of dependency causes us to ask, *If all that exists is dependent, fragile, and temporary, who or what is responsible for all these objects and beings?*

Hula-hoop illustration = by definition, whatever is outside the circle must be independent and absolutely self-caused/self-reliant (i.e., eternal, unlimited, and all-powerful).

Note **Psalms 19:1** and **Romans 1:20**

3. Our Sense of Right and Wrong (Moral Sense)

Why do people feel so passionately about certain things being right and wrong and a longing for justice?

All people admit that they haven't lived up to their moral standard because their moral standard is higher than they are.

How can we explain that all of us have within us a sense of moral values that are beyond us?

The most reasonable explanation = morals are not self-invented, but come from a higher moral source. (note **Romans 2:14-15**).

So is God real?:

Connect these dots:

- We have an eternal, powerful, smart, beautiful, loving and moral Creator.
- The alternative is random chance/circumstance.
- Which takes more faith?
- Which is more intellectually honest?

So think about this:

- The God who created the constellations, who plumbed the depths of the seas, who invented oxygen and molecules and DNA not only sees you, notices you, and cares for you, He went to great lengths so you can KNOW His care for you.
- He condescended all the way to this little blue ball rolling around the Sun and lowered Himself into the form of a human being like you to live as a man and die as a criminal, so that one day you would know how great His love is for you.
- The existence and nature of the universe blares the news that there is a God.
- The real issue for most of us is not, *Is there a God?*, but, *Will I trust Him?*
- If I will trust Him, then it makes logical sense that I will receive Him as my Leader and Forgiver.

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