



So What? - God exists

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL MODEL:

Have someone from the group prepare a 5 minute presentation about the “nones” in America. What conversations have you had with “nones?”

What are your thoughts about the following statement: *It takes more faith to NOT believe in God than to believe in Him.*

Which of the four reasons to believe in the existence of God makes the most sense to you? Which does not? Why?

What additional “arguments” have you heard or read of that are evidence that God exists? (If anyone from the group has other resources have them share those with the group.

Why do you think people arrive at different conclusions about the existence of God?

If you're a doubter, what would it take for you to get to “reasonable certainty” about the existence of God?

Which of the “so what” conclusions do you most identify with? Why? What other “so whats” would YOU add to the list?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)



Leader Guide

God exists – so what?

GOD EXISTS – SO WHAT?

American belief statistics

- 20% claim no religious affiliation. (Includes atheists, agnostic, humanists...)
- “Unaffiliated” Americans referred to as Nones
 - 68% of the Nones say they believe in God!
- Only 12% claim to be atheists
- 17% claim to be agnostic
 - An agnostic is defined as someone says, “I CANNOT KNOW if there’s a God,” not, “I DON’T KNOW if there is a God.”

Worldwide belief statistics

Only 16% state they are religiously unaffiliated.

It takes more faith to NOT believe in God than to believe in Him.

Belief in God does require faith:

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

But, it also takes faith to NOT believe in God.

Neither can be proven with 100% non-refutable evidence

All anyone can do is to arrive at *reasonable certainty*.

Consider the following as reasons to believe in God:

1. **Something or someone always existed**

- **Something:** “The cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.”
Carl Sagan

But matter cannot create itself.

- **Someone:** An all powerful eternal being (God) created the universe.



If you back time up to the very beginning, there was always something.

Re 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

2. Cause and Effect

If you saw dominoes tipping you would conclude something caused it to start.

2nd law of thermodynamics states the universe is running out of energy. That means the universe cannot be eternal. If the universe is not eternal, then it must have had a beginning.

The Big Bang: Billions of years ago an explosion occurred and the known universe was born. (Dr. Edwin Hubble)

1992 the COBE satellite (Cosmic Background Explorer) detected ripples of microwave background radiation and confirmed the theory.

But, who was the “big banger?”

- Dr. George Smoot, head of the COBE satellite team, noted that it was “like looking at God.”
- Dr. Robert Jastrow, professor of astronomy at both Columbia University and Dartmouth College, director of the Mount Wilson Institute and manager of the Mount Wilson Observatory, and for twenty years director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, made the following comment in regard to the COBE findings: “Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world.”

White, James Emery (1998-10-01). [A Search for the Spiritual: Exploring Real Christianity](#) (p. 27). Baker Publishing Group.

But you can’t prove his existence. No. But I can see the effects of his existence:

“Planet Nine”

Pluto was demoted (2006) from planet to “dwarf planet” because it doesn’t meet the new requirements:

1. It must be round
2. It must orbit the sun



3. It must have sufficient gravity that it clears its “neighborhood” of objects. Gravity either pulls other objects in to crash into it, or orbit it.

*Pluto only meets 1 & 2

Recently, astronomers announced that they'd found evidence of a giant, icy planet (10-15 x's size of earth) that may (or may not) be orbiting in an unusual path far beyond the orbit of Pluto. It is referred to as Planet 9:

They found two "planetoids," celestial bodies that are too small to be planets, but larger than other objects like asteroids, that are both about 125 miles wide with orbits that really could only be explained if there was a massive, ninth planet affecting them.

They've never seen planet nine, but believe in its existence because of its effect.

When we look at the heavens, we can see the effect of God

Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

3. Design and Order

If you were hiking in the forest and came upon a rock and a watch, you would conclude the rock was here forever, but likely not the watch.

Are living things more complex than a watch?

“Irreducible Complexity”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWorialvq2s&feature=youtu.be>

- In a National Public Radio interview, Owen Gingerich, professor of astronomy and the history of science at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, noted that “there are so many wonderful details which, if they were changed only slightly, would make it impossible for us to be here, that one just has to feel, somehow, that there is a design in the universe and, therefore, a designer to have worked it out so magnificently.”
- Or as theoretical physicist Paul Davies of Cambridge has observed, “We are meant to be here.”
White, James Emery (1998-10-01). A Search for the Spiritual: Exploring Real Christianity (p. 30). Baker Publishing Group.



Is believing in an all powerful, unlimited God who created life with design and purpose more feasible?

Isa 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

4. Our "Humanness": Emotions, Personality, Essential Drives

Human beings come with the capacity to reason, reflect upon. We come with personality traits like extroversion, introversion... We have emotions like fear, love, peace, regret - that all contribute to our survival and well being. We come with drives: to eat, sex...and a spiritual hunger.

Where do these come from?

Ec 3:11 He has set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Does it make more sense to believe in God than not?

SO WHAT?

1. If God exists then there is more than the physical world

2Co 5:2 we long for our heavenly dwelling

Atheism cannot answer some of the most important questions human beings have:

- Who are we?
- Why are we here?
- What purpose does my life serve?

2. If God exists then humans must acknowledge his authority

Ps 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Ex 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

3. If God exists then human beings are accountable to him

Ro 1:19 What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.



What is this God like?

Joh 14:9 Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

Jesus revealed that the God of the universe (who exists) loves the people of the world and desires to be in relationship with us.

Joh 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

OTHER FANTASTIC RESOURCES:

For listeners:

- Check out Andy Stanley’s series, *Who Needs God* (Aug-Sept 2016) @ northpoint.org
Also available by podcast
- For more scientific conversation listen to the weekly podcast, *Unbelievable*.
<http://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Saturday/Unbelievable>

For readers/book recommendations:

- [A Search For The Spiritual: Exploring Real Christianity](#). James Emery White
- [The Case For Faith](#). Lee Strobel
- [The Case For Christ](#). Lee Strobel

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the “good news” that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God’s forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that they do not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn’t take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.

An example prayer you could pray:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge I’m broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer’s resource: [God Time: Your First 31 Days](#). Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!