

THE 7 BIG QUESTIONS DISCUSSION GROUP GUIDE

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Session Two: Is There a God?

Social Time

Take ten minutes for the group to catch up and reconnect over snacks and refreshments. Then, after gathering everyone into a comfortable circle, share something like the following Introduction.

Introduction

Dostoevsky said, “Without God, everything is permitted.” Thus, knowing the answer to today’s question helps us know how to live: in submission to God or to ourselves only.

A. W. Tozer famously quipped, “What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” So, with that, let’s look at how others answered this important question in the first video, *Pulse of the World on God*.

Video 1: *Pulse of the World on God*

This video is a 2.5-minute survey of many people’s responses to this question.

Questions for Discussion

- Did you identify with anyone’s expressed views in the film? If so, who and what resonated with you?
- To what do you attribute the 11 percent decline in the belief in God over the past twenty years?

Video 2: *The Curiosity Collective: Is There a God?*

This is a 10-minute collection of subject matter experts discussing the question “Is there a God?” It displays the various questions, struggles, and perspectives of these individuals regarding this week’s topic. See what they have to say and discuss it.

Questions for Discussion

After watching the video, choose from this list of questions or ask some of your own to facilitate discussion. There's no need to limit your discussion to these questions or to feel pressured to cover all of them in the time you have.

- In what ways can you identify with any of the stories in *The Curiosity Collective*? What did you find intriguing or compelling?
- What makes it easy to believe in God? What makes it hard to believe in God?
- What role—if any—did God play in your family when you were growing up? How does your upbringing impact your beliefs now?
- In the video, Andy shares that he's convinced God exists because of "cosmological constants" and their impact on life. What has convinced you that God either does or does not exist?
- What do you think of Corey's suggestion, "If there is a God, I can't prove him, nor can I disprove him with science"?
- What do you think could convince you to change your current stance on God's existence—be that belief or unbelief?

Wrap-Up

Thoughts to Share with the Group

To the best of your ability, summarize the main points of your group's discussion. Or, if you are more comfortable, use the text below as a launching pad for concluding the session.

Most of us "hope there's something else out there." And the thoughts people have about God are as diverse as the people who've thought them. Most have attributed their life to some form of god or Supreme Being. As we saw and discussed, there is ample evidence supporting this. Yet, it seems, for us to be confident that there is a God, he/she/it must "reveal himself to us in a way that makes sense."

Psalm 19:1 states, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." In other words, if there is a God, all people have experienced him, though they might not have known it or attributed that experience to God. This week, keep an open mind and consider how the creation around you might speak of God and his plans.

Follow-Up Resources

As you wrap up this session, share or summarize these bullets:

- Acknowledge that with a topic as big as this, there is no way to answer the question comprehensively.
- Inform the group that you'll be sending some follow-up resources so people can continue to explore God.
- Thank people for joining the discussion, and invite them to stick around if they want to continue the conversation.

Explore More on God

The following resources are designed for deeper exploration of the topic of God's existence. If you are doing this series offline, you can e-mail these resources to your group after the session. Simply copy this section and paste it into an e-mail.

Videos

- Are the Odds in God's Favor?
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/are-the-odds-in-gods-favor-video>)
- The Danger of Seeking God
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/the-danger-of-seeking-god-video>)

Articles

- Is God Real?
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/is-god-real>)
- Who Created God?
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/who-created-god>)

Daily Stream of Inspiration

- Top 50 Questions about God
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/top-50-questions>)

White Paper

- A Deeper Look at What the Bible Says about Who God Is
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/what-the-bible-says-about-who-god-is-paper>)

Recommended Books

- *The Reason for God*, Tim Keller
(<http://amzn.to/182feqr>)
- *Rumors of Another World*, Philip Yancey
(<http://amzn.to/146skk8>)

Additional Content on God

- "God," Explore God
(<http://www.exploreGod.com/god>)

Scripture Focus

Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." In other words, creation reflects its creator. If God exists, all people have seen and experienced God, though they might not have known it or attributed that experience to God.

In what ways have you experienced (or not experienced) God's presence through creation? How did those experiences affect your belief (or disbelief) in God? If you keep a journal, take some time to note your responses there.