

Week 2: Is There a God?

Before the Meeting...

- Several days before your group meeting, review the *Weekly Gameplan* (emailed to you during week 1) to remind you of some group objectives.
- Determine how you will use resources from exploreGod.com and these supplemental resources for your group.
- Don't forget that the presence of Christ in the midst of your group is what transforms it from a meeting to momentum in peoples' lives. Worship & pray together, even if only briefly.

During the Meeting...

Break the Ice (choose one)

1. What causes you to stand in awe of God? (being in the mountains, by the seashore, working your garden, etc.) What is your typical response in such a moment?
2. Describe a time when your interaction with nature had a profound impact on you.
3. Do a "nature walk" by inviting your group to go outside and observe something in nature that reminds them of (or points them to) God. When everyone returns, have each one briefly share what he or she found and how it revealed something about God to him or her.

Watch Video 1: Pulse of the World on God

Discuss from among the following:

1. Discuss the Explore God (EG) provided questions as applicable (see EG material)
2. Ask your group: Describe an experience that caused you to consider that God might be real (or reaffirmed for you that he is real)? Have you had experiences that caused you to wonder that God might NOT be real?
3. Many people in America say they "believe in" God. What does *believing in* God mean to you? How should one's belief (or unbelief) in God influence his/her way of life?

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

Discuss from among the following:

1. Discuss the Explore God (EG) provided questions as applicable (see EG material). These are excellent questions this week pertaining to Video #2!
2. Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 19:1-4; and Romans 1:19-20
Who "speaks" in these verses and what is their message? Is the truth about God in nature obvious to everyone? Why do you think that some people don't "hear" it?
3. Pastor Matt encouraged us with two phrases on Sunday:
First, whenever we are tempted to doubt the God of Creation, it's helpful for us to keep

this phrase in mind: *“The Who is greater than the how.”*

Discuss how this phrase (urging us to focus faith on Who God is, rather than upon understanding how God does what he does) might help us overcome our doubts.

Second, *“Weak faith in a strong object is better than strong faith in a weak object.”*
Do you agree or disagree? Why so?

4. Read the following from the Message version aloud:

Romans 2:14-15 The Message (MSG) “When outsiders who have never heard of God’s law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God’s law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God’s yes and no, right and wrong.”

How might you respond to Russian novelist and philosopher Fyodor Dostoyevsky when he says, “If God does not exist, everything is permitted”? Agree or disagree?

When did you become aware of this so-called “God-shaped hole” in your own heart? In what ways had you vainly tried to fill that void?

Inspire

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” _A. W Tozer

1. How would you describe your concept of what God is like? What do you really believe he thinks about you?
2. How might the people you work with, live near, or care about answer those same questions in #1 above?

Prayer & Ministry

Turn on some worship music (as background) and invite people to respond to the following:

1. Are there any circumstances you are facing today that are challenging your faith that God knows what’s going on or is disinterested in being involved? Share briefly with the group. Spend some time praying for one another, particularly inviting God to reveal himself to your fellow group members in those areas.
2. If there’s time, pray briefly for the people that you mentioned last week – those struggling with life’s purpose or living in a way that is “chasing after the wind”. If not, remind the group to be doing so.

After the meeting...

- Remind the group that rotating meeting locations among group members’ homes is helpful in getting to know one another. Ask any volunteers for hosting to connect with you.

Pastor Dwayne’s Further Recommendations:

- Consider sending your group these two articles (PDFs attached):
“Is God Real” & “Is There a God”
- Francis Chan You Tube video [“The Awe Factor of God”](#)