

Is There a God?

The Big Seven, part 2
Pastor Dave Nichols, May 5, 2019

God's Hiddenness:

(Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1-2)

- **God's self-revelation has made him...**

God's Hints:

(Colossians 1:16-17, Genesis 1:1, John 1:3)

4 Arguments for God's Existence:

1. Cosmological Argument: _____

- **There must be...**
- **The cause must be...**
- **The cause of matter must be...**
- **The cause must be...**

2. Fine Tuned Argument: _____

3. Teleological Argument: _____

4. Moral Argument: _____

What Prevents Us from Seeing God?

-
-

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to the Spring Small Group Session:

We are so glad you have decided to join in a small group during our Spring session. We pray as you have discussions around these questions you may grow in your relationship with God and with others. This small group session will end in early June.

Getting Started:

If you have been a Christian for any length of time you have had doubts about your faith. One of the most dangerous things for teenagers as well as adults is not doubt itself, but unexpressed doubt. Share about a time in your faith when you had a considerable amount of doubt as to whether or not God was even real.

We have started a series called, "7 Big Questions." We have looked at "Does life have a purpose," and "Is there a God?" What are some other big questions about life and faith you had in your life, and how did you go about finding answers to those questions.

As we begin our study we want to keep in mind our goal. Our goal should always be to take what we have learned and apply it to our daily lives. Before we go further into our study, is there anything you learned or applied from last weeks lesson that you were able to live out this past week?

God's Hiddenness:

Dave shared a story about playing hide and go seek with his kids. When you play this game with kids you have to give your kids hints about where you are hiding. God has revealed himself so we can identify Him, but never fully grasp the reality of who He is. What are some ways you see God identified in things or people around you? How do these things encourage you in your faith?

Romans 1:20 is an important verse about the reality of who God is and people's response to God. Read Romans 1:20 as a group.

How do you think "creation" clearly displays the reality of God?

Can you think of any of God's "invisible qualities" that are revealed by some aspect of the world He created? If so, what are they?

How is God's "eternal power" displayed in the universe? Share about a time when you encountered this "eternal power" seen in the universe and how it made you feel as you encountered this power.

What does Paul mean when he writes, "So that people are without excuse?" What are some of the major excuses people give for not believing in God?

Looking at some of the major excuses people give for not believing in God, what are some practical responses we can give to those who are struggling to believe in a God at all? Are there things you should avoid when trying to help people see the reality of God in creation?

As you look back on your own life, if you believe in God's existence, what convinced you that He is real? Who were people who helped show the reality of God to you, and what did they do to help you see that reality?

God's Hints:

We see that God gives us hints to show us the reality of who He is. This past weekend Dave shared 4 "hints" about the reality of the existence of God. Have you ever heard these arguments before? If you have, how have they been helpful/not helpful in your walk with the Lord?

The "Cosmological Argument" has the basic argument: Everything has a cause. If everything has a cause there must be an "uncaused cause." Read the following verses:

- **Psalm 148:5**
- **Genesis 1:1**
- **Isaiah 40:26**
- **Hebrews 11:3**
- **John 1:3**

How do these verses help support the "Cosmological Argument?"

The "Fine Tuned Argument," shows how the universe is so finely tuned that it must come from something that designed it this way. The likelihood of there to be so many constants in the universe is staggering. Where are areas in our universe that you see constants, and how does that help point you to God?

The last argument for the existence of God we looked at this past weekend was the "Moral Argument." This argument says that all morality must be found in a source. All humans are hard wired with a sense of right and wrong. Where have you seen this to be true even when people claim to not believe in God? How does this argument help them to see the potential for the existence of God?

We have looked at a lot of "arguments" and a lot of this is knowledge based. The Scripture tells us the "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." (1 Corinthians 8:1). We have to take what we know and apply it to our lives. Here are some possible applications:

- Find a place this week where you see the glory of God in creation, pause and reflect on his "eternal power and divine nature."
- Share one of these arguments with someone who may or may not know the Lord. Practice makes perfect!
- Study one of these arguments more deeply to find out more info, and share that with someone you know.

How can you apply what you learned this week?