

6 WEEKS

IS GOD FAKE NEWS?

DAILY

World - Business - Finance - Life

Issue: 240104

THE WORLDS BEST SELLING

First Edition



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NEWS

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Monday 5th June

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IS GOD FAKE NEWS

How • Can • You • Know • God • Exists?

Week: 1

Sunday, April 28, 2019

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off

Share of some things in your life of which you are absolutely certain.

Big Idea

As followers of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, we are to be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have.



KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 3:15 “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

Romans 1:19-20 “... since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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 people are without excuse.”

Psalm 19:1-4 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech,

they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!”

DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How prepared do you feel to give a reason for the hope you have in God?
2. What makes it easiest for you to believe in the existence of God? What makes it most difficult for you to believe in the existence of God?
3. Pastor Jeff shared four arguments to support God's existence:
 - Cause and Effect argument – cosmological argument
 - Complexity of the Universe – teleological argument
 - The Conscience of Man – moral argument
 - The Experience of People – experiential argument
4. Read Romans 1:19-20 and Psalm 19:1-4. Discuss what invisible qualities and divine nature that you see that speak of God's existence.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 5:17. Share arguments from your own experience that would “prove” God's existence.

WRAPPING IT UP

If you struggle with having a strong foundation to your faith and being able to explain your belief, pray for one another in this area.



MEMORY VERSE

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”

1 Peter 3:15

IS GOD FAKE NEWS

Do • Science • And • The • Bible • Conflict?

Week: 2

Sunday, May 5, 2019

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off

How do you most often handle conflict? Do you address it head on or avoid it?

Big Idea

Science and the Bible do not have to be mutually exclusive.



KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:1 “ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth....”

Genesis 1:26-27” Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that

move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Psalms 139:13-16 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

DISCUSSION

1. On a scale from 1-10, 1 total belief in creation and 10- total belief in evolution, where would you place yourself and why?
2. Read Genesis 1:1, 26-27. Often people think science and Scripture conflict, but more and more discoveries in science support Biblical principals. For example, the research surrounding the Big Bang theory, more clearly than ever, reveals the work of the cosmic Creator, the God of the Bible. Discuss what evidence you have seen where science supports the Biblical narrative.
3. Read together Genesis 1 and 2 and Psalm 104 which recounts the creation event. When you read the entire creation account in Genesis 1 and then the subsequent detail of the creation of man and woman in Genesis 2, you see that God goes into great detail to describe His process. What can you glean from this detail? How does that bolster your belief?

WRAPPING IT UP

Spend some time in prayer together thanking God for the magnificence of His creation.



MEMORY VERSE

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth....”

Genesis 1:1

IS GOD FAKE NEWS

How • Reliable • Is • The • Bible?

Week: 3

Sunday, May 12, 2019

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off

How do you determine what is reliable in your own life?

Big Idea

How do we know the Bible is the Word of God?



KEY SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

2 Peter 1:16 “For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Matthew 7:24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them

into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

MEMORY
VERSE

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

2 Timothy 3:16

DISCUSSION

- How would you describe your current connection with the Bible?
 - It pretty much sits on a shelf gathering dust
 - I hear it taught at church, and that's enough
 - I have a verse-a-day calendar (or receive an email devotional), which is the main way I read Scripture
 - I pull it out when I need wisdom or comfort
 - I really enjoy studying the Bible and learning more about it, and it's one way I communicate with God
- What part of the Bible do you have the most difficulty believing or sharing with others?
- In this week's sermon, Pastor Laurie shared information on the number of manuscript copies of the Bible and length of time from when they were written (see chart below) How is this information relevant to your understanding of the reliability of Scripture?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16. How have you found the Bible to be useful for teaching and correcting?
- Read 2 Peter 1:16. This book of the Bible is a letter from Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. What difference does it make that the disciples are eyewitnesses?
- Read Hebrews 4:12. What does the Bible tell us about itself in this passage? What do you think it means when the text describes the Bible as living or alive? How have you experienced God's Word to be alive?
- Read Isaiah 40:8 and Matthew 7:24. According to these passages, the Bible is a solid foundation upon which we can build our lives. How certain are you of that?

WRAPPING IT UP

If the Bible is truly the Word of God and can be trusted, what are you going to do with it?

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IS GOD FAKE NEWS

Is • Jesus • the • Only • Way?

Week: 4

Sunday, May 19, 2019

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off

Have you ever gone the wrong way on a one way street? Share about your adventure.

Big Idea

Jesus made outrageous claims to be the only way to the Father; He is either a lunatic or liar, or He is who He says He is.



KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1 “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.”

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Mark 6:3 “Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters

here with us?” And they took offense at him.”

John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”

Luke 1:34-35 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

John 10:25-30 “Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me,

is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

1 John 5:10-12 "Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have

not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

John 15:23 "Whoever hates me hates my Father as well."

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

DISCUSSION

1. Read Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:52, Mark 6:3 and John 11:35. What do these verses tell you about the humanity of Jesus?
2. Read Luke 1:34-35, John 10:25-30, 1 John 5:10-12, John 15:23. What do these verses tell you about the divinity of God?
3. Discuss what it means for Jesus to be wholly man and wholly God.
4. Why do you think it is so difficult for people to embrace/believe that Jesus is the only way?
5. Read John 14:6. All other religions claim to point to the truth, but only Jesus says "I AM the Truth". Discuss how His claim sets Christianity apart from other religions.
6. More than ever we live in a culture of relativity- whatever works for you. How does this thinking conflict with Jesus' claims?
7. At the end of the day, Jesus' claims about Himself put the focus on each of us as individuals. We either accept and believe Him, or we don't. Who do you say Jesus is?

WRAPPING IT UP

Pray together to be bold in declaring and upholding this truth – that Jesus is the only way to the Father.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

IS GOD FAKE NEWS

How • Could • God • Allow • Suffering • and • Evil?

Week: 5

Sunday, May 26, 2019

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off

What kind of suffering most breaks your heart?

Big Idea

God has a long term plan for both suffering and evil.



KEY SCRIPTURES

Habakkuk 1:13 “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?”

Psalms 73:2-5, 11-14 “But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have

no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills... This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.”

Genesis 6:5 “The Lord

saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

1 Peter 4:19 “So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

Romans 5:3-4 “...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Romans 8:18 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Revelation 21:4 “He

will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Philippians 3:10 “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

DISCUSSION

1. Read Habakkuk 1:13 and Psalm 73:2-5,11-14. Ever feel this way? Like evil people keep getting away with evil? How do you deal with the seeming prosperity of those who do evil?
2. Read Genesis 6:5, Jeremiah 17:9, and Romans 3:23. Discuss how we can easily point out evil and wickedness in others, but overlook our own wicked tendencies.
3. Read 1 Peter 4:19. What difficulties do you have in realizing that suffering may happen according to God’s will?
4. Read Romans 5:3-4, Romans 8:18, Romans 8:28 and Revelation 21:4. How do these passages encourage you that there is purpose in pain and suffering?
5. Read Philippians 3:10 and discuss this statement: “When we avoid suffering, either our own or that of others, we are actually avoiding Christ.” (Audrey Assad)

WRAPPING IT UP

What conclusions can you make about suffering and evil after hearing this message and studying these Scriptures?

MEMORY VERSE

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **Revelation 21:4**

IS GOD FAKE NEWS

Don't • All • Roads • Lead • to • God?

Week: 6

Sunday, June 2, 2019

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off

Who do you most love to follow on social media?

Big Idea

Eternal life is in Christ and Christ alone.



KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 1:12 What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

Proverbs 16:25 “There is a way that appears to be right to man, but in the end it leads to death.”

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

John 6:40 “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life,

and I will raise them up at the last day.”

1 John 5:11-12 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:12. This passage demonstrates that from the very beginnings of the church of Jesus Christ, people struggled with divisions and disagreements about faith. How do you see that playing out in today's culture?
2. Read Proverbs 16:25. What does this passage tell us about the weight of popular opinion?
3. How do you deal with the popular opinion that whatever you believe is okay as long as you are sincere?
4. In what ways have you been tempted to "water down" your faith because of popular opinion?
5. Read Matthew 7:21 John 6:40, and 1 John 5:11-12. According to these passages, what is required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Do all religions point in this direction?
6. How secure are you in your faith in Jesus Christ?

WRAPPING IT UP

Pray for one another to have the wisdom and strength to stand on God's truth despite the ebbs and flows of popular opinion and the subtle deception that can creep into our psyche because of it.



MEMORY VERSE

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” **1 John 5:11-12**

FIND IT ONLINE

STUDY GUIDES

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April 20, 2019 in Undeserving

Undeserving Day 21

APP

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SUNNYBROOK APP

Stay Connected Beyond the Weekend

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The Sunnybrook app is available for iPhone and Android in the App Store or Google Play.

NOTES:

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
 - Childcare _____
 - When we will meet (day of week) _____
 - Where we will meet (place) _____
 - We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
 - We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
 - Our primary worship service time will be _____
 - Date of this agreement _____
 - Date we will review this agreement again _____
 - Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____
-



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