

Missionaries@Work – Big Questions

Does God really exist?



(A) Discussion starter questions:

- What are some of the reasons why people think God does not exist?
 - can't see him
 - no miracles
 - if he was there why would he allow all the suffering?
 - science has buried God
 - no evidence that he does exist
 - don't want him to exist, want to be in charge of their life
- How would you respond to someone asking this question in 30 seconds?

(B) What does the Bible say?

• Main evidence for God's existence: Jesus

Read John 1:18.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

- (1) What is the problem that we all have when it comes to answering the question about whether God exists?
 - no-one has ever seen God
- (2) Are there any exceptions? Who?
 - God the One and only, i.e. Jesus has seen God (we know this refers to Jesus from the context in John)
- (3) Why is Jesus not in the "have not seen God" category?
 - because he is at the Father's side
 - because he is God himself

(4) How then, can we know that God does exist? And how can we know anything about what God is like?

- Jesus has made God known
- he knows what God is like, because he is at the Father's side + he is God himself
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- This is not just John's claim, but Jesus says so himself. Read John 14:8+9.

John 14:8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."
9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

(5) How does Jesus answer Philip, when he asks for evidence that God exists?

- Jesus tells Philip that he can see God when by looking at him

• **Supporting evidence for God's existence: nature**

Read Romans 1:18-20.

Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19** since 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.

(6) Why should everyone know that God does exist, even when they have never heard of Jesus?

- God's existence, his power and divinity is evident through creation

(C) How to respond

• **A question in return:**

Questioning is often a great way into a conversation. This approach helps you:

(a) to get to the question behind the question, i.e. why have they asked the question? Why do they want to know – for the sake of an argument or because they are genuinely interested?

(b) to challenge the other person's belief system, i.e. how plausible is what they believe? Can we get them to see the gaps in their on belief system, so that they are willing to listen to what the Bible's says?

(c) to gain some time to think about an answer ☺

(7) What good questions could we ask back before answering?

- Why do you ask?
- Would you like there to be a God?
- What do you think? Does God exist? Why not?
- What would convince you that there is a God? What sort of evidence would you accept?

● **A straight answer:**

(8) How would you sum up the bible's answer to our question in a nutshell?

- God does exist. We should know it. It is evident through creation. And above all, we can know because of Jesus who is God and who has made God known clearly in human history.

(9) How would you begin to respond to someone asking this question in 30 seconds?

● **Thinking further:**

(10) If we manage to explain the Bible's view, what questions will this probably raise? Where are conversations likely to go next? Where do we want them to go?

(D) Praying it through