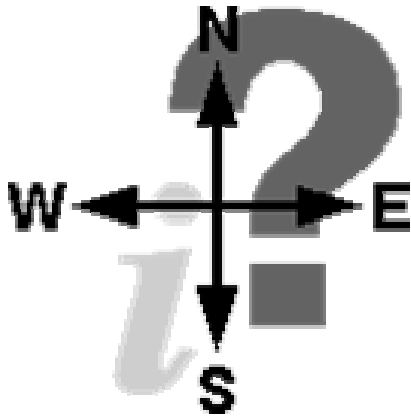


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



How do I
know God exists?

Romans 1: 18-20

18The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20For 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.

Isaiah 40:21-31

21 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

23 He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

24 No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

25 "To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,

not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and complain, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God"?

28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

29 He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, July 15

Big Idea: Everyone can know God exists by trusting five lines of evidence

Key Verses:

Isaiah 40:28 and Isaiah 40:31

28 *Do you not know?*

Have you not heard?

*The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom...*

31 *But those who hope in the LORD*

will renew their strength.

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Opening Question: What does “a breathtaking view” mean? Share one that you have experienced.

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.

Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Read the passages.

This week Bryan took us through five lines of evidence related to proving the existence of God. These lines of evidence were:

- Evidence of Existence
- Evidence of Design
- Evidence of Morality
- Evidence of Personality
- Evidence of Spirituality

Remind yourself what each line of evidence meant.

- 1. Which line of evidence made the most sense to you? Why?**
2. Which was the most difficult? Why?
3. How do the passages of Scripture we have selected support these lines of evidence?
4. Do they contradict any of these lines of evidence? How or how not?
- 5. Do these lines of evidence prove God exists?**

Bryan ended his message by saying that these lines of evidence do not prove God’s existence, but they do help us believe God exists. The certainty of knowledge is not achievable but faith and trust are aided and supported by these lines of evidence. If we were to know God exists, we would need to meet him personally, “take a leap of faith into the arms of a loving, strong and eternal God.” This is the point of the Isaiah passage and the warning of the Romans passage: God can be known, He can be experienced but it is a matter of faith not empirical certainty. Those who turn to Him discover salvation and life.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

6. Who is the LORD according to the Isaiah passage?
7. In this light, what does the Isaiah passage promise the person who “hopes in the LORD”?
8. What has the LORD done according to the Isaiah and Roman passages to make Himself known?
9. What should our response be to this knowledge?

End your study time in reflection around how God is described in the Isaiah passage. Spend some time in worship and prayer inviting “the everlasting God” to be present in your meeting place.

Leader's Notes

1. *This is a study that has the tendency to become a dry intellectual discussion. Remember that your group is filled with people with real needs and real questions. Allow these to surface.*
2. *Lead the group to a time of personal reflection and meditation. It is appropriate to ask people to take that leap of faith that Bryan talks about.*
3. *For more reading use the resources below.*

Resources

- *Paul Little: Know Why you Believe?*
- *Peter Kreeft: Handbook of Christian Apologetics*
- *Francis Collins: The Language of God*