Download Youth Ministry | You Asked For It | Week 1 of 4 – Is God Legit? | Justin Wilson

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Main Idea: There is a God. Christianity is credible. The Bible is trustworthy.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4, Hebrews 11:1

Hey friends! My name is [name] and I'm pumped you made it here. We are starting a new series called "You Asked For It". The goal is for us to try and answer some major questions that GenZ is asking from a biblical and theological perspective. All of us here want you to know this is a safe place to explore faith and ask questions.

You have likely heard, "there is no such thing as a dumb question". True, but also, the mind of a middle school boy is a weird and sometimes scary place! They can ask the most out of pocket [wacky] things that no one can be prepared for. Questions like:

"Did the chicken or the egg come first?"

"Why does armpit and body hair exist?"

"Can I use telepathy to make someone like me?"

"Is ear wax edible?"

[Teacher Note: share one of the strangest questions you have ever asked or Googled. Share what led to wanting to know the answer and if anyone judged you for asking it. Share any funny answers you found, or how insignificant the answer was].

If we admit it, we all have probably asked Google or AI some weird stuff. You may be wondering why this happens. Why do we ask weird things or question the way things are?

There is something amazing and complex happening to all of you right now - your brain is developing! In fact, it takes roughly 25 years for the brain to fully develop. Although, female brains actually can develop up to 10 years before males (sorry boys!).

This is important because as you leave elementary age, you begin to develop abstract thought. The world becomes bigger and more complex than you once imagined. It also opens doors - maybe some you didn't want to open - for questions that, if let unanswered, can cause confusion and frustration. Those seemingly stupid questions then turn into "is the gender pay gap real?", "what is race versus ethnicity?", "why do countries go to war?",

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or "who am I?". Let me emphasize - THIS IS TOTALLY NORMAL FOR YOU AT YOUR AGE! In fact, I think you should embrace it!

As you enter this stage, you can begin to think more abstractly about God, faith, church, and wonder if any of it is real or it is just an old myth. You begin to question the reality of traditions or beliefs that generations before held to so tightly. Again, this is GOOD! It is a sign of human development. This series can help you become comfortable asking tough questions, maybe try to get some answers, and hopefully spark a journey of growth.

One of the first questions we have to wrestle with is: Is God legit?

Is all of this God and Christian stuff real? How can I know it's true or if I can trust the Bible? These are great yet fundamental questions, so let's dive in!

GOD

Everything a Christian believes hinges on the truth there is a God, a divine power over everything. We have to start at the foundation to ask if there is even a higher power.

Let's investigate God from a scientific point of view:

Even though there is the quest to discover extraterrestrial life or other habitable planets, scientists have affirmed that Earth is quite unique and unlike any other planet. Here are a few facts we should be thankful about.

- 1. Perfect distance from the sun: scientists call it the "goldilocks zone" because if we were slightly closer, it would be too hot or any further would be too cold for life to sustain.
- 2. This perfect zone allows water to cover the majority of earth's surface, which is also needed for life.
- 3. Water allows plants to grow, which produce oxygen.
- 4. We have an atmosphere that not only provides the perfect nitrogen and oxygen balance to breathe, but it also protects us.
- 5. The Earth's shape and size are perfect for a balanced rotation that its only variation are mild seasons and its gravity is perfect so we don't float or don't get pulled to the core.

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The big bang theory claims that all of this was a stroke of luck that happened the moment everything was formed from nothing with no one to orchestrate any of it. Aside from all of these facts that speak to the intricate placement and design of Earth, even NASA admits it is a beautiful one-of-a-kind! Every painting has a painter, and every creation has a creator. I struggle to hold together the science that points to a specific created order and the theory of a big bang.

Let's also approach God from a logical standpoint:

Russian Novelist Fyodor once wrote, "If there is no god, all is permissible." He is referring to the moral compass of humanity. Morality has to be objective, meaning it is true and binding on everyone throughout all time. And if there is an objective moral law, there must be a moral lawgiver.

But if there is no god, then there cannot be an ultimate standard of morality, meaning morality would then be subjective. This would mean we would live in an "anything goes society" and someone could commit a crime against you and no matter the severity, their action could not be deemed as right or wrong. This is what we often refer to today as your truth versus my truth.

However, we all know better. Even people from other religions and agnostics (who believe there is no god) believe there are simple rights and wrongs in life.

This leads to the conclusion that if morality exists - if there is an objective code of right and wrong - then, a governing force (ie. God) must exist.

[Optional Hybrid: at round tables or in small groupings around the room, have students discuss these questions for five minutes.

- Why do you choose to believe in God?
- Why do you think people do not believe in a higher power/God?]

Christianity

Simply looking at science and logic, this leads me to believe there MUST be a higher power! Which begs the question, "which God and religion is the right one?" Is Christianity the only credible religion?

Deuteronomy 6:4 (GW)

"Listen, Israel: The [LORD] is our God. The [LORD] is the only God."

