

We are all made in God's likeness

*"So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them."* | Genesis 1:27

// What do these verses tell us about how God sees us?

// If God is good and loves us, what might your life look like if he was in it?

We were created to know God personally

God desires all of us to enjoy a relationship where we can experience His love for eternity, a relationship where we know God personally.

"Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." | John 17:3

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope... when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." | Jeremiah 29:11-13

// What do these verses from the Bible tell us about what a relationship with God looks like?

// What do you find exciting about the thought of a relationship like this with God?

// What questions would you like answered before you started a relationship like this with God?

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

We can be confident that God is real, He made us, loves us and desires for us to know Him. We can therefore:

- be glad that we are loved by God
- be confident that we exist for a good purpose
- know that we have value as a person

Are there other implications you can think of?

NEXT TIME ...

We explore what prevents us knowing God personally.

Further Reading

The Gospel of John, chapters 1-7

God Facts by Lauree Toleafoa - www.studentlife.org.nz

The Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel

Nº. 1 GOD'S
PERSPECTIVE

Nº. 2 OUR
CONDITION

Nº. 3 GOD'S
RESPONSE

Nº. 4 OUR
RESPONSE

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

GOD LOVES YOU
AND CREATED YOU TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY

People today have so many different ideas about God that it can sometimes take a bit of effort to understand what God is really like.

This first guide is designed to explore God's existence, character and to help answer questions you may have.

Questions like:

- Is God really there?
- Does God really love us, and how can we know?
- What do we need to do for God to love us?
- What purpose does God have for me?

// Do you have any questions of your own?

EVIDENCE THAT POINTS TO GOD'S EXISTENCE

// What do you think are some reasons people do not believe in God?

// What are some reasons you see to believe in God?

While God's existence isn't provable in the strict sense (like $1+2=3$), we can consider the weight of evidence for God's existence (like a court case).

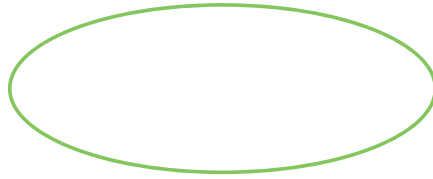
Nº. 1 GOD'S
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IT IS LOGICAL TO ALLOW FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE



Imagine this oval represents all the knowledge in the universe. All the knowledge you are yet to learn, all the knowledge in all the books that have ever been written, everything in every university journal and library, even things that haven't yet been discovered or understood. Draw another circle inside one that represents your current knowledge.

// Is it possible that knowledge of God is somewhere outside of your current knowledge?

// If someone currently hasn't found reason to believe in God's existence, is it reasonable to conclude that God could not exist?

EVIDENCE FOR GOD FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God." | Romans 1:20

Whenever we see design, like a watch, we naturally know that there is a designer. Natural forces can produce simple or repeating patterns (like a snowflake) but cannot produce anything with complexity or meaning.

Imagine all the parts for a wristwatch were placed in a box. Now imagine that you take the box, shake it and tip it out onto a table. What are the chances that a random process like that could produce an assembled and functional watch?

Living beings are far more complex than a watch. Is it reasonable to discount the idea of a designer?

EVIDENCE FOR GOD FROM MORALITY

// Have you ever felt guilty after doing something wrong? Why do we feel that way?

// Why do we have a concept of right and wrong?

People often argue against the existence of God by pointing out the great variance in individuals' moralities. But the underlying assumption, that there is such a thing as right and wrong, implies a standard to which we are accountable. Right and wrong is not decided by majority consensus.

Nº. 1 GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Nº. 2 OUR CONDITION

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Nº. 4 OUR RESPONSE

For example, if we view morality as only socially determined, we would have no basis to condemn terrible events such as the Holocaust as wrong. At the time, the ruling Nazi party agreed on those actions.

"[People] demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right." | Romans 2:15

How can we state that anything is right or wrong, good or bad, unless we appeal to something beyond ourselves? The existence of moral law implies a moral lawgiver.

GOD'S LOVING CHARACTER

// If God exists, what do you think God thinks about you?

GOD LOVES US BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

"God is love" | 1 John 4:16

"O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help." | Psalm 86:5

"God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him" | 1 John 4:9

"Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow" | James 1:17

// What do these verses from the Bible tell us about God's character?

GOD LOVES US BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE

None of us have perfect parents, but we can imagine how a good parent might act. A new born baby cannot do anything to earn it's parents love, yet it is loved simply because it is their child. In the same way, God loves us because He made us, regardless of what we have done.

We are God's creation

"Certainly you made my mind and heart; you wove me together in my mother's womb. I will give you thanks because your deeds are awesome and amazing. You knew me thoroughly" | Psalm 139:13-14

Nº. 1 GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Nº. 2 OUR CONDITION

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