



Skeptical “God’s Existence”

Gather:

What is the goal of small groups? They are designed to equip you to daily, walk closer with Jesus, and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you to love and serve people well. Ask the following questions to see how it’s going.

- How am I doing loving the people God has given me to love over this past week?
- Why is God so good?
- What is something new that God has revealed to me this week about himself or myself?

Change:

- Think back to the message and share what theme, verse, or point stuck out the most? Why? ***Remember to bring your Update from the weekend to refresh your memory.
- Big Idea: Follow where the evidence leads, not where you hope it leads.
- What was the attitude toward God in your house growing up? Did your parents push you toward faith or away from it?
- How did you arrive at the place you’re at today spiritually?
- “Everything is a belief system, including atheism and agnosticism.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
- In the message we talked about needing to go where the evidence leads, not where you hope it leads. We all have a bias. Honestly, where do you hope the evidence leads, and why?
- One of the biggest questions people can ask in this life is about causation. Who started all of this, and even more importantly, why? How does naturalism and science answer these questions, and how does Christianity?
- If morality, cosmology, and the design of the universe don’t point toward a creator, what do you think they point toward?
- Read John 1:1-5 using the Devotional Method that we’ve been practicing all semester.
- What else has God put on your heart to share with the group? (Marriage, kids, work, temptations, struggles.)

Serve:

- This semester we want you to make it a priority to Love God and to Love others. We are asking you to commit to two things. #1 Apply the bible study methods you practice in

small group during the rest of the week. INVEST in your relationship with God. #2 Get involved as a group and have an impact on this city! You will notice that we are highlighting and partnering with a few local organizations that are doing amazing things in Gainesville. If you don't already have people and places to impact in mind, join up with one of our Shift partners. We want to challenge you to spend at least one day/group time per month serving and loving those around you, and making a real impact on this city, all for the sake of the gospel. BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS!

- Mark Clark, *The Problem of God: Answering A Skeptic's Challenge to Christianity* (Zondervan, 2017) Ch. 1
- Charles Darwin to W. Graham, July 3, 1881, in *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, ed. Francis Darwin (1897; reprint, Boston: Elibron, 2005), 1:285.
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Towards God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004), 70.
- Stephen Jay Gould, *Rocks of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life* (New York: Ballantine, 1999), 195