

The problem of God's existence.

Is God's existence **relevant**?

"More consequences for thought and action follow the affirmation or denial of God than from answering any other basic question."

— Mortimer Adler

1. The evidence of conscience

"You are, in fact, comparing them both with some Real Morality, admitting that there is such a thing as a real Right, independent of what people think, and that some people's ideas get nearer to the real Right than others." — C.S. Lewis

Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written **law**, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They 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 2:14-15*

2. The evidence of design

"When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance." — Sir Isaac Newton

"The more statistically improbable a thing is, the less we can believe that it just happened by blind chance. Superficially, the obvious alternative to chance is an intelligent designer." — Richard Dawkins

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the **earth**, and the **heavens** are the work of your **hands**. *Psalms 102:25*

3. The evidence of cause and effect

Why is there something rather than nothing?

- Whatever begins to exist has a **cause**.
- The **universe** began to exist.
- **Therefore**, the universe had a cause.
- The cause is **God**.

"The Big Bang cries out for a divine explanation. It forces the conclusion that nature had a defined beginning. I cannot see how nature could have created itself. Only a supernatural force that is outside of space and time could have done it." — Francis Collins

In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume during our next 10-week group cycle starting the week of April 15. Use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

Devotional Thought

In the Old Testament, Isaiah declares that God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are beyond ours. This means because of our earthly experiences we may think we understand life and how it works, but in reality, we often get it all wrong. In no area is this truer than our personal quest for importance. It's part of human nature to attempt to position ourselves appropriately in order to gain approval, status, or favor. Unfortunately, these attempts often result in embarrassing missteps—and often times, outright failure. God loves us too much to let us be unlike Jesus. But, when we put Him and others first, we will begin to align with His ways, and in turn, we will receive His favor.

April 8/9: Luke 12:35-13:21

How does God communicate with us today? What spiritual discipline can you work on this week to help you listen to God's word?

When was a time you felt that God was letting you suffer because you had sinned? What are the "second chances" you been given? What step of repentance would communicate to God your gratitude for second chances in your relationship with Him?

April 10: Luke 13:22-14:6

In what sense is the way to God narrow? When are you tempted to put off responding to God's commands? What was Jesus saying about human relationships when He said that the first will be last? What can you do to keep your beliefs and responses to God faithful this week?

April 11/12: Luke 14:7-15:32

What does it take to be a disciple of Jesus? How do most people react to Jesus' terms of discipleship? What costs of following Jesus seem especially high to you? Why is it worth paying the price to follow Him?

April 13/14: Luke 16:1-17:10

What responsibility do you have to obey God's Law? What difference does it make that Jesus' life was a perfect fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets? In what ways has your obedience to the commands of Christ resembled the hypocrisy exemplified by the Pharisees? What can you do this week to renew your obedience to the commands of Jesus in your everyday life?