

Is God really there?

Some people might say: **“It doesn’t matter anyway.”**

But this is the most important question in the whole universe.

The answer you give will affect your whole life.

Either God is there – or God isn’t. There’s no half way.

If God is there, then there is meaning and purpose in life. God calls us into friendship and into a Christian way of life. There is a life beyond this life.

If God is not there, then the whole meaning of life is changed. You have to find that meaning from within yourself. You can please yourself if you like. There is no joy or pleasure or hope greater than you have now – this is all life offers.

Others may say: **“It’s just a matter of opinion.”**

People think this way because it is the way they want to think.

It’s really much more comfortable. It gets you off the hook.

Once you admit that God may be there, life becomes much more challenging. You need to look further at what God is like and at what God’s purpose for your life may be.

Belief in the God who made heaven and earth is not a matter of opinion. Belief in God is a matter of evidence.

When you begin to look, there is a great deal of evidence. And it all points one way . . .

‘I believe in God’

There are many different ways to sum up the evidence that points to God’s existence. This is one way.

1 Seeing God in creation

Share together the things you find the most amazing about creation and the natural world. You may like to use Psalm 8 as a starting point.

Then ask these questions:

- *The universe had a beginning. Who began it?*
- *The universe has order and beauty. Who arranged it?*
- *The universe shows evidence of design. Who is the designer?*

All the evidence of our senses and of the sciences points us to God who created the heavens and the earth.

2. Seeing God in Jesus Christ

Jesus made some very extraordinary statements about Himself and God. He was condemned to death. One accusation that played a key roll in his condemnation was that He was a blasphemer. A few weeks after He had died, his friends and disciples came with a public declaration that after He had died on the cross, He came to life again because He had arisen from the dead.

Discuss this question:

- *Imagine it is indeed true that Jesus arose from the dead (more about this in lesson 4), what implications would this have for God and the statements Jesus made about Himself and God?*

3. Seeing God in yourself

Again, share together the things you find that are wonderful about yourself and about people in general.

Then ask these questions:

- *Everyone has a sense of right and wrong – a conscience. This is true the whole world over. Who put it there?*
- *All men and women have an inbuilt need to worship someone or something. Why is that need to worship there?*
- *All people long to experience love. It can be the most powerful force in our lives. Where did it come from?*

4 Knowing God for yourself

Christians believe that God made the universe. We believe that humankind is special within God's creation. And we believe that God has shown us what he is like, through the Bible and in Jesus Christ.

God, the maker of heaven and earth, calls us into friendship through Jesus. And knowing God changes our whole lives.

For reflection

Take time to thank God this week for the wonder of creation – of the universe and of humankind. Ask for God's grace and help as you continue your journey of faith.