

The 7 Big Questions

Leader Guide



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Welcome

This guide was created for people who want to facilitate—or are thinking about facilitating—an Explore God Discussion Group. This guide will get you up-to-speed on what an Explore God discussion group will cover over the next seven weeks.

Series Overview

Week 1: Does life have a purpose?

We all have questions and we all wonder. Probably the most asked question around the world is does life have a purpose? Take this opportunity to hear how others would answer this question and then share your thoughts from the Christian perspective.

Week 2: Is there a God?

Dostoevsky said, “Without God, everything is permitted.” Knowing the answer to this question helps us know how to live: in submission to God or in submission to our own desires.

Week 3: Why does God allow pain and suffering?

This is the most difficult question to answer because there seems to be no good answer. This is often the biggest obstacle for people who are new to Christianity.

Week 4: Is Christianity too narrow?

Some see Christianity as a narrow and mostly irrelevant belief system. Why? At one point in history, people sought out the Church for knowledge and truth. Today that is no longer true. Is Christianity too narrow?

Week 5: Is Jesus really God?

The implications of this question are clearly enormous. Every aspect of society would change by the confirmation that Jesus was literally God in the flesh. If Jesus did not rise from the dead then our faith is in vain.

Week 6: Is the Bible reliable?

The world is challenging the reliability of the Bible. At this point in history, it is essential we have an intelligent and thorough conversation about the reliability of Scripture.

Week 7: Can I know God personally?

Humans crave relationships. Why? The Bible teaches that God created us for a relationship with Him. However, it is easy to know things about God, but it is a whole other thing to *know* God.

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Discipleship Insights

- This study tackles some of the biggest questions everyone is asking. Here are some of the best ways you can use this study.
 - Use this as a way to invite some of your non-believing friends into a bigger conversation about faith and purpose.
 - Use this as way to challenge Christians who are complacent in their faith.
 - Use this to help your spiritually mature members begin talking with others about their own faith. We can learn to ask better questions and have better dialogue.
- RightNow Media has the seven videos you will need for the study to go smoothly; however, you will find many more videos, articles, and blogs at www.exploreGod.com.
- Avoid the temptation to use this time as your chance to promulgate your views and opinions. Think of yourselves as a facilitator—creating a safe place for others to have meaning conversations.
- It is OK if someone in the group presents a point of view that disagrees with the consensus of the group. If you have some members that want to argue, help them understand that this time is not the place to “prove” our beliefs. This is a place to respectfully discuss.