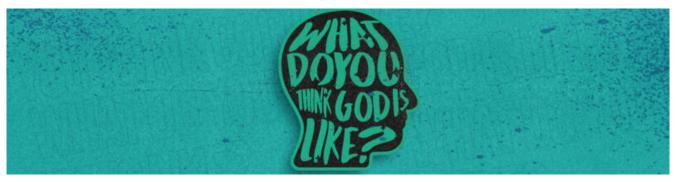
Community Group Study #2





## Is There A God?

Psalm 8:1-9 & Hebrews 2:5-10

#### **Intro Discussion Questions**

- 1. Which of the following statement do you find most helpful? (There's no right or wrong answer!)
  - a. Christianity makes sense scientifically (with the fine-tuning of the cosmos)
  - b. Christianity makes sense morally (Jesus' teaching on morality has never been improved on)
  - c. Christianity makes sense sociologically (Wherever authentic Christianity has been adopted, it has brought civility and transformed societies for their good)
  - d. Christianity makes sense historically (Christianity is not a philosophy. It arose fully formed as a result of historical events surrounding Jesus' life events that can be forensically examined).
  - e. Christianity makes sense personally, for I know God to be living and active within my life.
- 2. Do you think any of the following would be helpful evidence for belief in God? Why? Why not?

#### Read Psalm 8:1-9 & Hebrews 2:5-10

As a group, discuss the big idea, what stands out for each of you and how you think this can help answer the question, Is there a God?

#### **Application Questions**

- What do we learn about God's acts in creation from Psalm 8:1-4? How might this evidence of God in the cosmos help point to belief in God?
- 2. What do we learn about people in Psalm 8:5-9? How we are different to God?
- 3. How does the description of Jesus in Hebrews 2:5-10 show how he is the majestic God from Psalm 8:1,10?
- 4. What does Jesus do to give us knowledge of this majestic God and how can we know him?

#### **Closing Prayer**

- 1. Spend time in your group sharing about people you know who don't yet know Jesus.
- 2. Spend time praying for opportunities to lead these people to Jesus, and that God would bring them to faith in Jesus.

Community Group Study #3





# **But Which God?**

John 8:48-59 & 1 John 1:5-2:2

### **Intro Discussion Questions**

- Discuss as a group: Do you think belief in God is only for religious people? Can there be god's in other parts of our life that people believe in and what are they?
- 2. Consider this statement about idols: "Idols are everywhere. We have given them power over our lives that they were not created to have and which they are not capable of bearing. Idols help prop up our own idolatry and perpetuate our illusion that we are in control."<sup>1</sup> Do you agree and why?

## Read John 8:48-59 & 1 John 1:5-2:2

As a group, discuss the big idea, what stands out for each of you and how you think this can help answer the question, But which God?

## **Application Questions**

- 1. Why do you think Jesus' claim is so shocking?
- 2. What does Jesus say the Pharisees are guilty of in John 8:55?
- 3. Why would saying I AM anger them to the point of wanting to kill Jesus? What does this claim show about who Jesus thinks he is?<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Thomas P. Power, Confronting the Idols of Our Age

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note: Jesus' enemies don't think he's silly!

As CS Lewis once said, "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." In *Mere Christianity*, Chapter 3.

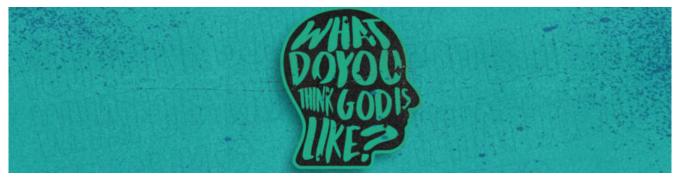
- 4. 1 John is making the point about what God has done for us in Jesus. How does John draw this out and how might this be in contrast to other belief systems that imply we have to do something to drawn close to God?
- 5. What makes Christianity unique and how might you draw out this uniqueness in a conversation with your friends?

## **Closing Prayer**

- 1. Spend time in your group sharing about people you know who don't yet know Jesus.
- 2. Spend time praying for opportunities to lead these people to Jesus, and that God would bring them to faith in Jesus.

Community Group Study #4





# God Is Loving... But So What?

Ephesians 2:1-10 & Psalm 103:8-12

### **Intro Discussion Questions**

- "God is loving... but so what... Is this an attitude that you encounter sometimes in people you know who don't follow Jesus? What do you think makes someone say that?
- 2. What are some examples you see of people wanting "love" without God?

## Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and Psalm 103:8-12

As a group, discuss the big idea, what stands out for each of you and how you think this can help answer the question, God is loving but so what?

## **Application Questions**

- 1. How does the idea of being "dead in our sins" and "deserving of wrath" contrast with how most people in our society think about humanity?
- 2. How would you explain (or how have you explained) the concept of "sin" to someone who wasn't a Christian?
- 3. According to Paul, what practical difference does God's love make for us both in the future and right now?
- 4. How has God's love been life-changing for you personally?

#### **Closing Prayer**

- 1. Spend time in your group sharing about people you know who don't yet know Jesus.
- 2. Spend time praying for opportunities to lead these people to Jesus, and that God would bring them to faith in Jesus.