



Who Needs God: Part Two: Gods of the No Testament

Everyone has religious doubts of some size, shape or form at some point or at many points in their life. More often than not, our religious doubts are doubting a nonexistent god and the Bible-tells-me-so Jesus we heard about as a child. These are the doubts our friends and family have that come out when the family gets together right? Take some time as a group to discuss these doubts that people have and you may have.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you?

"The gods we abandon usually never existed to begin with. The Jesus we left was too fragile to be of much help anyway."

Go around the circle and share where did your view of God originate? To what extent do those influences continue to shape how you view God?

- Have you ever listened to someone's de-conversion story? If so, what thoughts and emotions did it stir in you? How did you respond?
- To what extent do you associate religion with guilt? How do you think that has shaped how you view God?
- How have you been able to move from a non-existent god and a Bible-tells-me-so Jesus to a personal relationship with the one true God? What are steps you've taken to fight that tendency to revert back to your old view of God?
- During the message, Andy said the choice between God and science is a false alternative and that, "If everything were explained and explainable, it would not explain away God." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Why is "easier" for us to try and explain away who really is with God the "somebody-told-me-so god" or a "Bible-tells-me-so Jesus"?
- What steps can you take this week to grow in your intimacy with the real God this week? What Can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Faith in No Testament gods—the bodyguard god, on-demand god, boyfriend god, guilt god, anti-science god, gap god, and angry-Old-Testament god—leads to unmet expectations, childish explanations, ill-informed interpretation, and blatant manipulation. We invent these "gods" based on expectations we put on the true God. That's an irrational way to determine if God is real.

LIVE IT OUT

Memorize: 1 John 4:8

Journaling: Take some time this week to write down your story of God saving you from sin and bring you into a relationship with Him.

Prayer: Ask God to help you know him as He is and not who you want him to be.

Accountability: Share with your group next week how you took a step in knowing this God who loves you so much that he died for you and rose again for you.