



# DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

## “Worldview: Exploring other Worldviews and How to Engage them with the Gospel”

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### How To Talk to My Atheist Neighbors

Week 2 || 01.16.24

Got Questions for John? Text them to 253-544-0249

#### Class Goals:

1. Help **strengthen your biblical Christian worldview** so that you can **recognize truth and falsehood**.
2. Help **educate** you about other religions.
3. Train the **skill of having conversations** with people from different religious backgrounds. (See 1 Pet 3:15)

#### Atheistic Worldview Intro

The three main worldviews are:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (no God)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (one God)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (everything that exists is a part of God or God is a part of everything that exists).

#### Atheistic Arguments Against Christianity

“There is no evidence or proof that God exists.”

A good place to start is to explain why there must be a \_\_\_\_\_ for universe to exist. Then we show how this cause leads to God being the \_\_\_\_\_.

Most atheists believe in science and know from scientific evidence that the universe had a \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. Evidence in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Universe Points to God

Scientific evidence points to a beginning of the universe out of \_\_\_\_\_.

- Any universe that has been expanding throughout its history must have had a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Something cannot come from nothing apart from \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Kalam Cosmological Argument says:**

- Anything that begins to exist has a \_\_\_\_\_
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore the universe has a \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Evidence from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe points to God

- In order for life to exist at all, the universe has to meet certain \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many of these conditions are highly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their improbability is so large, in fact, that we cannot reasonably attribute their existence to pure \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's reasonable to attribute the conditions to \_\_\_\_\_ design.

**“Our universe seems fine-tuned because it just happens to be the one of thousands of other universes in the multiverse that came together this way by chance.”**

Atheists believe that God cannot be the cause of anything in \_\_\_\_\_.

One work-around they have developed is the \_\_\_\_\_... that there are many universes and ours happened to be created by \_\_\_\_\_.

(from video) There is no \_\_\_\_\_ that other universes exist.

### 3. Evidence in Biology

- Information always comes from a \_\_\_\_\_

Our DNA stores \_\_\_\_\_ through the arrangement of chemicals given the letters A, G, C and T, which shows it came from a mind (God).

- There is no “God of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

Some atheists say that Christians fill in \_\_\_\_\_ in their knowledge with God.

However, intelligent design is based on \_\_\_\_\_, not a gap in our knowledge.

**“We don’t need God to be moral. A sense of morality was created by evolutionary pressures that teach people which behaviors make society flourish.”**

If there is no God, there is no \_\_\_\_\_. But there *is* objective morality.

Therefore, there must be a \_\_\_\_\_.

Morality depends on there being \_\_\_\_\_, and moral laws require a

\_\_\_\_\_.

**“If God is good, why does he allow so much evil in the world?”**

A good and powerful God could allow evil if he had good \_\_\_\_\_ to do so.

With our limited, temporal \_\_\_\_\_ of things, we cannot hope to know what he might or might not allow to happen.

Children come by their tendency for \_\_\_\_\_ naturally.

This is why Christ came into the world, to rescue us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin.

**“You can’t trust the Bible.”**

**...because it was written by humans.”**

- Christians believe that the Bible was written by humans but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by God
- Fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_ show that the Bible is more than simply a human-authored book.
- The question shouldn’t be, ‘Who wrote it?’ – but, ‘ \_\_\_\_\_?’

**....because it has been translated and re-translated so many times, it is no longer reliable.”**

People are thinking of the \_\_\_\_\_ game where one person tells another person a story until the story no longer represents the original.

Instead, every translation of the Bible has been translated only once; from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the new language. <https://www.str.org/w/the-bible-has-been-translated-many-times-over-so-how-can-it-be-reliable->

**...because it is filled with mistakes and we don’t have the original manuscripts.**

We can correct the copying errors by \_\_\_\_\_ all the manuscripts to each other.

We have more copies of \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament than any other ancient book.

**“People don’t come back to life. The resurrection of Jesus is impossible. This extraordinary claim requires extraordinary evidence. “**

We do have extraordinary evidence. How would the atheist explain the following:

- why the \_\_\_\_\_ in the resurrection, to the point of dying for it
- the \_\_\_\_\_ and enemy attestation to the empty tomb
- the \_\_\_\_\_ of the resurrected Jesus
- the demonstrable sincerity of the \_\_\_\_\_
- in the Apostles' case, compelling, inexplicable \_\_\_\_\_
- the \_\_\_\_\_ and demonstrable sincerity of key antagonists- and skeptics-turned-martyrs
- the testimony of the \_\_\_\_\_, deemed unreliable given the historical context

**I only believe in what can be proved by science. We used to think thunder was caused by the god Thor. But now science has shown us it's from heat expanding in the atmosphere caused by lightning. So we no longer need God to explain things we don't understand."**

This is called \_\_\_\_\_ – that no claims are true unless they can be proved by science.

But this statement is self-refuting. Can that \_\_\_\_\_ be proved by science?

**"Where did God come from? Who designed the designer?**

We don't have to say where God came from, because by definition He is \_\_\_\_\_.

"You're a Christian just because you were born in America. If you were born in Iran, you would be a Muslim."

To quote Lewis, "You can only find out the rights and wrongs by \_\_\_\_\_."

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you personally find to be the most compelling argument for the existence of God? How could you use it in conversation with someone who doesn't believe there is a God?
2. What atheist argument do you find the most difficult to address and why? How could you be better prepared to address it in a conversation with an atheist friend?
3. Have you ever thought of using science to argue for God's nature, objectivity, and existence? Why or why not?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Why do you think it is important for Christians to be able to give good reasons for why they believe what they believe and defend their faith? Why are gentleness and respect important in doing this?
5. Do you have any friends who are atheists? After hearing this talk, what is one thing you can do to begin to engage in conversations about Jesus with them? OR, if not, who is one person in your life who needs to hear the gospel and how could you begin a conversation about Jesus with them?

## Resources on Responses to the Atheistic Worldview

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Books:

Street Smarts by Greg Koukl

Is God Real?: Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life by Lee Stobel

The Case For Christ and other "Case For" books by Lee Strobel

Cold-Case Christianity (Updated & Expanded Edition by J. Warner Wallace

I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek

Podcasts:

Stand To Reason Weekly Podcast by Greg Koukl

#STR Ask podcast by Greg Koukl and Amy Hall

I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist podcast by Frank Turek

Cold-Case Christianity podcast by J. Warner Wallace

YouTube channels (click on "Videos" on their YouTube channel home page):

Expedition Bible (Biblical archaeology) by Joel Kramer

Red Pen Logic by Tim Barnett

Sean Mc Dowell

Cross Examined by Frank Turek

YouTube Videos-find by searching the title:

William Lane Craig vs. Christopher Hitchens | "Does God Exist?" | Biola University

Richard Dawkins vs John Lennox | The God Delusion Debate

Gregory Koukl VS Deepak Chopra (Unlisted link on my YouTube channel-original quality video no longer available) Must type in this exact URL or email me for the link:

<https://youtu.be/4kdtBy2BSkA?si=6pH4J6JYRWNO7sOx>

Is What We Have Now What They Wrote Then? - Dr. Dan Wallace

Other resources:

If you want to support good, clean TV content, subscribe to Great American Pure Flix:

The Case for Christ (2007 Lee Strobel Documentary video) Free with subscription to Great American Pureflix

The Case for a Creator (2017 Lee Strobel Documentary video) Free with subscription to Great American Pureflix

The Case for Heaven (2022 Lee Strobel Documentary video) Free with subscription to Great American Pureflix

Billy Graham Classics – A series of messages on various topics by Billy Graham. Also on Great American Pureflix.

[How Many Prophecies did Jesus fulfill?](#) See article at gotquestions.org This site is useful for many answers to many other questions!

140 parameters of the universe that have been fine-tuned:

<https://www.cltruth.com/2019/factors-fine-tuning-life-universe/>

Is God Just a Crutch? <https://www.str.org/w/is-god-just-a-crutch->

Scriptures:

**Psalms 19:1–4** *“The heavens declare the glory of God...*

**1 Peter 3:15–16** *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...*

**Acts 19:8–10** *“Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God...*

**Acts 18:27–28** *Apollos... he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate...*

**2 Corinthians 10:5** *“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God,*

**Colossians 2:8** *“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...*

**Luke 1:1–4** *I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”*

**2 Peter 1:16** *“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories ...*

**1 John 1:1–3** . *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard...*



**1 Corinthians 15:3–8** ...he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living...

**Romans 1:18–20** God is plain to them...since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

**Colossians 4:5–6** Let your conversation be always full of grace...

**Philippians 1:16** ...I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

To see apologetics in action, read Mark 12:12–37. Jesus was asked tricky questions from his opponents. Using logic, reason, and Scripture, he left his critics speechless. Jesus was an intellectual heavyweight. He didn't shy away from debate:

<https://eriknmanning.medium.com/20-essential-bible-verses-and-passages-on-apologetics-that-every-christian-should-know-b2aeb82b69ba>