**THE PROBLEM OF GOD: Science**

**September 2, 2018**

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: **Psalm 19:1**

REFLECT: How have you seen God revealed through creation? What does it say about God that He is able to create everything on Earth?

PRACTICE: Go for a walk or look at the stars this evening. Reflect on how powerful the Lord is to create this world. Take time praising Him for his handiwork.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [“What Science is Really Teaching Us”](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-science-is-really-teaching-us) from desiringgod.org

Day 2-

READ: **Genesis 1:1-31**

REFLECT: What are some similarities between the creation story and the Big Bang Theory? How does this passage point to the who and why of science?

PRACTICE: Pray for the Lord to reveal himself to you and to help you understand the “whys”. Take 5 minutes to sit in silence and just listen.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: Watch [“Are All Forms of Evolution Unbiblical?”](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/151058) on Right Now Media. If you do not yet have a Right Now Media account, you can register for one here:  <https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>.

Day 3-

READ: **Exodus 25:10-16**, **1 Corinthians 14:33 and 40**

REFLECT: In Exodus, God gave very specific instructions for creating the Ark, what does this say about his character? How does this characteristic of God help us understand the order of creation and predictability of the scientific method?

PRACTICE: Take note of the ways today that you observe order in the world. Praise the Lord for these signs of his hand.

Day 4-

READ: **Hebrews 1:2-4, John 2:1-11**

REFLECT: What role does Jesus have in helping us to know God? How do miracles fit in with science?

PRACTICE: Watch [“Can the Modern Man Believe in Miracles?”](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/150987) on Right Now Media. If you do not yet have a Right Now Media account, you can register for one here: <https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Read [“The Problem of Miracles”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-problem-of-miracles/) from The Gospel Coalition.

Day 5-

READ: **Philippians 2: 12-13, 1 Peter 3: 15-16, 2 Timothy 2: 24-26**

REFLECT: What do these passages tell us about research and learning more about our God? Why is it important to be able to explain our faith? What should you do if you don’t have the answers?

PRACTICE: Ask a friend, neighbor, or coworker to share a question they have about Christianity and science. Look up the answer and share it with them.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [“Why You Shouldn’t Have All the Answers about Faith”](https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/obstacles-to-faith/answers-about-faith.html) on cru.org

**THE PROBLEM OF GOD: God’s Existence**

September 9, 2018

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: **Romans 2:14-16**

REFLECT: “…*the law is written on their hearts*.”—What does this mean? Think of some ways you see this moral law in action around you. How does this point to God’s existence?

PRACTICE: If you have honest questions about God’s existence take a step in faith and ask Him to show you the truth. If you are absolutely sure of God’s existence thank Him for that assurance and pray for someone you know who has doubts.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Hebrews 11:1-6**; **Romans 10:17**

REFLECT: In addition to logical proofs for God’s existence how do we get faith to believe?

PRACTICE: Watch this short video about Albert Einstein’s search for faith on Right Now Media- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Illustration/105385> (For a FREE RNM account, register here- <https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>)

Day 2-

READ: **John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:1**

REFLECT: These verses talk about the beginning of the earth and how the triune God was there creating. Derek said the prominent theory in science right now is the earth originated from ‘nothing’. Think for a minute about the difficulty of believing this as opposed to believing in intelligent design by a creator.

PRACTICE: Watch Louie Giglio talk about our Indescribable God’s creation in this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVsqCLyoU3o>

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Colossians 1:15-17; 1 John 1:1; 1 Corinthians 8:6**

REFLECT: A foundational question in life is who is behind it and where did it begin? How does Christianity answer this? How do those with no belief in God answer this?

PRACTICE: Listen to Chris Tomlin’s song “Indescribable” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IlVfkY5q54> and thank God for revealing Himself to us.

Day 3-

READ: **Psalm 19:1-6**

REFLECT: Think of some ways you see God revealed in the design of creation. How do the heavens declare the glory of God? How do you declare the glory of God?

PRACTICE: Block out at least a few minutes tonight to look at the night sky and make it a time to worship God for the majesty you see there.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Romans 1:18-20**

REFLECT: How has God revealed Himself through what He has made? What does creation tell us about Him and how should we respond to that?

PRACTICE: Atheist Antony Flew came to realize that recognizing an intelligent creator was his only rational choice. Learn how in this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzquXKkV2k0>

Day 4-

READ: **Psalm 139:13-16**

REFLECT: As you take some deep, slow breaths think about the millions of things that are happening inside your well-designed body in the space of a breath—and all without any effort or thought on your part. What would it be like if you had to remember to take each breath or cue your heart to beat?

PRACTICE: We seem to take the functioning of our bodies for granted until one part is not working. Take some time to thank God for the health of your body—part by part. If you are still struggling with the existence of God, spend some time just considering the design of the human body.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Job 38:1-11**

REFLECT: Just consider: if not God, who and how?

PRACTICE: Watch this short video about how we are “Fearfully and wonderfully made” -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00RlokVPoh0>

Day 5-

READ: **John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:1**

REFLECT: “To continue in atheism, I needed to believe that nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason.” – Lee Stroebel˜  -- Derek said we need to follow the evidence where It leads. Where do you think the evidence leads?

PRACTICE: Listen to “My Redeemer Lives” by Nicole C. Mullen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRW-jr_PnbQ> and thank God for His work in your life.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Hebrews 11:6**

REFLECT: What two things do we need to believe to come close to God? How does faith correlate with intelligence, logic, and rationality? What does this verse say God will do for those who honestly seek Him?

PRACTICE: If you have faith to believe in God that comes by His grace. Thank Him for that and pray for those who still struggle to believe. And if you honestly don’t believe in God’s existence but want to know the truth, you have nothing to lose by just asking Him to prove Himself to you.

**THE PROBLEM OF GOD: Hypocrisy**

September 16th, 2018

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: **Proverbs 3:5-8**

REFLECT: Physical health is an important part of our life in this modern world. On any given day, you’re likely to hear about the latest and greatest way to enhance your physical health. What does this scripture say brings about true health? How might you live differently if you viewed your spiritual health as important and life giving as your physical health?

PRACTICE: Pray that your desire for spiritual health would be as important as your desire for physical health. Ask God to show you where you might be lacking. Ask Him to show you the way toward spiritual health.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “5 Ways to Live the God-Centered Life” from The Gospel Coalition- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-ways-to-live-the-god-centered-life/>

REFLECT: What are the five ways to live a God centered life according to this article?

PRACTICE: Pick one of the suggestions and make a plan to implement it into your life.

Day 2-

READ: **1 John 2:3-6**

REFLECT: The biggest defense we have in avoiding hypocrisy and being in judgment of others; is to know the word of God. It’s only there that we’ll find the true Jesus and his true teaching. What does verse 6 say we need to do if we claim to follow Jesus?

PRACTICE: Write out verse 6 somewhere that you’ll see it daily. Make it your prayer to know Jesus well enough and deep enough that you continue to be more and more like Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “Treasure, Freedom, and Knowing Jesus Better: Praying Philippians 3:7-10” from The Gospel Coalition- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/treasure-freedom-and-knowing-jesus-better-praying-phil-37-10/>

REFLECT: Knowing Jesus brings true freedom and joy! The more we know him, the more we’ll become like him.

PRACTICE: Print this prayer (or write it out in your journal), and refer back to it as often as you need a reminder.

Day 3-

READ: **Psalm 25:4-5**

REFLECT: King David acknowledges that God is the only one with the answers on how to live a God-honoring life. What are the action words that David uses in this passage?

PRACTICE: Pray the same prayer over your life that King David prays over his. As you pray, ask that your heart be open to the plans God has for your life.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: “Tell the Truth”, a training from Right Now Media (for a FREE RNM account, visit <https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>) - <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/Preview/188260>

REFLECT: Why is speaking the truth so important?

PRACTICE: What is something you can do today in order to speak the truth in a more loving and compassionate way?

Day 4-

READ: **Romans 5:6-8**

REFLECT: In his sermon, Pastor Derek reminds us that the church is made up of broken people – people who have messed up, screwed up, and sinned against God. Time and time again, throughout scripture, Jesus interacts with the worst of sinners. Those are the people he came for. What do you think is the significance of the word “still” in this passage? How does it change your view on who is the sinner?

PRACTICE: Pray and ask God to reveal to you those you might have placed judgment on, those who you might consider “not good enough.” Pray for them. Ask God to become real in their life. Ask God to remove the judgments you may place on other people. Ask Him to help you recognize the areas of sin in your life that need dealt with.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: “New Wine”, a worship song from Hillsong- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ozGKlOzEVc>

REFLECT: What “old flames” do you need to lay down at the feet of Jesus?

PRACTICE: Pray and ask God to make a “new fire” out of your life. Have a moment of reflective repentance – where are the areas in your life that you need to lay before Jesus. Ask him to take those things and turn them into something for his glory.

Day 5-

READ: **John 8:2-11**

REFLECT: In this passage, as the people are pouring judgment on the woman, Jesus asks the people to reflect on their own lives and their own sin. What does he reveal to everyone at the courts? What would happen if every time you started to think less of someone, or judge them for their behavior, you asked yourself “am I without sin?” (\*adapted from Connexus Church).

PRACTICE: Is there someone in your life whom you have wrongly judged? Find a way to apologize to that person – whether in person, or in a moment of prayer to God.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “The Making of a Modern Pharisee” from Desiring God- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-making-of-a-modern-pharisee>

REFLECT: This is a heavy article about the dangers of hypocrisy in the modern world. What is your biggest takeaway?

PRACTICE: If you recognize any of the symptoms in your life, repent to God and ask for his forgiveness and healing.

**THE PROBLEM OF GOD: Sex**

Week 3, September 23, 2018

Reading Plan

Day 1-

THINK: Over the last 24 hours, what messages (blatant or subtle) have you seen or heard in the media, at work, in your home, or anywhere else regarding sex?

READ: **1 Corinthians 6:12**

REFLECT: The Roman culture’s attitude toward sexuality of Paul’s day was comparable to the culture we live in today. In light of that, what is the wisdom of Paul’s words to the Corinthian church? How does sex become a “master”?

PRACTICE: Examine your heart and mind regarding your views on sex and experiences (past and present). Ask God to reveal His Truth to you, to call you to repentance where needed, to healing, to freedom, to His plan.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Joshua Harris answers the question, “What is the relationship between God and sexuality?” in this short clip from Right Now Media: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/151000>

\*If you do not yet have a RNM account, sign up for a FREE one today! (<https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>)

Day 2-

READ: **Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-25**

REFLECT: Before sin entered the world, what seems to be the design for sex according to God’s words in Genesis 1-2? Procreation, pleasure and intimacy (bonding) are three words that could describe the purpose of sex. Why would this be best within a marriage relationship?

PRACTICE: Are you single? Married? Divorced? Widowed? Whatever your status/life stage, what is your view of your own sexuality and sex-life? Do you believe this is God’s view? (The “Take it Further” article will help you think this through)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

THINK: What are your assumptions about the God’s design for sex?

READ: “Sex According to the Bible” from The Gospel Coalition gives a comprehensive list of truths from Scripture regarding sex. (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/sex-according-to-the-bible/>)

Day 3-

READ: **Ephesians 1:4-6**

REFLECT: Sometimes it’s so easy to think that our sexuality is our identity. What radical claim does God make about our identity? How can that change how someone feels about their sex life (or lack of it)?

PRACTICE: Grab a piece of paper or your journal. Write, “who I am” across the top and list what you think about yourself. Stop and pray over this list. “God, is this who you say I am?” Listen to Him. Read His Word and find the TRUTH. (Bonus: Listen to Lauren Daigle’s song “Here’s My Heart” or “You Say” while you do this.)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

STUDY: For access to multiple articles about sexual purity, check out Desiring God: [https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/sexual-purity#](https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/sexual-purity)

Day 4-

READ: **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

REFLECT: What is your view of sex today, after reading and studying this week? Is sex very BAD, the ultimate GOD or really GOOD?

PRACTICE: Have a conversation with someone. Ask, “how do you think God views sex?”

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “Talking to Children about God’s Design for Sexuality” is an article from Ligonier ministries that will help you think and prepare to have conversations with your children: <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/talking-children-gods-design-sexuality/>

Day 5-

READ: **Romans 8:1-16**

REFLECT: For many, sex/ sexuality is a subject filled with hurt, guilt, shame, confusion. What does it mean that, as a child of God, you do not live under condemnation?

PRACTICE: Cry out to “Abba” (father) in your brokenness. He will meet you there! And reach out for help- God doesn’t want you to walk alone. Email gethelp@whoisgrace.com to find a listening ear and start on the road toward healing.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **2 Peter 1:2-4**

REFLECT: “*Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and the knowledge of ourselves.”* – John Calvin

PRACTICE: What does it look like for you, a child of God, dearly loved, to take a step today toward growing in the wisdom of God and surrendering your sexuality and your sex-life to God? Ask God for courage to take that step, knowing that He walks with you!

STUDY: To further engage with the Bible on this topic, check out these resources on Right Now Media: “Sex Crazed Culture” (<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/241370>); “The Truth About Sex”- a study for youth (<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/85>)

\*If you do not yet have a RNM account, sign up for a FREE one today! (<https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>)

**VISION: Finding Your “3”**

September 30, 2018

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: **Psalm 105:1** and “Joy in Sharing” by Billy Graham: <https://billygraham.org/devotion/joy-in-sharing/>

REFLECT: Have you found joy and happiness in sharing Christ and his love in you with others?

PRACTICE: Pray this prayer, “There is no greater joy, Father, than sharing Your love. Help me to convey this in my dealings with others.”

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Romans 10:10-17**

REFLECT: Watch the video by Casting Crowns, “Love Them Like Jesus.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyeyhOdgyYM>

PRACTICE: Make a list of the many reasons you would want to see your “3” come to Jesus for their salvation.

Day 2-

READ: **Acts 20:24** and the article by Will Graham: “Are the Lost Worth the Cost?” <https://billygraham.org/story/will-graham-are-the-lost-worth-the-cost/>

REFLECT: Think about how wonderful it must be in heaven when the angels rejoice over one person who comes to Christ Then allow yourself to consider the joy you will have when one of your “3” comes to Christ.

PRACTICE: Make a list of what it has cost you to follow Christ by sharing him with others.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **1 Corinthians 3:1-10**. Watch “A Better Way to Evangelize” by Jon Jorgenson. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-2WIY84buw>

REFLECT: How might you have a part in helping others reach there “3”?

PRACTICE: Pray that God would use you to be part of other believers reaching their friends.

Day 3-

READ: **Read Isaiah 12:4** and “You Can Preach,” by Billy Graham. <https://billygraham.org/devotion/you-can-preach/>

REFLECT: Think about something Jesus has done for you that you could share with others.

PRACTICE: At the end of today make a list of people who you showed love to and praise God for working through you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Romans 1:16** and then read the article by Billy Graham, “How do I Mend a Rift with My Atheist Co-Workers? “ <https://billygraham.org/answer/52877/>

REFLECT: When someone rejects the gospel they are rejecting Jesus and not you.

PRACTICE: Ask God to help you be an example of Christ to those who deny he exists.

Day 4-

READ: **Matthew 5:15-16** and then the article by Billy Graham. <https://billygraham.org/answer/dont-hide-your-identity-as-a-christian-on-social-media/>

REFLECT: Consider the different means God has given you to declare your faith in Christ.

PRACTICE: Pray that God would give you an open door to share Jesus today.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Luke 12:11-12** and watch this video called, “How to Share Your Faith for Beginners.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94EmmdlcIkI&t=16s>

REFLECT: What was most helpful to you from this video.

PRACTICE: What is one take-away from this video that will help you reach your “3”?

Day 5-

READ: **1 Corinthians 2:1-2** and read, “Sharing Christ with Difficult People” by Billy Graham. <https://billygraham.org/answer/be-patient-and-loving-toward-difficult-people/>

REFLECT: When you consider that Paul persecuted the church before he became a Christian think about the power of Christ to reach even the most difficult people in your life.

PRACTICE: As you consider who your “3” might be don’t leave out those in your life that may be difficult or maybe in your eyes seem impossible to see come to Christ.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** and read the article, “Sharing Your Faith 101”. <https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>

REFLECT: Think about the freedom that comes when you realize that you can’t open someone’s heart to the truth of the Gospel—but God can, by His Spirit.

PRACTICE: Memorize the “4 Simple Steps” to share the gospel so you can share it with your “3” when they become ready to hear about how they can find salvation through Jesus.