

Seventh Grade- How do you know God's real?

Today, we are going to be touching on another question you are almost certainly going to be asked at some point in your life. That question is, "How do you know God is real?" That's a big question! And to let you in on a little secret, every believer has at one point, or another asked themselves, "is God real? Am I actually worshiping someone or am I just talking to nothing?" As always, we want you to know there is nothing wrong in asking these kinds of questions. What will hurt you is having those questions but never asking them. So, lets dive into that question today.

Introducing the topic

Use these questions to help gauge what students already know about the subject and help them begin to verbally process what may be misconceptions or partial understandings of God's existence.

-Have you ever heard the word "apologetics"? This word does not have to do with apologizing for something. This word is used when someone defends the faith. So, if someone was to say "God's not real!" and a believer was to say "look at how much historical evidence there is for God" or "look at how much scientific evidence there is for God" or any other argument to support God's existence, they would be using apologetics to do so.

-Do you think people in your schools are asking the question, "does God exist?"

-If asked "How do you know God exists? You can't see him, touch him, smell him, hear him, or taste him so why would you believe he is real?" what would you say?

-What are some experiences that make you think God's real? What are some experiences that make you doubt?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

There are tons of resources to support God's existence that have been written over many centuries. In fact, someone could craft an argument for God using probably any realm of modern science. Though we encourage you to ask your leader for some resources, today we are going to look at what some people in the Bible have said on the topic. (Feel free to include some resources that you could give to a student. A modern believer who has tons of short youtube videos and has written many books on evidence for God's existence is Frank Turrik.)

Turn to Philippians 3:7-11

- What stood out to you in this passage?

- What word does Paul use in verse 8 & 10 when defining his knowledge of God?
- What does it mean to “know” something?

Now turn to Hebrews 11 and read until you want to stop.

- What stood out to you in this passage?
- What word is the author of Hebrews talking about
- What does it mean to have “faith” in something?

So, we see here two different ideas that in the power of the Holy Spirit we can KNOW God, but we also are to have FAITH in God.

- What are the differences between “knowledge” and “faith”
- Are we able to have both at the same time?

Let’s think about the wind for a second. In it of itself, no one can see the wind, people can only experience how the wind interacts with the world. For example, you don’t see the wind, you see things move in response to the wind, yet we still know the wind is there. We can see how it affects the world around us and it is impossible to deny it even though we can’t see it. That’s very similar to how knowledge and faith work. You may not be able to see God tangibly, but you can see how is moving in the world and when you know what you are looking for, or when it happens to you, it is impossible to deny it was God.

- What things do people have faith in? (chairs, political parties, money, etc.)
- Is this making sense? Does anyone have any questions? *(this is a large and difficult topic, so a quick check in may be wise here)*

Practical Application

In this section we want students to be able to contextualize what Scripture teaches to their daily life. This portion of the conversation is centered around the practical application of the text and aimed at helping students actually integrate this spiritual truth into their walk with the Lord.

- Let’s revisit an earlier question, if someone was to ask you, “how do you know God is real?” what would you say?
- Is there anybody in your life that may be asking this kind of question?
- What questions do you still have in regards to this topic?