

“God Loves Science!”
Series: “*Bring a Bible You Can Write In*”
(Part 4 of 4)

Open: What factors have been most influential in shaping your thoughts about God?

Explore: Read Luke 7:18-28.

Many believers in the Bible were put to death because of their faith. However, you might be surprised to know that many of them also had moments of doubt. The same was true for John the Baptist as he sat in a prison cell...

1. What question did John the Baptist have for Jesus as he awaited a decision concerning his fate (vs. 18-20)? Considering the fact that John had previously baptized Jesus, does this question surprise you?
2. How did Jesus respond to John’s question (vs. 21-23)? Read Isaiah 61:1. What light does this verse shed on Jesus’ response to John?
3. Read through what Jesus had to say about John (vs. 24-28). What do these verses suggest about how others felt about John’s doubt? ...how Jesus felt?
4. What does this story tell us about the relationship between faith and doubt?

Reflect: Review key points from the lesson before answering the questions.

1. How do you think most people decide what they believe about God?
2. Everyone has moments of doubt about the existence of God. When are you most likely to experience those doubts? When can doubt actually be a good thing?
3. Every belief system (atheism = no God, deism = God has left the building, poly theism = many gods, pantheism = everything is god, theism = there is one God) requires faith. What is the danger in thinking, “*It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere*”?
4. The universe is highly complex, yet highly organized. This complex design is one piece of evidence supporting the existence of God. In what ways do you see God’s undeniable thumb-print in the world around you?
5. Read Hebrews 11:1. How would you describe the relationship between evidence and faith? Which piece of evidence from the lesson has been the greatest source of encouragement to you?

Apply: Live it.

As a CARE Group: Read 1 Peter 3:15. Discuss how confident group members are in sharing their faith. If group members would like to know more, consider doing the Tough Questions DVD series found in the New Hope Bookstore.

On your own: Read through the ADDENDUM and mark your Bible. Thank God for the truth of His Word.

Listening Guide Notes

Topics:

Science > Ecclesiastes 4:12 (p. 463)

1. 3 Cables (1960’s AD)

“*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*” –**Ecclesiastes 4:12 (p. 463)**

> Isaiah 55:10-11 (p. 513)

2. Hydro-logic Cycle (1580 AD)

^[10] “*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,^[11] so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*” –**Isaiah 55:10-11 (p. 513)**

> Romans 1:18-20 (p. 782)

3. Design

^[18] “*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,^[19] since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.^[20] For 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.*” –**Romans 1:18-20 (p. 782)**

>Genesis 1:1 (p. 1)

4. Designer

“*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” –**Genesis 1:1 (p. 1)**

Addendum:

5. Air has weight? (Evangelista Torricelli discovered that air has weight. This discovery took place in 1640.) Job 28:25 (NOTE: Look at a different translation than the New Hope NIV.)

6. Cave men? Sort of: Job 30:5-6 (p. 365)

7. Genetic Codes: (Meaning, no matter how you breed a dog, you're still going to get a dog. You don't one day get a horse or a giraffe. You may get different variations of dogs by cross breeding. But a dog is a dog. Mark this phrase, "According to their kinds." Used 10 times in Genesis 1.

8. Round Earth or flat? Isaiah 40:22 (p. 500) (NOTE: There was no Hebrew word for sphere at the time.)

9. Simultaneous Day and Night? Once thought to be impossible. In Luke 17:34-35 (p. 731). Jesus comes instantly, but some people are in bed sleeping (night) and others are working (day). More ammo for a round earth.

10. Bloodletting? (Google it. Bad idea thought to be good back in the day!) In 1616, William Harvey discovered that blood circulation is the key factor in physical life. Long time before that God said this: Leviticus 17:11 (p. 80).

11. Which is NOT mentioned in the Bible: Dinosaurs or Cats? (Understand that there's some hyperbole in Job's description. Another example of hyperbole in the Bible would be, "*The trees of the field will clap their hands.*" –Isaiah 55:12 (p. 513). No one thinks the trees have hands and are clapping. The hyperbole in Job should be read as such.) Job 40:15-25 (p. 372); 41:1-34 (p. 372)