

MYTH BUSTED



Group Discussion Guide



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Group Discussion Guide

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Series Overview

This study provides basic insight into why we believe the details of what we believe about God and His Word. It also presents the implications for us if we believe these truths.

Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Myth Busted**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

1-God Exists, Jesus is God

Scripture: [Psalm 14:1-3](#), [John 20:30-31](#)

Icebreaker: Did I Do That?

Share some stories of when you have done something embarrassing, something you had trouble believing you did?

Discussion Questions

- Think back to your childhood. What early memories do you have of doing something that bothered your conscience ([Rom 2:14-15](#))? How does a troubled conscience point to the existence of God?
- What about God's creation helps you know that He exists ([Rom 1:18-21](#) and [Psa 19:1-3](#))? Why would someone not acknowledge God's existence by observing His creation ([Psa 14:1-3](#))?
- What evidence that Jesus is God do you find most compelling ([John 20:30-31](#))?
 - God said Jesus was His Son ([Mat 17:1-5](#)).
 - Jesus said He was equal to God ([John 10:24-33](#)).
 - Jesus performed miracles ([John 6:26-27](#)).
 - John equated Jesus to God ([1John 5:20](#)).
 - Jesus rose from the dead ([Rom 1:3-4](#)).
 - Jesus ascended in front of witnesses ([Luke 24:50-53](#)).
 - Other? _____
- Why is it difficult to fully understand that Jesus and God are one being? Why is it important to accept the truth that Jesus is God?

Dig a Little Deeper: Praise Him

As a group, tell God what you find wonderful about Him. This could be prayer, songs of praise, or a combination.

You may enjoy praising with this [God of Wonders](#) music video.

Application Exercise: Journal

Keep a simple journal for a week. Each day, record one reason you know God exists based on something you observed that day.

2-Hell, the Cross

Scripture: [Luke 16:19-31](#)

Icebreaker: The Punishment

Discuss the types of punishment you received as a child. Which forms of punishment bothered you the most and why?

Discussion Questions

- Discuss how [Isaiah 66:23-24](#) contradicts the belief that there is nothing after death.

- Discuss how hell is the state of final separation from God.
 - ▶ [Luke 16:26](#)
 - ▶ [2The 1:8-10](#)
 - ▶ [Mat 7:23](#)
 - ▶ [Mat 8:12](#)

- In what way does the narrow gate illustrate the choice we must make?
 - ▶ [Mat 7:13-14](#)
 - ▶ [Jer 21:8](#)
 - ▶ [Luke 13:23-25](#)

- In what way does our belief in Christ affect how we will be judged?
 - ▶ [John 3:16-18](#)
 - ▶ [Luke 9:26](#)
 - ▶ [John 12:48](#)

- Discuss Jesus' role in final judgment.
 - ▶ [Acts 17:31](#)
 - ▶ [2Tim 4:1](#)
 - ▶ [Rev 19:11](#)

Dig a Little Deeper: Picture of Hell

How does the following passage describe hell?

Mark 9:43-47

Application Exercise: Separated

Think about what it is like to be separated from someone you love. How does this help you better understand the tragedy of a person being separated from God because they did not accept Christ as Lord and Savior?

3-Resurrection

Scripture: [Acts 1:1-3](#)

Icebreaker: The Makeover

- Discuss examples of people who have had a physical makeover. What did they change? Did you or others treat them differently after the makeover?
- If you have ever had a makeover, tell the group about your experience. Did you view yourself differently? Did people treat you differently?

Discussion Questions

- What evidence do you find most compelling for Jesus rising from the dead? In what ways are each of the following convincing evidence?
 - That over 500 people saw Him ([1Cor 15:3-9](#)).
 - That a medical doctor, Luke, stated that Christ rose from the dead ([Acts 1:1-3](#)).
 - That people didn't expect it to happen and had to see Him to believe it ([John 20:1-9](#) and [Mark 16:9-14](#)).
 - That the Jewish authorities gave a bribe to the Roman soldiers to say that the disciples stole Jesus' body while the soldiers slept ([Mat 28:8-15](#)).
- What became different in the lives of those who met the resurrected Christ?
- Jesus made sure we know He rose with a physical body. Why do you think that is important?
- In what ways will our resurrected bodies be better than the ones we have today ([1Cor 15:42-44](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Doctrine

- Some people refer to Romans as the book of doctrines (teachings). What is the first doctrine (**Rom 1:4**)? Why do you think it is the first doctrine?
- Paul's first letter to the Corinthians deals with problems in the church. What was the problem that concerned Paul in **1Corinthians 15:12-14**?

Application Exercise: Resurrection Reminder

Make something to remind you to think about the resurrection each day for a full week. This could be a note on your bathroom mirror, a screen saver on your computer, or a calendar reminder. When you see or hear the reminder, think about what Christ's resurrection has done for you.

4-Heaven

Scripture: [John 14:1-4](#)

Icebreaker: Best Family Reunion

Discuss the best family reunions you've ever attended or heard other people describe. What is it about family reunions that appeals to you?

Discussion Questions

- Discuss how heaven is like a gated community with only one way to gain access.
 - ▶ [John 14:2](#)
 - ▶ [Rev 7:9-10](#)
 - ▶ [Luke 12:8](#)
 - ▶ [Mat 7:21-23](#)
 - ▶ [Rev 21:27](#)

- What do you most look forward to in heaven and why?
 - Having a new body ([Php 3:21](#))
 - Having a new mind ([1John 3:2](#), [1Cor 13:12](#))
 - Having perpetual, perfect fellowship with God ([John 14:3](#), [Rev 21:3](#))
 - Joy ([Mat 25:21](#), [1The 2:19-20](#))
 - Rest ([2The 1:5-7](#), [Heb 4:1-3](#))
 - Other _____

- Try to imagine what it will be like to see God's face and be in His presence ([John 19:26](#) and [Rev 22:4](#)). How do you think you will react?

- Tell one another about the best food you have ever eaten. What do you imagine food will be like in heaven ([Rev 19:9](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Three Heavens

Consider how the following passages describe the three heavens.

First heaven	Atmosphere	Rev 19:17, Mat 24:31
Second heaven	Outer space	Gen 1:14-19, Psa 8:3
Third heaven	God's presence	2Cor 12:2, Isa 6, Rev 4

Application Exercise: Verse about Heaven

This week, memorize your favorite verse about heaven. Here are a few to consider:

John 14:2 (NKJV) In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Luke 10:20 (NKJV) Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Php 3:20 (NKJV) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev 21:4 (NKJV) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5-Bible is God's Word

Scripture: [2Peter 1:16-21](#), [2Timothy 3:14-17](#)

Icebreaker: Reading the Instruction Manual

Remember the last time you bought something that came with an instruction manual. What was the item you purchased? What did you do with the instruction manual (tossed it, glanced at it, read the whole thing)?

Discussion Questions

- The Bible says God's Word is the only source of information you need to live as He desires ([Psa 119:1](#) and [2Tim 3:14-17](#)). What are some other sources people use to guide their lives? How could those help or hinder their relationship with God?
- Discuss why some people are more likely to trust manuscript evidence for Caesar or Plato than they are to trust manuscript evidence for the Bible ([Acts 17:11](#)). What could cause a rational person to reject overwhelming evidence?
- For you, how convincing is eyewitness or earwitness experience? How often do you believe what you see or hear? Discuss why God's Word is more sure than experience ([2Pet 1:16-21](#)).
- If you have made Christ your Lord, how has your walk with Him increased your belief in the Bible ([Psa 119:93](#) ? Have you:
 - Experienced peace that passes understanding ([Php 4:7](#))?
 - Become an ambassador for Christ ([2Cor 5:17-20](#))?
 - Experienced His forgiveness ([1John 1:9](#))?
 - Received God's blessing as you have become more giving ([Mal 3:10](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Purpose of God's Word

Reproof	Shows you what you did wrong	1Cor 10:11 Heb 4:12-13
Correction	Shows you what is right and how to fix your errors	John 17:17 Psa 17:4
Instruction	Shows you how to be a person of God	1The 2:13 2Cor 3:18

Application Exercise: Apply Bible Teachings

It's easy to say the Bible is necessary for your life, but how do you apply its teachings in every day life? Think about the past week. What examples were there of you applying the Bible's teachings?

In a choice you made:
In the way you treated a person:
In how you spent your time:

6-Science Supports the Bible

Icebreaker: Looking for Answers in the Wrong Places

Discuss the table below and how looking in the wrong place for answers can confuse us.

<i>Science</i>	<i>Bible</i>
What exists?	Who put us here?
How do things function?	Why are we here?
<i>Physical, Observable</i>	<i>Spiritual</i>

Discussion Questions

- How can observing God's creation remind us that we are **not** God [**Psa 19:1-6**]? What can help us avoid the mistake of worshipping the creation instead of the Creator [**Psa 19:7-14**]?
- According to what you learned in school, when did people realize that the earth is not flat? According to **Isaiah 40:22**, what was Isaiah's thought about the shape of the earth? Where did Isaiah get his information?
- In the early 1800s, who discovered the pattern of wind currents on the earth? Consider what Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 1:6**. How do you think Solomon knew the pattern of winds 3,000 years ago?
- What can we do to appreciate science for what it is and not use it for what it is not [**1Tim 6:20-21**]?



Dig a Little Deeper: Physical World

The Bible is not a work of science; however, when the Bible describes the physical world, it is accurate. Here are a few examples to consider.

Job 26:7	Earth is suspended in space.
2Tim 1:9	Time had a beginning.
2Sam 22:16	There are valleys on the bottom of the sea.
Gen 1:2-9	Tectonic activity formed the continents.

Application Exercise

- Search the internet to find the names of famous scientists who believed in God.
- Search the internet to find the names of some scientists today who do not think the theory of evolution is valid.

Resources

- Black, Jim Nelson. The Death of Evolution.
- Geisler, Norman & Turek, Frank. I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.
- Hanegraaff, Hank. The Bible Answer Book.
- Lewis, C.S. Mere Christianity.
- McDowell, Josh. The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict.
- Strobel, Lee. The Case for Faith.

7-Why I Believe I'm Saved

Scripture: [1John 3:16-24](#)

Icebreaker: Salvation Stories

Share some stories of salvation that you find amazing or heart-warming.

Discussion Questions

- In what way does our behavior show that we are saved ([1John 3:16-24](#))? Discuss the following phrases:
 - ▶ “by this we know that we are of the truth ”
 - ▶ “by this we know that He abides in us”
- Discuss why Paul was convinced that nothing could separate believers from the love of God ([Rom 8:9](#) and [Rom 8:38-39](#)).
- Why is the book of [1John](#) helpful to read when you are doubting your salvation ([1John 5:13](#))?
- How can a reprimand or punishment from God help you know you are saved ([Hebrews 12:5-11](#))? For what reason does God chasten believers? Invite group members to share an example of how they benefitted from a reprimand from God [only if they are comfortable doing so].

Dig a Little Deeper: Traits of a Christian

What traits of a Christian can you see in the following verses?

1John 2:29
1John 3:9
1John 4:7
1John 5:1
1John 5:4

Application Exercise: Do I Demonstrate It?

Over the past year, which traits of a Christian (from the table above) did you demonstrate? If there were some you did not demonstrate, why do you think that was the case?

Grace Church Beliefs Statement

1. *Scripture*: We believe all Scripture was given by verbal, complete, and inerrant inspiration of God and is our final authority for all matters of faith and practice. (**2Tim 3:14-17, 2Pet 1:19-21, Gal 3:16, Psa 119:89, 160, John 17:17, Mat 5:17-18, Rev 22:18-19**)
2. *God* : We believe in one true God, who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, and who is manifest in three eternal Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (**Deu 6:4, Jer 32:27, Acts 15:18, Psa 139:1-10, John 1:1, 14, Mat 3:16-17, Mat 28:18-20, 1John 5:20, Acts 5:3-4**)
3. *Christ*: We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal God in human form, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin named Mary. We believe Jesus lived a sinless life, died to pay for all sins, rose again the third day, and ascended to heaven. (**John 1:1,14, 1John 5:20, Isa 7:14, Isa 9:6-7, 1Tim 3:16, Heb 4:14-16, 1Cor 15:1-4, Rom 5:6-11, 1John 2:1-2**)
4. *Holy Spirit*: We believe the Holy Spirit is the eternal God, indwelling and sealing the believer at the moment of salvation. We believe the Holy Spirit teaches the believer God's Word, transforms them into the image of Christ, and gives spiritual gifts to be used according to Scripture to glorify God. (**Rom 8:9-11, Eph 1:13-14, Eph 4:30, John 16:7-15, 2Cor 3:17-18, 1Cor 12, 1Pet 4:10-11**)
5. *Satan*: We believe Satan is a spiritual being which was lifted up in pride, rebelled against God with his angels, and opposes God's work today. We believe his defeat and destiny were sealed by the work of Christ on the cross. (**Mat 4:8-11, Isa 14:12-15, 1Pet 5:7, Eph 6:10-12, Heb 2:14-15, Rev 20:10**)
6. *Genesis*: We believe Genesis is not allegorical or figurative. We believe God created the universe, and created Adam in His image, but Adam sinned through the free will God gave him. We believe people inherit Adam's sinful nature and become sinners in experience, for which the wages are death. (**Gen 1:1, 26-27, Gen 3:1-7, Mat 19:4-6, Mat 24:37-39, Rom 5:12, 18-19, Rom 3:23, Rom 6:23**)

7. *Salvation*: We believe salvation is by God's grace alone, received through faith in the death and resurrection of Christ, and by calling on Jesus as Lord. We believe salvation is being born spiritually into God's family, which cannot be reversed or lost, because it is kept by the power of God. (***Eph 2:8-9, Rom 10:9, 13, John 3:1-7, John 10:27-30, 1Pet 1:3-5, Rom 8:35-39, 1John 2:18-19***)
8. *Church*: We believe the church is the body of believers who are spiritually connected worldwide. We believe the local church is an assembly God calls together to accomplish Christ's work in this world, by observing the ordinances of baptism and communion, and equipping believers to minister. (***Mat 16:18, Mat 22:34-40, Mat 28:18-20, Eph 1:22-23, Eph 3:20-21, Eph 4:11-16, 1Cor 11:23-26, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 11:19-30***)
9. *Return*: We believe Jesus will return again to earth to reign. We believe that before Christ's return, all genuine believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and the world will experience a period of tribulation. (***Acts 1:9-11, 2The 1:3-10, 1The 4:13-5:11, Mat 24, Dan 9:27, Dan 12:1, Rev 20:1-6***)
10. *Eternity*: We believe all people will spend eternity with Christ or separated from Him. We believe those without Christ wait in Hell for the day of final judgment. We believe those with Christ wait with Jesus for their resurrection and eternal inheritance. (***John 5:28-29, John 3:16-18, Luke 16:19-31, Rev 20:11-15, 1The 4:13-18, 2John 8, Luke 19:11-27***)



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