

# LEADER'S GUIDE

## IN THE BEGINNING

1

CREATION

# 1 IN THE BEGINNING

## CONVERSATION #1: SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

WATCH THE VIDEO ON [DKIT.UYWI.ORG](http://DKIT.UYWI.ORG) OR ON YOUR UYWI MOBILE APP



VIDEO: SOMETHING FROM NOTHING



- What is one new thought you had as a result of watching that video?

### LEADER: MAIN THOUGHT

**GOD IS THE UNCAUSED FIRST CAUSE WHO DEMONSTRATED HIS POWER BY CREATING SOMETHING FROM NOTHING.**

“Does God exist?” This is a popular question in our day that many Christians are not sure how to answer. In our video today I want to walk you through some convincing evidences, seen in creation, regarding God’s existence.

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

READ PSALM 90:1-4 (NLT)

*Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals!” For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.*

### LEADER:

This Scripture is telling us that God is our ultimate protector and that God existed before creation did! God is the creator of creation. We’ll take time to unpack this passage a little later.



- What are some thoughts come to your mind when you hear God being called, “the uncaused first cause?” (discuss or write them down)

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
  - a) The Bible never tries to prove God’s existence because it is written from the view point that God is the author of Scripture.
    - i) Some argue that the universe is eternal and created itself however, we should reject this thought for a few reasons:
      - (1) Space, time, energy, and matter are not eternal because they have a starting point.
      - ii) Some argue the starting point or the cause of our universe is the “big bang” however, we must counter their argument with asking the, what is the “cause” that initiated the “Big Bang?”
        - (1) The Christian’s response is that God is the uncaused first cause whose demonstrated power was shown by creating something from nothing.
    - b) God is the uncaused first cause, the Creator of creation.
    - c) Since there is no one Hebrew word for “universe” the phrase “heavens and earth” describe all of creation (earth and beyond).

## LEADER:

In the video, D.A. talked about how the Bible doesn’t try to prove God’s existence because it assumes we know this to be true.

**Q:**

- What are some evidences you’ve heard people use to support their claim that “God does not exist?”
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you thought God did not exist?

## LEADER:

Let’s go back and work through Psalm 90:1-4

*Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals!” For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.*

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) Psalm 90:2 – “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God”
  - a) Psalm 90:1 – Helps us understand that this “Great God” is our protector. Those who know God (through Jesus Christ) can rely on God’s protection and provision for life.
  - b) Before creation was created, God already existed.
  - c) Psalm 90:3-4 says 1,000 years to us is like a day to God (time has no restriction on God).
  - d) Romans 1:20 – Creation itself is a display of God’s eternal power
  - e) For Christians we believe every created thing has a beginning point. It was brought into existence through the work of someone else.
  - f) Illustration: Did the shoes you have on right now create themselves or did they have a designer who created them?
  - g) Application: As we look at the world and universe we live in we must ask ourselves, who created, and designed it.

## LEADER:

In the video D.A. talked about God being like a designer. Like the shoes we wear, someone designed the world and we are wearing what they created. Using this analogy God is the designer of all of creation.

**Q:**

- Have you ever thought about God as being the designer of our universe?
- Based off of what you see in creation, what thoughts do you have about God and His creativity?

## APPLY IT

- Review the Scripture passages from this session and write down what each of these passages teaches *you* about God.
- When did you first become aware of God? When are you most aware of God’s presence?
- What do the Scripture passages for this session tell us about God’s role and our role in the world?
- What practices do you incorporate into your life to remind you of God’s creation?
- How can understanding God as your Creator change the way you view other parts of God’s creation (i.e. other people, the environment, etc.)?

## TWEET IT

See what others are saying about this topic or tell us what you think by using the hashtag below.



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# 1 IN THE BEGINNING

## CONVERSATION #2: THE GREAT I AM

WATCH THE VIDEO ON [DKIT.UYWI.ORG](http://DKIT.UYWI.ORG) OR ON YOUR UYWI MOBILE APP



VIDEO: THE GREAT I AM



- What is one new thought you had as a result of watching that video?

### LEADER: MAIN THOUGHT

**GOD'S PERFECTION WILL LAST THROUGH ETERNITY BECAUSE HE NEVER CHANGES.**

In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses through a burning bush. God provides Moses with a couple of key pieces of information: God has heard the cries of the Israelites in captivity; God has selected Moses to be the change agent; and God will free His people who are slaves in Egypt.

Moses responds to God by asking: "when I go to them, who should I say sent me" and God's response is, "I AM." Another translation would be: "I'm going to be who I've always been" or even, "I'm the one who will bring to pass what I said will happen."

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

READ EXODUS 3:13-14 (NLT)

*But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you."*

### LEADER:

In this Scripture we see that God is informing Moses. God will be who God has always been. God was telling Moses to trust and obey the commands of God in order to fulfill the mission God called Moses to do.



- What three words do you think describe God's reputation? (be honest)

### LEADER:

Let's take some time to work through the reputation of God.

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) God's name reflects His Nature
  - a) Psalm 92:15 - God is Holy and everything He does is always right, just, and perfect.
  - b) Psalm 115:3 - God is all-powerful He can do as He desires and everything He desires is always right, just and perfect.

**Q:**

- How do you feel when you hear the word "father?"
- What thoughts come to mind when you hear that "God is all-powerful?"
- How does God's power relate to the struggles you have in life?

## LEADER:

Let's look at a few Scriptures to work through God's actions

## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) God's name reflects His Actions
  - a) Psalm 139:1-5 – informs us that God is intimately involved in the lives of His people.
  - b) Romans 8:28 – He works all things in our lives for His glory and our good.

## LEADER:

D.A. mentioned that in his life he has been through some stuff he didn't understand at the time, but now he realizes that because of those experiences, he can relate to people better who are going through similar situations. In other words, God is using D.A.'s previous painful experiences, to allow him to help others heal from their similar experiences.

**Q:**

- Have you had any life experiences that you don't understand why you had to go through them?
- Can you see how those experiences, once you've healed from them, could be used to help someone else out later in your life?

## LEADER:

Let's now take a look at where Jesus is as it relates to the conversation of God's existence.

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) Jesus share the same nature and actions
  - a) **John 8:56-59** Jesus declares He is "I AM"
    - i) Jesus said that Abraham rejoiced to see His day
    - ii) The Pharisee's said how can that be when you're not even 50 years old
    - iii) Jesus said, "before Abraham was, I AM"
      - (1) The wording Jesus used told the Pharisee's that Abraham had as a beginning point of life
      - (2) While Jesus has no beginning point because He is "I AM"
  - b) The response of this declaration was a desire to stone Jesus according to the Law in **Leviticus 24:10-16**
- 2) God's deliverance of Israel out of Egypt was a forecast of how Jesus wants to free us from our slavery to sin. God is not some great being that's removed from us. He's involved in our lives to the point He wants to save us from the wrath we're due and from sin's slavery through Jesus.

## APPLY IT

- Review the Scripture passages from this session and write down what each of these passages teaches *you* about God?
- How would you feel if you met God like Moses did in the burning bush?
- Why are qualities like those listed in Psalm 92:15, 115:3, 139:1-5; and Romans 8:28 important for God to possess? What makes you feel uncomfortable about these characteristics of God?
- If God is all-powerful and everything God desires is always right, just, and perfect why do you think there is pain and suffering present in the world?
- If God was only all-powerful and not also a loving God, how do you think it would change God's relationship with people?

## TWEET IT

See what others are saying about this topic or tell us what you think by using the hashtag below.



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# 1 IN THE BEGINNING

## CONVERSATION #3: YOU ARE NOT JUST SOME “THING”

WATCH THE VIDEO ON [DKIT.UYWI.ORG](http://DKIT.UYWI.ORG) OR ON YOUR UYWI MOBILE APP



VIDEO: YOU ARE NOT JUST SOME “THING”



- What is one new thought you had as a result of watching that video?

### LEADER: MAIN THOUGHT

**YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT OR MISTAKE, YOU'RE GOD'S MASTERPIECE**

A masterpiece is not something that an artist tries to finish quickly. It is something they take time to work on. They revisit and make changes until the work is done. A masterpiece is something special.

The word masterpiece best describes God's work on each and every one of us.

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

READ PSALM 139:13-14 (NLT)

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex. Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.*

### LEADER:

This Scripture is telling us that God has been involved in our lives from the beginning. He formed us in the wombs of our mothers! God sees so much value in us that He desires to walk through life with us.



- What are three things about yourself you wish you could change? (discuss or write down your answer)

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) Our Being
  - a) **Jeremiah 38:16** – God created our soul (the immaterial part of our being).
  - b) **Genesis 1:26-27** – informs us that we're created in God's image. This simply means that God shared with us certain snapshots of Himself that He didn't share with any other form of creation. In this process, God provided our soul with a Body.
  - c) **Genesis 35:18** – informs us that in death, the body and the soul are separated. The body remains while the soul continues to live.

## LEADER:

In our video D.A. said that as he wrestles with thoughts about how he looks and doesn't like himself. He fights those thoughts by going back to God's word to comfort him. Sometimes we spend so much time focusing our physical appearance we stop realizing that our body is a gift from God.

## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) Our Body – The human body is both beautiful and complex.
  - a) **Psalms 139:13-18** – tells us that each and every one of us was "fearfully and wonderfully made."
    - i) Since God created each of us, He knows us intimately.
    - ii) Before doctors could identify our heartbeat or gender, God had already begun His working on us to create His masterpiece.
    - iii) While we were still being formed, God had great plans for all of our lives.
  - b) **Psalms 139:19-24** highlights the Psalmist David, informing us:
    - i) No matter what obstacles or enemies we face in life, we who know God can have peace in the midst of the storm because we are known by Him and His plans for us can't be changed by those who oppose us.
    - ii) We should always ask God to continue to search us and know us, as we seek to know Him more.

**Q:**

- After reading the Scriptures we've worked through, do you believe that God sees you as his masterpiece and not a mistake? (explain your answer)

## APPLY IT

- Review the Scripture passages from this session and write down what each of these passages teaches *you* about God?
- What makes you feel good in knowing that God is our creator? What makes you feel uncomfortable telling others about this characteristic of God?

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- Psalm 139:13-18 explores the intimate relationship between humans and God. How do you think the psalmist felt about being created by God?
- How would you describe your relationship with God right now, after reading these Scripture passages?

## TWEET IT

See what others are saying about this topic or tell us what you think by using the hashtag below.



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# 1 IN THE BEGINNING

## CONVERSATION #4: WHY GOD MATTERS

WATCH THE VIDEO ON [DKIT.UYWI.ORG](http://DKIT.UYWI.ORG) OR ON YOUR UYWI MOBILE APP



VIDEO: WHY GOD MATTERS



- What is one new thought you had as a result of watching that video?

### LEADER: MAIN THOUGHT

**GOD HAS PLACED A DESIRE IN ALL OF OUR HEARTS TO SEARCH FOR HIM.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** tell us God has placed “eternity in our hearts.” At the same time we can never fully know all that God has done because we’re not eternal.

This passage tells us three reasons why God matters.

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

READ ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (NLT)

*Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.*

### LEADER:

This Scripture is telling us that God has put inside every human beings heart a desire to search for Him in order to know Him.



- What has the search to find God looked like in your life? (discuss or write down your response)

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) **We're Unique** - By placing eternity in the hearts of every human, God once again shows how unique we are from every other form of creation.
  - a) The first part of **Ecclesiastes 3:11** informs us that God will make everything beautiful in time.
  - b) This truth points us back to our previous video, where we walked through the truth, we're God's masterpiece.
  - c) **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** highlights different seasons in life that all humans go through.
  - d) **The reason God matters is because** He is in control of all of life's events. If there was no God there would be no order.
  - e) **God has designed for the events in our lives to cause us to search for Him – as we search for the meaning of our life.**

## LEADER:

The Scripture in Ecclesiastes expresses different experiences in life. Throughout every experience and season of life, God is priming our hearts to want Him more.

**Q:**

- What seasons of life mentioned in Ecclesiastes have you lived through?
- How has your life experiences effected your desire to know God?

## LEADER:

Let's take time to work through the condition of our hearts through the various seasons of life.

## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) **We're Unsettled** – Since God has placed eternity in our hearts, we have this desire to know if God exists or not. In addition, we have this natural desire to search for something “greater than us.”
  - a) Nothing this world has to offer will provide us with complete satisfaction:
    - i) We eat – we're hungry again.
    - ii) We seek pleasure – but it goes away (often times, we work hard to get pleasure and it only lasts for a moment).
    - iii) We look for love – but relationships fall apart and people break our hearts.
    - iv) Ultimately we're trying to fill an eternal desire with temporary things.
  - b) God matters because He is eternal and only God can provide us with the satisfaction we desire:
- 2) **Psalms 107:9** – Only God can satisfy the hunger of our soul.
- 3) **Isaiah 58:11** – Only God can satisfy the thirst of our soul.

## APPLY IT

- Review the Scripture passages from this session and write down what each of these passages teaches *you* about God?

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- When is it difficult to believe in God? In those difficult times what should we do? What insights do the Scripture passages here provide us for getting through these difficult times?
- Write down a time when you felt close to God. How did you feel at that time?
- Write down a time when you felt alone and didn't think God was with you. What helped you to get through that time? Where do you think God was during those times?

## TWEET IT

See what others are saying about this topic or tell us what you think by using the hashtag below.



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# 1 IN THE BEGINNING

## CONVERSATION #5: WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME?

WATCH THE VIDEO ON [DKIT.UYWI.ORG](http://DKIT.UYWI.ORG) OR ON YOUR UYWI MOBILE APP



VIDEO: WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME?



- What is one new thought you had as a result of watching that video?

### LEADER: MAIN THOUGHT

**GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE HIM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.**

By now we've worked through the evidence that God exists and how He has put a desire in our hearts for that which is eternal. We've worked through the truth that God alone will satisfy our soul. Most of our focus has been on what God desires to provide us with. Now we'll focus on what God requires from us.

We're going to work through two truths to help us understand what God desires for us: The Great Commandment and the Great Commitment.

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

READ DEUTERONOMY 6:5 (NLT)

*And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*

### LEADER:

This Scripture is telling us that God wants us to love Him with everything we have. If we don't have a love for God that consumes our entire being (heart, will, emotions, etc.) we can go to God and ask Him to fill us with a greater desire to know Him.



- What do you think it means to love God perfectly? (discuss or write them down)

### LEADER:

Let's take time to work through the Great Commandment and see how it relates to what God wants for us in our life.

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) **The Great Commandment**
  - a) **Deuteronomy 6:5** – God commands Israel to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength.
    - i) God wants Israel to love Him with all their being.
    - ii) He does not want them to treat Him like a ‘false idol’ who gets attention only when the person wants something.
    - iii) Israel knew that loving God with all they had meant they must obey all of God’s commandments – but they didn’t.
  - b) **Matthew 22:37-38** – Jesus now quotes from Deuteronomy 6:5 when someone asks Him what the “greatest commandment in the Law is.”
    - i) The greatest commandment in all of Scripture is for us to love God...
    - ii) The love we are to have for God is a complete love – where we take our heart (emotions), mind (thoughts), and strength (actions) and surrender them to God.
    - iii) We do this when we obey His commands.

Q:

- What does it mean to “love God?”
- What keeps you from loving God with your whole heart?
- What are some things in your life you truly have a love for?

## LEADER:

Let’s work through the Great Commitment God has called us to have, in order to understand how we can love those around us.

## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

- 1) **The Great Commitment**
  - a) We’ll know that we’re obeying and loving God with all we’ve got if we are showing love those around us too.
  - b) **Matthew 22:39** – We’re commanded to love our neighbor as our self.
    - i) We live this passage out when we consider the wrong that has been done to us and NOT doing it to others.
    - ii) **Matthew 7:12** – We’re commanded to treat others the way we desire to be treated.
    - iii) Even if they don’t treat us good in return, we forgive them and stay obedient to God.
  - c) God has blessed us with Jesus as the model of what this looks like and God the Holy Spirit to live in believers (**Romans 8:9-13**).
  - d) God remains committed to us, so we can remain committed to living out His commandments.

Q:

- In what ways do you want your brothers and sisters of the faith to be dedicated to you?
- What are some practices you can put in your life, to show your commitment to your brothers and sisters in the faith?

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## APPLY IT

- Review the Scripture passages from this session and write down what each of these passages teaches *you* about God?
- What are some ways that humans are like God supposed to be like God?
- How is your relationship with God reflected in your relationships with people?
- What makes you feel good about knowing God? What makes you feel uncomfortable telling others about God?
- What do you like about reading God's word? What do you dislike? What could you do to make your reading more enjoyable and helpful?
- Obeying and loving God implies motion. When we're obeying God we're always growing closer to God, serving our neighbors in need, and loving the overlooked. Write down one way that you can begin making motion for God this week.

## TWEET IT

See what others are saying about this topic or tell us what you think by using the hashtag below.



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## CONVERSATION #6: I AM BROKEN

WATCH THE VIDEO ON [DKIT.UYWI.ORG](http://DKIT.UYWI.ORG) OR ON YOUR UYWI MOBILE APP



VIDEO: I AM BROKEN



- What is one new thought you had as a result of watching that video?

### LEADER: MAIN THOUGHT

**GOD CAN TAKE OUR BROKENNESS AND TURN IT INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.**

Brokenness can seem like a bad thing yet, in the lives of believers, it is necessary. When we're broken, God can fix us and allow us to be used for His glory.

Our lives are like a glow-stick, we won't shine until we're broken. When we bring our brokenness to God, He will use it for His glory.

### STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NLT)

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

### LEADER:

This Scripture is telling us that when we embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are born again and become a new person. The old "us" is dead and gone, we've been made new through Jesus Christ!



- Have you embraced Christ as your Savior and are you a new person through Him? (this may be a key opportunity to share the gospel and invite some of the youth to trust Jesus)

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## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

### 1) How We Became Broken

- a) Sin is the one cause to our brokenness. Sin broke Adam and Eve's relationship with God in **Genesis 3**.
- b) Sin brought sin and death into our world (**Romans 5:12**).
- c) We must admit we're broken before God can fix us.

## LEADER:

Since brokenness is a reality in all of our lives, it is best for us to acknowledge our brokenness and ask God to turn it into something beautiful.

**Q:**

- What "broken" parts in your life do you want God to make beautiful?

## LEADER:

Let's take some time to work though how God makes our brokenness beautiful and how He can use our brokenness for His glory!

## LEADER NOTES: GO DEEPER WITH IT

### 1) How God Makes Our Brokenness Beautiful

- a) We realize we're sinful and broken yet God sends someone to share with us the Gospel.
- b) **2 Corinthians 5:17** – We put our trust in Christ and we're new creatures. The mess of our old life becomes the message we use to reach others.
- c) **2 Corinthians 3:18** informs us that God is patient in working with us even when our flesh desires the pleasures we used to indulge in. As we grow in Christ, God takes us from one level in our walk to the next.

### 2) How God Uses Brokenness

- a) In order for crops to grow, the soil in which the seed is planted in has to be broken.
- b) We refer to eating food as "breaking bread."
- c) In **Matthew 13:1-23** Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. In this story:
  - i) The seed is the Word of God
  - ii) The soil is the condition of the person's heart:
    - (1) **Snatched away** – those who hear the Word preached but don't receive it,
    - (2) **Stony places** – people who respond superficially but then back away from God because of the cares of this life,
    - (3) **Thorns** – those respond superficially but then back away because of the paper chase,
    - (4) **Good Soil** – the one who responds and understands the Word of God will bear fruit.

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## LEADER:

Q:

- What things do you sense God calling you to surrender to Him?
- What are some areas of brokenness you've surrendered to God before?
- How has God turned your brokenness into something beautiful?
- How is God, through you, using your brokenness to reach others?

## APPLY IT

- Review the Scripture passages from this session and write down what each of these passages teaches *you* about God?
- What happens when we sin? What makes sin seem good rather than bad?
- Why do you think people often want to do the things they are told not to do? What examples can you give? How can you overcome temptation?
- How does it make you feel to know that God loves you enough to wipe away and forgive your sin?
- How would you describe your relationship with God right now?

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