

THE
GOD
QUESTIONS

EXPLORING LIFE'S
GREAT QUESTIONS
ABOUT GOD

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

- ➔ Praise & Worship
- ➔ Welcome/Announcements
- ➔ Offering
- ➔ Message: Pastor Bob Poley
- ➔ BAPTISMS



Thank you for joining us today. We're glad you're here. If this is your first time with us, please visit the Welcome table in the front lobby. We have a gift for you and would like to meet you.

NEWS & EVENTS

Today is the day! We begin our new series, "The God Questions!" **If you don't have a book yet, please stop by the table in the lobby, and pick one up for \$5.** You can also get a gift book to give to a friend or neighbor.

GU Kids (nursery-PreK) and GU Elementary will be meeting Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We also have HOME GROUPS throughout the week. If you are interested in joining a home group contact Jason Myers at jscott5158@gmail.com.

The after-service small groups and the Cox's adults/couples group start TODAY!



Please stay with us after service to celebrate with those are taking this step of faith with water baptism!



Our GU Elementary "Blender" series is back, beginning this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. We will be exploring The God Questions through a "blend" of Science, Bible and Crafts. If you have any questions see Lisa Spindler today, or contact her at spindlers@gmail.com.

INDEPENDENCE DAY COOKOUT

Sunday, 7/2

We'll be celebrating Independence Day with a BBQ right after service NEXT Sunday, July 2nd on the new lawn!

There will be a family kickball game, bounce house, face painting, and more. GU will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, and we'll have a potluck for sides, desserts & drinks. **Please see Shay Brewer after service today to sign up with what you can bring, or you can contact her at shaybplus3@yahoo.com.**

WE ARE IN NEED OF POP-UP PAVILIONS to provide shade throughout the day. Please let Karen know today if you can bring one, or email her at karenmomma@live.com.



Jul 22

NIGHT
OF
Worship

5 pm



VOLUNTEER &
LEADERSHIP
night

JULY 28

FAMILY ROOM

6:30 PM

OUR MISSION

We are helping people to live in union with Christ by grace.

- Union with God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Union with Others through investing in people through Biblical community.
- Union with Ourselves with a wholeness found in a new identity in Christ.
- Union with our Broken World by being an agent of change in our society by caring for and serving those who are poor, oppressed or marginalized.

We value sharing the love, life and power of God to our communities and world, joining Christ in his mission to rescue fallen humanity.

WAYS TO CONNECT



For any special needs, please email our Prayer Team at gucprayer@gmail.com.

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE

Offering or Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE

Text GIVE to 314.888.5188



ONLINE

graceunionstl.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3900 Union Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Visit us online to learn more about Grace Union at graceunionstl.org.

All of our message recordings can also be found on our website.



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THE GOD QUESTIONS

Week 1: Is God Real?

Psalm 19:1-4

- 1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
- 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
- 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

Is there a God? The stars, the forests, the flowers say there is!

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

- If you think faith is for the weak, think about all the times you use faith on a daily basis.
- But that doesn't mean we have to express faith blindly.
- Our faith is based on reasoning, facts, and prior experience.

I. The Teleological Argument: The existence of "stuff."

- A. The minute we acknowledge that something is real, we have to wonder how it got there.
 - Example: I'm wearing shoes. How did they get there?
- B. Cause and effect is simple; and we unreservedly accept it in every other area of knowledge, life, and existence.
- C. For every effect—every *thing* that exists—there has to be something that caused it to exist. That's the teleological argument philosophers have upheld for years.

II. The Cosmological Argument: The nature of "stuff."

- A. This is also called the Argument from Contingency.
- B. Scientists who study this sort of thing tell us that just about everything in the universe is contingent.

- C. Contingent means something is dependent on something else in order to exist.
- D. **Nothing we observe around us is self-caused or self-reliant.**
- E. According to the second law of thermodynamics, known as the law of entropy, it's slowly headed toward non-existence.
- F. Not only does it need something or someone in order to exist, but also it will, at some point, stop existing.
- G. Doesn't a thinking person have to conclude that everything that exists inside the circle exists because of something outside the circle?
- H. To design something so intricate and delicate and intelligent as this, whoever created the banana must be intelligent, thoughtful, and creative.

Romans 1:20

"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."

- I. If we just stop, look around and think, everything around us points to something beyond itself.

III. **The Moral Argument: My sense of right and wrong**

- A. We all have the sense that certain things should be done, and certain things shouldn't be done.
- B. "My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?" – C.S. Lewis
 - This world has always been filled with violence, genocide, and the strong preying on the weak.
 - If these things have always been in the world and there were not absolute standard outside of ourselves, what would lead us to universally condemn them.
- C. If there is no established standard of right and wrong, what makes any ideology superior to another?
- D. Anthropologists tell us that morals are a universal phenomenon.

- BUT: How many of you have ever done what you believed was wrong? You betrayed your own sense of morals?
 - Anthropologists also tell us that the violation of our own morals is a universal phenomenon.
 - We consistently fail to meet our own standards.
- E. How do you explain that all of us have within us a sense of morals that are beyond our ability to fulfill?
- The most reasonable explanation is that our morals were not self-invented, but rather they came from a higher moral source.

Romans 2:14–15

- 14 "Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.
- 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them."

IV. Let's put a few things together.

- A. The circle of contingency leads us to conclude that the universe was created by an uncreated creator.
- If everything else we observe is contingent, and every effect must have a cause then the cause of all the contingent stuff we see must itself be outside of creation.
- B. Even in the details of the universe, like the banana, we see that the Creator is very smart, creative, thoughtful, and cares about His creation.
- C. Our own hearts demonstrate to us that the Creator surpasses us in morals, or He wouldn't have been able to create morals that were higher than we are.

I would argue that it takes more faith to believe that there is no God than to believe that there is one.

Assignments:

1. *Pick up a copy of The God Questions book in the lobby.*
2. *Meef with a small group this week.*
3. *Read chapters 1–6 in The God Questions book.*
4. *Invite someone to join you next week for "Is the Bible True?"*

THIS WEEK

Visit us online for information about these events and more.
graceunionsil.org or facebook.com/graceunionsil

MONDAY (6/26)

Alcoholics Anonymous (GU Family Room) - 7 pm
(Led by Jeff Hall - 314.620.6635)

TUESDAY (6/27)

WEDNESDAY (6/28)

Drive-By Prayer (Main Auditorium) - 4-7 pm

GU Small Groups - 6:30 pm

Women's Group (Conf. Room A)

Adults Group (Conf. Room B)

GU Students (Youth Auditorium)

GU Kids (Nursery - PreK)

GU Elementary/The Blender (Elementary Room)

THURSDAY (6/29)

FRIDAY (6/30)

SATURDAY (7/1)

SUNDAY (7/2)

GU Small Groups

Women's Group (Conf. Room B) - 9 am

Men's Group (Conf. Room C) - 9 am

Adults/Students Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am

GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am

INDEPENDENCE DAY BBQ

GU Students TGQ (Youth Aud.)

Adults TGQ (Family Room)

Couples/Family Group (Cox Home) - 5 pm

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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