

THE
GOD
QUESTIONS

EXPLORING LIFE'S
GREAT QUESTIONS
ABOUT GOD

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

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



It's a great day to be at GU! If this is your first time with us, please stop by the Welcome table in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

A BIG THANK YOU To everyone who worked so hard to get our cookout together! Dale and Kirstie Dean on the grill, Shay Brewer who organized the food, Lisa and Ashley Spindler on face-painting, Samantha Salomon for arranging the scavenger hunt, our awesome set-up and clean-up crew, game monitors, the list goes on. You are SO appreciated!

THE
GOD
QUESTIONS

We are in the 3rd week of "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.

We have several groups meeting today and throughout the week. We also have small groups and programs for all ages Wednesday night beginning at 6:30. **See the enclosed small group information sheet to find the best group for you.**

NEWS & EVENTS



NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 16th, GUS tudents (youth grades 6-12) are going to the City Museum. The cost is \$20 for lunch and admission. Please see Pastor Patrick today if you'd like your student to go.



AUGUST 19th, 10a-3p - If you are a **STUDENT** grades 6-12, you need to go to **ENGAGE THE CAMPUS**. If you are a ****PARENT****, your student needs to go to this. This is a retreat/worship/campus ministry training event. \$20 gets them 5 hours of worship, training on how to reach their friends at school for Jesus, a t-shirt, **LUNCH**, a book to encourage and inspire, and even more resources! See Pastor Patrick today!



If you serve in **any area** at Grace Union, we invite you to a night of food & fun Friday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m.



Please join us for a night of worship Sunday, July 30 at 5 p.m. We will have a special time of prayer for our team going to Mission of Hope Haiti next month! There is no childcare, as all are welcome and encouraged to come together during this time of worship.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION

JULY'S Operation Christmas Child Collection Focus is **CLOTHING!**

Clothing is one of the most vital items that you can include in your OCC Box. Most children don't have a change of clothes and some don't own a pair of shoes. Please hit the clearance sections and sales for clothing for children ages 2-14. A lot of stores have flip flops on sale for only \$1 right now!

Remember to drop off your donation each week in the OCC Collection Box near the GU Cafe. Our Packing Party will be in October!! If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Sander at vocalmusic1@gmail.com.





Everyone has questions about God. How do I know that God is real? Is there really only one way to heaven? We've all grappled with these questions and others like them. The resources in this group will give you the courage to ask the tough questions of God, and the confidence to believe he is big enough to answer all of them!

Our weekly topics are:

- Week 1 - Is God Real?
- Week 2 - Is the Bible True?
- ***Week 3 - Do all Roads Lead to Heaven?***
- Week 4 - How Can a Good God Allow Suffering?
- Week 5 - Which is Right: Evolution or Creation?
- Week 6 - What Happens When I Die?

Whether you grew up in church, are new to your faith, or are questioning what you believe in, this is a great opportunity to ask your toughest questions and discover real answers. Learn more and listen to the previous messages at www.graceunionstl.org.

During our mid-week groups, we also have programs for children (newborn-PreK), GU Elementary, and GU Students for kids middle-high school.

**Additional TGQ home groups near you. If you are interested in joining a home group, contact Jason Myers for complete details at jscott5157@gmail.com. **

SUNDAYS @ 9 AM

Men's Group - Led by Bill Fain

314.420.2115; billfain7@gmail.com

Women's Group - Led by Karen Fain

314.846.7194; billfain7@gmail.com

SUNDAYS AFTER SERVICE *(childcare available)*

High School/College/Young Adult - Led by Bryan Bochantin

618.514.9408

Adults (Men & Women) - Led by Jason Myers

314.745.6281; jscott5157@gmail.com

SUNDAYS @ 5PM *(at the Cox home)*

Couples/Adults/Families - Led by Shane & Jennifer Cox

636.575.9061; shanecox198324@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM

Women's Group - Led by Crystal Myers & Stacey Bush

417.619.4399 & 314.280.8599;

crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com & newagainexteriors@gmail.com

Adults (Men & Women) - Led by Bob Poley

314.712.8500; bobpoley78@gmail.com

Grace Union Elementary (The Blender)

This session for our Elementary kids is led by Chris and Lisa Spindler and meets each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. We will be exploring The God Questions through a "blend" of Science, Bible and Activities. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Spindler at spindlers@gmail.com.

GU Early Childhood (Nursery-PreK)

Nursery and Early Childhood care is available for children ages 0-2 during our 6:30 p.m. small groups. Crystal Myers is the Early Childhood Director, and you can contact her at crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com. PreK, led by Angela Caldwell, will also be available. You can contact her at angelaparson04@yahoo.com.

3900 UNION ROAD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63125

314.892.2757, WWW.GRACEUNIONSTL.ORG

FIND "GRACE UNION STL" ON 



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.



[facebook.com/graceunionstl](https://www.facebook.com/graceunionstl)



twitter.com/graceunionstl



THE GOD QUESTIONS

Week 3: Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?

"Don't all religions basically teach the same thing?"

Bob-Iosophy:

Sometimes our beliefs are based on investigation and information, but sometimes they are based more on wishes and desires.

I. Point: The Bible teaches that there is One Way to Heaven.

John 14:6

I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

II. Question: Do all religions basically teach the same thing?

#10 - Juche

- 19 Million Followers
- Founder Kim Il-sung
- Juche is all about how to handle yourself in this life, there is no belief in an after-life, or in God, or Heaven, or Hell.

#9 - Sikhism

- 23 million followers
- Founder Guru Nanak
- Path to God: 5K's
 - 1) Kesh ("long hair") - honesty
 - 2) Kanga ("wooden comb") - equality
 - 3) Kara ("metal bracelet") - meditation
 - 4) Kachera ("specially designed underwear") - fidelity
 - 5) Kirpan ("sword") - never bowing to tyranny

#8 – African Traditional Religions

- 100 million followers
- Polytheism/Animism
- Path to God: Sacrifices
- Afterlife: (vague: "spirit world")

- Animism believes there are many gods: inhabiting rocks and trees, the sky, the moon, the sun. You gain favor with the gods by making sacrifices to appease them.

#7 – Primal-Indigenous. (same beliefs as #8, just different ethnic groups)

#6 – Chinese Traditional Religion

- Followers = 394 million (mostly in China)
- Founders = Lao-Tzu (604–531 BC) and Confucius (551–479 BC)
- View of God = No particular deity/impersonal force
- Means to God = Not stressed, more of an ethical system than a religious one.

#5 – Buddhism

- Followers = 488 million
- Founder = Siddhartha Gautama (563–483 BC)
- View of God = Not stressed
- Means to God = The Four Noble Truths
 - 1) Suffering is universal.
 - 2) Craving is the root cause of suffering.
 - 3) The cure for suffering is to eliminate craving.
 - 4) Craving is eliminated by following the Eightfold Path.

#4 = Hinduism

- Followers = 1 billion
- Founded = 1800–1000 BC (not so much founded as evolved)
- View of God = Pantheism
- Means to God = Reincarnation
- View of the Afterlife = Moksha ("Release")

- Hindus believe there is one uniform force in the universe called *Brahman*.

- This force is a part everything, moving through everything, animating everything; if you do life right, you will be one day be resorbed into it and lose individual consciousness eternally.
- Karma measures the value of your actions in accordance with the Reincarnative scale.
- The aim of Hinduism is ultimately to work your way up and Finally Graduate OUT OF PERSONAL EXISTENCE.
 - Estimated to take about 600,000 lifetimes of good living and to do so.

Side Note: The American New Age Movement is a modification of Hinduism.

#3 = Secularism: Nonreligious/Agnostics/Atheists

- Followers = 1.1 billion
 - Either disinterested in Religion or God or disbelief in them.

#2 = Islam

- Followers = 1.6 billion
- Founder = Muhammad
- View of God = Monotheism
- Means to God = The Five Pillars of Islam:
 - 1) Recite (the Islamic creed, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.")
 - 2) Pray five times a day facing the city of Mecca.
 - 3) Give to the poor.
 - 4) Fast during the month of Ramadan
 - 5) Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life, if you can afford it.
- View of the Afterlife = "Paradise"
- Islam divides the world into two spheres: the "House of Islam" and the "House of War."
- By practicing the five pillars devoutly, you **might** be granted entrance to Paradise.
- Paradise is similar to the Christian concept of heaven with one notable difference, the role and plight of women.

#1 = Christianity

- Followers = 2.2 billion
- Founder = Jesus
- View of God = Monotheism
- Means to God = Substitutionary Atonement
- View of the Afterlife = Heaven / Physical Resurrection and Eternal Physical life in a Redeemed physical world.

- Perhaps the greatest and most hopeful Uniqueness of Christianity is its path to God.
 - Jesus got the punishment we deserve, and we get the blessing and eternal life in Heaven that his righteous life deserve, through faith in Jesus. (substitutionary atonement)

III. Wrap up

- A. Do all religions basically teach the same thing?
 - No

- B. Do all paths lead to heaven?
 - Over half of all the major religions don't even believe in anything like heaven.
 - None of them carry a consistent picture of what heaven is.

- C. To believe all religions are equally valid, you would have to invalidate the individual beliefs of most of these religions that you are trying to validate.

- D. **Good news: The path to God and to Eternal Life is not hard to find but it is not automatic.**
 - One thing Jesus' statement tells us is that, often, the herd is wrong.
 - There is one unifying factor for every religion we discussed except Christianity.
 - These paths are driven by HUMAN EFFORT and GOODNESS.
 - Christianity tells a very different story: The Gospel.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

- You are brought to God not by what you do, but what Jesus did for you.
- Every other Religion is built on what **we do**. Christianity is built on what Jesus **already DID** for you.

IV. Far from being EXCLUSIVE, Jesus is the picture of INCLUSION.

- * God offers the FREE GIFT of FORGIVENESS.
- * God offers the FREE GIFT of Jesus' Righteous life, credited to our account, and the blessing earned by that kind of life.
- * God offers the FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.

V. By simply putting your faith in Jesus, you step onto the Narrow, but Inviting, Path of God.

- * You don't earn anything.
- * He gives you the gift of life in His presence, both now and for all Eternity.

Thank you for joining us today. You can find this, and all of our message recordings, on our website graceunionstl.org.

THIS WEEK

Visit us online for information about these events and more.
graceunionsil.org or [facebook.com/graceunionsil](https://www.facebook.com/graceunionsil)

MONDAY (7/10)

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

TUESDAY (7/11)

WEDNESDAY (7/12)

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 (7/13)

FRIDAY (7/14)

SATURDAY (7/15)

SUNDAY (7/16)

GU Small Groups - 9 am

Women's Group (Conf. Room B)
Men's Group (Conf. Room C)

Adults/Students Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am
GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am

GUSTUDENTS to City Museum

Young Adults TGQ (Youth Aud.)

Adults TGQ (Family Room)

Couples/Family Group (Cox Home) - 5 pm

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

PRAYER: GUCPRAYER@GMAIL.COM

- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**
bobpoley78@gmail.com
- **Carrie Indelicato, Worship Leader**
cindelicato@live.com
- **Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**
jscott5157@gmail.com
- **Crystal Myers, Early Childhood Director**
crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com
- **Patrick Daniels, Student Ministry Pastor**
patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com
- **Carrie Clifton, Publications & Media**
lcclifton@aol.com