

THE
GOD
QUESTIONS

EXPLORING LIFE'S
GREAT QUESTIONS
ABOUT GOD

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

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



Thank you for joining us today! 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.

THE
GOD
QUESTIONS

We are in the 5th 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

VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP

party

JULY 28

FAMILY ROOM

6:30 PM

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



If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace Union or just want to know more about our church, we invite you to stay after service on Sunday, July 30th! You can sign up ahead of time by contacting Pastor Bob at bobpoley78@gmail.com.



Please join us for a night of worship Sunday, July 30th. We will have a special time of prayer for our team going to Mission of Hope Haiti next month!



The next GU Ladies Night is Friday, August 11th, 6-9pm! Come out and join us for some wonderful treats provided by KaKao Chocolate! Come enjoy a live demonstration of chocolateing as delicious chocolate is made and transformed into confectionery creations for you to sample! The night will be filled chocolate, snacks, games, and much more! Let's get to know each other better and eat some yummy chocolate!



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! Please visit engagethecampus.com for more information.

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

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.



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THE GOD QUESTIONS

Week 5: Which is right? Evolution or Creation?

Intro: The Making of a Good Fight (Naturalism vs. Supernaturalism)

I. Faith vs. Science is a False Dichotomy

A. What problems arise when trying to view the world through purely Naturalistic, Darwinian Evolutionary?

The formula for Darwinian evolution:

Time + chance + natural selection = all life on earth

1. Statistics point away from macro-evolution.

- Dr. Jonathan Sarfati of the Victoria University of Wellington calculated the possibility of life's simplest organism coming into being without help as 1 in 10^{4925} .
 - There are 10^{12} atomic interactions per second, and there have been 1018 seconds since what some scientists believe to be the origin of the universe.
 - Sarfati calculated that there have only been 10^{110} interactions in that time frame.
 - 10^{110} is such a small number compared to 104925 that even one act of evolution would require.
 - Statistically impossible.

2. Species in our world are devolving rather than evolving.

- Dr. John Sanford, a geneticist from Cornell University, said the process of mutation "is relentless and is destroying us, not creating us. We are heading for extinction, along with every other complex organism."

3. Nature has too many irreducible complexities.

- A biological example of Irreducible Complexity is the Bombardier Beetle.

4. Evolution has a negative effect on ethics.

- Richard Dawkins, "The universe we observe has...no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference...DNA neither knows nor cares."
- Susan Blackmore, "In the end nothing matters...If you really think about evolution and why we human beings are here, you have to come to the conclusion that we are here for absolutely no reason at all."

II. How does the Bible depict the origin of the world, and how does that compare with what we see in Science?

A. Genesis 1:1 starts with "in the beginning God created."

- The Hebrew word is "bara," meaning "created from nothing."

B. The picture being painted in 1:1 and 1:2 is that God "BARA'd" created a bunch of matter, and then began a process of "ASA" shaping it.

C. Let's compare Genesis 1 with today's modern Scientific models of planetary formation.

- Genesis 1:2 sets the scene (for some period of time) the earth is dark, it is formless, and it is described as void or empty.
 - Scientists believe that during planetary formation, a planet's atmosphere moves from opaque to translucent to transparent over a vast amount of time.
 - At this point, the Earth is "**formless.**" Chunks of space debris are impacting the surface like huge bombs. Gravity is bringing atoms together. A sphere is forming. The Earth is "empty." Life requires photosynthesis. Since light can't penetrate to the surface yet, no life is possible.
 - Is it possible that Scientist are only now describing what the bible described thousands of years ago about the origin of the earth?

1. Day One

Genesis 1:3 – “God said Let there be light.”

- At God's command, light appeared.

2. Day Two

Genesis 1:6 – And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.”

- This is the beginning of the water cycle, one of the most important processes for giving life to our world.

3. Day Three

Genesis 1:9 – “Let dry ground appear.”

Genesis 1:11 – “Let the land produce vegetation.”

- Our 30–70 land–water split provides different altitudes, climates, topographies, and environments, all of which enable a huge level of biological diversity.
- Since plants–as–food–source takes place on Day 5, the purpose of these Day 3 plants was probably to begin the process of oxygen production and land fertilization and preservation.

4. Day Four

Genesis 1:14–15

- 14 “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night,
15 and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth”.

5. Day Five

Genesis 1:20–21

- 20 “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.
21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.”

- This is the second time that the word "Bara" is used.
- Since the initial creation in 1:1, God has been forming and shaping what he created, now he creates again out of nothing.

6. Day Six

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- Verse 27 gives the third and final use of "bara." "So God created mankind in his own image."
- Humans are something completely new.
- Then verse 28 God gives humanity their role: Serving as the Image Bearers of God, we are told to "be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and SUBDUE it.
- **We were created in the image of God for the expressed purpose of serving to carry on the work of "ASA" in God's creation.**

III. How does this picture of the world compare to Darwin's?

A. In one picture the universe itself is a cosmic accident.

- You have no purpose and no direction, no innate value.

B. In the other picture the world itself is the result of a good, wise, and careful creator who is setting the scene for his children to not just exist but thrive and follow him in his shaping work.

- The only benefit of Darwin's world is that there is no God on the throne, so you get to rule a world that nobody really wants to live in.
- The world that Genesis describes not only fits what we know about reality, but it is a world of beauty, meaning, love, and purpose.

THIS WEEK

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

MONDAY (7/24)

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

TUESDAY (7/25)

WEDNESDAY (7/26)

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

GU Small Groups - 6:30 pm

Women's Group (Conf. Room A)
Adults Group (Family Room)

GU Students (Youth Auditorium)

GU Kids (Nursery - PreK)

GU Elementary/The Blender (Elementary Room)

THURSDAY (7/27)

FRIDAY (7/28)

VOLUNTEER NIGHT - 6:30pm

SATURDAY (7/29)

SUNDAY (7/30)

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

Young Adults TGQ (Youth Aud.)

Adults TGQ (Family Room)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 11:30 am

NIGHT OF WORSHIP - 5pm

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

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