

Date: October 16, 2011

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Talk Title: "The Big Buts: How Do I Know God Even Exists?"

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### 1. **Sunday Summary:**

It's probably the most basic faith related question there is: "How Do I Know God Even Exists?" Some people agonize over the question for years; others stumble over it and never arrive at faith. However, even devoted Christ-followers have times when they wonder if the idea of God is all just make-believe. Today we'll be discussing this most basic faith question by probing the reasons that support and under-gird the conviction that God in fact is very real.

### 2. **Connecting Questions:**

- Have a group member describe the basic story of the Drama on Sunday. How did the drama from the service affect you? Could you relate to the boy? To the father?
- What are some of the doubts people have to the existence of God?
- Describe how it may be possible to maintain some of these doubts and still believe in God?
- Discuss how God can answer these doubts as you move forward in your faith Journey.
- Have you ever had an experience that convinced you of God's existence and intervention in your life? Take a few moments and share some "I sensed God in this," stories.

### 3. **Truth Questions:**

- Today we're going to share ideas and discuss some of the core evidences for God's existence that Rob talked about.
- Which of the evidences or clues resonates most to you? Rob mentioned . . .
  - the Clue of Contingency,
  - the clue of Design,
  - the clue of Beauty,
  - the clue of morality and justice,
  - and the clue of life change/testimony in so many peoples' experience.
- Why do you think believing in God's existence is harder for some people than others?
- Take some time to read and reflect on Psalm 53, especially verses 1 -3. Some people struggle with believing in God because of intellectual obstacles and questions. This psalm talks about another reason people sometimes choose to not believe in God. Discuss that particular motivation for rejecting faith in God.
- Read and discuss what is said in Hebrews 11:6. Although we've discussed how the universe gives many clues of God's existence, why is a "faith leap" needed at some point?

### 4. **Transformation Question:**

- If you are in the place on your faith journey where you are still battling the idea of God's existence, would you be willing to keep investigating the 5 evidences and dare to see God?
- If you are in the place where you have very clearly seen God in the events of your life, would you be willing to tell your faith story to help people around you dare to understand the existence of God.

- Often what we need most are eyes to see the evidences God gives us of Himself all around us. Close with a prayer asking God for better sensitivity to His reality around each group member in the coming week.