

WONDER

Week 3 - Were We Created?

"This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being." -Isaac Newton

THE MAIN POINT

Many young people struggle with doubting whether there even is a God. In this small group, students will be challenged to consider whether the universe and everything in it is the result of an ancient cosmic accident or if there is a Designer and Creator who intentionally put things together. Were human beings, with all their hopes and dreams and stories, the result of lucky random chance or were they knit together in their mother's womb by a loving God?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Lego set(s) (simple sets such as a small car with mini figure)
- Blindfold
- Lego Challenge slips of paper
- Packaging tape
- Pens
- Cup (large enough for the pieces of the Lego set)
- Snacks

GETTING STARTED

Welcome everyone and ask how they're doing. Remind the students about the rules for small group

and ask if everyone can agree to them.

RULES FOR SMALL GROUP:

Commitment - Commit to being at every group meeting (make it a priority!)

Confidentiality - What is shared here stays here.

Be honest or be silent - don't make up an answer just to have one. Sometimes the most honest answer is no answer, so if you need to, just say pass.

Respect - for one another, their thoughts/ideas/opinions (no put downs).

Discuss:

- Who likes Legos?
- What was your favorite thing to build with Legos as a kid?
- Were you more likely to follow the directions and build the set exactly as designed or create your own?

ACTIVITY

We're going to test your Lego skills today! We've brought a small Lego set (s) and you are going to be tested to see which of you can build it the fastest. Here's the catch! Each of you are going to receive a slip of paper with a different rule for each contestant that might make things a bit more difficult...

(Have students take turns building the Lego set using the rule they received on the card. Use your phone's stopwatch to time them. You can use either one or more Lego sets at the same time depending on the size of your group and your available time. Note that if you need more rule cards you can make more or keep it short for time.)

Discuss:

- Who had the most difficult rule? Why was that the most difficult?

GOING DEEPER

Working to meet a goal or putting together a puzzle only gets harder when roadblocks or obstacles are in our way. Just like last week, we're looking at some of the obstacles and toughest questions we face especially when thinking about whether or not to have faith in God. This week, we're looking at this question: Is there a God and did He create us? Remember we're in a journey together to discover answers to tough questions. This requires, just as we said in our small group rules, that we are honest about what we think and that we're respectful of others' opinions.

- What is your family's faith journey? Do they believe in God? attend church (or other religious service)?
- What about you? What do you believe about the existence or non-existence of God?
- If you had to rate it, how sure are you on a scale of 1-10 that there is a creator of the universe? Explain your number.
- What makes belief in God difficult for people?
- If there is a God, do you think He cares about you? Explain.

Have someone read Romans 1:19-20 *"They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."*

In other words, this brief quote from the Bible is making the claim that because of everything we see around us, like the sky and trees, the existence of God is obvious. God makes himself obvious in the mountains and birds and animals and you and I.

-What do you think about that idea?

If that is confusing or difficult to understand, that's ok! Let's go back to our Lego set from earlier. Let's say I put all of the pieces of this Lego set into this cup. How many times would I have to dump the pieces of this Lego set out onto the table until it is properly assembled into the set pictured on the box? (demonstrate) You experienced how difficult it was to assemble the set with all kinds of crazy obstacles in your way, but the idea that I could dump the pieces out onto the table enough times to assemble the Lego set is impossible right?

Hear me out for a second. When it comes right down to it, there are only two possibilities for the

beginning of everything:

1. The earth and everything in it, including you and I, are the result of a cosmic accident and random chance.
2. The earth and everything in it, including you and I, are the result of the intentional thought and intelligent work of someone...God.

In order for there to be an earth that has life and for that life to be conscious enough to think about the questions we're asking, a lot has to be in place. Earth has to be in a certain type of galaxy, have a sun of a certain size, be the perfect distance from that sun and have all of the right mixes of elements on the planet itself to allow life to live*. Not only that, but that life has to have come from somewhere. The odds that I can dump Legos out of this cup and it assemble into the set on the picture are pretty bad. But the odds that by chance or accident a universe with this earth that contains you and I with our uniquely encoded DNA living this life are even smaller. In other words, the intricacy and fine tuning of the world and universe around us show us that there's someone who created it. Just like someone who found that Lego set fully built would know that someone built it. In this way, God makes Himself known and obvious in what we see around us. I believe that we aren't accidents, but the result of God's amazing handiwork putting all of this together.

- What questions do you have about this idea?
- What do you think?

TAKE AWAY

If you are still on the fence about all this, I would just challenge you and dare you this week to go home and think about the "what if." If there is a God, what does that change for you? What would that mean about your life? Is it possible that there is a deeper meaning to this existence? Write down your thoughts and let us know next week.

RESOURCES

- "Evidence that Demands a Verdict" by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell. The section entitled "Prologue: A Theistic Universe" was consulted most for this meeting.
- "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis presents a moral argument for the existence of God rather than an argument from creation, but there's some great stuff in there you can use to emphasize the points.