



SESSION 2: WHO MADE GOD?



Aim

To explore whether God is created or eternal and to consider whether something created could be God.



Starter

Play 'The Clue's in the Beginning' quiz. The winner will be the person who finishes first.

The last three letters of each word give the start of the next word.

1. Thin sheets from pulp of wood (5 letters, starts with P)
2. Human being (6 letters)
3. A poem of 14 lines (6 letters)
4. Sport played in a team of seven players (7 letters)
5. Reptile (9 letters)
6. Rotating wind (7 letters)
7. Loveable, charming (8 letters)
8. God's favour and protection (8 letters)

Answers: 1 - paper, 2 - person, 3 - sonnet, 4 - netball, 5 - alligator, 6 - tornado, 7 - adorable, 8 - blessing

See page 4 for a version of the quiz which you can print or project.



Video

Watch the video **Who Made God?** (Running time 3:24)



Questions

Encourage pupils to write any questions on sticky notes as they occur to them.

Answer questions of understanding about the video straight away unless these will be answered later in the session. If there is not time for a question, confirm you will answer it another time. Consider using the 'car park' so pupils know you will not forget.



Exploring the Bible

The question 'Who made God?' suggests that God was created. This might then lead us to ask, 'Who made the being that created God?' as *they* would then be God and we would find ourselves in a loop. A created God could not be God. Instead, the Bible teaches God is eternal – he has always existed.

Read Mark 1:9-11

Before Jesus arrived on earth, baptism was a religious cleansing ritual. Early in Mark's biography of Jesus we find this incident where Jesus is baptised in the River Jordan. As he emerges from the water the Holy Spirit descends on him, and a voice is heard saying, 'You are my Son' (Mark 1:11 NIV).

Discuss

Whose voice do you think this is?

As the voice addresses Jesus as 'my Son' it can only be his Father. It can't be Joseph since he is human and not able to address people from heaven. So, the voice is God, who is the Father.

These verses show us an important truth about God – he is three persons, Father, Son and Spirit, united together in a loving community. Although we might think from the nativity account that Jesus only came into being when he was born on earth, instead he has a heavenly Father, and had a heavenly existence before creation. This truth about God also tells us *why* God created – because he wishes to share the loving community of the Father, Son and Spirit with people.

Discuss

Is it harder to believe that the world was created by a God who has always existed or that it was made from nothing at all?

Pupils will have different responses to this question. Invite them to explain their opinions. If they believe in God as creator, on what evidence? If they believe the world was created from nothing, on what evidence? Both viewpoints require faith as science cannot prove conclusively how the world came into existence.

If the universe came to be from nothing, what do you think this says about the value of the world and living things? Does it make a difference if God created everything?

If we believe the world came from nothing and only the fittest survive, it does not explain why we think it is important to treat people with love and care. If only the fittest should survive then, for example, a global pandemic would be a positive thing which benefits society by killing off physically weaker people. Of course, most of us think that is an awful thing to say.

However, if we believe God created everything, it makes sense that we value people and creation. We care about those who are physically weaker and are willing to pay a financial cost by enforcing lockdown to protect them in the event of a pandemic. We care about the environment and are willing to pay a higher price for items which are sustainably made.



Reflection

In the video Andy Bannister said, "What if the very existence of the universe is a screaming great big sign saying, 'There is a god'?"

Allow a time for reflection that is most appropriate to your group.

You may wish to sit quietly or to discuss the statement above. Here are some questions to ask or ponder:

- ◆ "What if the very existence of the universe is a screaming great big sign saying, 'There is a god'?" What do you think of the statement?

- ◆ Is there anything about the universe that would cause you to think it might have been lovingly created?
- ◆ What objections do you have to there being a god and would you be willing to explore them further?



Further resources

If God, Then What? A book by Andrew Wilson (IVP Books)

Who Made God? An article by Peter S Williams



The Clue's in the Beginning!

Work through the clues in order and try to work out the answer.

The last three letters of each word give the start of the next word.

The fastest to finish with all the correct answers wins!

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