



Join us in being on mission with God!

**OUR VISION**

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

# "Ditch Your Designer God"

*Genesis 1:1-2*

## Getting Started

*After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.*

1. People tend to think of qualities that they believe are acceptable and define God accordingly. For example, someone might believe, "Allowing evil is wrong," and conclude that God is powerless against evil. What are some of the ways you have heard people redefine God [if he exists] to fit their preferences?

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## Thinking about God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

2. Sometimes people who don't understand Christianity well, like Muslims, accuse Christians of worshipping three Gods rather than one. How do you respond to that question?

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3. If Jesus was one of three gods, he might have said so. What did he believe according to Mark 12:29?

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4. Read Psalm 102:25-27. What are some of the contrasts between God and the world he made?

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5. The classical way to define God is that he is one being existing in 3 persons. (In contrast, each of us is one being existing as one person.) How does this language help you understand God better? What is difficult about it?

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6. Some try to compare God to the three states of water (solid, liquid, and gas) or three parts of an apple (core fruit, peel). How do these analogies help? Where do they fall short?

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This "one God" is "eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." The Trinity is the one doctrine that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions.

7. Can you think of some biblical texts that validate the doctrine of the Trinity? (See Matthew 3:16-17.) What is the significance of the Trinity in creation? What about redemption? How does this belief in the Trinity differ from one Islam, one of the growing religions of the world today?

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8. How do God's attributes of holy and loving compliment each other? What would happen if God were one and not the other?

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9. What does Isaiah 46:10 tell you about God's limitless knowledge and sovereign power?

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10. What does it mean that God is the Creator of all things? What does this affirm? What does it deny?

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## Something Else Here

11. God is “holy.” What does it mean that God is holy? How is He unique in His holiness? What are some implications towards His creation and creatures of His holiness?

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12. God is also “infinitely perfect” in all His attributes and in all His ways. This means that He never has and never will lack anything. It also means that He does not grow or change for He is unchangeable. What does this mean for God? What about for us?

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13. Jeremiah 13:11 states that God created everything for His own glory. Does that mean that God is egocentric? Why or why not? Why is it right that He would only do things for His glory, whereas for us it would be so wrong?

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14. How should the fact that God is all knowing (omniscient) and all powerful (omnipotent) change the way you respond to adversity or help someone struggling with difficult circumstances?

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15. How should the fact that God knows everything shape the way you pray to him?

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16. What does God’s glory mean to you?

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Reaching Up and Reaching Out

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The Bible puts God and His work at the center of everything, and anything that would displace Him would be a chief act of treason.

17. Why do you think some Christians believe that Christianity is about their health, prosperity, and success? Why do churches sometimes focus on their growth or success and give little attention to bringing glory to God?

Two horizontal lines for writing.

18. Which truths about God do you feel are most often overlooked in the evangelical church today? Why do you think these truths are forgotten or ignored in the church in 2009?

Three horizontal lines for writing.

19. What facts about God do you tend to avoid or ignore? What makes them unimportant or unattractive to you?

Three horizontal lines for writing.

20. Of all the attributes of God, which ones do you think the people you interact with most fail to consider? What pieces of the "God puzzle" are most often missing in their thinking?

Three horizontal lines for writing.

21. Brainstorm about some ways in which you might direct a conversation to discover what another person thinks about God. List some open-ended questions you might ask. Consider how you might listen and learn and be non-threatening. Who could you pray about engaging with?

Four horizontal lines for writing.