

WHO NEEDS GOD

Week One- Gods of the No Testament

Small Group Time:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with key questions, add any optional Scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Main Idea:

Do you have religious doubts? When your prayers go unanswered, do you wonder if God exists? Does science make God seem unnecessary? Before you abandon your faith, consider this: What if the god you're walking away from never existed to begin with?

Key Questions:

1. Where did your view of God originate? To what extent do those influences continue to shape how you view God?
2. Have you ever listened to someone's de-conversion story? If so, what thoughts and emotions did it stir in you? How did you respond?
3. To what extent do you associate religion with guilt? How do you think that has shaped how you view God?
4. Has there ever been a time when God didn't respond to your circumstances the way you wanted or expected? If so, what did that experience do to your faith?
5. During the message, Russell said the choice between God and science is a false alternative and that, "If everything were explained and explainable, it would not explain away God." Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Do you tend to view God as one of the No Testament gods—the bodyguard god, on-demand god, boyfriend god, guilt god, anti-science god, and gap god? If so, what would it take for you to begin to see him differently?

Next Steps:

- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?