



# A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

## DOES GOD EXIST?

## MONTH 1

## WEEK 1

### READ:

John 1-4

Genesis 1

We have to begin with this question. Is God real? Does He exist? How can we know?

Recognizing that there is some supreme power in play, every culture has come up with some form of a god. God makes a point to tell us that He is the god that really is. He alone is GOD. As He says to Moses in Exodus 3:14, "I AM WHO I AM." He doesn't need to say He is the god of the frogs, or the lord of the flies, or the ruler of the Nile. He just IS. No man-made god puts it so simply because deception isn't so simple. Even though I AM does not occur again in the Old Testament, the concept of God being the God that **exists** is evident. The title "the Lord" is used many, many times. It is actually a translation of the Hebrew word YHWH (Yahweh) that means something like HE WHO IS or HE WHO CAUSES TO BE.

But if we aren't so sure that God is HE WHO IS, then God's word isn't going to be the place that we go for proof. As Christians, it is really difficult for us to think of God outside of the context of Scripture, but He's there. He exists beyond the confines of even that precious and sacred book. He **was** before there was anyone to record His words, or anything to record them on. He IS even though His written word is finished. Do you see Him?

Do you know that God is real? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you come to that knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

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**"From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse." Rom. 1:20**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1



## IN THE BEGINNING WAS GOD Gen. 1:1

What was before the beginning? How could anything be before anything was? On the other hand, how could anything come to be without something that brought it into being?

“All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.” John 1:3

## OUR FRIEND SCIENCE

This is a point where I honestly get a little frustrated with us Christians. Much too often I hear science spoken of as the enemy, as if it was Satan himself. Science is nothing more than the study of God's creation. Some scientists realize that and some don't. What can we possibly fear when the natural order of things that God created is looked at carefully and critically? Is it God's reality that we feel the need to protect, or just our own shaky faith? Do we really think that the workings of God can't hold up to scientific scrutiny?

God works in two different ways, although from His perspective it is probably one and the same.

- 1) He created things that have the ability to create things and cause things. He created the laws of nature and then allows nature to take its course....
- 2) ....except when He decides not to. He is not limited by His own laws of nature, and sometimes chooses to work in the supernatural. He can override the natural order of things whenever He chooses to.

The benefit of science is that if we know the natural properties that things were created to possess, then not only can we appreciate God's perfect design, but we will also be able to recognize when He chooses to override them. Either way is no less amazing than the other. Don't forget to notice the miraculous in the familiar!

## USE YOUR BRAIN!

There has been a tremendous amount of research done on the human brain in recent years. There have been some truly fascinating discoveries. The basic function of the brain is to have an accurate enough view of the surroundings to ensure that its owner can react to it in a way that guarantee survival. The more accurately it perceives all aspects of reality, the better. The broadest perception of reality is found in the human brain. What is tremendously significant is that the human brain shows increased activity in a specific area during spiritual activity like prayer or meditation - and that area is the small bundle of neurons in charge of perceiving the surrounding reality that we navigate life with!



All these discoveries have spawned a new field of study called neurotheology. Listen to what a pair of leading scientists in this field has concluded:

“Logic suggests that what is less real must be contained by what is more real, just as a dream is contained within the mind of a dreamer. So, if Absolute Unitary Being (*ladies, think God here*) truly is more real than subjective or objective reality - more real, that is, than the external world and the subjective awareness of the self - then the external world and the subjective awareness of the self - then the self and the world must be contained within, and perhaps created by, the reality of Absolute Unitary Being....our understanding of the brain and the way it judges for us what is real argues compellingly that the existence of an absolute higher reality or power is at least as rationally possible as is the existence of a purely material world.” (Newberg, D’Aquili, and Rause 155)

In other words ladies, scientific study indicates that there is a reality more real than even the real world around us. When we can remove ourselves from the distractions of the material world around us, we are able to perceive the greater reality of something, Someone, much larger. Seems like I've read something like that before...

## JOHN 1-4

Compare John 1:1-4 to Genesis 1:1. What do you think was John's intent? \_\_\_\_\_

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The Greek word translated word in John 1:1 is *logos*. It means something *said* (including the *thought*); by implication a *topic* (subject of discourse), also *reasoning* (the mental faculty) or *motive*. (Meyers)

What topic, what motive, did God have in mind in the very beginning? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are we told about Jesus' role in Creation? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some of the things that we learn about God from the first four chapters of John? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some of the names that Jesus is called in this section of Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why did Nicodemus have trouble believing? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did Jesus respond to him? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is it important to be able to look at the things that happen around us and see God? (John 1:12) \_\_\_\_\_

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According to John 3:31-36, who is it that affirms that God is true? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did the Samaritan woman do once she understood the truth about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are we to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is John 4:42 important to be able to say? \_\_\_\_\_

## TIMELESS

What was it like to exist before time? Time is such a dictating element in our lives, I can't imagine what it was like for God before time, and before the existence of ways that we measure time. I also can't see expecting Him to suddenly live under the constraints of time just because we do.



## WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

### USE YOUR BRAIN! p. 2

Newberg, Andrew, Eugene D'Aquili, and Vince Rause. *Why God Won't Go Away*. New York: The Ballantine Publishing Group, 2001.

### THE WONDER OF IT ALL p. 3

Peterson, Eugene. *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005.

### JOHN 1-4 p. 3

Meyers, Rick. e-sword. 12 Nov 2007  
<http://www.e-sword.net>

## THE WONDER OF IT ALL

“Wonder. Astonishment. Adoration. There can't be very many of us for whom the sheer fact of existence hasn't rocked us back on our heels... Wonder is the only adequate launching pad for exploring a spirituality of creation, keeping us open-eyed, expectant, alive to life that is always more than we can account for, that always exceeds our calculations, that is always beyond anything we can make.”  
(Peterson 52)