**Confessing the Faith**

**Class 6 – Is there a God?**

Objective: This session will overview some of the arguments for the existence of God that do not require the Scriptures. It will explain how the purpose of these arguments is to bring someone who has rejected the existence of God to a point where they might consider the Gospels. The class structure will watch a video that teaches the concept then review and discuss the content. The student will learn some of the ways to make a case for the existence of God using at least one of these arguments.

I. **Icebreaker:**

* *Is it possible to make arguments for God without the Bible? Can you think of an example?*
* *Read Romans 1:18-20* “18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse**.”
	+ What does this passage indicate about arguments for God outside the Scriptures?
	+ Natural Theology vs Revealed Theology

II. **Atheist Claims about the existence of God:**

* Dawkins- evidence proves no God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9uhE4CT2xM>
* Billy Nye against creation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHbYJfwFgOU>
* **Typical Arguments against God**

 1) Design Accidental

 2) Problem of Evil

 3) Design does not prove Christianity.

III. **Argument against Evolutionism**

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD0bJ1g7REQ>

What are some arguments against evolutionism?

Explain the problem of an eye evolving?

IV. **The Fine Tuning Argument or The Teleological Argument**

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpIiIaC4kRA>

* “The fact is our universe permits physical, interactive life only because these, and many other numbers, have been independently and exquisitely balanced on a razor's edge.”
* Where there is design, there must be a designer.
* Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God.”
* The fingerprints of God are everywhere.

V. **Kalam Cosmological Argument**

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0>

1) Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

2) The universe began to exist.

3) Therefore, the universe has a cause.

* ***Only Four Alternatives:***

 a. The universe is eternal.

 (Problem: expanding universe and 2nd law of thermodynamics)

 b. The universe emerged out of nothing.

 (Problem: primary law of physics= “from nothing, nothing comes”

 c. The universe is an illusion.

 (People do not live out that philosophy practically.)

 d. The universe was created.

 (Thus it is finite and can be explained scientifically.)

VI. **Moral Argument**

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxiAikEk2vU&index=3&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX>

“If there is no God, what basis remains for objective good or bad, right or wrong? If God does not exist, objective moral values do not exist. Without some objective reference point, we have no way of saying that something is really up or down. God’s nature provides an objective reference point for moral values – it’s the standard against which all actions and decisions are measured. But if there’s no God, there’s no objective reference point. “

VII. **Contingency Argument or Argument from Cause and Effect**

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPCzEP0oD7I>

1) Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence.

2) If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.

3) The universe exists.

4) The explanation of the universe’s existence is God.

VIII. **Application**

Which argument might be most convincing to someone in conversation? Take a few minutes and explain one of the arguments above to someone sitting next to you.

Most helpful thing I learned today:

Homework: Read the article by William Lane Craig *Does God Exist?* Found here:

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/writings/popular-writings/existence-nature-of-god/does-god-exist/>

 Read this article on Hinduism in America: <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/anantanand-rambachan/the-future-of-hinduism-in-americas-changing-religious-landscape_b_7348140.html>