



## September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Discussion Guide

### Week 2

### **“Who Needs God? *gods of the no-testament*” Hebrews 1:1-3**

#### **Introduction**

Most people, even Christians, deal with occasional doubts with regards to God. Atheists don't just have doubts, they have solid convictions about the non-existence of God. Certain aspects of God can be quite unsettling and might raise doubts. Hurtful circumstances can make God seem distant or vengeful. Science can make God seem unnecessary – or impossible to believe in. But sometimes people struggle with a perception of God that isn't accurate, and they reject a god who is a human construct; nowhere to be found in the Bible. Maybe the gods people reject or avoid, never existed in the first place.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. In the Sunday sermon we were asked about our childhood conceptions of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. How about your early life perceptions of the Godhead? Were your understandings of God positive or negative? How have those perceptions changed from then to now?
2. If you were in services Sunday, you heard Lynn Woods share his Spoken Word which describes some very painful and discouraging times in his life that caused him to doubt God, or at least to doubt the wisdom and goodness of God. Have you had similar circumstances that have put some distance between you and God for a time? Or perhaps that situation ultimately brought you closer to God?
3. Nine different “gods of the no testament” were discussed on Sunday. Were any of those surprises to you? Did you find any part of that discussion to be uncomfortable or offensive because it challenged one of your understandings about God?



4. An appeal was made to allow Jesus to have the final word in telling us who God is, and what He is like. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. How does it make you feel to know that the Jesus we read about in the New Testament is an exact replica of God in Heaven? Is it helpful to you? Does that comparison relieve any confusion for you? Or does it create confusion?

5. Bart listed 6 attributes of God that are made clear by statements and actions of Jesus. Which of these attributes means the most to you? Are there any that you personally struggle with or find hard to believe?

1. He is our Father
2. Friend of the marginalized
3. Loves all of mankind
4. Generous with mercy
5. A just judge
6. Friend of sinners

### **Moving Forward**

If you are a follower of Christ – as you encounter people who are dubious about your faith, ask some questions to understand their perception of God and where they got that impression of him. In trying to describe God to a skeptical friend, it is always best and most effective to speak of Christ – how he is the truest representation of God, and how he has changed your life for the better.

If you are an atheist or one who is wavering in a long-held faith, read the Gospels again, the first 4 books of the history of Christ. Even if your capacity to believe is limited, give Jesus the chance to awaken an accurate perception of God in your mind and emotions.