

Big Idea: Having faith doesn't mean ignoring your questions.

Primary Scripture: Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:19-20

Supporting Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3

CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)

- Have you ever been stargazing... like *really* stargazing?
 - Lying on your back somewhere dark, away from city lights, looking up at thousands of stars, and suddenly feeling really, really small?
- There's this weird thing that happens in those moments.
 - You feel amazed... but you also feel a little unsettled.
 - And that's because your brain starts asking questions it just can't quite answer.
- Questions like:
 - *How did all of this get here?*
 - *Is there something, or someone, behind all of it?*
 - *And if there is... why does it sometimes feel like no one's there?*
- Maybe you've felt that same unsettled feeling scrolling through social media, watching someone confidently say, "There's simply no evidence that God exists," and suddenly you're not sure what to think.
 - Or a friend at school said something like, "Science has pretty much disproved God," and you didn't know what to say back.
 - Or maybe it's quieter than that. A moment where you thought, "*Is any of this real?*" Not a crisis. Just a question that showed up and wouldn't leave.
- Some of the greatest people in the Bible wrestled with the same things.
 - David did. Thomas did. John the Baptist... the guy who literally baptized Jesus... sent word from prison asking, "Are you really the one, or should we keep looking?"
- I know someone who went through exactly that.

- A friend they'd known for years, same youth group, same summer camp, just said one day, "I've been thinking about it a lot, and I don't think any of this is real."
- Not angry. Not bitter. Just... done.
- And my friend didn't push back. Didn't ask a single question. Just nodded and walked away.
- But for weeks after, that conversation just sat there. *If they could walk away that easily... what does that say about me?*
- That moment sent them on a search. Not away from the question... into it. They started talking to people who had wrestled with the hard stuff themselves. Not just people who agreed with them... but people who had actually been in the doubt and came out the other side. They read. They asked. They sat with the discomfort instead of running from it.
 - And what they found surprised them.
 - The people with the deepest faith weren't the ones who never doubted. They were the ones who doubted... and kept searching anyway.
- So if you're sitting here tonight with a question you've never said out loud... that's not a problem. That's actually the beginning of something.
 - Asking "Is God even real?" doesn't mean something is broken in you. It means something in you is still searching.
- We're kicking off a new series called **Ask Me Anything**.
 - Over the next few weeks, we're going to go after the questions that don't always feel safe to ask out loud.
 - We're starting with the biggest one... ***Is God even real?***

SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)

- The Bible doesn't shy away from the question "Is God even real?" In fact, there are passages that seem to anticipate it.
 - Today we're looking at two of them, written hundreds of years apart, that make the same bold claim.
- The first is from the book of Psalms, written by David, the shepherd-turned-king who had a gift for saying what the rest of us feel but can't quite put into words.
 - In Psalm 19, David looks at the world around him and comes to a pretty bold conclusion.

¹ The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. ² Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. ³ They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. ⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. (Psalm 19:1-4 – NLT)

- David is looking at creation... the sky, the stars, the sunrise... and saying, “This isn’t random. This is a message.”
 - Not a message written in words, but one that everyone, everywhere, can understand.
- David takes it further than the sky.
 - When you look at the way your own body works... your heart beating over 100,000 times a day, your lungs breathing without you even thinking about it... David says **all of it** is pointing to a Creator.
- The Apostle Paul made the same case hundreds of years later in his letter to the church in Rome.

¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. (Romans 1:19-20 – NLT)

- Paul uses the phrase “made it obvious” ... which tells us God isn’t hiding.
- God isn’t making this a guessing game. The evidence is out there, and it’s been out there the whole time.
- That changes everything about how we think about faith, doubt, and what it means to ask questions in the first place.

INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)

1. Creation points to God.

- Long before there was a Bible, before there were churches or youth groups or worship songs, there was *creation*.
- According to both David and Paul, creation has been telling us about God and pointing us toward God ever since the very beginning.

- David didn't say creation *reminds* us of God... he said it *proclaims* God.
 - That's not a passive thing, it's a message being broadcast constantly, to everyone, everywhere, whether they're listening or not.
- Paul said God made it *obvious*. That's a strong word.
 - The complexity of DNA. The way the tides respond to the moon. The fact that there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on every beach on Earth.
 - None of this proves God the way a math equation does... but it all raises a question that's genuinely difficult to shake. *Why does everything seem so... intentional?*
- Creation is God's opening statement. It doesn't answer every question. But it's enough to get your attention.

2. Faith isn't a blind leap.

- One of the biggest misunderstandings about faith is that it means believing in something with zero evidence.
- That's not what the Bible describes at all.

¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. ³ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. (**Hebrews 11:1-3 – NLT**)

- Think about it like getting on an airplane.
 - You've never met the pilot. You can't see the engines from your seat. You don't fully understand how flight works. But you trust the plane will get you where you're going because there's enough evidence to give you confidence.
- That's not blind trust. That's reasonable trust based on what you know.
- Faith in God works the same way.
 - You look at creation, you read God's Word, you hear the stories of people whose lives have been changed... and you take a step.
- Not because you have every answer. Because what you do know gives you confidence to keep going.

3. God isn't intimidated by your doubts.

- Throughout Scripture, some of the people with the strongest faith were also the ones who asked the toughest questions.
 - Abraham questioned God's promise when he and Sarah were too old to have children.
 - Moses argued with God at the burning bush.
 - David wrote entire psalms about feeling abandoned.
 - Thomas refused to believe Jesus had risen until he could see the evidence with his own eyes.
 - Every single one of them is remembered as a hero of faith.
- Jesus didn't scold Thomas for doubting.
 - He said, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing" ... but He never said, "Shame on you for asking."
 - Jesus honored Thomas' questions.
- Why does this matter?
 - Because Thomas didn't let his questions push him *away* from God. He brought his questions *to* God.
- There's a massive difference between saying, "I have questions, so I'm done," and saying, "I have questions, so I'm going to keep searching."
- The questions that feel the most dangerous might be exactly where the search gets interesting.

ACTION (How could we live this out?)

1. Pay attention to creation this week.

- This week, be intentional about noticing the world around you.
 - When the sun sets, pause for a second. When you're outside, and the wind blows, think about it. When you look in the mirror, remember that you are an incredibly complex and intentionally designed human being.
- Stop once a day to consider what David wrote... that creation is *telling us something* about God.
- Try it once each day this week.
- When you notice something, ask God about it. Say something like, "*God, if you made this... what does that tell me about You?*"

2. Write down your biggest question about God.

- Take out your phone, open your notes app, and write down the one question about God that bugs you the most.
 - Maybe it's "Why doesn't God stop bad things from happening?" Maybe it's "How do I know the Bible is true?" Maybe it's "Why are there so many different religions?" Maybe it's something you've never said out loud before.
- Once it's written down, bring it to God directly. Tell God exactly what you wrote.
- Bringing your questions to God is what some of the greatest people in Scripture did. And it's what God is inviting you to do.

3. Talk to someone about where you are with God.

- Find one person you trust this week and be honest about where you are with God right now.
- You don't have to have a crisis to have a conversation. Just be real.
- Say something like, "Hey, I've been thinking about my faith a lot lately, and I'd love to talk through some stuff."
- You'd be amazed at how many people are willing to have that conversation, and how many of them have wrestled with the exact same questions you have.