



# LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

## What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

## PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

**NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader:** This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

### MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

### FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

## I BELIEVE, BUT...

"I can't make a good case for the existence of God."

In the Bible, there are examples of both an acceptable and unacceptable kind of testing God.

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'" Malachi 3:10 (NIV)*

*Jesus - "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"*

- Matt. 4:7 (NLT)

Arguments for God's existence apart from the Bible:

- Cosmological Argument

Cosmology is the study of the origin of the universe.

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

- Genesis 1:1 (NLT)

Question to consider: What could cause a universe to come into existence? In answer...

"It must be immaterial or spirit because it existed before the material world. It must be eternal because it created time. It must be very smart and very powerful because of the precision and the power it would take to create the universe. It must have a personal will, because it had to make the decision to create. And then the Principle of Occam's Razor tells us that there must be just one creator." -Lee Strobel

- Teleological Argument – How can we explain the obvious purposeful and intricate design of the world?

*"How many are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures."*

- Ps. 104:24 (NIV)

- Moral Argument - Where did our innate sense of right and wrong come from?

*“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”*

- Amos 5:24 (ESV)

*“The universality of that moral sense of oughtness that’s stamped on every human heart, just the mere presence of that moral code should move every hardened skeptic to a point of intellectual openness about the existence of a supreme moral being.”*

C. S. Lewis, in “Mere Christianity”

- Multitudes of people’s Experience - How can you explain the billions of people whose lives have been changed for the better by experiencing God?

*“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.”* - Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

*“It’s impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.”*

- Hebrews 11:6 (Message)

#### Helpful Resources:

- The Case for Faith, Lee Strobel
- The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel
- The Case for Creation, Lee Strobel
- Letters from a Skeptic, Dr. Gregory Boyd
- More Than a Carpenter, Josh McDowell
- [www.4truth.net](http://www.4truth.net)
- [www.everystudent.com](http://www.everystudent.com)
- [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)