

# The Questions:

## Hard Questions of Faith

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### WEEK 1 | Origin and Identity

#### PRAYER

*“Father God, we thank You that You welcome our questions and concerns. You are a God who listens, who sees, and who understands the difficult questions we wrestle with about life, faith, and identity. Help us to seek Your truth with open hearts and minds, knowing that You are the Creator and Sustainer of all. Guide us as we search for answers in Your Word, and may we find confidence in Your presence and purpose. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”*

#### OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

“What’s one question you’ve always wanted to ask but never did? It could be about anything—life, faith, or even something funny or random!”



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## WORD

*“And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.’ And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’*

*So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ And God said, ‘Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”*

### [Genesis 1:24-31 \(ESV\)](#)

When discussing questions of origin and identity, many people outside the church often wrestle with foundational issues like creation, the purpose of humanity, and the existence of evil. These are significant questions that deserve thoughtful answers grounded in both Scripture and reason.

**Creationism vs. Naturalism:** One common question is whether the world was created by God or if it is the product of natural processes alone (naturalism). Genesis 1 offers a clear biblical perspective that God is the intentional Creator of the universe. In contrast to the randomness proposed by naturalism, the Bible presents a God who designed the world with purpose, order, and care. While Christians may interpret the days of creation differently (e.g., literal or metaphorical), the foundational truth remains that God is the ultimate source of all life.

**Why Did God Place Mankind on Earth?:** Another frequent question is why humanity exists. Genesis 1:26-28 reveals that God created humans with purpose—to reflect His image, to have dominion over creation, and to cultivate the earth. Humans are not accidents of the universe but are intentionally made by God to steward His creation and live in relationship with Him.

**Why Did God Create Mankind?:** Some ask why God created us at all. The answer lies in God’s nature. God is love, and out of the overflow of His love, He created humanity to share in a loving relationship with Him (1 John 4:16). We are designed to know God, to love Him, and to be loved by Him. This is reflected in the relationship between man and woman, who are made in His image.

**God’s Design for Marriage:** Genesis 1:27 makes it clear that God created male and female, and the command to “be fruitful and multiply” indicates His design for marriage. This design is further clarified in Genesis 2:24, where God ordains the union of man and woman. Christians believe that marriage reflects God’s covenantal love for His people—a love that is faithful, sacrificial, and life-giving.

**Why Does Evil Exist?:** One of the most challenging questions is, “If God is good and powerful, why does evil exist?” The Bible teaches that while God’s creation was “very good,” evil entered the world through humanity’s disobedience in Genesis 3. God allowed humans the freedom to choose, and with that choice came the possibility of sin. However, Christians believe that God has a plan to ultimately defeat evil and restore creation through Jesus Christ (Romans 8:20-21).

When we answer these hard questions, it’s important to remember that faith and logic work together. The Bible offers a coherent and compelling worldview that addresses the deep questions of life while pointing us to a personal, loving Creator who invites us into a relationship with Him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How does this shape your understanding of identity and purpose?
2. How would you respond to someone who believes the world and humanity are the result of random natural processes rather than intentional design?
3. Why do you think God gave humans the responsibility to have dominion over creation? How can we live out this responsibility today?
4. What are some practical ways we can grow in confidence in our faith, especially when we face difficult questions about life, origin, and identity?

**“Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our Creator and Savior. We acknowledge You as the source of all life and wisdom. We trust in You, even when we face difficult questions. Help us to stand firm in our faith, knowing that You are the God who created the universe and has a purpose for our lives. As we lay down our questions, doubts, and concerns before You, may we walk in the confidence of Your truth and love. Lead us to live for You, laying down our lives for others as You did for us. In Your name, we pray. Amen.”**