CITY**GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**



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 ***Week 1-(Ch. 4 &10 - Is there a God? Trinity?)*** #CityGroupsTally

 ***Week of June 5th, 2016***

REMINDERS for leaders:

1. Welcome back! Remember these key reminders as you begin to meet again:
	* 🖳  **VIDEO: Each week we will have a video for you to show at your group meeting.**
	* **Icebreaker:** Especially your first night, consider doing a quick icebreaker to warm folks up and welcome new people.
	* **Find an Apprentice or Co-Leader. Be ready to: Replace Yourself & Multiply. My challenge for EVERY group leader is to find someone you can teach about leading a group. Ever since Jesus, the gospel has spread and churches have grown by individuals teaching others what they know. This will also free you up as you hand away responsibility.**
	* **Pray, Pray, Pray!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS for all groups before starting discussion:

1. **Clarify Group Expectations** (when your group ends, what to expect, participation, multiplication etc) and cast vision for why your group meets…Community, Growth & Mission.
2. **Philippians Devotional:** Have everyone in your group pull out their phones and show them how to find the City Church Philippians Devo under the “Grow” tab…as a resource for their personal growth.
3. **Men’s Event:** Friday June 17th – If you are a man or know any men…come to the City Church Men’s Event featuring guest pastor Ted Taylor. (Dinner provided) Sign up at [www.citychurchtallahassee.com/MEN](http://www.citychurchtallahassee.com/MEN)

BIG IDEA(s):

Our belief in God is the most rational choice. One of the most compelling arguments for the existence of God is the “Cosmological Argument”. Additionally, not only does God exist, but He has revealed Himself in the Bible as being One God with three distinct persons, we call the trinity.

PRAY: *Pray for your group’s gathering tonight. Pray for clarity, understanding, and that we would draw near to God through His Word and discussion on apologetics.*

READ: Romans 1:20

DOES GOD EXIST? (10 minutes)

1) What is the best or worst argument you’ve heard for the existence of God?

2) What can we learn about God and about people from Romans 1:20? (GOD: has invisible attributes like: eternal power, divine nature and the ability to create everything from nothing. PEOPLE:, Although we can not see God, we can see the evidence of Him in creation; which leaves us all without excuse.)

The COSMOLOGICAL ARGUEMENT**:** (15 minutes)

🖳 Watch the video explaining the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God. Then have the group say all 3 points together.

* Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
* The universe began to exist.
* Therefore, the universe had a cause.

2) What objections might you expect to this argument from your lost friends? How might this argument help you? (Discuss and help one another address these objections)

3) Why doesn’t the Cosmological Argument mean God must be created too?

WHO IS GOD? **TRINTY** (15 Minutes):

READ: Matthew 3:16-17

(God has revealed Himself in Scripture as being one God comprised of three distinct Persons; Father, Son & Spirit.)

1) Has anyone ever defended the doctrine of the trinity? What made it hard for you? Is the word ‘trinity’ in the Bible? (no) Does that matter? Why or why not?

2) How would you describe the trinity to a child or your lost friends? (There is one God in three persons. All 3 are fully God & equally powerful etc.) What are the problems with using analogies when describing the trinity? (They all fall short, and might mislead someone into heretical thinking)

3) What parts of the gospel would be missing without ‘the trinity’? (The Father sent the Son to live and die on the cross by the power of the Holy Spirit…etc) Do we have a gospel without the trinity?

4) Did Jesus begin to exist at some point? (no) Is the Holy Spirit 1/3 God? (no) Why is the Spirit different from ‘the force’ is Star Wars? So how would you defend the trinity from Scripture? (READ TOGETHER: Genesis 1:26-27, Deut. 6:4, Matt. 3:16-17, John 1:1-4 & 14, John 10:30)

4) Which Person of the trinity would you like to learn more about or get to know better? How might knowing the Father, Son & Spirit better, encourage you toward worship and or sharing your faith more confidently this week?

Pray: *Take a few moments to share prayer requests and pray for one another.*