

UNDRINK THE KOO LAID

**SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE**





UNDRINK THE KOOLAID

Part 1: Science Explains Everything (So We Don't Need God)

Religion is basically how ancients understood the world, but science has taken us so far beyond that. Between what we know about evolution, astronomy, genetics, biology and so many other sciences, we've explained what we used to attribute to God. If science explains or will explain everything, why do we really need God?

Scripture: Matthew 22:37 NLT, Psalm 19: 1-6 NLT

Bottom Line: Science doesn't extinguish God, it explains Him.

Discussion Questions

1. There's a fairly widely held view that what we've learned from science extinguishes our need for God. Discuss.
2. Does it surprise you that most scientists are theists? Why or why not?
3. Read through Psalm 19: 1-6. Have you ever asked the questions about who or what is behind nature and the universe? How does the Psalmist's explanation resonate (or not resonate) with you?
4. In the message, Carey explained Pascal's Wager, the heart of which is this: "Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation that He (God) is." To what extent do you find Pascal's logic compelling? Why (or why not)?
5. Even if you fully answer what and how, you haven't begun to answer who or why. What is the most compelling reason for 'who' and 'why' you've discovered?

Moving Forward

This week, take Pascal's wager seriously. Review it. Reflect on it. Pray about it.

Here it is:

Do not, then, reprove for error those who have made a choice; for you know nothing about it. "No, but I blame them for having made, not this choice, but a choice; for again both he who chooses heads and he who chooses tails are equally at fault, they are both in the wrong. The true course is not to wager at all.

Yes; but you must wager. It is not optional. You are embarked. Which will you choose then?



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID

Let us see. Since you must choose, let us see which interests you least.

You have two things to lose, the true and the good; and two things to stake, your reason and your will, your knowledge and your happiness; and your nature has two things to shun, error and misery.

Your reason is no more shocked in choosing one rather than the other, since you must of necessity choose. This is one point settled.

But your happiness? Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is.

Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing.

Wager, then, without hesitation that He is.

Let's come back to this key point: Yes; *but you must wager. It is not optional. You are embarked. Which will you choose then?*

You are embarked. Which are you choosing, and why? When you pray, talk to Jesus about it, and see what happens.

Changing Your Mind

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

Day after day they continue to speak;

night after night they make him known.

Psalm 19: 1-2 NLT



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID

Part 2: The Bible Is Dangerous, Inaccurate, and Contradicts Itself

Why would anyone living today trust the Bible? After all, it's so full of terrible instances of violence and oppression that it has to be both barbaric and outdated. Besides, you can't really rely on a document that's over 2000 years old. It's been translated so often there's very little likelihood that what we're reading is what was written. Right?

Scripture: Luke 1: 1-4 NLT; John 4:1-39; NLT; Galatians 3:28 NIV

Bottom Line: The scriptures aren't the point. They point to the point: Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. What are your biggest questions about the Bible?
2. In the message, Carey presented quite a bit of evidence that what you're reading is what was written. To what extent does that help you see the Bible as an accurate guide?
3. Read Luke's introduction to his Gospel in Luke 1: 1-4. In light of the fake news culture we live in and passages like the one Carey shared from the Gospel of Thomas, how does that make you feel about the reliability of the Gospel's we have in the New Testament?
4. Many critics say Christianity is oppressive and dangerous. In John 4: 1-30, how is Jesus' treatment of women astonishing in light of the way most people in 1st century culture treated women?
5. In what ways was Galatians 3:28 revolutionary in the first century? In what ways is it still revolutionary today?

Moving Forward

There is a lot to think about in this study of the origins of scripture.

Three questions to help you move toward action this week:

- Will you read more scripture because you can have confidence that you're reading what was written?
- Will you study the scripture deeply enough to realize how radical the ethic of love is, and how that turned the first century upside down and stands to do the same to our world?
- Don't leave behind the ultimate question: What will you do about the point— Jesus? Life (and your life) hangs in the balance of the answer to that question.

Changing Your Mind

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 NIV



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID

Part 3: The Goal of My Life Is Self-Fulfillment

So what exactly is the purpose of your life? Well, you've heard it. Live your best life. Become the best version of yourself. You do you. But is self-fulfillment really all it's cracked up to be? You might be surprised.

Scripture: Proverbs 16:25 NLT, Luke 9:23-25 NIV

Bottom Line: A life of self-denial is ultimately more rewarding than a life of self-fulfillment.

Discussion Questions

1. Think of someone you knew personally who inspired you when you were a kid (maybe a teacher, relative, neighbour or coach). Would you describe them as selfish? Discuss.
2. Proverbs 16:25 is a short, fascinating verse. Would you say you've been down that road before? What happened? What did you think would end up in life that ended up poorly?
3. In the message, Carey encouraged us to think about the words we use in our generation to describe ourselves:
 - Consumer, not citizen.
 - Viewers or listeners, not people or leaders.
 - Crowd, not congregation or disciples.What do those changes signify about our culture? About how you see yourself?
4. Jesus makes a huge claim (even demand) in Luke 9: 23-25. How do you react to his message? What part of it makes you scared or fearful? What part, if any, makes sense?
5. There are no inspiring stories of accumulation, only inspiring stories of sacrifice. Discuss.

Moving Forward

What is the path that appears to lead to life, but end instead in death?

To answer that question, think at a deeper level about who you are. Are you just a consumer, just a viewer, just part of the crowd? Do your purchases define you? Does fame or the lack of it? Does your reputation define you? Do your possessions? Your status? Your autonomy? Your freedom to be whatever you decide to be?

If there are no inspiring stories of accumulation, why is accumulation still a goal of yours? Why is a life of self-fulfilment still more attractive to you



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID

than a life of self-denial, especially in light of the fact that a life devoted to self usually leaves you alone.

What would it take for you to live a life that isn't about you, but instead about Jesus and perhaps what he could do in you and through you?

Then fill out the cling sticker you received today at our locations. Fill out the false path most likely to trick you, and commit to a deeper life of denying yourself so something greater rises in Christ.

“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?” Luke 9:25

Changing Your Mind

“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?” Luke 9: 24-25



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID

Part 4: The Best Morals Are Crowd-Sourced

How can you tell what's right and what's wrong? Fortunately, many would say, we live in an age where objective truth has disappeared. What's true for you isn't true for others, and what's wrong for you isn't wrong for others. But is it truly good for us when morals change from generation to generation and you can write your own? Or, are we missing something?

Scripture: Judges 21:1-25 NLT, John 13:34-35, NIV Galatians 5:1,13-24 NLT

Bottom Line: Subjective morality leads to chaos and confusion. Objective morality leads to life.

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any moral standards you wish you could rewrite? Which ones, and why?
2. Have your moral standards changed and evolved over time? How?
3. History often comes full circle. Over 3000 years ago, the Hebrew scriptures noted that "In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." Read through Judges 21:1-25. Is the loss of a moral compass somehow related to the horrible nature of the story about the tribe of Benjamin?
4. In the message, Carey argued that all of us have the capacity to be a guard in a death camp in Nazi Germany, and that if we don't believe we have that capacity, we don't know ourselves well enough? That's a harsh position. What do you think about it?
5. Jesus clarified the moral standard by which God operates, and shared it as the standard by which the world should run. Read through John 13:34-35 and Galatians 5:1, 13-24. What parts of this 'objective' morality do you wish you had more of in your own life? In the world?
6. In your view, is an objective understanding of morality ultimately freeing or disempowering? Why?

Moving Forward

Ask yourself, at a deeper level, what happens when everyone does whatever seems right in their own eyes. More specifically, what happens in your world when you do?

Then start running your decisions and actions through the moral filter of John 13: 34-35 and Galatians 5:1, 13-24. You will likely need the Holy Spirit's help to root your decisions and actions in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

UNDRINK THE KOOLAID



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID



UNDRINK THE KOOLAID



It's easy to think Christianity is based on false assumptions or wishful thinking. But what about other worldviews? What about your worldview? We'll look at some widely held beliefs about Christianity, science, the goal of life and even morality that although widely believed, just don't stand up. Maybe it's time to undrink the cultural KoolAid.



More at ConnexusChurch.com