

TEENS ASK: How can I be sure that God is real?

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THE BIG IDEA:

God has given us sufficient evidence to believe in His existence and know about His character.

Probably everyone at some point or another has pondered this very question, even long-time Christians. Is God real? How can we know for sure? Can we prove His existence?

Various studies have shown that the majority of people (around 90%) believe in God or a "higher power". While believing in a "higher power" is a start, we must understand that there is one God who is a personal God (not an airy, mysterious being in the sky) who has revealed Himself to us in several ways. Thankfully, the God of the universe has made His existence, power, and supremacy plain.

Unfortunately, there is no science experiment or mathematical formula that can prove the existence of God. I wish it were that easy. We cannot *prove* the existence of God the same way we can prove that 2 plus 2 equals 4, but there is an overwhelming amount of *evidence* that, unless completely ignored or naively explained away, points quite clearly to the presence of the one true God.

Firstly, God's existence is revealed in creation. The book of Romans deals with this early on in chapter 1:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

What this means is that God's power and divinity are "clearly perceived" in the world around us, to the point where no one has an excuse to refuse God's existence. Famous Christian author C.S. Lewis uses the analogy of a wristwatch to explain. If one were to stumble upon a wristwatch by chance, they would immediately recognize that at some point a craftsman made that watch. This would be obvious due to the mere existence of a complicated piece of machinery that clearly had to have been designed by an intelligent, creative, and capable being. One would be considered a lunatic if they believed that the wristwatch was instead formed by chance and evolution over a period of millions of years. Likewise, the world around us that shows creativity, design, and amazing variety and complexity is obvious evidence that God exists. We have entire disciplines (biology, chemistry etc.) dedicated to trying to understand the world around us. To conclude that creation is the product of chance is, in reality, borderline hilarious.



Jeremy Edgar

God has also revealed Himself to us more specifically in the Scriptures. The Bible is often referred to as "God's Word" because it is the method by which God speaks to us. The Bible confirms the existence of God through (1) the overwhelming evidence that confirms the accuracy of the Bible and (2) the hundreds of predictions (prophecies) the Bible has made that came true. The Bible simply could not hold up under scrutiny as it has unless it was truly the Word of God.

God also evidences His existence through:

- Personal circumstances in one's own life
- The evidence of miracles both past and present
- The lives and testimonies of other people

In summary, God has truly given us enough evidence to believe in His existence, so that all are "without excuse". The evidence is so overwhelming that the book of Proverbs declares "the fool has said in his heart, there is no god". We may not be able to conclusively *prove* that God is real, but in the face of all the evidence, to believe otherwise is to make the greatest blunder of all.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can I learn to share evidence of God's existence with others?
2. How can I clarify who God is to people who simply believe in a "higher power"?