

Explore God—Seven Big Questions

- 1. Does life have a purpose?**
- 2. Is there a God?**
- 3. Why does God allow pain and suffering?**
- 4. Is Christianity too narrow?**
- 5. Is Jesus really God?**
- 6. Is the Bible reliable?**
- 7. Can I know God personally?**

Questions? Text them to: 757-298-7733

What is your strategy to address these questions and how risky is it?

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The Two Big Ways People Understand God

- **God is transcendent**
- **God is immanent**

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How the Gospel of John Understands God **—John 10:7-11**

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⁷"Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:

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⁸As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep,

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¹¹"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

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¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

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¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.

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¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Ezekiel 34:7-8, 11-12, 15-16

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How the Gospel of John Understands God

—John 10:7-11

- **The transcendent became immanent**

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**Can I know God personally?: In Jesus,
God came in person, so you can know
God personally.**

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Does a personal God square with reason and experience?

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**I listen to our favorite song
playing on the radio
Hear the DJ say loves a game
of easy come and easy go
But I wonder does he know,
has he ever felt like this
And I know that you'd be here right now,
if I could have let you know somehow**

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**Every rose has it's thorn
Just like every night has it's dawn
Just like every cowboy sings
his sad, sad song
Every rose has it's thorn
Yeah, it does**

— *Bret Michaels, Poison*

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“Echoes of Eternity”

—*Charles Taylor, A Secular Age*

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How can I Know God Personally?

—John 10:1-8

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How can I Know God Personally?

—John 10:1-8

- Option 1: Trust you can find the door

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How can I Know God Personally?

—John 10:1-8

- **Option 1: Trust you can find the door**
 - **How confident are you that you can find the right door?**

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How can I Know God Personally?

—John 10:1-8

- **Option 1: Trust you can find the door**
- **Option 2: Trust that Jesus is the Door and the Good Shepherd who came to find you**

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Do you want to know God personally?

—John 10:3

- **Listen for His voice**

- **A.B.C.**

- **Admit**

- **Believe**

- **Connect**

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