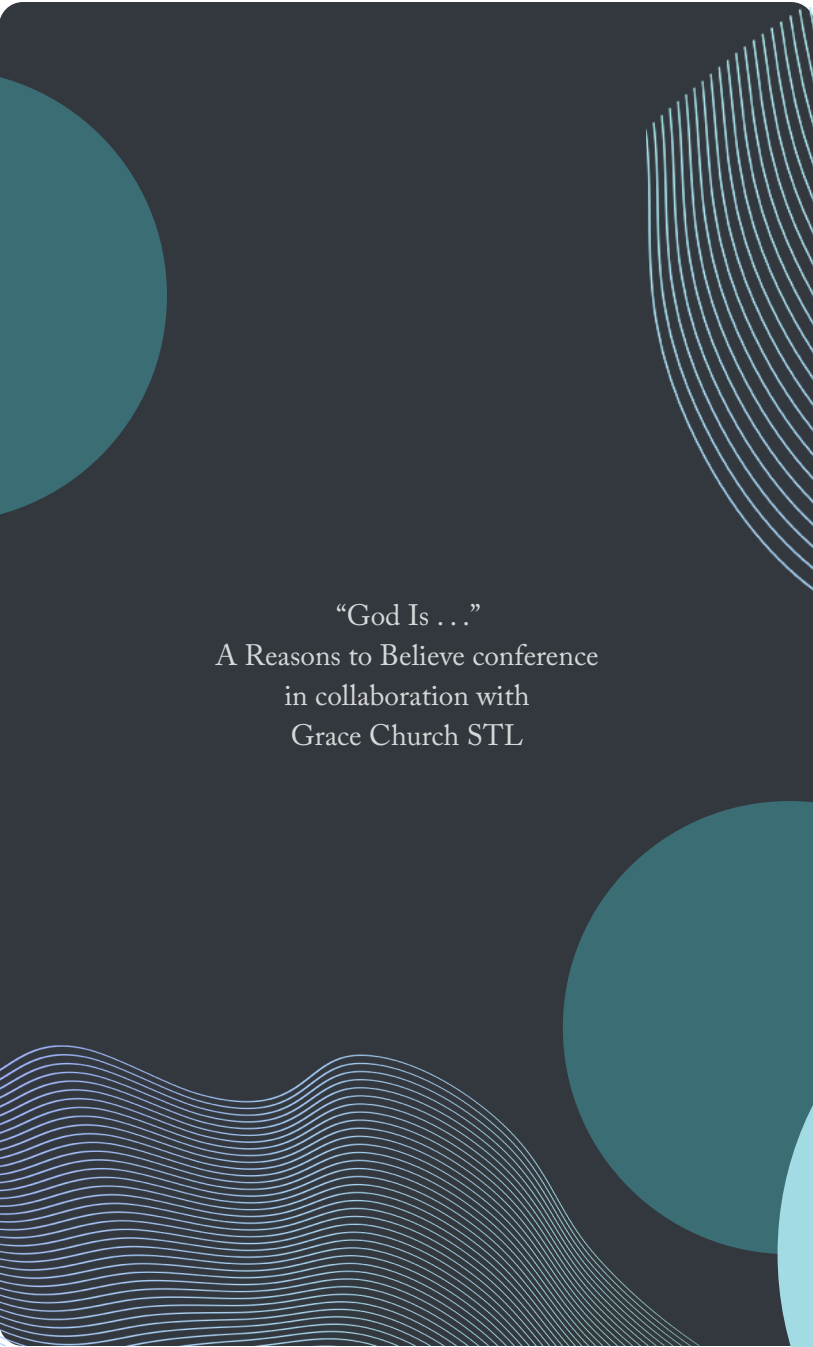


**GOD
IS...**

**STUDY
GUIDE**



“God Is . . .”
A Reasons to Believe conference
in collaboration with
Grace Church STL

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
How to Access Your Videos	5
“God Is . . . Wisdom” by George Haraksin	8
“God Is . . . an Artist” by Fazale Rana	11
“God Is . . . Trustworthy and Reliable” by Jeff Zweerink	14
“God Is . . . Bigger Than We Know” by Hugh Ross	17
Answer Key	20-21

Introduction

In November 2022, Reasons to Believe held one of its most impactful events of the year, the “God Is . . .” conference. This new event focused on exploring the attributes of God’s character and the implications those attributes have on our lives. This conference impacted hundreds of attendees from the St. Louis, Missouri, area, and for months we’ve been working to bring this content to a wider audience.

We’d like to begin with a thank-you. It’s because of you that this excellent resource will reach the hands of people all over the world. Your continued partnership has allowed us to create this video series, and we’re confident it will open more people to the gospel. We hope that as you go through this series, you’ll discover a deeper knowledge of God’s attributes and maybe see a side of his character that you haven’t seen before. May you be encouraged through the “God Is . . .” conference and, as the Lord leads, find opportunities to share these videos with others.

—Jeff Zweerink
Senior Research Scholar

How to Access Your Videos

The “God Is . . .” video collection is hosted on one web page for your viewing convenience. To access your videos and exclusive bonus content, please scan the QR code below with your smart device.



You can also access your videos by visiting:
reasons.org/godis-premium

Access your e-version of this booklet at:
reasons.org/godis-study



“God Is . . . Wisdom” by George Haraksin

Given the choice to enrich your life, would you choose religion or wisdom? Or both? Whichever you choose, choose wisely.

Colossians 2:2–3 calls for the church to be “encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” In this talk, I aim to remind us that the wisdom revealed and taught in the Hebrew texts finds its fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ, God’s wisdom incarnate.

—George Haraksin
Scholar Community Program Director and Staff Scholar

Study Guide Questions*:

1. In our modern society, people are turning to for the answers to their questions.
2. Author Thomas Friedman compared to Google.
3. There is a great between information and wisdom.
4. Many researchers are showing that relying too heavily on Google to inform us can actually..... us.
5. Wisdom is defined as “separating” the ability to judge good (right) from bad (wrong). This can also be described as having
6. God is Wisdom revealed in: (1)..... , (2)..... , and (3)
7. Who was “Wisdom” (God) delighting in?
8. Instead of looking at “commands” in a negative light, we as Christians should look at commands as
9. Colossians 2:3: “In [Christ] are hiddenthe treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
10. Whose image is on you?
Whose image is on all of mankind?

*Answer key available on pages 20-21.

Application:

Author Thomas Friedman compared God to Google. When you hear ideas like this, what's your reaction? How does it make you feel?

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We leave you with two tasks. We invite you to:

1. Try to show Christians a new dimension of Jesus: Jesus the great philosopher and king.
2. Try to show non-Christians a new dimension of philosophy and a new philosopher.

What are some practical ways you can introduce people to Jesus the philosopher?

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Closing Thought:

Would your life be better off if you believed the things Jesus believed about the world and acted upon them?

“God Is . . . an Artist” by Fazale Rana

Throughout life's history, every corner of Earth has been filled with a vast assemblage of creatures—from the beautiful to the bizarre. What purpose do these diverse creatures serve? Could it be that God is a divine Artist, with these creatures reflecting his creative panache?

Thinking about God as a divine Artist moves me to my core. It causes me to fall more deeply in love with him. It draws me closer to him. It fills my heart with a deep desire to worship him.

In this talk, I make the biblical case that God is rightly understood as a divine Artist and then explore the impact that this view of God has for how we understand life's history. I conclude by exploring what this view of God teaches us about ourselves as human beings made in God's image.

—Fazale Rana
President and CEO

Study Guide Questions*:

1. Perhaps God created all these bizarre creatures to showcase that he is an
2. The word *toḅ* can be translated as “good,” but it can also be translated as and
3. It is with..... that God has created the world we live in.
4. When we immerse ourselves in the beauty of the world around us, we’re reminded that God is with us.
5. If God creates a universe, as a he will create a beautiful universe.
6. Can evolution explain our aesthetic sense?
7. Our capacity to experience beauty is telling us somethingabout who we are and who created us.
8. Why do we create? Because we are
We are made in God’s image.
9. We are called to on behalf of God.
10. When we create, we are entering into a
with God.

*Answer key available on pages 20-21.

Application:

When you consider yourself a cocreator with God, what does that inspire you to do?

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What are some of the creative talents God has blessed you with?
How can you use those to point others back to God?

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Closing Thought:

When you look to the beauty of God’s creation, do you reflect on the reality of who you are in God?

**“God Is . . . Trustworthy
and Reliable”
by Jeff Zweerink**

Many people see science and Christianity as being in conflict. From this perspective, the facts and reason of science undermine any basis to believe Christianity might be true. Over the past two decades, I have investigated numerous potential issues where scientific knowledge seemed to conflict with Christianity. In this talk I'll explain how, in every instance, my investigations revealed more evidence that God's revelation in Scripture and in creation is trustworthy and reliable.

—Jeff Zweerink
Senior Research Scholar

Study Guide Questions*:

1. Often, people have a perception that Christianity and science are in conflict, but that perception ultimately results from a lack of
2. God himself in creation.
3. As we study the laws of the universe, we see this reliability and trustworthiness in God as he reveals himself in and
4. Science and that God is trustworthy and reliable.
5. If God is the inspiration for Scripture and we believe that he is, and if God is the author of creation and we believe that he is, then a that proves Christianity wrong will never happen.
6. Mankind's existence here on Earth points to a vast amount of, which ultimately provides evidence pointing to a Creator.
7. As we wrestle through challenges and questions, we should allow that to build our in the truth of Christianity.
8. People can choose to focus on resentment toward God or they can choose to focus on the that points to a God who loves them.
9. When wrestling with God's trustworthiness, we invite questions. Jesus models this for us in Matthew 11:2–6. He didn't rebuke John for asking questions but provided him with a response.

10. God is trustworthy, not just in what science can measure but inon which our life depends.

*Answer key available on pages 20-21.

Application:

When you find yourself struggling with doubt, what thoughts and feelings do you have?

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In what ways have you experienced God’s trustworthiness and reliability?

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Closing Thought:

As we wrestle through our doubts, are we allowing ourselves to be open to those struggles? How often do you arrive at a conclusion that ignores the evidence?

**“God Is . . . Bigger Than We Know”
by Hugh Ross**

Some holy books declare that God is transcendent (existing and operating beyond the cosmic space-time dimensions) but aloof and distant from his creation. Others declare that God is immanent (existing and operating everywhere within the universe) but limited to the universe. The Bible alone declares that God is simultaneously transcendent and immanent.

In this talk, I’ll explain how trans- and extra dimensions help address seemingly paradoxical doctrines people encounter in Scripture—and how they provide us with a powerful tool for establishing that the Bible alone is the inspired, written Word of God.

—Hugh Ross
Founder and Senior Scholar

Study Guide Questions*:

1. The vastness of the universe pales in comparison to how God is.
2. Astronomers have revised their numbers and now estimate that there are.....galaxies in the observable universe. This gives us just a glimpse of how God is beyond measure.
3. If you could change the total quantity of the components of the universe by as little as one part in 10^{122} , wouldn't be possible.
4. God loves us so much that he didn't think it too to create a universe so fine-tuned that we could live and thrive here.
5. Any universe that expands on average has a
6. is a tool that God gave us and that we all need to take advantage of. He desires to talk to us.
7. Where is God? God must exist and operate both..... and..... the one time dimension and the nine space dimensions of the universe.
8. God knows than I do what's best for my life.
9. Many people God's gift, simply because they don't recognize the bigness of what God did for us on the cross.
10. God wants towith us. He has a mission, plan, and purpose for each and every one of us.

*Answer key available on pages 20-21.

Application:

Consider how big God is and how much care he put into creating the universe. What does that tell you about your value to him?

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God has chosen to partner with us for his mission. What calling has he placed on your heart?

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Closing Thought:

God has given us the extraordinary capacity to possess an imagination. But he is much bigger than anything we could ever conceive of.



Answer Key

“God Is . . . Wisdom” by George Haraksin

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|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Google | 6. creation, commands, Christ |
| 2. God | 7. Mankind |
| 3. chasm | 8. directions for living well |
| 4. deform | 9. all |
| 5. skill | 10. God’s, God’s |

“God Is . . . Trustworthy and Reliable” by Jeff Zweerink

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|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. knowledge | 6. fine-tuning |
| 2. reveals | 7. confidence |
| 3. Scripture, creation | 8. evidence |
| 4. affirms, shows | 9. honest |
| 5. discovery | 10. everything |

“God Is . . . an Artist” by Fazale Rana

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Artist | 6. No |
| 2. beautiful, created the way
it is supposed to be | 7. profound |
| 3. skill | 8. image bearers |
| 4. ever present | 9. create |
| 5. good workman | 10. fellowship |

“God Is . . . Bigger Than We Know” by Hugh Ross

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|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. big | 6. Prayer |
| 2. two trillion | 7. within, beyond |
| 3. life | 8. better |
| 4. costly | 9. refuse |
| 5. beginning | 10. partner |





REASONS
to BELIEVE