

WHO NEEDS GOD

PART 2: Gods of the No Testament

INTRODUCTION

Do you have religious doubts? When your prayers go unanswered, do you wonder if God exists? Does science make God seem unnecessary?

Before you abandon your faith, consider this: What if the god you're walking away from never existed to begin with?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did your view of God originate? To what extent do those influences continue to shape how you view God?
2. Have you ever listened to someone's de-conversion story? If so, what thoughts and emotions did it stir in you? How did you respond?
3. To what extent do you associate religion with guilt? How do you think that has shaped how you view God?
4. Has there ever been a time when God didn't respond to your circumstances the way you wanted or expected? If so, what did that experience do to your faith?
5. During the message, Andy said the choice between God and science is a false alternative and that, *"If everything were explained and explainable, it would not explain away God."* Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Do you tend to view God as one of the No Testament gods—the bodyguard god, on-demand god, boyfriend god, guilt god, anti-science god, gap god, and angry-Old-Testament god? If so, what would it take for you to begin to see him differently?

MOVING FORWARD

Faith in No Testament gods—the bodyguard god, on-demand god, boyfriend god, guilt god, anti-science god, gap god, and angry-Old-Testament god—leads to unmet expectations, childish explanations, ill-informed interpretation, and blatant manipulation. We invent these "gods" based on expectations we put on the true God. That's an irrational way to determine if God is real.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:8