

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STAND FIRM AGAINST AHTEISM
Stand Firm — Week 2

ICEBREAKER: What's the best way to resist peer pressure?

OVERVIEW: Atheism has been around for a long time. But recently a new form of atheism has arisen. What's new about it? Not only does it claim that there is no God, but it claims that religion is evil, dangerous, and the world would be much better off without it. The New Atheism is aggressively seeking to make converts out of Christians. In this discussion we will go deeper with the evidence for the existence of God.

1. **Read Psalm 14:1.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. How should we relate to skeptics and critics of the faith?
3. Evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins said, "Faith can be very, very dangerous, and deliberately to implant it into the vulnerable mind of an innocent child is a grievous wrong." How could you defend the faith against this attack – Biblically, and with gentleness and respect?
4. The atheist Christopher Hitchens said, "One must state it plainly. Religion comes from the period of human prehistory where nobody had the smallest idea what was going on. It comes from the bawling and fearful infancy of our species, and is a babyish attempt to meet our inescapable demand for knowledge (as well as for comfort, reassurance and other infantile needs)." How could you give a defense against this statement?
5. Albert Mohler (President of Southern Seminary) said of atheist Sam Harris, "Harris has argued that belief in God is such a danger to human civilization that religious liberty should be denied in order that science might reign supreme as the intellectual foundation of human society." How would you defend the faith against the claim that belief in God is a danger to human civilization?
6. The sermon gave five impossible questions for atheists – questions that atheists cannot answer with any sense. The first question is Where did everything come from? How does this question point to the existence of God?
7. The second impossible question for atheists is Where did life come from? How does this question point to the existence of God?
8. The third impossible question for atheists is Why is life possible on earth? How does this question point to the existence of God?
9. The fourth impossible question for atheists is Where did morality come from? How does this question point to the existence of God?
10. The fifth impossible question for atheists is Why does the universe appear to be intelligently designed? How does this question point to the existence of God?

The Last Word: "The atheists no longer want to be tolerated. They want to monopolize the public square and to expel Christians from it. They blame religion for the crimes of history and for the ongoing conflicts in the world today. In short, they want to make religion – and especially the Christian religion – disappear from the face of the earth." Dinesh D'Souza