



Detective work doesn't start with what evidence we want to have in front of us, but what we *actually* have in front of us. It doesn't help if I tell you I have a secret code you don't have, or I only will consider evidence that already fits into my system but nothing else. Instead, I want us to look at what is readily available to anyone and see what it suggests. I'd like to look at some clues that point me to the story that defines my life.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Introduction: Watch the "Powers of 10" video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fKBhvDjuy0&ab_channel=EamesOffice

Book Recommendations:

Robert Jastrow, *God & The Astronomers*.
C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.
William Lane Craig, *The Son Rises*.

PROOF VS. CLUES. How many important things in your life are based on less than "100% certainty"? Name some things you know to be true, but you can't "prove." Name some things you can't be "certain" of, but you have good reason to believe in. Follow Up: How can the language of "clues" or "hints" or "echoes" be more helpful than "proof" when we talk about love, or beauty, or God?

OPEN TO EVIDENCE. What evidence would you accept as evidence for God or the Christian story? Does your expectation match what you expect in other areas of your life?

DEFINING "GOD." God is not the biggest thing in the system, he is the author of it. C. S. Lewis said it is like asking Hamlet to point to Shakespeare. Instead, the truly deep things that give life meaning—truth, beauty, and goodness—are names for God, and signs of more than meets the eye. How does this help you understand what Christians mean by God?

THE WORLD. How does a "beginning" to the Universe cry out for an explanation? If everything that "begins" has a cause, what is the ultimate cause at the very start? What kind of things would have to be true about that ultimate cause? Follow up: Life is precious and valuable. Think of how many things had to be "just right" for life to exist at all. Discuss what this means for you.

THE HUMAN. Why do we think some things are just objectively (always, everywhere) right or wrong? Where does this come from? What is the basis for expecting others to hold the same values? Follow up: Why is love, beauty, and music so powerful? How does this point to us being "living souls"?

THE STORY. Discuss the many ways Christianity has changed the world for the better. Now discuss how Christianity started. Christians believe the best explanation is that God raised Jesus from the dead. What would keep us from being *open* to this possibility?