



GUIA DE ESTUDO

Is there a God? Does He care?

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BIG IDEA

Creation points to a purposeful Creator, and faith responds to the evidence with hope, trust, and discipleship.

The Question Behind the Universe

The preacher frames the sermon around a single foundational question: is there a God? He says the universe is like Goldilocks's porridge, beds, and chairs—so many things are “just right” for life that the world itself raises the question of design and purpose.

The Road to Hope

He begins with Luke 24, where Cleopas and the other disciple say, “But we had hoped that he was the one who would redeem Israel.” He calls that the lowest point of the gospel story: not only the cross, but the scattering and discouragement of the followers. Yet he insists the story is not mainly about their failure; it is about Jesus, who walks beside discouraged disciples and restores hope.

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But we had hoped that he was the one who would redeem Israel.

— Hope at the Bottom

Faith and Evidence Are Not Enemies

He argues that people often treat faith and evidence as opposites, but he says all belief requires both faith and evidence. Whether someone believes in God, or believes that nothing created everything, both positions still rest on trust, inference, and a kind of evidence. He pushes listeners to ask whether their “something” is worthy of their faith.

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Is our something worthy of our faith?

— The Core Question

Genesis and the Beginning

Turning to Genesis 1, he highlights the opening claim that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and that the earth was “formless and void.” He says this verse does not prove God in a mathematical sense, but it gives a coherent explanation and source for existence. For him, the biblical account offers meaning for why there is something rather than nothing.

Goldilocks and the Fine-Tuned Planet

He spends significant time describing the earth as “just right” for life: the correct star type, the right distance from the host star, the correct planetary mass, a large moon, a stable rotational period, steady plate tectonics, the right amount of water, the right atmospheric composition, a protective magnetic field, and even Jupiter’s shielding effect. He cites scientists who have identified more than 100 separate conditions that must align in a narrow window for a planet like ours to support life’s possibility.



The planet we're on is just right for life to have the possibility to happen.

— The Design Claim

Stephen Hawking and the Precision of the Universe

He quotes Stephen Hawking from A Brief History of Time to show that even an atheist recognized the extreme precision of the universe’s expansion rate. Hawking asked why the universe began in just such a way, and the preacher highlights the line that it would be “very difficult to explain” except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.



It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.

— Hawking on Cosmic Precision

The Story the Heavens Tell

He moves to Psalm 19 and says the heavens and skies narrate the glory of God. The preacher emphasizes that creation speaks without words: day after day, night after night, the world tells a story. He points to kittens, puppies, flowers, birds, and the ecological system as examples of beauty and order that quietly testify to a Designer.



What if that's by design?

— Creation's Question

Doubt, Choice, and the Hidden God

He argues that God may leave room for doubt by design, because forced belief would not be freely chosen faith. He quotes Frederick Buechner’s thought that if God revealed himself with no room for doubt, there would be no room for us. The preacher’s point is that discipleship is not coercion; it is a response to enough evidence to trust, but not so much proof that choice disappears.

Why the Heart Resists

He says the real issue is not always evidence but discomfort. If God exists, then there is a Maker, a purpose, and a claim on our lives. That means we would have to respond to him, and some people would rather believe in nothing because nothing has no requirements. This is where faith becomes discipleship: following the God who made us, not merely admiring the idea of him.



Sometimes it's just easier to believe in nothing because nothing has no requirements.

— The Avoidance of Obligation

PARA REFLEXÃO

Discuss Together

1. Why does the preacher describe the Emmaus road scene as the low point of the gospel story?
2. What does he mean when he says the universe is “just right” for life?
3. How does his use of Stephen Hawking strengthen his argument?
4. Why does he think doubt can be part of faith rather than the enemy of faith?
5. What part of the sermon most challenged your view of creation, faith, or discipleship?

REFLEXÃO

Look Again at the Evidence

Where have you treated faith as a blind leap instead of a thoughtful response?

When have you noticed creation—a sky, a flower, a puppy, a bird—and quickly moved on without listening to what it might be saying?

Do you resist God because of lack of evidence, or because you sense that believing would change your life?

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Responding to the Creator

Slow down long enough this week to notice creation the way he described it: the sky, the natural world, the way life works together.

Read Genesis 1 and Psalm 19 with attention to the preacher's point that both beginning and sky point beyond themselves.

When you are tempted to think faith is irrational, remember his claim that even the earth's distance from its star, its moon, its atmosphere, and Jupiter's shielding all point to design.

If you are in a “But we had hoped” season like the disciples, ask Jesus to walk beside you and renew your hope.

Pray honestly about the places where believing in God feels uncomfortable because you sense he has claims on your life.

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Prayer for Hope and Trust

Lord Jesus, thank you that this is your story and not ours alone. Thank you for the evidence of creation, for the world that speaks of your glory, and for the hope you give when our own hope feels small. Help us trust you with our questions, obey you as disciples, and keep walking with you until we recognize you more clearly. Amen.