

Listening Guide

I. Beliefs About God and Creation

[1] It's not only children who have serious questions about life. What are some of the questions that you wonder about?

[2] As you consider the definition of religion from lesson one, what is it about naturalistic and evolutionary science that would make it similar to a religion?

II. The Naturalistic View of God and Creation

[3] What are some necessary conclusions that a naturalistic view leads to?

[4] If only about 10% of Americans believe in naturalistic evolution how does that compare to your particular setting (country, territory or school)?

[5] What is your own view? Naturalistic evolution? Creation? Confused? Don't care? Haven't thought about it?

[6] How clearly can you state and explain your view of God and of creation?

[7] Pause for a few minutes here to meditate on the questions presented. Do they affirm or challenge your current belief about God? How does each question interact with what you believe?

[8] Have you ever stopped to consider the complexity of your own body? Your eyes, the process

of moving a finger? The way your body processes the food you eat? Take some time to meditate on these up-close and personal complexities and thank God for the marvelous complexity of your own mind and body.

[9] If you were talking with a naturalistic atheist how would you explain what this paragraph and the next, “It’s important to see...” are saying?

[10] What is a “Practical Atheist”?

[11] What, then, would a “Practical Theist” be like?

III. The Hindu View of God and Creation

[12] How would you explain a Hindu view of God to a middle school child?

[13] Compare and contrast the Bible’s God and Brahman.

[14] Compare and contrast the Biblical and Hindu views of creation.

[15] Describe the difference between the Hindu God and the God of Scripture.

IV. The Buddhist View of God and Creation

[16] Explain, from previous paragraphs, why Hindus and Buddhists believe that neither God nor the universe can exist without the other.

[17] What, according to this paragraph, is the difference between Theravada Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism?

[18] How would you summarize the various Eastern religions' concept of God?

V. The Islamic View of God and Creation

[19] Name two or three ways a Muslim view of God is like and two or three ways it is unlike the God of scripture.

[20] Why is the Muslim view of creation like the Jewish and Christian view?

[21] Explain how a Muslim would teach his child how to have a relationship with God (Allah).

VI. The Judeo-Christian View of God and Creation

[22] Is the Muslim view of God more like the Jewish or the Christian view?

[23] How is it like and unlike each?

[24] Summarize in a sentence or two how you would tell a 10-year old child what the Judeo-Christian God is like.

[25] What is the difference stated in this paragraph between the Jewish and Christian concept of God?

[26] How is the God of Scripture different from the Hindu God?

[27] How is the God of Scripture different from the Muslim God?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

If someone asked you what you believe is the most important thing for someone to believe about your God, what would you say?