



Catholic Central Activity Guide

Episode 58: Virtues

Diving Deeper

- ▶ Can you use facts, logic, and reason to talk about God's existence?
- ▶ How does St. Thomas Aquinas' theory of causation -- the idea that every event is caused by a prior event, all the way back to the beginning of the universe -- support the idea that there is a God?
- ▶ Think about the laws of physics that were perfectly balanced and timed as our universe and solar system began. According to scientists, could a life-sustaining planet have formed if any of these factors (gravitational pull, density, entropy, etc.) were calibrated slightly differently? How might this indicate the existence of God?
- ▶ Why would God create us and create the universe? What does this work reveal about his desire to share himself with us?
- ▶ Practically speaking, what does it mean to believe in God? How might this belief affect a person's attitude, actions, and understanding of the dignity of others?

Go Forth

- ▶ Form a line with your small group. Starting at one end of the line, create a cause-and-effect sequence from one person to the next until it reaches the other end. (For example: Person #1 high fives Person #2, which causes #2 to spin off balance in a circle and lean on Person #3, which causes #3 to tilt slowly over to the floor and tap the foot of Person #4, which causes #4 to reflexively lift their foot and jump backward, which causes Person #5 to catch them before they both fall down.) Consider how each person's movement was caused. Trace the movement causation all the way back to Person #1. Consider how, eventually, in a cause-and-effect sequence, there needs to be something that wasn't caused by something else, something that set everything else in motion. This, we understand as God.
- ▶ Reflect on a recent positive experience of beauty or love. How did you feel? When you think about it, do you remember just the factual events, or does the experience transcend physical reality with a more meaningful significance? Consider how neuroscientists can describe the electricity in our brains and analyze our hormones, but they can't explain why we have this capacity and desire for the transcendent.



Resources

- ▶ [Catholic Central Episode: Faith and Reason](#)
- ▶ [Catholic Central Episode: Who is God?](#)
- ▶ [Word on Fire Article: Questioning a Catholic Priest About the Existence of God](#)
- ▶ [Father Dan O'Reilly: The Five Proofs of God](#)
- ▶ [Translated Text of St. Thomas Aquinas' Quinque Viae \(5 Ways\) in the Summa Theologica: First Part, Question 2: The Existence of God](#)

