

MORE ROLE-PLAYING SCENARIOS

In the class, we use the term "your friend" when talking about the person to whom you are ministering. The course includes many scenarios from which you can choose for role-playing. Here are some added scenarios written as bare claims or ad ignorantiam question fallacies from your friend. The questions skeptics ask and the arguments they bring are endless. Each question is a great start for a role-playing exercise.

Bare Claims and Ad Ignorantiam Question Fallacies

Love is love

Why is there no empirical evidence for the existence of God? Hint: the word "empirical" means "by experience."

If God is all-powerful and all-loving, why is there so much suffering in the world?

How can an all-knowing God allow for free will?

Why does God require faith instead of providing clear evidence of His existence?

Why are there so many different religions if there is only one true God?

How can God be both just and merciful at the same time?

If God is unchanging, why does He seem to act differently in the Old and New Testaments?

Why does an omnipotent God need to rest after creating the world?

Why are there two different creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2?

How do you reconcile the different genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke?

Why does the Bible have differing accounts of the same events, such as the resurrection of Jesus?

Why does the Bible command practices like slavery and genocide?

Why does the Bible contain morally questionable actions commanded by God, such as the slaughter of the Canaanites?

How do you explain the treatment of women in the Bible?

Why does the Bible condone practices like slavery?

How can eternal punishment in hell be considered just?

How does the account of creation in Genesis align with scientific evidence for the age of the earth and evolution?

How do you reconcile the global flood in Genesis with geological evidence?

Why are there no archaeological records for some of the major events described in the Bible, like the Exodus?

Why do miracles seem to happen less frequently in modern times than they did in biblical times?

Why are prayers not always answered, even for good and faithful people?

How can we distinguish between miracles and coincidences?

Why is belief in Jesus necessary for salvation, especially for those who have never heard of Him?

How can a loving God send people to eternal damnation?

What happens to people of other faiths or no faith at all?

What about all the evidence for the Big Bang?
What about all the evidence for evolution?
You can't trust the Old Testament as a historical document.
You can't trust the New Testament as a historical document.
Since the NT writers were biased, you can't trust what they wrote?
Hasn't the Bible been rewritten so many times it can't be trusted?
Wasn't the New Testament written hundreds of years after Christ?
Doesn't the gospel of Q prove the Gospels are false?
Why isn't there other evidence of the massacre of the babies?
Why isn't there any record of millions of Jews wandering in the desert?
Do the lost books of the Bible prove that the Bible has been altered?
Is there non-biblical evidence of a day of darkness at the crucifixion?
When were the gospels written and by whom?
Doesn't Mithra prove that Christians borrowed from this myth?
Why must innocent children die at the hands of other people?
If there is a good God, why is there evil and suffering in the world?
Why type of God would kill the firstborn of Egypt?
Why did God create us if He is self-sufficient?
Why did God create us with sin in the world?
If God knew people would sin why did He make them?
Why should God make people knowing they are going to hell forever?
What type of God would kill the firstborn of Egypt?
Is the God of the Old Testament a merciless monster?
Should we obey governments that are bad?
Jesus was a magician who made people hallucinate about His miracles
Jesus only appeared to have died on the cross.
The disciples stole Jesus' body and faked His resurrection
Atheism is the default position.
Why believe in a religion that had the inquisition and witch trials?
How can you trust a book that is nothing but a myth?
Why should I go to hell if I am sincere?
Why is slavery permitted in the Bible?
Why do you think is Jesus the only way to heaven/God?
What makes you think Christianity is the only way to God?
Why do you believe in Jesus but not Santa Claus?
I believe in reincarnation, so why do I need Christianity?
Do you really believe they lived that long in Genesis?
Isn't Christianity just copied from Egyptian beliefs
What about science?
Didn't the Christians and Jews borrow their theology from pagan mythology?
Why doesn't God heal amputees?

You don't know the difference between atheists and anti-theists?
Wasn't religion invented to control people?

From Ken Ham who has listed many in his Answers Books

Don't we live in a scientific age?
Hasn't science disproved the Bible?
How do you know the Bible is real?
What evidence is there for God?
If there is a God, who made God?
You believe in Adam and Eve" Where did Cain get his wife?
How did the races come about if there were only two people to start with? Hint: the races started from Noah, not Adam.
Where is the evidence for Noah's Flood?
Don't fossil layers prove millions of years in evolution?
We know man evolved from ape-like creatures, so how could the story of Adam and Eve be true?
How can you believe in a loving God with all the death and suffering we see in the world?
Didn't dinosaurs live millions of years ago and evolve into birds?
What's wrong with gay "marriage" if two people love each other?

If you want more, get the Answers books from Answers in Genesis.

Arguments from Bertrand Russell

The design argument fails because the complexity of the universe can be explained by natural processes.
Moral arguments for the existence of God are flawed because objective morality can exist independently of a deity.
The historical reliability of the Bible is questionable due to inconsistencies and lack of corroborating evidence.
Miracles reported in the Bible lack credible evidence and can be explained by natural phenomena or psychological factors.
The problem of evil is incompatible with the existence of an all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-good God.
Religious belief is often based on fear and the need for comfort rather than rational evidence.
The concept of eternal punishment in hell is morally indefensible.
Religion has historically been a source of conflict, persecution, and suppression of free thought.
Faith is not a virtue but a vice, as it involves believing without sufficient evidence.

Arguments from Richard Dawkins:

There is no empirical evidence to support the existence of God.
Belief in God is based on faith rather than evidence.

How could an omnipotent, omniscient, and omnibenevolent God could allow the existence of evil and suffering in the world.

The hypothesis of God is unnecessary for explaining the universe and its complexities, as natural processes and scientific explanations are sufficient.

The fine-tuning of the universe can be explained by the anthropic principle and the multiverse theory, rather than invoking a divine designer.

Religion is a byproduct of evolutionary processes, particularly the human tendency to attribute agency to inanimate objects and the need for social cohesion.

Faith is belief without evidence and argues that it is in conflict with reason and scientific inquiry. (He redefines faith. That's not what faith is.)

Morality does not require a divine foundation and that humans can develop ethical systems based on reason, empathy, and social cooperation.

There is a record of historical and contemporary violence associated with religious belief, including wars, terrorism, and persecution.

Indoctrinating children with religious beliefs is a form of psychological harm and that children should be allowed to make their own decisions about faith.

Religion stifles intellectual inquiry, promoting ignorance, and discouraging skepticism and questioning. God would have to be more complex than anything we can observe, so you must explain where God came from.

God is a delusion, defined as a persistent false belief held in the face of strong contradictory evidence. Religious belief is like belief in fairies or other mythical entities.

Religions evolve over time and adapt to changing cultural and social environments, similar to biological evolution, suggesting that this undermines the idea of a timeless, unchanging truth in religion.

The cosmological argument for the existence of God is not logically valid.

Arguments from Steve Wells

The Bible contains numerous contradictions and inconsistencies.

The Bible promotes violence, including genocide, slavery, and misogyny.

Many biblical prophecies are either unfulfilled or were written after the events they supposedly predict.

The morality presented in the Bible is often abhorrent by modern standards.

The creation account in Genesis is scientifically inaccurate.

The flood narrative in Genesis is not supported by geological evidence.

The Bible's historical accuracy is questionable, with many events lacking archaeological support.

The Bible contains stories that are borrowed from earlier mythologies.

The character of God, as portrayed in the Bible, often behaves in ways that are morally reprehensible.

Miracles reported in the Bible are implausible and lack empirical evidence.

Arguments from Christopher Hitchens

Religion is man-made and reflects human fears and desires.

There is no credible evidence for the existence of God.

Religion promotes intolerance and violence.

Religious doctrines are often contradictory and incoherent.

The concept of a loving and all-powerful God is incompatible with the existence of suffering and evil.

Religious faith discourages critical thinking and scientific inquiry.

Moral principles do not require a religious foundation and can be derived from reason and empathy.

Religious institutions have a history of corruption and abuse of power.

The idea of an eternal hell is morally repugnant.

Claims of miracles and divine intervention lack empirical support and are often fraudulent or mistaken.

The Bible contains numerous contradictions and inconsistencies.

The Bible is historically unreliable and lacks archaeological corroboration for many of its events.

The Bible promotes violence, including genocide, slavery, and the subjugation of women.

The Bible's moral teachings are often outdated and barbaric by modern standards.

The creation account in Genesis is scientifically inaccurate and mythological.

The flood narrative in Genesis is not supported by geological evidence and resembles earlier mythologies.

The Bible's prophecies are often vague, self-fulfilling, or written after the events they predict.

The character of God in the Bible is depicted as jealous, vengeful, and morally questionable.

The miracles reported in the Bible are implausible and lack empirical evidence.

The New Testament is inconsistent and contains contradictions regarding the life and teachings of Jesus.