

DOES
GOD

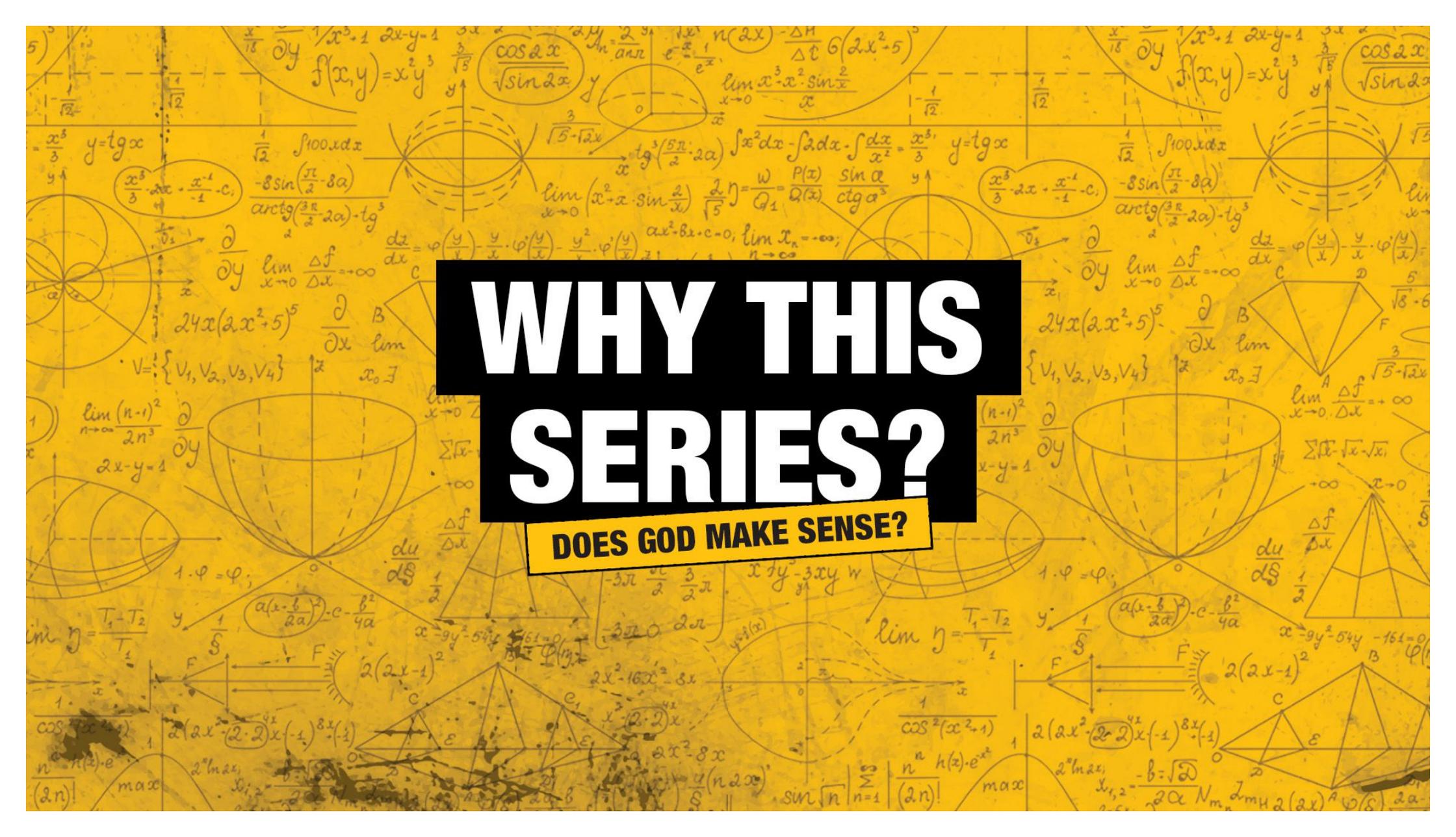
MAKE

SENSE?

**REASONS
FOR
OUR
FAITH**



EVERY NATION
CHURCH · MALAYSIA



WHY THIS SERIES?

DOES GOD MAKE SENSE?



**BLIND FAITH OR
REASONABLE FAITH?**



but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as
holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to
anyone who asks you for **a reason for the hope** that
is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

Does God make sense?

- Practical
- Rational
- Empirical
- Experiential

Practical Reasons:

- Family and cultural
- Network and community
- Pascal wager - the safe bet is on God

PAUL IN ATHENS





16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was **greatly distressed** to see that the **city was full of idols**. 17 So he **reasoned** in the **synagogue** with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the **marketplace** day by day with those who happened to be there.

ACTS 17

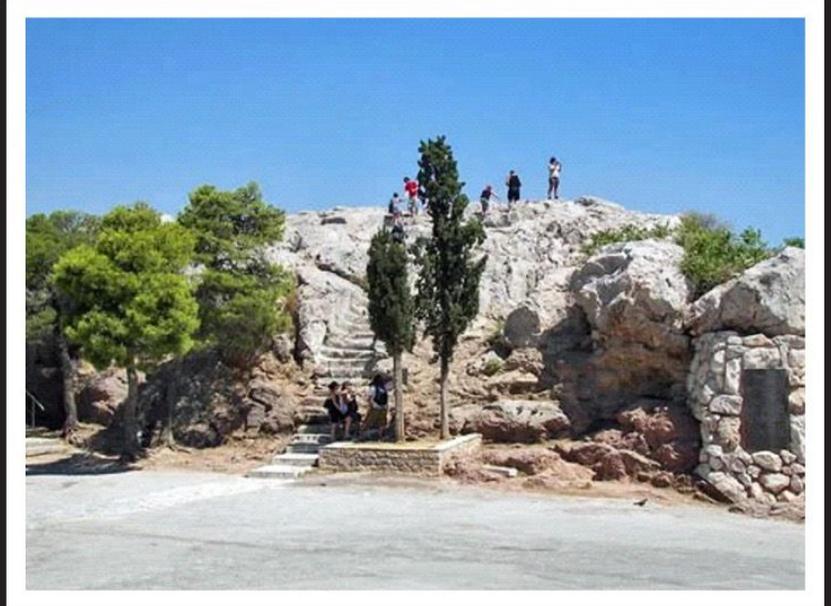


18 A group of **Epicurean and Stoic philosophers** began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because **Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.**

ACTS 17

19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the **Areopagus**, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.

ACTS 17





22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I **see that in every way you are very religious.** 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **to an unknown god.** So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

ACTS 17



24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

ACTS 17

REASON #1 (v.24 - v.25)

**GOD IS OUR CREATOR
AND GIVER OF LIFE.**



26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and he boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that **they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.**

ACTS 17

REASON #2 (v.27)

**GOD WANTS TO RELATE
TO US. HE IS NEAR.**



28 **'For in him we live and move and have our being.'**[b] As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'[c]

ACTS 17

REASON #3 (v.28)

**WE ARE CREATED IN HIS
IMAGE AND CREATED TO
RELATE TO HIM.**



29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.

30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

ACTS 17

Reasons:

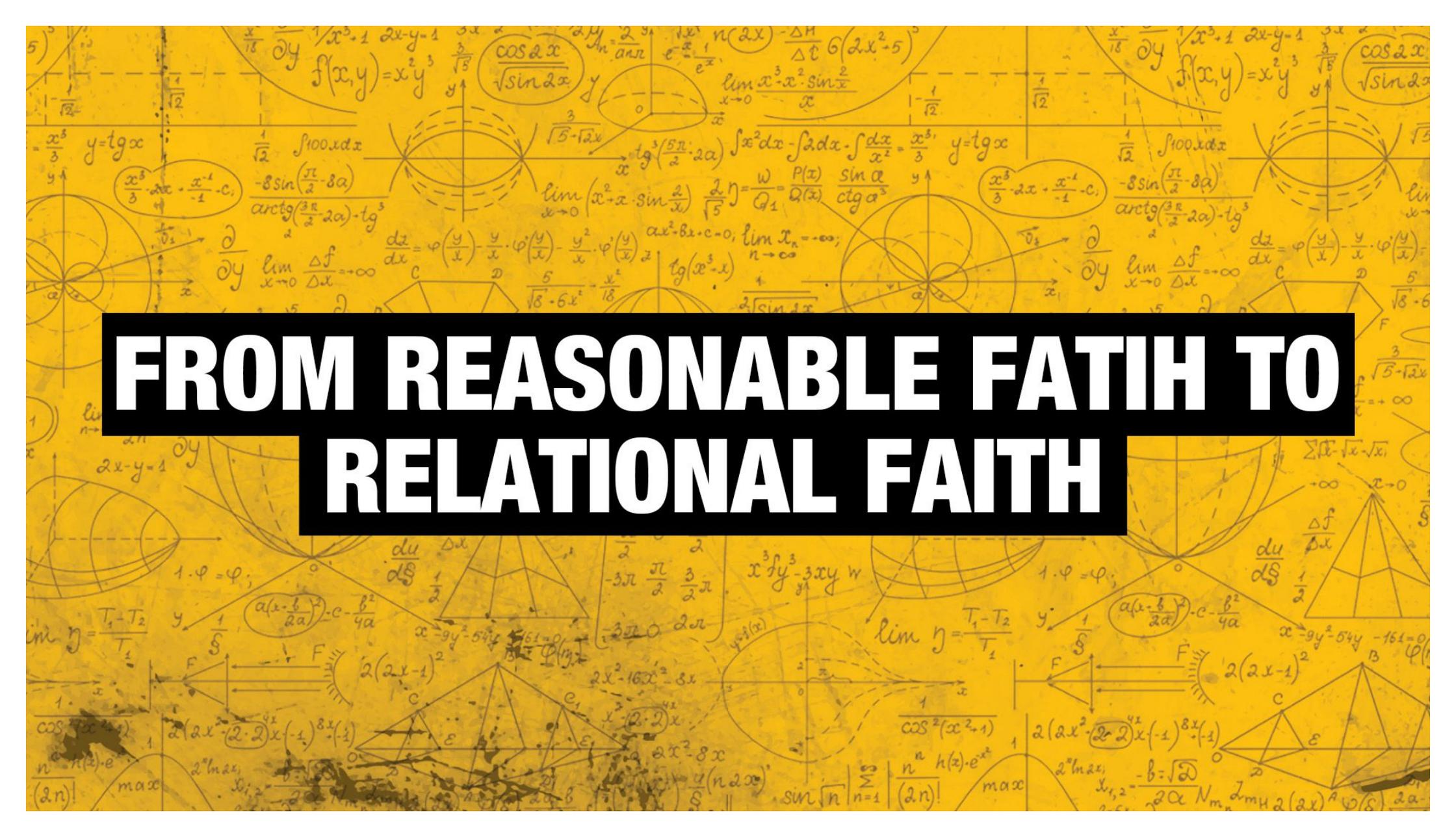
#1 God is our creator and giver of life.

#2 God wants to relate to us. He is near.

#3 We are created in His image and created to relate to Him.

Our Response (v.30):

To turn our hearts (repent) toward God



**FROM REASONABLE FATH TO
RELATIONAL FAITH**



28 **'For in him we live and move and have our being.'**[b] As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'[c]

ACTS 17