



Introduction

Welcome to this lesson on Exploring the Attributes of God and the Problem of Evil. This lesson is designed to introduce students to the fundamental attributes of God and the philosophical challenges posed by the existence of evil in the world.

Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and interactive activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the nature of God and the existence of evil.

Lesson Objectives

- Define and explain the attributes of God, including omniscience, omnipotence, and benevolence.
- Articulate the problem of evil, including the logical, evidential, and existential arguments.
- Engage in respectful and informed discussions about the implications of these concepts on their everyday lives.



Attributes of God

The attributes of God are the characteristics that define His nature and personality. The three main attributes of God are:

- Omniscience: The attribute of God that refers to His complete and perfect knowledge of all things, past, present, and future.
- Omnipotence: The attribute of God that refers to His unlimited power and ability to accomplish anything He desires.
- Benevolence: The attribute of God that refers to His goodness and kindness towards humanity.

Interactive Activity - Attributes of God

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a specific attribute of God (e.g. omniscience, omnipotence, benevolence).

Ask each group to research and present on their assigned attribute, using biblical and philosophical sources to support their arguments.



Problem of Evil

The problem of evil is the philosophical challenge posed by the existence of evil in the world. The problem of evil can be divided into three main arguments:

- Logical Argument: The existence of evil is logically inconsistent with the existence of an all-powerful and all-good God.
- Evidential Argument: The existence of evil provides evidence against the existence of an all-powerful and all-good God.
- Existential Argument: The existence of evil is a personal and emotional challenge to the existence of an all-powerful and all-good God.

Interactive Activity - Problem of Evil

Divide students into small groups and assign each group a specific scenario or case study related to the problem of evil (e.g. natural disasters, human suffering, moral evil).

Ask each group to discuss and analyze the scenario, using philosophical and theological frameworks to understand the implications of the problem of evil.



Assessment

Participation in class discussions and activities (20%)

Group presentation on the attributes of God (30%)

Written reflection on the problem of evil (30%)

Final exam on the attributes of God and the problem of evil (20%)

Extension Activities

Research and create a multimedia presentation (e.g. video, podcast, or infographic) that explores a specific attribute of God or the problem of evil.

Engage in a philosophical debate on the attributes of God and the problem of evil.

Write a reflective essay on the implications of the attributes of God and the problem of evil for our understanding of the world and our place in it.



Conclusion

In conclusion, this lesson on Exploring the Attributes of God and the Problem of Evil is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental attributes of God and the philosophical challenges posed by the existence of evil in the world.

Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and interactive activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the nature of God and the existence of evil.

Reflection Questions

- How did students respond to the interactive activities and discussions?
- How well did students demonstrate an understanding of the attributes of God and the problem of evil?
- How effectively did students demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills?



Glossary

- Omniscience: The attribute of God that refers to His complete and perfect knowledge of all things, past, present, and future.
- Omnipotence: The attribute of God that refers to His unlimited power and ability to accomplish anything He desires.
- Benevolence: The attribute of God that refers to His goodness and kindness towards humanity.
- Theodicy: The philosophical attempt to justify the existence of evil in the world despite the presence of an all-powerful and all-good God.

References

- The Bible: A primary source for understanding the attributes of God and the problem of evil.
- Philosophical Texts: Classic and contemporary texts on the philosophy of religion, such as the works of Augustine, Aquinas, and Plantinga.
- Online Resources: Websites and online forums that provide information and discussion on the attributes of God and the problem of evil.



Teaching Tips

- Use the Socratic method to encourage critical thinking and analysis.
- Use real-life examples and case studies to illustrate the complexities of the problem of evil.
- Encourage students to engage in role-play activities to build empathy and understanding of different perspectives.
- Use think-pair-share activities to encourage critical thinking and analysis.
- Use debates and discussions to encourage critical thinking, analytical skills, and effective communication.

Next Steps

Plan follow-up lessons on the nature of evil, the attributes of God in different religious traditions, and philosophical responses to the problem of evil.

Encourage students to continue exploring and learning about the attributes of God and the problem of evil.

Provide opportunities for students to engage in further discussion and debate on these topics.