

Discussion Questions  
First of two articles written by Greg Koukl, published in "Solid Ground".  
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1. What is "The Brothers Karamozov" and is it relevant for us?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If there is no God, Koukl says: "Grim tidings for mankind, if so. [But] For many (including Dawkins), though, this is not sad news, but a happy \_\_\_\_\_ signaling limitless \_\_\_\_\_. No God means no \_\_\_\_\_ and no \_\_\_\_\_, and that's the way they want it, at least when it comes to their own personal \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Koukl says, "All the big questions ... eventually come down to one. Are we our own, or do we \_\_\_\_\_ to Someone else? If there is a God, then, to borrow from Lewis, we are the \_\_\_\_\_ and He is the \_\_\_\_\_. If there is no God, then all is \_\_\_\_\_ and nothing but \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "Our task as disciples is to tell the truth and do so with \_\_\_\_\_, intelligence, and \_\_\_\_\_."
5. In response to his little daughter's question, Koukl said, "the reason we believe God is true is that God is the best \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_."
6. Aristotle gave the world this definition of truth: "Truth is when you \_\_\_\_\_ that it is, \_\_\_\_\_ it is, or when you \_\_\_\_\_ that it isn't, \_\_\_\_\_ it isn't."
7. "On the flip side, when one's belief about \_\_\_\_\_ does not match the world as it \_\_\_\_\_ is, then we know the belief is \_\_\_\_\_."
8. "So fix this fact first in your mind: God is the best \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_."
9. What are the three questions Koukl asked the college campus Q&A challenger?
  - a. First, do you think things \_\_\_\_\_? Is the \_\_\_\_\_ universe \_\_\_\_\_?
  - b. Second ... Have the things in the universe \_\_\_\_\_ existed. Is the universe \_\_\_\_\_?
  - c. Third ... What \_\_\_\_\_ the universe to \_\_\_\_\_ into existence (the big bang)?

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10. He then follows with the next question: "What do you think? Do you think something \_\_\_\_\_ the natural universe \_\_\_\_\_ it to come into being, or do you think it simply popped into existence with no \_\_\_\_\_, for no \_\_\_\_\_?"
11. What are the two laws of logic that leave the challenger in a no-win situation, logically?
- a. The law of* \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The law of* \_\_\_\_\_
12. Extra credit: How do you respond when the challenger quotes the acclaimed physicist, Lawrence Krause, and says, "It's proven that something does come from nothing; matter appears and disappears in a quantum vacuum. Also, all the laws of physics break down at singularity—that tiny micro second at the moment of the big bang--so we have no basis for concluding that something can't come from nothing."
- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. On the problem of evil, Koukl says, "The existence of evil is psychologically daunting for \_\_\_\_\_, but it is not the \_\_\_\_\_ problem most people think it is. Indeed, it's an \_\_\_\_\_ if you know how to \_\_\_\_\_ the problem of evil in your \_\_\_\_\_."
14. Regarding evil, Koukl goes on to say there are "two self-evident facts about the way the world is." What are those two facts?
- a.* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b.* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. If someone still claims to believe in moral relativism, how should you respond?
- a.* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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16. To summarize his point in plain English, Koukl says, "...it makes no sense to say things are not the way they're \_\_\_\_\_ to be, unless there is a way they're \_\_\_\_\_ to be, and there \_\_\_\_\_ be a way they're \_\_\_\_\_ to be, without a " \_\_\_\_\_."
17. "The atheist is not going to get \_\_\_\_\_ values ... and \_\_\_\_\_ duties ... in a world consisting only of \_\_\_\_\_ in motion. It can't be done. Therefore, atheism can't even make \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem of evil. This, of course, is the moral argument for God, put formally: If there is no God, there is no objective morality. But there is objective morality (as evidenced by the problem of evil). Therefore, God exists.
18. In your own words, how does this line of reasoning (in the previous question) paint the problem of evil and suffering complainer into a corner?
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
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19. "In Koukl's words, "The problem of evil is only a problem if evil is \_\_\_\_\_. To say something is evil, though, is to make a moral \_\_\_\_\_. Moral judgments require a moral \_\_\_\_\_ --a moral \_\_\_\_\_ --and a moral law requires an \_\_\_\_\_. If the standard is \_\_\_\_\_, then the law-giver must be, too. There you go. If there's a problem of evil (and there is), then God exists. He's the best \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_."
20. "Without \_\_\_\_\_, there can be neither compliance nor disobedience—no right or wrong for people, that is; no \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in human behavior. No sin, in other words. Yet human sin is precisely the problem at the bottom of the \_\_\_\_\_ about evil."
21. " ... if God is not \_\_\_\_\_ Good, then \_\_\_\_\_ is good in any ultimate sense. It really is that simple. The Good is \_\_\_\_\_ in God's character, and obligations are \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ that flow from His morally

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\_\_\_\_\_ nature. ... All goodness finds its \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. There is no other answer."

22. "With every command, He directs us towards \_\_\_\_\_, helping us be the way we're \_\_\_\_\_ to be. We are the \_\_\_\_\_ and He is the \_\_\_\_\_. Only under His \_\_\_\_\_ and under the protection of His \_\_\_\_\_ can we be \_\_\_\_\_ into something beautiful. As one has put it...

- a. The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making \_\_\_\_\_ the simple.
- c. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. The judgments of the Lord are true; they are \_\_\_\_\_ altogether.
- g. They are more \_\_\_\_\_ than gold, yes, than much fine gold.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ also than honey, and the drippings of the honeycomb.
- i. Moreover, by them Your servant is \_\_\_\_\_; in keeping them there is great \_\_\_\_\_.

23. "Why God? First, because there's no way to make sense of the entire world \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ without a Being \_\_\_\_\_ this world \_\_\_\_\_ it to happen. The alternative is everything from no thing, which is just plain \_\_\_\_\_.

24. Second, if there is no God, then there is no \_\_\_\_\_ and no \_\_\_\_\_ either, and we're back to Dostoevsky and Dawkins again—all permitted, nothing required; no \_\_\_\_\_, no \_\_\_\_\_; all blind, all \_\_\_\_\_, all \_\_\_\_\_. Without the Potter, everything is \_\_\_\_\_, and nothing but \_\_\_\_\_. Deep inside, though, each of us knows better.