



The Case for a Creator Participant's Guide
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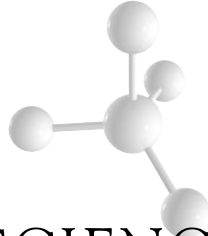
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Session 1



SCIENCE AND GOD

I was convinced that science and faith were at odds – and that science definitely had the edge in the credibility department.... And rather than facing an “unyielding despair” that’s implicit in a world without God, I reveled in my newly achieved freedom from God’s moral strictures. For me, living without God meant living 100 percent for myself. Freed from someday being held accountable for my actions, I felt unleashed to pursue personal happiness and pleasure at all costs.... As a journalist, I was unshackled to compete without always having to abide by those pesky rules of ethics and morality. I would let nothing, and certainly nobody, stand between me and my ambitions.

Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator*

READ THIS!

If possible, read the following content in preparation for your group meeting. Otherwise, read it as follow-up.

The Case for a Creator, chapter 4: Where Science Meets Faith

Or, *The Case for a Creator Student Edition*, chapter 1: Science vs. God?

WATCH THIS!

DVD Introduction and Teaching Segment #1

For every DVD clip, space is provided to take notes on anything that stands out to you.

DISCUSS THIS!

1. How much confidence do you put in science as a source of truth? How did you develop the level of trust (or lack thereof) you currently have?

"Ironically, to say that science is the only begetter of truth is self-contradicting, because that statement in itself cannot be tested by scientific method. It's a self-defeating philosophical assumption."

Stephen C. Meyer



Think About This!

Some people claim that we live in a technological culture where science trumps all other forms of knowledge. Only science is rational; only science achieves truth. Everything else is mere belief and opinion. If something cannot be qualified or tested by the scientific method, then it cannot be true or rational. Science represents the empirical, the hard facts, and the experimentally proven. Everything else can be dismissed as being mere opinion, superstition—and mindless faith.

2. To what degree do you believe that only science is rational and everything else is mere opinion, superstition, or mindless faith?

“It was my science that drove me to the conclusion that the world was much more complicated than can be explained by science.”

Cosmologist Allan Sandage

3. Has scientific progress made God unnecessary? Why or why not?



Think About This!

“The whole point of faith is to believe regardless of the evidence, which is the very antithesis of science.”

Michael Shermer, publisher, *Skeptic* magazine

“Religion is something left over from the infancy of our intelligence; it will fade away as we adopt reason and science as our guidelines.”

Atheistic philosopher Bertrand Russell

“Proof is only applicable to very rarefied areas of philosophy and mathematics.... For the most part we are driven to acting on good evidence, without the luxury of proof. There is good evidence of the link between cause and effect. There is good evidence that the sun will rise tomorrow. There is good reason to believe that I am the same man as I was ten years ago. There is good reason to believe my mother loves me and is not just fattening me up for the moment when she will pop arsenic into my tea. And there is good reason to believe in God. Very good reason. Not conclusive proof, but very good reason just the same.... I believe it is much harder to reject the existence of a supreme being than accept it.”

Michael Green, *Faith for the Non-religious*

“You can’t absolutely prove – or disprove – the existence of God.”

Science philosopher Stephen C. Meyer

4. To what extent do you think it is possible to prove—or disprove—the existence of God? In terms of your own investigation, what level of evidence (or proof) would be sufficient for you to believe or disbelieve the existence of God? How likely is it that there would ever be enough evidence to eliminate your doubts (one way or the other)? What are the implications of your answers?

*“For those who believe
in God, no explanation
is necessary. For
those who do not, no
explanation is possible.”*

Opening lines of the film
The Song of Bernadette

Optional Discussion Questions

- How much of the related chapter in *The Case for a Creator* were you able to read? What impacted you most? Which parts, if any, were most confusing to you?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, how opinionated do you think you are? Do you prefer to quickly settle into a specific perspective so you can bring matters to a close and move on, or do you tend toward suspending judgment for awhile so you can keep your options open?
- In general, how challenging is it for you to see or understand perspectives that differ from your own? If you were presented with hard evidence contrary to what you already strongly believe to be true, how open or reluctant would you be to change your position? How likely would you be to defend your initial position?
- Is there any limit to what man can discover scientifically? If so, what are the limits of science? If not, what are the possibilities?
- Which of the following statements do you think are true in spite of the fact that they cannot be tested or validated scientifically? What are some other examples of traits, values, or truths that exist but cannot be explained by science alone?
 - Humans have the capacity to love.
 - Humans have the capacity to self-reflect.
 - Humans have consciences.
 - Humans are creative creatures.
 - It is better to love than to hate.
 - It is wrong to murder an innocent person.

"I believe that the testimony of science supports theism. While there will always be points of tension or unresolved conflict, the major developments in science in the past five decades have been running in a strongly theistic direction. Science, done right, points toward God."

Stephen C. Meyer