

WEEK 7: HASN'T SCIENCE DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY?

ABOUT THIS SERIES

As we start the new year, join St. Mark on Sunday mornings for conversations on faith and doubt in our series *Reason for God*. Together, we'll take on some of the common questions people have about faith and Christianity.

ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for your group Read through the Discussion Guide Refreshments (optional)
 Clean meeting area Clean bathroom Crack front door

OPENING (5 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: Okay, friends, let's get going with today's icebreaker—

WHAT SORT OF GRADES DID YOU GET IN SCIENCE CLASS GROWING UP? (BIOLOGY, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, ETC.)

After a brief discussion, say: Well friends, regardless of what your report card looked like, today we're going to talk about the relationship between faith and science.

It's gonna' be a lively discussion, but first, let's pray.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

REVIEW (5 MIN)

After a prayer, say: For those of you who were able to hear Sunday's sermon on the relationship between science and Christianity, let's ask a few questions—

WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU IN THE SERMON?

WHAT SORT OF QUESTIONS DO YOU STILL HAVE ABOUT SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY?

QUESTIONS FOR CREATIONISTS (5 MIN)

LET'S READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES ALOUD AND THEN WE'LL HAVE A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION:

ROMANS 1:20

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

PSALM 19:1-4

WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU IN THESE VERSES?

WHAT PART(S) OF CREATION MAKES YOU MARVEL AT GOD'S CREATIVE POWER, AND WHAT FIELD OF SCIENCE DEALS WITH THAT ASPECT OF CREATION?

After a discussion, say: As you can see, there is plenty of overlap between faith and science. In a sense, the tension between Christianity and science is inevitable.

QUESTIONS OF FAITH (5 MIN)**CAN SOMEONE READ HEBREWS 11:3 ALOUD FOR US?**

After the reading, say: This verse talks about faith in God as it relates to his power to create.

WHAT'S THE ULTIMATE OBJECT OF FAITH FOR THE CHRISTIAN? WHAT'S THE ULTIMATE OBJECT OF FAITH FOR SCIENCE?**WHERE DO YOU THINK THE SCIENTIST REQUIRE FAITH, AND WHERE DO YOU THINK THE CREATIONIST REQUIRES FAITH?****QUESTIONS FOR SCIENCE (5 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: We started Sunday with questions science has for Christianity, but we ended with a discussion of the questions Christianity has for science. Briefly, they are—

A Question of Fine Tuning—What's your answer for the remarkable precision and delicate balance of creation to support life?

A Question of Morality—If we came from nothing, how can there be a morality? Or love? Or even reason itself? In other words, if we came from nothing, nothing is real, and nothing matters.

A Question of the Gaps—science often accuses Christians for having faith for “the gaps” of things we don't understand. But isn't that the very thing that science does with the gaps it can't explain?

WHICH OF THESE THREE QUESTIONS IS MOST-INTRIGUING TO YOU? WHY?

After a discussion, say: The sermon ended with a quote from a Harvard scientist who said that he feels like his faith should make him no less a scientist. This is similar to the sentiment from Luis Pasteur, the father of modern microbiology and immunology who said, “A little bit of science distances one from God, but much science brings one near to him.”

HOW DOES IT CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF SCIENCE TO THINK OF IT AS SOMETHING THAT CAN INFORM AND SUPPORT YOUR FAITH, AND VICE VERSA?**CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: Before we get to our prayers, two announcements.

One, Prosper the City is going to be coming up after Easter, so just prepare your calendars now for some more Small Group meetings in late April and May.

Two, every Small Group is going to sponsor one of the prayerwalks this summer. We'll help plan routes, plan Scripture, and bring refreshments for our particular week. So be looking at which of your Wednesday evenings this summer would be good for that.

Let's close things out with prayer—

ARE THERE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?

Host, begin with a prayer asking God to help us lead with the resurrection. Then, pray for the prayer requests.