



God and Science

OBJECTIVE

To help groups explore the true relationship between science and faith.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

We live in a time when science and faith seem to be at odds. Some would say you have to check your faith in at the door when you walk into a science lab, and your brain at the door when you walk into a church. But is that how Christians should think? Is faith always blind? Is science always soulless? Does it have to be this way?

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Job 11:7-12, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink HT05.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. ROLE PLAY

Invite youth to act out these two situations. Switch roles after a couple of minutes and involve others.

1. A friend says, "The universe created itself and is here by chance." Respond.
2. A teacher says, "You are either a person of science or a person of faith. You can't be both." Respond.

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Which is more difficult to believe and why?: A. There is a God Creator, B. Everything came from nothing, C. The Creator loves you, D. You will one day be more like your parents than you can ever imagine. Affirm all thoughtful answers. Hopefully, based on the presentation they have just experienced, your group will see that B is a correct choice. Although, D is hard to believe, too.

2. Why doesn't chance work as an explanation for the origin of the universe and the Big Bang? Something cannot come from nothing. Chance is nothing. It is a concept, not a thing.

3. Is it rational to believe in the supernatural? Why or why not? Affirm all thoughtful answers. Based on the answer to question 2, there must have been something that stood above and beyond the laws of physics as we know them—some First Cause—that broke (or made) all the laws. Something that stands above nature. In Latin the word for “above nature” is supernatural. Is it rational to believe in the super-natural? At the end of science, that's all you have left.

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Big Bang: A theory of the origin of the universe.

Chance: A random occurrence.

Design: A planned creation of something.

First Cause: Something that started it all. In this case, the idea that God was present before anything else was present, and God was the cause of creation.

Universe: The stars, planets, galaxies, and creation all around us

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: In order to enjoy and protect God's creation, volunteer to clean up a local park, or adopt a highway.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY

for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS

one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

