

SCIENCE AND GOD

Discussion Guide

1. DO YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND GOD?

A discussion on Science and God, chapters 1 and 2

1. What were your assumptions about science and God before you started reading this book? Would you have said any of the following?
 - We can trust science more than anything else to tell us the truth about the world.
 - It's no problem to trust both science and God.
 - Science is the way to understand how the universe works, and believing in God helps us understand why it works.
 - It's irrational to believe in God.
 - Christianity and science contradict each other.
 - There are more important things than science.
2. Have you changed your mind on any of those since reading these first two chapters? If so, why?
3. What surprised you the most or interested you the most in what you read?
4. What do you think the story of Galileo shows us about the relationship between scientific work and religious belief?
5. Why do you think some people talk as if science is the only way to find out the truth about anything?
6. What is science for, and what isn't it for? Do you think it's true that science has limits?
7. What do you think now about the relationship between science and God? What questions do you still have?

2. IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

A discussion on Science and God, chapters 3 and 4

1. Faith just means believing in and trusting something. Following that definition, what things do you put your faith in on a regular basis?
2. What surprised you the most or interested you the most in what you read in these two chapters?

3. Chapter 3 stated various reasons why scientists need faith. What do you think about that idea?
4. Here is a quick summary of three reasons why some scientists believe in God. Which one do you find most persuasive and why?
 - The universe works in such an ordered and neat way that it seems like it has to be designed.
 - DNA couldn't have come about by chance.
 - The universe is perfectly fine-tuned for life to exist, and this couldn't have happened just by chance.
5. "Believing in God may actually make science make more sense than it does without him." Why would someone say this? Do you agree?
6. Why is it irrational to believe in Zeus? Why is that not the same as believing in the God of the Bible?
7. What do you think now about the relationship between science and God? What questions do you still have?

3. DO CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE CONTRADICT EACH OTHER?

A discussion on Science and God, chapters 5 and 64

1. What are the differences between the Bible and a science textbook? Why is this distinction important?
2. If you read a verse like Psalm 104:5 literally, what does it mean? What about if you read it as true but not literal?
3. What's your attitude to miracles? Do you find them easy or hard to believe? What kind of evidence would you need to convince you that a miracle had really happened?
4. Why is it possible to believe in miracles while also believing in consistent laws of nature?
5. Have you heard people say that Christianity and science contradict each other? What reasons did they give?
6. After reading these two chapters, what would you say to someone who said that?
7. What do you think now about the relationship between science and God? What questions do you still have?

4. IS CHRISTIANITY TRUE?

A discussion on Science and God, chapters 7 and 8

1. What did you believe about Jesus before you started reading these chapters? What do other people you know believe about Jesus?
2. Can you explain why the question of whether Jesus really rose from the dead is so important? If it's true, what else is true?
3. Based on what you read in chapter 7, how might you respond to the following claims?
 - Jesus never existed.
 - Jesus did exist, but he didn't really die.
 - Jesus did die, and the rest of the story is just made up.
 - Jesus did die and the tomb was empty, but this was because his followers stole the body.
 - Jesus did die and the tomb was empty, but this was because some robbers stole the body. Jesus' followers leaped to the conclusion that he had risen again.
4. Do you agree that it matters what our beliefs lead to (how they cause us to act and what kind of society they build)? Is this a good reason to accept or reject a belief? Why or why not?
5. "Christianity is supposed to change your life." Do you have any experience of this being true?
6. What do you think about Jesus now? Do you need to investigate further in any way? If so, how will you do that?
7. What do you think now about the relationship between science and God? What questions do you still have?