



STUDY GUIDE

Series Questions

1. Is Christianity Irrational?
2. Is Christianity Against Gender Equality?
3. Is the Bible Pro-Slavery? Does Christianity Encourage Racism?
4. Is Christianity Homophobic?
5. Is Christianity Against Other Faiths?
6. Is Christianity Violent?
7. **Can You Believe in the Bible and Science?**
8. Why Does God Allow So Much Suffering?

Session 7: Can You Believe in the Bible and Science?

This study is set up so that the first sections are primary material, and if you have time at the end, you can include the supplementary material.

Part A: Session Introduction

Can you believe in the Bible and science? Has the rise of modern science shown that faith is really irrational? This is a really important topic.

In Pastor Richard's message, he worked his way through five big questions. As a review, here are the questions he addressed:

- Is science the only way to reliably know about something?
- Has science proven the universe has no purpose; it's just a random machine?
- Haven't science and religion always been at war with each other, offering rival explanations of the way things are?
- Hasn't evolution disproved Genesis?
- Doesn't the Big Bang show that the universe didn't need God to create it?

1. As you think of his message, what new ideas did you learn?

2. What do you want to think about more?

In this study, we will explore some passages of Scripture that help us to reflect on God's work of creation.

Primary Material:

Part B: Answers to Our Deepest Questions

Read Genesis 1:1-27

3. What is your first impression of God?
 - a. God enjoys his work
 - b. God has quite an imagination
 - c. God loves order
 - d. God can make something from nothing

4. What really happened when God created light?
 - a. God created time
 - b. God reminded us of his presence
 - c. God prepared the earth for life
 - d. God needed to see what he was doing

5. What fish do you think God was most proud of?
 - a. The white whale
 - b. The tiny minnow
 - c. The colourful tropical fish
 - d. The Loch Ness monster

(Questions 3-5 have been taken from the Serendipity Bible Study Guide.)

6. What repeated words do you find in the Scripture verses that we have read? (verse 4,10,12, etc.) What do you learn from this observation?
7. Describe how the earth appears at the outset (verses 1-2)
8. What did God do on days 1-3?
9. What did God do on days 4-6?
10. Why do you think God forms the world on days 1-3 and then fills the world on days 4-6?
11. What does the creation story reveal about God's character?
12. Why do you think the Bible tells us that God created, and why He created, but it does not tell us clearly how God created?

Rebecca McLaughlin writes in her book, *Confronting Christianity*:

"Christians hold a range of views regarding the genre of the creation accounts in Genesis and how they relate to science. But one thing is clear: Genesis is not primarily concerned with science. If it were, we would expect the accounts to be teeming with formulas and phenotypes. The God who made the universe must have scientific knowledge as far surpassing as our street lamp is surpassed by the sun! But the lack of scientific detail is not an oversight. Rather, it is a deliberate

prioritization of a more important message. As a Christian, I believe that every detail of the creation account of Genesis is inspired by God, and that these opening chapters are the first course in the Bible's feast of foundational answers to our deepest questions: Who are we? What does life mean? And how do we relate to God and to each other?" (page 120)

13. What do you think of her observation of Genesis 1?

14. How aware are you of God's work of creation as you walk through your everyday life?

15. What created thing do you want to thank God for today?

16. The creation account reveals that God brings order, beauty and harmony out of an originally chaotic situation. In what areas do you need to trust God to produce these qualities in your life?

Part C: "God Has Written Two Books"

Read Psalm 19

17. What do the heavens and skies have to say to us? (verse 1-4)

18. What in creation fills you most with a sense of God's glory?

19. How did David describe the sun and its role? (verses 4-6)

20. David believed that the sun moved across the sky (verse 6). Is this psalm art or science?

21. Which of David's one-line statements about God's law best reflects your experience of Scripture? (verses 7-11) Why?

22. What two types of faults or sins do we need God's help with? (verses 12-13)

23. What did David long for? (verses 13-14)

24. What does nature teach you about God?

Sir Francis Bacon lived from 1561 to 1626. He is credited with developing the scientific method. As a scientist and a follower of Jesus, he wrote these words: "God has, in fact, written two books, not just one. Of course, we are all familiar with the first book he wrote, namely Scripture. But he has written a second book called creation."

25. Where do you see the role of Scripture and creation in nurturing your faith? What part do these two aspects play in your life?

Supplementary Material

Part D: Our Response to Creation

26. What do the following verses have to say about God's creation and our response to it? Take some time to ponder the implication of each of the following verses.

- a) Proverbs 25:2
- b) Psalm 8:3-4
- c) Psalm 33:6-9
- d) Psalm 74:17
- e) Psalm 121:2
- f) Isaiah 45:18
- g) Revelation 4:11

27. How would you answer the question, "Can you believe in the Bible and science?"

Prayer: We thank you Lord for your magnificent work of creation. Truly we declare: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth". Amen.

Week 7 Recommended Reading

Readings are not required to participate in the study but offer more information on the topic.

***Collins, Francis. *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2007.**

McLaughlin, Rebecca. *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2019.

Walton, John. *The Lost World of Genesis: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

**highly recommended resource*