

Family Discipleship


Conversation Guide

Faith and Science

Many people today will say that faith and science are contradictory and that you cannot believe both. This is in part because some atheists will point to science as the only way we can know things. But are science and faith the same type of knowledge, and do we need to choose one or the other?

Many of the earliest scientists were Christian. Copernicus, Kepler, Newton, and Galileo were all religious men who saw the study of science as an extension of their faith. C.S. Lewis said, "Men became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a Law Giver." Belief in God aligned with the investigation of an ordered universe.

But science is limited. It can only investigate natural processes based on matter, energy, space, and time. It cannot investigate the supernatural or determine anything about it. When we speak of natural processes like photosynthesis, science is very helpful. But regarding supernatural processes in which God is involved, like the creation of the universe, science does not apply. It can only hypothesize what might have happened if there was no supernatural power involved.

Watch this video with a response to the statement, "I don't believe in God. I believe in science." 

Discuss: Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Why is it impossible for science to discover this?

One major stumbling block for Christians is the theory of evolution. There is scientific evidence for evolution that many scientists find very compelling. But this is not universally true. Mark Bergemann of the [Lutheran Science Institute](#) states, "I personally find the evidence for evolution amazingly poor, because I am aware of the many holes and unsupported presuppositions...In my opinion, the scientific evidence for creation is so much stronger." There are an increasing number of scientists who agree that evolution should be questioned. Over 1,000 scientists have signed [a public statement](#) that they are "skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life."

Regardless of scientific evidence, our ultimate source of knowledge is what God has revealed to us in the Bible. Science is always changing, since it is simply the attempt of human beings to describe nature. Even scientific "laws" can and do change based on new evidence. God's word never changes.

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8

Discuss: Has your faith ever been challenged because of science? If so, how did you react?

Prayer: Lord God, you created all things, and you have given us the truth about creation in your Word. You have also given us the blessing of science through which we can learn more about your creation. Help us to use our reason wisely, as a servant of your truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Links, videos, and quotes contained within this guide do not necessarily represent the teachings of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).