

**LIFEGROUP STUDY**  
**REAL GOOD QUESTIONS:**  
**“ISN’T CHRISTIANITY ANTI-SCIENCE?”**  
**20210425**

**LEADER NOTES**

**OVERVIEW**

Welcome back to our series, Real Good Questions. Over the weeks of this series, we’re exploring six common challenges to Christianity and how Christ followers can respond. Today’s challenge is this question – “Isn’t Christianity anti-science?” Many feel that Christianity and science are in conflict. This understanding turns many away from the bible as a source of truth since it is understood to be based on faith rather than reality. But properly understood the bible and science do not contradict each other. Our goal today is to recognize that Scripture and science are not in conflict but actually support one another. We can be confident that God’s truth is in harmony with science.

**ICEBREAKER** My Science Class Memory

What memory do you have from your science class days in high school? Maybe it was the day your class dissected a frog, or an experiment that went awry. Share your story with the group!

**STUDY**

1. On Sunday, Ken spoke to the question, “Isn’t Christianity Anti-Science?”

**What was a highlight for you from his response?**

**PSALM 19: NATURAL AND SPECIAL REVELATION**

Psalm 19 shows us two aspects of God’s revelation – “Natural Revelation” and “Special Revelation”.

READ: Psalm 19:1-4a: Natural Revelation

2. **Based on these verses, what does nature tell us about God?**

LEADER NOTE: Nature shows us God’s glory! In nature we see the “work of his hands” – how, through His word, He formed all of the beauty and complexity we see around us. Nature, by its very existence, “speaks” the truth that God has made all this.

3. **How might seeing nature as created by God help us in science?**

LEADER NOTE: Seeing nature as created by God can give us a more accurate understanding of what we discover through science. For example, as we study DNA, we can fully appreciate the evidence we see for intelligent design.

Atheists gather truth from one source . . . observation. So, they believe that all that exists is what one can observe in our world with their five senses. Theists on the other hand believe there are two sources for truth . . . observation and revelation. They too observe the world around them and discover truth there but they believe that there is another source that is different from what they can observe and that source is revelation. As Christians, we believe that source of revelation to be the Bible.

READ: Psalm 19:7-11: Special Revelation

#### 4. What do these verses tell you about knowing God through the Bible?

LEADER NOTE: The Bible is God's special revelation, the way by which we can know Him. These verses tell us we can know Him through his law, that He is holy and good. We can see through the Bible that God is wise. The Bible also shows us how to respond to God – that we can seek Him and grow close to Him as we read the Bible.

5. On Sunday Ken talked about how science and the Bible speak to different realms. They are both ways we can discover more about God but they are different realms. **How does this help you see how the Bible and science can be compatible?**

LEADER NOTE: Science seeks to understand better the history of the natural world and how the natural world works. We study the Bible to learn about the nature and activities of God, the nature of humanity, the spirit world and the meaning and purpose of life. They are primarily separate realms. The Bible and science can be compatible as we understand these two realms and how they can compliment one another.

6. On Sunday, Ken said that because God created both science and the Bible, they cannot contradict each other. **How might scientific discoveries help us better interpret the Bible?**

LEADER NOTE: There are some instances where science can shed light on how we interpret Scripture. For example, Ecclesiastes 1:5 says, "And the sun rises and sets and returns to its place." Scientific observation shows us that the sun does not actually rise and set, rather, the earth revolves around the sun. This does not diminish the power or truth of this verse. It just impacts how we interpret it.

## TWO KINDS OF SCIENCE: OPERATION AND ORIGIN

On Sunday, Ken talked about 2 kinds of science. Read through these definitions together.

OPERATION SCIENCE or empirical science involves repeatable events that you can observe in real time. I take the water and see if it boils at 100 degrees Celsius. I can observe it and I can repeat it. This is the kind of science you did in your high school classes when you lit the Bunsen burner on fire and burnt yourself. It was about observation and the ability to repeat what it was you did. And that's called Operation Science or empirical science.

ORIGIN SCIENCE or forensic science involves historic events that generally cannot be repeated. You can study certain elements or situations but you cannot repeat all the details of an historical event in the lab. This kind of science is what we see on those detective shows where the police officer calls in the Forensics Team to study the murder scene to gather clues to see if there is enough evidence to help determine what happened or at least who is guilty. You cannot repeat the murder scene in a lab but you can use science to learn things about the event in the past and out of that provide an educated guess as to what may have happened.

### **7. Why is it important to distinguish between operation science and origin science?**

LEADER NOTE: It is important to distinguish between these two sciences because, while operation science can speak with a high degree of accuracy, origin science must allow more room for interpreting data that cannot be repeated in a lab. What physical event happened to start the universe? We cannot know for certain through science because we cannot recreate the event in a lab.

### **8. What might someone studying origin science be missing if they preclude God?**

LEADER NOTE: When studying origin science, precluding God means you may miss a correct interpretation of the data. What does our ever expanding, complex universe point to? How might it have all started? Precluding God can lead one to very different conclusions than one who leaves open the possibility that God might be behind it all.

Atheists and theists are trying to answer historical questions just like jurors in a criminal trial. When they investigate the origin of the universe, the origin of first life, and the origin of new life-forms, they are trying to discover what happened in the past. And when they look at the past, they are both looking at the same evidence. The reason they come to different conclusions is because they start with different philosophical assumptions derived from their worldviews.

Frank Turek – [Stealing From God](#)

**9. How has this study helped you have confidence that God's truth is in harmony with scientific fact?**

**PRAYER**

Today, let's pray for our online ministry through our Sunday services at Creekside.

- Pray for those who listen/watch online. There are many. Pray that they would find a connection with a group and help them live out their faith.
- There are many who are feeling isolated and alone. They watch and our hope is that God will use our efforts to minister to them and bring some comfort and joy.