

Discussion Starter: This is Memorial Day Weekend. Memorial Day, observed annually on the last Monday in May, is an American holiday honoring the courage and ultimate sacrifice of the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Please take a moment this weekend to thank God for the brave soldiers who have fought, and continue to fight, courageously for our nation. Pray that God would graciously encircle those who wear the U.S. military uniform with His peace and that His favor would be evident in their lives.

Key Text: *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1)

We’re setting aside our verse-by-verse study of the Book of Romans called “When in Rome” just for today. Today’s lesson is based upon the message of Grace Fellowship member and guest speaker, Matthew Mittelberg: “Does Science Point to God?”

The word “science” comes from the Latin word *scientia*, which means knowledge. It refers to systematically organizing knowledge about the universe through observations and experiments. There are various branches of sciences, including physics, biology, astronomy, cosmology, etc. All point toward God, who worked in miraculous ways to design and create the universe and populate it with an astounding variety of living creatures, including human beings.

Many scientists who founded or are well-known for their work in various fields of science were also believers in Christ: Joseph Lister (Antiseptic Surgery), Louis Pasteur (Bacteriology), Georges Cuvier (Comparative Anatomy), Isaac Newton (Physics and Calculus), Robert Boyle (Chemistry), Gregor Mendel (Genetics), Blaise Pascal (Math, Physics), Galileo (Astronomy, Math, Physics), etc. Contrary to what many skeptics claim today, Science hasn’t replaced the need for God; in fact, it reveals how God designed the universe. Science supports the existence and work of God.

1. Scripture and science do not conflict—God links His written Word with His message from His creation.

God’s perfect nature is such that He could not present to us conflicting messages in the Bible and creation. Although the Bible is not intended to be a science textbook, it speaks with total accuracy and full authority when the Bible addresses a scientific issue. British scientist Francis Bacon (1561-1626) has been called the “Father of the Scientific Method” because he laid the foundation for the scientific method of observation, hypothesizing, and experimentation that scientists have been using for over 400 years. Bacon believed we should learn God’s two great books—the Bible and Creation—to learn more about God.

Discuss: Read and discuss how Psalm 19:1-7 shows the link between God’s “two books”—His written Word (the Bible) and His message from His creation.

Discuss: Read Romans 1:19-20. How would you explain these verses in your own words to a person who doesn’t believe in God’s existence but is open to truth?

Discuss: Consider these verses that show consistency between science and Scripture:

- The round shape of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- The earth is suspended in space upon nothing (Job 26:7)
- The stars are innumerable (Genesis 15:5)
- The existence of currents in the oceans (Psalm 8:8)
- The existence of springs and fountains in the seas (Genesis 7:11)
- The Hydrologic Cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:6–7)
- The Law of Entropy (Psalm 102:25-26)
- The life of the human body is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11)
- Infectious, contagious diseases require quarantining (Leviticus 13:45-46)

2. God created all things for His own purpose and pleasure, and all of creation is meant to praise Him and bring glory to Him.

Abraham Kuyper, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, said, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’” Colossians 1:16 says: “*By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...all things were created through him and for him.*”

Discuss: What truths does God want us to learn through nature about Himself in these verses: Genesis 9:13-17; Psalm 8:3-4; Isaiah 55:9; Matthew 6:28-30; James 1:17?

Discuss: Read and discuss these verses indicating that all of creation is to praise God and bring glory to Him: Psalm 148:2-13; 150:6; Romans 11:36.

3. God wants us to study science so we can discover His secrets in nature and use those discoveries to benefit people.

The very possibility of science is credited to our wise, good, and powerful God who created us and our world. Expanding our scientific knowledge about the universe leads us to discover God’s secrets in nature and use those discoveries to benefit people by combating disease, ignorance, and misunderstanding.

Discuss: How does God’s command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to multiply, subdue, and have dominion imply that God intends for them—and all humans—to study, pursue, discover, and understand His universe?

Discuss: In what ways can discovering more about God through nature benefit mankind?

For Further Study

Bible-based articles, videos, etc. about Science at www.answersingenesis.org

Bible-based articles, videos, etc. about Science at www.icr.org

“Do Faith in God and Science Contradict?” article at www.gotquestions.org