



Skeptical “Science v. Faith”

Gather:

What is the goal of small groups? They are designed to equip you to daily, walk closer with Jesus, and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you to love and serve people well. Ask the following questions to see how it's going.

- How am I doing loving the people God has given me to love over this past week?
- Why is God so good?
- What is something new that God has revealed to me this week about himself or myself?

Change:

- Think back to the message and share what theme, verse, or point stuck out the most? Why? ***Remember to bring your Update from the weekend to refresh your memory.
- Big Idea: Fact based science is not at war with a faith based religion.
- Share various conflicts, concerns, and questions that you have had with the relationship between science and faith. Have you had a hard time reconciling the two? What are some arguments that you've heard for or against this big idea.
- Discuss this statement: I can stand firm in my faith knowing that the main point of scripture isn't to show me how the universe was created, but rather to show me who created it, and that he displayed his love for me through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Read Genesis 1:1-5 using the Word study method and study the word “Day”. (The Word Study method study's important words in the Bible to find their true meaning and how to apply the truth to the scripture we are reading). Use a Bible concordance, use the word index in the back of your Bible if it has one, and use the following link to study the word “Day” in scripture.
 1. Click on this link to help with your word study on “Day” [What is a day in Genesis?](#)
- Many groups didn't meet last week so we want you to discuss this question again. Share how your story has changed over the past year. From last Easter to today, what has God taught you? Where have you been challenged? How have you been blessed? What are you excited about in the coming year?
- What else has God put on your heart to share with the group? (Marriage, kids, work, temptations, struggles.)

Serve:

- This semester we want you to make it a priority to Love God and to Love others. We are asking you to commit to two things. #1 Apply the bible study methods you practice in small group during the rest of the week. INVEST in your relationship with God. #2 Get involved as a group and have an impact on this city! You will notice that we are highlighting and partnering with a few local organizations that are doing amazing things in Gainesville. If you don't already have people and places to impact in mind, join up with one of our Shift partners. We want to challenge you to spend at least one day/group time per month serving and loving those around you, and making a real impact on this city, all for the sake of the gospel. BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS!
- Mark Clark, *The Problem of God: Answering A Skeptic's Challenge to Christianity* (Zondervan, 2017) Ch. 1
- Charles Darwin to W. Graham, July 3, 1881, in *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, ed. Francis Darwin (1897; reprint, Boston: Elibron, 2005), 1:285.
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence That Points Towards God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004), 70.
- Stephen Jay Gould, *Rocks of Ages: Science and Religion in the Fullness of Life* (New York: Ballantine, 1999), 195