

**Date:** September 3, 2017

**Scripture Passage:** Exodus 20:12; Psalm 119:160; Matthew 28:1-3; Mark 16:1-5; Luke 14:25-27, 24:4,10; John 20:1, 11-12

**Lesson Theme:**

In this session, we addressed apparent contradictions in the Bible. The Bible is an amazing set of documents. It speaks to us in a way no other book does. It is the revealed Word of God, and in it are words of life. However, it is a sophisticated book as well. It was written by many different authors, and it contains different kinds of literature (such as history, poetry, prophecy, etc.). The Bible teaches many different things, and it was written over the better part of two millennia! Given this sophistication, it is no wonder it contains some differences and potential discrepancies. However, this monumental work does not have a single, clear contradiction. To be sure, minor details can be difficult to reconcile. But different accounts are not the same thing as contradictory accounts. The same event can be described in many ways, highlighting different, though consistent details.

Just how many women were at Jesus's empty tomb? Well, we don't know the exact number, and no crucial detail of the resurrection depends on this issue. But the accounts are clearly not contradictory. Rather than casting doubt on reports in the Bible, compatible differences of detail actually provide reason to think the accounts are reliable. The reason is having consistent though different accounts means we have independent sources in the Scriptures. If various accounts are independent (that is, not relying on one another), then they should not be identical in the details they emphasize. The Bible clearly is the Word of God, and it does not contain error. The Bible is trustworthy and thus provides a solid foundation for the faith and life of a disciple.

**Family Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Why are differences in biblical accounts a good thing? Why are these not contradictions?
- 2) How would you respond to someone who tells you the bible is full contradictions?
- 3) What are some questions you have had about Scripture?

**Date:** September 10, 2017

**Scripture Passage:** Genesis 2:7; Romans 1:18-32;

**Lesson:** In this session we prepared to answer three popular myths about science and Christianity. Here is a quick review of some important ideas:

- Myth 1: Christianity is antiscience.

Christianity is not antiscience. Most of the founders of modern science were Christians and for good reason. Belief in the biblical God supports the idea that the universe is predictable and knowable, which is foundational to science. Because Christianity helped give birth to modern science, it is not antiscience.

- Myth 2: God created some people to be homosexual.

Scientific arguments for gay genes are weak. Some people feel they are gay, but this is never because of God's creation plan. Genesis teaches that God made only two human sexes, so one man should have sex with only one woman in marriage. People ought to resist same-sex attraction because it opposes God's plan and it leads to unhealthy and ungodly sexual actions.

The distortion of God's plan through sexual sin often has immediate, earthly consequences.

- Myth 3: The Internet will become a conscious person much smarter than humans.

Only God can create creatures in His image who are intelligent and conscious persons responsible for choices.

Machines can be programmed to imitate functions of human intelligence, but these computers will always remain capable of only "artificial intelligence" rather than personal, conscious intelligence. While computers can



only do what they are programmed to do, we can imagine and create totally new things. Only people are God's image bearers.

**Family Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Why do you think people attempt to replace God with man-made theories?
- 2) How would you respond to someone that says "People are born gay"?
- 3) Has there been a time where a teacher or fellow student used science to criticize your faith?

**Date:** September 17, 2017

**Scripture Passage:** Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 2:14-15

**Lesson:**

In this session, we discussed how the most striking features of the world that indicates God's existence is morality itself. When we think about the nature of moral values, we recognize that they are objective in nature. According to theism, moral values are not subjective or arbitrary; they are objective because they are grounded in the perfect and eternal character of God. Such moral values simply cannot be explained apart from God. Moral values are reflections of God's perfect character. Christians and atheists alike can know instinctively the difference between right and wrong because we have all been created in the image of God.

Romans 2:14–15 tells us that all people know the difference between what is right and what is wrong "instinctively" because it has been "written in their hearts." In Genesis 1:26–27 we learn that humans are created in the image of the Creator God. Therefore, humans possess intrinsic value and dignity, as well as an instinctive awareness of objective morality. To say there are objective moral values is to say some things are morally right while others are morally wrong, regardless of anyone's opinion. If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist. But objective moral values do exist. Therefore, God exists.

**Family Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Is morality possible without the existence of God?
- 2) What are some examples of things you knew were wrong without being taught?
- 3) Does the fact that people disagree about certain "gray area" issues mean that morality cannot be objective?

**Date:** September 24, 2017

**Scripture Passage:** Romans 1:19-20; Colossians 1:16; Psalm 19:1-6;

**Lesson:**

In this session, we learned how the beginning of the cosmos points to God's existence? Romans 1:19–20 tells us that God has revealed Himself to all people through His creation so we can know about Him by contemplating the universe. Paul made clear that no one can say, "I didn't know about God." Some people have closed their minds to this revelation by rejecting thoughts about God. Yet Paul is clear that God's revelation in the cosmos renders people "without excuse."

In Psalm 19:1–6 we learn that God's revelation in creation is universally available to all persons and that the heavenly bodies point to the reality of their Creator. Whereas many people have worshipped the heavenly bodies themselves, the psalmist is clear that these created entities point to their Creator. The psalmist and the apostle Paul both tell us that the universe points to its Creator. The universe directs attention to God in many ways, including the fact that the universe has a beginning. Whatever begins to exist must have a cause for its existence. That certainly must apply to the beginning of the universe. This cause (God) must itself be uncaused (transcendent); otherwise its coming to exist likewise would need an explanation. This is amazing confirmation of God's existence!

***Family Discussion Questions:***

- 1) What is one way the universe indicates the existence of God?
- 2) How would you respond to someone who thinks Jesus was only a good man?
- 3) How does thinking about the features of the universe strengthen your faith?