

Test of FAITH: An Accessible Approach to Questions of Science and Christian Faith

Has science disproved God? Should Christians avoid science? How can we reach non-believers who are convinced that religion has no place in a scientific world? These questions are increasingly important to consider as we seek to reach and disciple people in today's world. 'Test of FAITH' promotes a positive attitude to the interactions of science and Christianity, providing an unparalleled opportunity to explore these questions with contributions from leading scientists who profess a deep Christian faith. Through award-winning, accessible multimedia resources for churches and the wider public, Test of FAITH enables fruitful and informed discussion, encouraging Christians to recognise and celebrate God's glory as revealed in His creation and in our human endeavours to discover and understand it.

This workshop will explore some of the topics covered by Test of FAITH and lay firm foundations for a helpful discussion of science and Christianity. Come along to find out how you and your ministry can help others to navigate this important step in their own journey of faith.

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I. Introduction

II. The Science and Faith Dialogue – A Very Short Introduction

A. Has science disproved God?

1. Defining 'science', defining 'God'- Addressing the 'conflict' mentality

2. Compatibility: Science explores the mechanism of the universe; faith in God explains its meaning.

B. A very brief history of science and religion

1. The development of science has been intertwined with religion and reliant on Christianity
2. Science and religion today

C. Scientism – Is science all we need?

1. A view from philosophy – Science has its limits
2. A view from Christianity – Science is only part of the picture.

D. Why Christians shouldn't avoid science

1. Understanding God's relationship with his creation
2. Exploring God's creation
3. Stewarding God's creation

4. Reaching God's people

III. Test of FAITH – A Resource to Aid Exploration and Conversation about Science and Faith

A. What is Test of FAITH?

B. Who is involved?

C. Who is it for?

D. How has it been used?

E. How can you use it to make a difference in your ministry?

Suggested Readings:

Test of FAITH materials & other resources all available from: www.testoffaith.com or the Test of FAITH Forum Expo stand:

Ruth Bancewicz (Ed) (Authentic Media, 2009):

- DVD: *Test of FAITH: Does Science Threaten Belief in God?*
- Book: *Test of FAITH: Spiritual Journeys with Scientists*
- Course: *Test of FAITH: Science and Christianity Unpacked: Leaders Guide/ Study Guide*
- Youth Resources: *Test of FAITH: Science and Christianity Unpacked: Leaders' Guide/ Sessions for 11-14 year olds/ Sessions for 14-18 year olds* (Produced in partnership with Youth For Christ)
- School Resources: *Test of FAITH: Science and Religion Meet: Resources for 14-18 year olds* (Produced in partnership with The Stapleford Centre, with special edition DVD)
- Homeschool Resources: *Science and Christianity: An Introductory Course for Homeschoolers*
- Church Service Guide: *Celebrating God's Creation: An All-Age Service Resource* (Produced in Partnership with Bible Society)

Other Reading on Science and Religion

Francis Collins, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* (UK: Simon & Schuster, 2006; USA: Free Press, 2006).

Darrel Falk, *Coming to Peace with Science* (IVP, 2004)

Ernest Lucas, *Can We Believe Genesis Today?* (IVP, 2005)

Denis Alexander, *Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose?* (Monarch, 2013)

Robert White, *Hope in an Age of Despair: The Gospel and the Future of Life on Earth* (IVP 2013)

Rodney Holder, *Big Bang, Big God - A Universe Designed for Life* (Lion Hudson, 2013)

Allan Chapman, *Slaying the Dragons: Destroying Myths in the History of Science and Faith* (Lion, 2013)

John Bryant, *Beyond Human: Science and the Changing Face of Humanity* (Lion Hudson, 2013)

Further information, media and learning opportunities regarding science and religion available from:

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion: www.faraday-institute.org

Biologos: www.biologos.org