

Expect to Experience God Together in Community *(Approximately 30 minutes)*

Invite brief introductions if needed. Share check-ins and pray together, asking God to deepen the group's trust in him, sharpen their thinking, and lead them to worship him as Creator.

Icebreaker: "Observation, Interpretation, or Worldview?"

Setup: Read each statement below. Ask the group to identify it as an observation, an interpretation of evidence, a worldview claim, or more than one.

- The universe is expanding.
- DNA carries complex biological information.
- Life developed through entirely unguided material processes.
- The order of the universe is best explained by an intelligent source.
- God created the heavens and the earth.
- Human beings exist for God's glory.

Discuss:

- Which statements *describe something measurable*? Which *interpret what the evidence means*?
- Why do people sometimes present a worldview conclusion as though it were a scientific observation?
- How does a person's starting belief shape the way they interpret the same evidence?
- What can scientific investigation answer well? What questions lie beyond its reach?
- How can Christians value careful science without treating it as their final authority?

Say: Scientific evidence matters. So do the assumptions used to interpret it. The central question is not whether we will trust evidence, but which worldview best explains it and who holds final authority.

If you don't want to do the icebreaker, choose one Conversation Starter:

1. When have you felt pressure to choose between taking Scripture seriously and taking science seriously?
2. Which question about creation has been hardest for you to reconcile with Christian faith?

Transition

"How do you reconcile scientific evidence like evolution with the Creation story? Don't science and the Bible contradict each other?"

That question often assumes that science and Scripture are competing authorities trying to explain the same things in the same way. They are not. Science investigates the patterns and processes of the created world. Scripture reveals the Creator, the meaning of creation, and humanity's place within it.

Real tension can arise between a scientific theory and an interpretation of Scripture. That tension deserves careful study, not fear. God is the author of creation and the source of truth. Properly understood, his works and his Word cannot finally contradict each other.

Hebrews 11 begins with the confession beneath every Christian understanding of origins: the universe was formed by God's word. Creation is not self-existing or purposeless. It came from God, remains dependent upon God, and exists for God.

(How do you reconcile scientific evidence like evolution with the Creation story? Don't science and the Bible contradict each other?)

Expect to Encounter God in His Word *(Approximately 45–50 minutes)*

Background *Read in advance and share briefly as helpful.*

Hebrews did not describe faith as belief without evidence. Faith rests upon the trustworthy character and revelation of God. Hebrews 11:3 identifies belief in God as Creator as foundational: God is the source of the universe, his word brought it into being, and the visible world did not arise from visible matter alone.

Arguments commonly used to support intelligent design:

- The universe requires a cause
- The universe's fine-tuning permits life
- DNA contains complex information]
- Some biological systems display irreducible complexity
- The evidence does not require a necessary link between humans and primates
- The biblical witness consistently identifies God as Creator. These arguments do not all function in the same way. Some begin with scientific observations, while others draw philosophical or theological conclusions from those observations.

Christians who affirm Scripture's authority still differ over the age of the earth and how God's creative work relates to observable processes. Those debates matter, but they must not replace the central biblical confession: God created all things, creation depends upon him, human beings bear his image, and everything exists for his glory.

Read and Discuss God's Word Together

Begin with God the Creator *(Approximately 12–15 minutes)*

Read Hebrews 11:1–3 and Genesis 1:1–5 aloud. *Choose two or three questions:*

- How did Hebrews describe faith and its relationship to what cannot be seen?
- What did the writer identify as the starting point for understanding the universe?
- What do these passages reveal about the source and method of creation?
- Why does every account of origins depend upon assumptions about events no human observed?
- Where do you find it difficult to trust God when you cannot see or explain his work?

Christian faith begins with God, not with matter. The universe exists because God willed it and spoke. This confession establishes the Creator as the final authority over creation and over our lives.

Listen to What Creation Declares *(Approximately 10–12 minutes)*

Read Psalm 19:1–4 and Romans 1:18–23 aloud. *Choose two or three questions:*

- What does creation reveal about its Creator?
- According to Romans, what can people perceive through what God made?
- How can the same created order lead one person toward worship and another toward a materialist explanation?
- How might evidence such as a cosmic beginning, fine-tuning, DNA, or biological complexity point beyond itself?
- What is the difference between following evidence toward God and claiming that science can prove every truth about God?

Creation provides real knowledge of God's power and divine nature, but evidence does not force worship. The human heart interprets what it sees through prior commitments. Our worldview shapes what we allow the evidence to mean.

See Creation Through Jesus *(Approximately 10–12 minutes)***Read John 1:1–5 and Colossians 1:15–17 aloud.** *Choose two or three questions:*

- What role did Jesus have in creation?
- What do the words "all things" include?
- How does Jesus continue to relate to the universe after creating it?
- How does this challenge a view of the world as self-existing or spiritually neutral?
- Why is Christian belief in creation ultimately a claim about Jesus, not merely a theory about origins?
- How should Jesus' authority shape the way you use knowledge, technology, and the material world?

Jesus is not an addition to an otherwise material universe. All things came into being through him, remain held together in him, and exist for him. Creation therefore points beyond a Designer to the Son who gives life and reveals God.

Hold Conviction with Humility *(Approximately 10–12 minutes)***Read Genesis 1:26–31 and Deuteronomy 29:29 aloud.** *Choose two or three questions:*

- Which truths about God, humanity, and creation are clear in Genesis 1?
- What purpose and responsibility did God give human beings?
- What belongs to God, and what has he revealed for us to know and obey?
- Which questions about age or process does the text answer directly, and which questions require interpretation?
- How can you distinguish biblical conviction from confidence in one scientific or interpretive model?
- How should believers discuss disputed creation questions without treating one another as enemies?

Humility does not weaken biblical conviction. It keeps us from claiming more than God revealed. We hold firmly to the Creator while examining our interpretations of both Scripture and scientific evidence carefully.

Leader note: Do not let the discussion become a debate over labels or a test of who is a faithful Christian. Ask participants to identify what the text clearly teaches, where interpretations differ, and how every view places ultimate authority somewhere.

Bring It All Together*Choose one or two questions as time permits:*

- What is the clearest biblical truth about creation that you need to recover or strengthen?
- Where has a materialist assumption shaped your daily life even though you profess faith in God?
- How can apparent conflict become an invitation to study Scripture and creation more carefully?
- How should belief in God as Creator change the way you worship, work, and treat other people?

Expect to Experience God Through Faithful Response (Approximately 10 minutes)

Your view of creation does more than explain the past. It determines who holds authority, what gives life meaning, and what deserves your worship.

If the universe is only matter, then meaning and morality are human inventions. If God created and sustains all things, then your life belongs to him. Your body, abilities, relationships, work, possessions, and future are gifts entrusted to you for his purposes.

Faith in the Creator does not require fear of honest questions. It requires humility about human knowledge, confidence in God's Word, and willingness to follow the evidence without placing any human theory above God.

Invite each person to choose one faithful response:

- **Worship the Creator:** Thank God specifically for what his creation reveals about his power, wisdom, and generosity.
- **Examine your worldview:** Identify one area where you profess belief in God but live as though material things are ultimate.
- **Study carefully:** Investigate one question about creation using Scripture and credible scientific sources without settling for slogans.
- **Hold convictions humbly:** Distinguish what Scripture clearly reveals from conclusions that depend upon a particular interpretive model.
- **Honor God's image:** Treat your own body and every person you encounter as intentionally created and valuable to God.
- **Take your next step of faith:** Trust God with one part of your life you have been trying to control.

Allow a brief period of silence. Invite participants to name where their stated belief and daily worship have drifted apart. Encourage confession without forcing public disclosure.