



## **Asking for a Friend – Does Science Disprove a Real Creator? Leader Guide**

\*Disclaimer – this is meant to help facilitate healthy discussion and be a safe place for people to ask and work through questions. Please, as the leader of your group, keep all conversations under control and guided in a way to honor God and all others involved. Be aware that emotions have the chance of running high with some of these questions! If there are questions you come across in which you are not equipped to answer, please email Kevin ([kevin@thechapelbr.com](mailto:kevin@thechapelbr.com)) and Andrew ([andrew.bates@thechapelbr.com](mailto:andrew.bates@thechapelbr.com)).

We will be having an “ask anything night” in June, so if there are people in your group with big questions, please let them know they will have a chance to ask! (More info to come on this night soon!)

### **At some point in time we all have questions and doubts. Why do you think the church has typically not been a safe place to ask questions?**

People are typically judged for having questions, at times people can be ostracized for having doubts, we haven't done the work to have the answers people are asking so instead of trying to answer we push them away, etc. This is extremely dangerous and explains why so many people are both leaving the church and refusing to ever be a part.

See Pew Research article <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/24/why-americas-nones-left-religion-behind/>

### **Have you ever had questions that you felt like you couldn't ask?**

Feel free to share a personal story/example. It's important for us to have a place to ask questions and deal with doubts. Many people are talked out of their faith because they were never talked into it to begin with. Many of us grew up with mentality of “we believe because...well...we just do.” This is why we see so many students leave their faith and the church once they graduate high school and never return. Not only were they not allowed to ask questions, they never knew what they truly believed or why they believed it. Our faith is a reasonable faith and God has made Himself and His ways “knowable/comprehensible” to us (to a certain extent). See Romans 1:18-25.

### **When you hear the question, “Does science disprove a real God?” what is your first thought/response?**

Be open to share your thoughts here with your group. This is more to get conversation started than answer a question.

**Have you ever considered the four options for the creation of the universe? (The universe: 1) is an illusion 2) created itself 3) is eternal 4) was created by something eternal) At a glance, what seems logical to you?**

The two main arguments atheistic scientists make is that either the universe created itself or it is eternal. We address both in the answer for the next question.

**Scientists who do not believe in God or that He created the universe argue at some point in time – nothing came from something, and ultimately that all first life came from no life. What holes do you see in this argument? How does this compare to the Cosmological Argument that states – “Everything that exists has a cause. The universe exists therefore it has a cause”?**

See Kalam Cosmological Argument Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CulBuMCLg0>

Atheistic scientists argue time, matter, space, laws of physics, laws of nature, etc. all just happened – completely out of nothing. They call this the Big Bang. Big Bang theorist, Steven Weinberg explains it as this, “Within three minutes 98% of all matter that now exists was produced.” No cause or no “causer.” It just happened. Now this is an issue because it goes completely against the Law of Causality that both atheists and theists hold to that states – nothing happens without a cause. So how did this happen with the universe? Or as Catholic astronomer/physicist, Georges Lemaître puts it, “We never see things just jump to life [ever] in today’s world but we expect that with the universe?” There must be a first cause – a Creator that is not limited by space, time, or matter in order to create.

The issue with the first life coming from no life, clearly falls apart when the “something from nothing” argument is debunked, but we still want to address it. Atheism argues that we have gone from absolutely no life to the incredible complexity of DNA – which as a Jesus follower it seems pretty out there. But even people who aren’t Christians see the tension. Richard Dawkins, a famous atheist said this in his book *God Delusion* - “Think about it, on one planet and possibly only one planet in the entire universe, molecules that would normally make nothing more complicated than a chunk of rock, gather themselves together in chunks of rock-sized matter of such staggering complexity that they are capable of running, jumping, swimming, flying, seeing, hearing, capturing and eating other such animated chunks of complexity capable in some cases of thinking and feeling, and falling in love with yet other chunks of complex matter...”

Some scientists don’t argue that the universe created itself, but that the universe has always existed. This cannot be the case (regardless of the “Law of Causality” argument) due to the declining amount of energy in the universe, the expansion of the universe, etc. None of these would be possible if the universe was eternal.

It would have already run out of energy if it were eternal and the amount of energy is declining, and it would not be possible for the universe to expand if it has always been. This video does a great job explaining –

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=5&v=UplilaC4kRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=UplilaC4kRA)

### **Why is it reasonable to believe God is real and created the universe?**

Science doesn't rule it out, and actually supports this belief.

Justice and inherent value depend on it – “If God does not exist then everything is permissible” –CS Lewis. (Even though we won't have spent much time in the sermon on this point, it might be very relevant to your group.) Humans abide by a moral code because we believe in morality. If there is no God, there is no need for morality. If there is no morality, survival of the fittest becomes horrifically real – in other words, real life Hunger Games. We also believe people have inherent value. Why? Where does that come from?

### **What does the Bible say about God and creation? And what does it mean for us?**

1) God created by His Word – see Genesis 1-2.

2) The universe points us to God – see Psalm 19 and Romans 1:18-25.

3) In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) – see John 1.

### **What does this mean for us?**

We see God chose to create us, and not only create us but in His own image (see Gen. 1:27-31). Even though we sinned and messed up everything God had made, He sent His Son to set it all right. In the beginning God made all new things // in the cross Jesus came to earth to make all things new.

We are held responsible to not only see and believe in God (Romans 1:18-25) but we are also called to be able to give a reason for the hope that we have in the resurrection of Jesus. See 1 Peter 3:15.

It also means we can keep asking questions, keep digging into what we believe, and keep growing in our knowledge of who God is.

### **Leader Resources – Feel Free to Share with Your Group**

- Above Videos – Kalam Cosmological Argument and The Fine Tuning of the Universe
- <https://www.reasonablefaith.org>
- <https://whoneedsgod.com>
- *Reason for God and Making Sense of God* by Tim Keller
- *Four Pillars of Christianity* by Kevin McKee and Wade Smith