



“It Doesn’t Matter How God Made the World”

Prayer

Introductory Activity

Focus: The Darwinian theory of evolution popularized the idea that God did not create the world. Despite the hundreds of references to creation in the Bible, even Christians have questioned whether it’s necessary to believe that God created the world in six 24-hour days. However, if one were to take this line of thinking to its theological conclusion, the veracity of all of Scripture would be in doubt. So does it matter? This lesson will help us answer with a definitive “Yes!”

Activity:

Devil’s Advocate. In your groups, choose a reader (looks up and reads the passages), a leader (makes sure discussion moves forward), a devil’s advocate (takes the position outlined on the next page), and an answer person (answers the devil’s advocate with a biblical perspective).

- To begin, read the following passages as a group and comment on what they say about whether it matters if God made the world as the record in Genesis indicates.

2 Timothy 3:16,17

John 17:17

Romans 1:20



Colossians 1:16,17

Luke 1:37

Romans 8:19-23

John 5:39

- Also with your group, consider what evolution leads a person to believe about the following:

Humankind's status

The method of creation

Humankind's purpose and responsibility

Sin and original sin

Death

Jesus

- Now have the person answering and the devil’s advocate discuss the subject (the rest of the group should help the person answering).

Devil’s advocate, start the conversation with the following quote:

“You believe in creation, I believe in evolution. We can agree to disagree. I still believe in Jesus! What does it matter how God created the world?”

How might the answerer respond?

Creation Matters

1. As someone reads Genesis 1:1–2:3 out loud, pick out phrases that argue against evolution.

2. How do you know there is a Creator?

Hebrews 3:4—“For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.”

Good Quote: “The universe is not merely more complicated than we can understand. It’s more complicated than we can imagine” (Albert Einstein).

- Evaluate the following philosophical arguments for the existence of God as creator.

Ontological—Since we can conceive of a supreme being, he must exist. It's the thinking behind René Descartes' famous quote, "I think, therefore I am."

Historical—Since all nations believe in a supreme being, he must exist.

Cosmological—Since the world exists, there must be a creator. Since everything has a cause, there must be a prime cause.

Teleological—Nature has a design, therefore there must be a designer.

Moral—Since people have morals, there must be a supreme author of morality.

- What is the goal in the use of these arguments?

3. How did God create the world and why do we believe it?

2 Corinthians 4:6—“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”

Hebrews 11:3—“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

Read Matthew 19:4-6.

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, “We live by faith, not by sight.” That faith is created not by what we see but by what God says through his Word. Let’s try a little theological speculation! Why do you suppose God created Adam and Eve on day six? (On what day would you have created them if you were God?)

Group Discussion

- Agree/Disagree: We should use science to refute the theory of evolution.

- The resurrection of Jesus is the lynchpin of Christianity! We believe it because the Bible proclaims it. But how would you answer the skeptic who asked, “How do you know the gospel writers were telling the truth?”

- How does the reality of the resurrection help in answering someone who says, “It doesn’t matter how God made the world”?
- Theistic evolutionists claim that God created the world using evolution and that the days in the Genesis account are actually billions of years. Defend the 24-hour day of Genesis and point out the problems with trying to combine creation and the theory of evolution.

Closing Activity

College Classroom. Imagine you are a student attending a secular university. The professor asks for a show of hands of those who still believe in creation. You raise your hand and he says to you, “Why would you believe that?!” You have enough time for two sentences before he cuts you off. What would those two sentences be?