

Discussion Guide for *God's Not Dead*

This discussion guide is intended to be used as a supplement to the movie *God's Not Dead*.¹ The focus of this guide is to prompt discussion about the themes represented in the movie. The discussion questions focus on general apologetics ideas found in the film and on areas emphasized in the three debate scenes. For full explanations of the ideas discussed and for additional resources, see the article “*God's Not Dead Revisited*” at www.answersingenesis.org. The questions in this discussion guide are written from a biblical young-earth perspective, while the movie approaches the apologetic issues from an old-earth explanation of the events of creation. Examine the questions and use those that will be most beneficial to your discussion group.

General Apologetics

In what ways do you face challenges to your faith in your work/school/home?

Do you feel equipped to answer basic questions that people ask about your faith in Christ?

In what areas do you have the most doubt when it comes to defending your faith?

Do you know where to go to get answers to questions you have about your faith or to answer questions others bring to you?

How did Josh Walton live out the exhortation found in 1 Peter 3:13–17?

How did the different characters in the film live out their various worldviews? In what ways were they living in a way that was inconsistent with their worldviews?

Do you think most college campuses are as hostile to Christians as portrayed in this film?

In light of Romans 1:18–32, are there really any atheists? How did Professor Radisson demonstrate the truth of this passage?

Josh seemed to be alone on campus, without a strong connection to a local church. As a Christian, is it wise to place yourself in a situation where there is no spiritual authority to look to for guidance and support in such a situation?

Is it appropriate to “put God on trial” as Josh Wheaton did in the movie? What biblical support do you have for your position?

¹ Because of the old-earth approach and other elements, Answers in Genesis does not endorse this movie nor the apologetic arguments used in the movie. However, there are elements of the movie that are very encouraging to believers, and these elements can be embraced. This discussion guide is intended to help you think through those topics and hold fast to those things that are in line with Scripture.

As the movie reached its climax at the end of the third debate, many of the students acknowledged that God was not dead. Did the students receive enough information in Josh's presentations to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

What is the relationship between apologetics (defending the Christian faith) and evangelism (sharing the hope of Jesus)?

What positive effects has this movie had for you as an individual? What concerns did the movie raise in your mind?

Do you think that this movie has an overall benefit for the church or an overall negative effect? Explain your reasoning.

Big Bang Debate Scene

In the first debate scene, Josh Walton presents the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God, arguing that since the universe had a beginning, then something must have created the universe. What evidence for the universe's beginning did Josh provide for the other students to evaluate?

Josh uses the scientific model of the big bang to explain how God created the universe. Are the events of the big bang consistent with the description of creation in Genesis 1?

Most scientists teach that the big bang happened about 13.7 billion years ago and that the earth and our sun evolved about 4.5 billion years ago. Is this idea consistent with the age of the earth presented in the Bible?

The big bang teaches that the universe formed from a singular point, then matter formed, then stars formed, then stars exploded to form more complex elements, then our solar system formed, and a molten planet Earth eventually appeared to later be covered with water. Is this consistent with the description of the beginning that God gives us in Genesis 1:1–5?

In context, does Genesis 1:3 accurately describe the big bang?

Do all scientists believe that the big bang is a true interpretation of how the universe began? Why is this important to consider?

Was there any room for a six-day, young-earth creation in the explanation that Josh gave to the class?

When scientists develop models that contradict what the Bible teaches, which should we look to as the authority on the issue involved?

Those who believe God used the big bang to create slowly over billions of years are embracing a form of cosmological evolution. Is it possible for someone to believe in the big bang as God's method of creation and still be a Christian?

How did Josh use the Bible in his argument? Was this an appropriate or sufficient use of the Bible?

What would you have done differently had you been presenting your first argument to the class?

Upon facing a challenging question proposed by Professor Radisson, Josh acknowledged he did not know how to answer but that the challenge did not shake his underlying faith. Is this a reasonable response in such a situation? What did his answer demonstrate to those hearing the discussion?

Biological Evolution Debate Scene

Professor Radisson proposed a question to Josh that he could not answer on the spot in the first debate. How did Josh deal with this? Do we always have to have a perfect answer? What does the willingness to research a point communicate to a skeptic?

In interacting with his professor, Josh leads the discussion toward biological evolution. What is Josh's concluding statement about a purely naturalistic form of evolution?

Is it possible for a professing Christian to believe in biological evolution and be saved from their sins?

While many Christians reject the idea of Darwinian evolution by purely random processes, they embrace a form of evolution guided by God over billions of years. What problems does this present when trying to reconcile the evolutionary process with the Bible?

Josh used an analogy of a clock to talk about the problem of the Cambrian Explosion in the scope of Earth's 4.5-billion-year history. Did he deny the length of the history or just that it could not be explained by purely natural processes? Why is this an important, yet subtle, distinction to make when analyzing this argument?

Do you think that Josh's argument allows for a form of theistic evolution where God guides biological evolution? Is this explanation consistent with Genesis 1 and the description of creation?

Does his argument allow for a progressive creation where God creates various life forms at specific intervals over billions of years? Is this explanation consistent with Genesis 1 and the description of creation?

Does his argument allow for a recent creation of all life in six days as described in Genesis?

Josh uses the idea of "biological information" in explaining why new kinds of life could not simply appear "suddenly" in the geologic record. Rather than being created suddenly over these ages (progressive creation), what biblical event could explain how these different groups became trapped in the rock layers all over the earth?

If the rock layers contain a record of billions of animals who died as a result of disease and eating each other over hundreds of millions of years before Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, what does this mean about the relationship between death and disease and sin?

Read Genesis 1:30–31 and 3:17–19. If thorns and thistles and evidence of animals eating one another are found in a rock layer as fossils, what does that tell you about when that layer formed? Is this

consistent with a view that accepts that the earth is billions of years old and the fossil-bearing layers are hundreds of millions of years old?

If you are willing to entertain the possibility of biological evolution, where do you draw the line? Could one kind of animal evolve from another? Are humans evolved from a primate ancestor? What biblical support do you have for your position?

Read Romans 5:12–21. Is it possible that humans died before Adam sinned? How does this relate to the idea of biological evolution?

Presence of Evil Debate Scene

How did Josh use the character of God to challenge the professor's claim that evil exists?

What are the consequences of looking to something other than God and what He has revealed in the Bible as a standard for morality?

Read Romans 3:19–26. How is an acceptance of a moral standard necessary for salvation?

Why do so many people have such a hard time believing that God is good when we live in a world that is filled with so many evils and hardships?

Did Josh ever talk about the initial condition of the world God created? What idea did he identify as the source of evil?

Based on his previous arguments, Josh accepts an earth that is billions of years old and that included the death and diseases seen in the fossil record before Adam and Eve sinned. How would you describe that initial creation (good, bad, perfect)? How does Genesis 1:31 describe the original creation?

What is the relationship between the Fall of man into sin and the presence of evil in the world? Was this relationship presented in the debate scenes or elsewhere in the movie?

Josh talked about the future hope of God removing the evil in the world. Read Acts 3:19–21 and Romans 8:18–25. If these passages speak of a restoration to the state before the Fall, what would that restored place look like if the world before Adam and Eve was filled with death and disease? Is that consistent with the Bible's description of the future state?

If we reject the idea that the original creation was perfect before the Fall, what are we forced to believe about the restoration of all things at the Consummation (if we are consistent)? Is this consistent with the biblical description of that future state?