



3 WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

The All-Important Question

Before the Lesson

Overview

EVEN THOUGH THE BIBLE PLAINLY tells us “In the beginning, God . . .” and the Creator’s handiwork is so obvious that all men are “without excuse” (Romans 1:20), the vast majority of people still choose to believe the lie, “In the beginning, the cosmos.” Every day, skeptics challenge Christians, “Where did God come from?” In light of 1 Peter 3:15, which tells us to be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks, Christians must know how to answer this all-important question.

Participants may be surprised to learn that it is the evolutionists, not the biblical Christians, who have a blind faith. They believe that the marvels of life, including the genetic information that life is built upon, arose by natural processes. The Christian faith, in contrast, is not a blind faith, but is logically defensible and makes sense of the exciting findings of modern science.

In this lesson, Ken Ham, president of *Answers in Genesis*–USA, teaches Christians how to answer the pivotal question of God’s existence, by addressing the following key topics:

- Evidence is interpreted differently, based on a person’s starting point.
- Design implies a designer, in spite of evolutionists’ efforts to counter this claim.
- The science of information theory confirms that God is the Creator.
- Words are meaningless without a code.
- What is “blind faith” and who has it?
- What is observational science and what does it confirm?
- Genesis is foundational to the rest of the Bible.
- What is apologetics and why is it important to defend the Christian faith?

Lesson Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

1. Answer the question, “Where did God come from?”
2. Understand evolutionists’ counter argument to the Christian claim that design implies a designer.
3. Understand the apologetic based on information theory.
4. Explain how biochemistry confirms the Bible.
5. Understand that the ultimate goal of apologetics is salvation.

Lesson Outline

- I. Introduction
 - Welcome
 - Lesson Preview
 - Questions to Think About
- II. Show Video *Where Did God Come From? The All-Important Question*
- III. Video Review Questions
- IV. Life Application
 - Time for Reflection
 - Review
- V. Closing Prayer

Materials and Prerequisites

No additional materials are needed for this lesson. To familiarize yourself with the main points, you'll want to watch the video before leading the lesson. Have students read the following verses before the lesson:

- Genesis 1:1
- Romans 1:20
- 1 Peter 3:15
- 2 Timothy 2:24–26
- 2 Peter 3:5
- Jeremiah 17:9
- 2 Corinthians 4:4



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Introduction

Welcome

WELCOME THE PARTICIPANTS TO THIS session on *Where Did God Come From? The All-Important Question*.

Lesson Preview

In this lesson, we'll learn the central importance of being able to defend the Christian faith. We'll see the power of presuppositions (starting points) to influence how people interpret facts and evidence. We'll also take a close look at how DNA and "observational science" confirm the existence of the Creator God. At the end, it should become clear how the Bible's history, as told in Genesis 1–11, is foundational to the rest of the Bible.

Questions to Think About

Before we begin the video, let's take a few moments to discuss these questions.

1. Think of a time when you were told something by a newspaper, TV program or teacher and you accepted it as fact, but later you learned that it was an opinion or a falsehood. What caused you to reach this conclusion? Why do you think this happened?

Suggested Response:

Science textbooks are frequently updated to reflect new evidence that overturns old assumptions. What was once presented as fact is often discovered to be untrue. We can't always trust what we read or hear on the news or see in museums. For instance, Neandertal man was once displayed as our apelike ancestor. Scientists have since discovered that their original descriptions of Neandertal man were wrong and that he should have been pictured as upright and human. When receiving information, we should always consider the presuppositions of the people sharing the information, as well as the sources they use.

2. How would you respond to the question, "Who made God?"

Suggested Response:

Allow participants to respond. When they have finished, explain that this question will be covered in the video.

We will expand on these questions after the video.

Video Presentation

34 minutes

See Participant's Workbook, page 19.

On page 19 of your Participant's Workbook, you will find a space to take notes on key points as we watch this video.

Leader's Video Notes

- Different ways to interpret evidence.
- Design implies a designer.
- The science of information theory confirms God is the Creator.
- Words are meaningless without a code.
- Blind faith—who has it?
- Observational science—what does it prove?
- The Bible's history is true—the history as told in Genesis 1–11 is foundational to the rest of the Bible.
- It is important to give a logical, reasoned defense of the Christian faith.

Video Review Questions

Depending on the size of your group, either break the participants into smaller groups or discuss the questions together as one group.

1. Now that you've seen the video, how would you respond to the question, "Who made God?"

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WHERE DID GOD COME FROM? The All-Important Question

Video Notes

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19

Lesson 3 ... Where Did God Come From?

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Video Review Questions

1. Now that you've seen the video, how would you respond to the question, "Who made God?"
2. A common Christian argument for God is that the marvelous design of animals and plants implies a designer. Even ardent atheists agree that design is evident in nature. Explain the argument that evolutionists use to counter this point.

20

Suggested Responses:

Allow participants to respond. When the Bible says in Genesis 1:1 that “in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” God’s existence is assumed, self-evident.

As an infinite, eternal being, God wasn’t created by anyone. God is the Self-Existing One—the great “I Am” of the Bible. He is outside of time. He created time.

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Suggested Response:

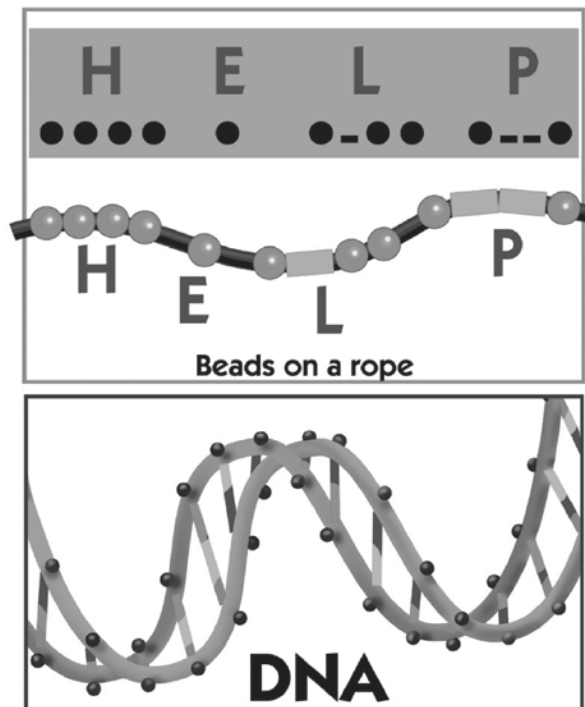
Evolutionists, such as Richard Dawkins, say that when you look at design, it doesn’t mean there is a god—it simply means that things have evolved to have the appearance of design. Dawkins says design is an expected result of evolutionary processes because, as animals and plants evolve, only those with the characteristics suited to survival are going to survive. These survival characteristics are what make them look designed.

3. Describe how the science of information theory confirms a Creator God.

Suggested Responses:

God has programmed “recipes” for all sorts of structures on the famous double-helix molecule DNA. The molecule holds an enormous amount of information that is transmitted from one generation to the next, so that all living things reproduce “after their kinds.”

DNA molecules are like a couple of ropes with beads on them. The beads actually contain all the information about every one of us. The beads are like the words in a



Lesson 3 ... Where Did God Come From?

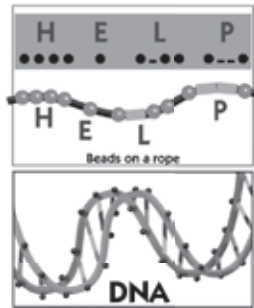
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Answers Academy

3. Describe how the science of information theory confirms a Creator God.



4. Dr. Werner Gitt has stated that, in real science, "matter never produces information." Complete the following sentence:
Codes never arise from _____ by themselves, and codes always come from an _____.
5. What was Dr. Richard Dawkins' response when asked to give an example of new information being produced from matter and added into the genome?

book. If you wrote out all the words, it's been estimated that they would fill a thousand books, each with 500 pages.

Information cannot come from matter by itself—it must come from an intelligent source. Ultimately, an infinitely intelligent source must have been the originator of the vast amount of genetic information present in the world today. The God described in the Bible is infinitely intelligent—just the source of information that information theory requires.

4. Dr. Werner Gitt has stated that, in real science, “matter never produces information.” Complete the following sentence:

Codes never arise from matter by themselves, and codes always come from an intelligence.

Suggested Response:

Code always comes from intelligence. That's what we see. That's what we observe. That's what we experience. Dr. Gitt says that, in the beginning, an infinite intelligence provided the code system and information systems of life. The science of information actually confirms that.

5. What was Dr. Richard Dawkins' response when asked to give an example of new information being produced from matter and added into the genome?

Suggested Response:

He couldn't answer the question, because there is no example of this happening.

6. Describe what it means to have blind faith. What are some examples of people having blind faith?

Suggested Response:

It could be said that Watson, Crick and Dawkins had a blind faith when they said there is no God. It's a blind faith because observational science doesn't confirm this claim. Those who believe in God have a faith that makes sense of what they see. It's

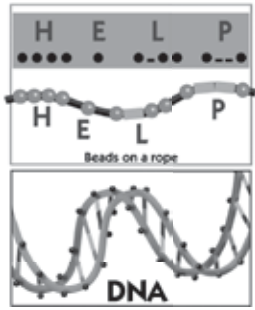
DID YOU KNOW?

The genetic code is not an outcome of raw chemistry but of elaborate decoding machinery in the ribosome (the “protein factory” of cells). This decoding machinery is itself encoded in the DNA. The noted philosopher of science Sir Karl Popper pointed out:

“Thus the code cannot be translated except by using certain products of its translation. This constitutes a baffling circle; a really vicious circle, it seems, for any attempt to form a model or theory of the genesis of the genetic code.”

So, such a system must be fully in place before it could work at all—a property called irreducible complexity. This means that it is impossible to be built by natural selection working on small changes. See Jonathan Sarfati's “DNA: marvelous messages or mostly mess?” at www.AnswersInGenesis.org/message.

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Lesson 3 ... Where Did God Come From?

- Describe what it means to have blind faith. What are some examples of people having blind faith?
- In what ways can a Christian appear to have blind faith?
- Read 1 Peter 3:15 and 2 Timothy 2:24–26. What do these verses teach about the need to provide accurate answers to those who ask questions about our faith?

People to Know

FRANCIS CRICK (1916–2004) AND JAMES WATSON (1928–)

Crick and Watson's description of DNA's double-helix structure opened the door to the eventual sequencing of the human genome. Crick and Watson (along with Maurice Wilkins) were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962 for their discovery. By breaking down the functions of life in terms of chemistry and physics, these ardent atheists hoped to show that natural processes—not a Creator—produced life.

RICHARD DAWKINS

An ardent atheist and evolutionary biologist, Dawkins has authored many books against creation, such as *The Blind Watchmaker*. A popular international spokesman for Darwinian evolution, he was awarded Oxford University's chair as Professor of the Public Understanding of Science. In 1996, Dawkins, who has frequently referred to himself as the "Devil's disciple," was awarded the Humanist of the Year award for his work.

WERNER GITT

A respected information scientist, Dr. Gitt served for many years as a director and professor at the German Federal Institute of Physics and

a faith that makes sense of the facts. Observational science confirms an intelligence behind life. It does not confirm natural processes over millions of years.

7. In what ways can a Christian appear to have blind faith?

Suggested Responses:

If a Christian is not able to defend his or her faith with real answers to real questions about the Bible and its history, then that Christian appears to have blind faith. Many Christians believe that if the Bible said it, that settles it, so there's no need to worry about anything else.

8. Read 1 Peter 3:15 and 2 Timothy 2:24–26. What do these verses teach about the need to provide accurate answers to those who ask questions about our faith?

Suggested Responses:

Paul's letter to Timothy says that "... If God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." (NKJV)

The goal of apologetics is not to showcase our knowledge, but rather to break down barriers to the gospel.

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Francis Crick (1916–2004) and James Watson (1928–)

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A respected information scientist, Dr. Gitt served for many years as a director and professor at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Braunschweig) and as head of the department of information technology. He has authored a number of popular creation books, including *In the Beginning Was Information*.

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Life Application

Time for Reflection

Let's consider how we can apply the things we've learned today to our lives.

When sharing or defending your faith with another person, it's important to know how the other person thinks and what kind of biases and presuppositions they may have. Think about how you might share your faith with others using what you've learned in this lesson. How will you approach the following people with this new information?

Friends:

Family:

Teachers:

Skeptics:

Non-Christian acquaintances:

Review

In these final minutes, let's review what we've learned in this lesson:

We learned how important it is to be able to defend the Christian faith. To be an effective witness, Christians need to be prepared to answer questions such as, "Where did God come from?" We learned how a person's presuppositions (starting points) influence how he or she interprets facts and evidence. We looked at how the DNA code and observational science confirm a Creator God. We also discussed how Genesis is foundational to the rest of the Bible and how important it is for Christians to believe the Bible's history.

Please read and meditate on these verses in preparation for the next lesson:

- Genesis 1:1–31

Closing Prayer

At the end of this session, lead the group in prayer or ask if someone would like to close in prayer, being mindful of the topics discussed in this lesson.

Optional Activity

The Bible gives several reasons that people don't believe in God. Look up the following verses and explain the reasons given in each verse.

- 2 Peter 3:5—They are willingly ignorant of the truth and committed to a materialistic worldview.
- Jeremiah 17:9—The heart of a man is deceitful above all things.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4—They are blinded to the truth.

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For Next Week

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Glossary of Terms

The following terms are discussed in this lesson:

APOLOGETICS

The Greek term comes from a word meaning “out of logic/reason.” It refers to a reasoned defense that would be given in a court of law. The classic example is Plato’s *Apology*, Socrates’ defense against the charges of atheism and corrupting the youth.

OPERATIONAL SCIENCE

Operational science (also called *observational science*) deals with the way the present world works and generally concerns things that we can observe and repeatedly test. For example, we can consistently get the same undisputed temperature for the boiling point of water since we can observe and repeat the test conditions.

ORIGINS SCIENCE

Origins science (also called *historical science*) deals with how we apply observations made in the present to unobservable events in the past. Scientific observations must be *interpreted* when applied to past events.

PRESUPPOSITION

The action or an act of presupposing; a supposition antecedent to knowledge; the assumption of the existence or truth of something, as a preliminary to action, argument, etc.

Supplemental Materials

The following materials are suggested for further study on topics covered in this lesson:

From a Frog to a Prince DVD

In the Beginning Was Information book and DVD

The Answers Book

Is There Really a God? booklet

Me, the Professor, Fuzzy, and the Meaning of Life book

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