



Small Group Leader Guide

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Science and faith can work together to show us more about God.

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1 NLT).

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:26-27 NLT).

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good (Genesis 1:31a NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to ask their questions about science and faith and to help them see how learning about one can teach them more about the other.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As a small group leader, your job this week isn't to answer your students' questions about science and faith. It's simply to create an open dialogue that will create a safe space for them to ask questions or express their doubts. Because so much of the conversation centers around *how* questions and *why* questions, take time to distinguish the difference between those kinds of questions and the value of each one. And again, try to avoid debate or lengthy conversations about potentially controversial topics here. While you want students to express themselves freely, heated debates or arguments can derail the safety of the group and the conversation you're trying to have. If things get off track, kindly redirect the group back to the heart of the conversation—exploring faith and science together.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSS THIS

1. Where did you see God today?
2. What does it mean to you personally that God intentionally created everything, including you?
3. What's one thing you've learned about science that taught you something really cool about God?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Create two columns on a paper. In the first column, have students list all their "*how*" questions. In the second column, ask students to list all their "*why*" questions. (Give an example to start things off like "*How* does gravity work?" or "*Why* is gravity important?")

4. How might asking both *how* and *why* help you discover more about God and science?
5. Have a student open their bible and read Genesis 1:26-27:
 1. What do you think it means that we are made in God's image? How does that make sense if we are all different and unique?
6. When you read that God created humans in His image, what do you think that means about our ability to think, create, and explore?
7. What is one way this week that you can remind yourself that you are made in the image of God?