

# SUGGESTED ANSWERS

## WEEK 1: Beyond Reason? Science, faith, and the universe

### Day 1: Introduction

1. Stem cell research, cloning, *in vitro* fertilization, creation/evolution in schools, sustainability and the environment.
2. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
3. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*

Review sheet: Answers to fill-in-the-blanks:

Box 1 – Christians, science, religion

Box 2 – Big Bang, gaps

Box 3 – small

Box 4 – many, faith

### Day 2: Chapters 1 and 2

#### Part 1, chapter 1

- 1.A. Teachers, parents, pastors, friends, movies, newspapers, internet.
- 1.B. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
2. *Atheist:* There is a natural, physical explanation for this. Perhaps something in his joint clicked into place during his sleep, and it is mere coincidence that it happened after prayer.  
*Deist:* It is nice that someone prayed for this man (perhaps the psychological effect of being prayed for had a positive influence on him), but God does not intervene in the natural world in this way. My explanation would be similar to the atheist's.  
*Theist:* Perhaps there is a simple, “natural” explanation for this recovery—which was used by God in response to prayer. Or perhaps God just changed the natural order by acting supernaturally—a miracle!
- 3.A. Thomas Huxley.
- 3.B. Orderly, follows natural laws, intelligible and understandable.
- 3.C. A world we can live in, fine-tuned to be fit for life, miracles, providential intervention, answered prayer.

4.A. 1 – b. 2 – d. 3 – a. 4 – e. 5 – c.

4.B. *Answer #1: Something like . . .* “The force of a sudden impact caused trauma to the capillaries around my eye, causing bruising and swelling to the area.”

*Answer #2: Something like . . .* “I was defending my wife and kids from a burglar, who hit me in the eye” or “I drank too much and ended up getting in a fight.”

## Part 1, chapter 2

1.A. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*

2.A. Science can answer “how” questions. It can study things which are measurable and often repeatable. It studies the physical, natural world.

2.B. Science cannot address “why” questions about meaning, purpose, and value.

3.A. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*

3.B. “God of the gaps” is dangerous to faith if people rest their belief in God on “gaps” in scientific knowledge. As the gaps shrink, they might think that God is not so powerful, or they might lose their faith altogether. “God of the gaps” is dangerous to science because filling the unknowns with supernatural intervention might stifle scientific research and exploration into the natural causes of events.

3.C. We can see God’s glory in the *whole* world, not just in gaps in our understanding.

## Day 3: Chapters 3 and 4

### Part 1, chapter 3

1. The Anthropic Principle could point to a creator, but not prove his existence. Using the Anthropic Principle to point to God is not “God of the gaps”—fitting God into a gap in science which may eventually be filled by science—because the gap is not in the *how* (the science) but in the *why*. The *why* question is outside of science anyway and is properly the domain of faith.

### Part 1, chapter 4

1.A. There should only be a fish in one bowl, symbolizing our universe which is able to sustain life; the rest of the bowls should be empty.

1.B. We believe that God is generous and powerful, able to create hundreds of billions of stars and galaxies, so a multiverse would enable us to marvel anew at his greatness.

1.C. Science can only deal with questions within our universe that can be tested and observed; a multiverse is, at the moment, un-testable.

2.A. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*

2.B. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*

# SUGGESTED ANSWERS

## WEEK 2: An Accident in the Making?

### Creation, evolution, and interpreting Genesis

#### Day 1: Introduction

1. *Answers may vary, but may include:* Six-day, Young Earth Creationism; Progressive Creationism; Day-Age and/or Old-Earth Creationism; Intelligent Design; Theistic Evolution (i.e., Evolutionary Creationism).
2. *Answers may vary, but may include:* God existed before creation and is the “first cause” of creation, the reason creation exists; God actively created the world; God is independent of creation and has complete power over it; God cares about creation; God’s creation is good; God made us in his image; God cares about us; we care for creation at God’s command.
3. A.

<b>An atom is like a miniature solar system.</b>	
<b>Similar to reality (a good model)</b>	<b>Different from reality (a limited model)</b>
Like the solar system, an atom is mainly space.  Both the nucleus (center of the atom) and the sun (center of the solar system) are where most of the mass is concentrated.	Within the atom, forces are electrical (not gravitational).  The center of the atom (the nucleus) does not shine like the sun.

B.

<b>God is like a human father.</b>	
<b>Similar to reality (a good model)</b>	<b>Different from reality (a limited model)</b>
Children owe their being to their father (and we owe our being to God).  God loves, cares for, and disciplines his children, as a good father should.	Fathers can be cared for by their grown-up children, but God does not need us to look after him.  Some fathers get drunk; some abuse their children. God never does.  God never fails, but a father can fail.

*Review sheet: Answers to fill-in-the-blanks:*

Box 1 – image, Intelligent

Box 2 – atheism, DNA

Box 3 – predictable

Box 4 – suffering

Box 5 – look after it

## Day 2: Chapters 1 and 2

### Part 2, chapter 1

- 1.A. Fossils already in the ground; light from stars light-years away already reaching the earth; full-grown trees with rings in them; mountain ranges already formed, etc.
- 1.B. *Answers may vary.*
- 2.A. The bacteria's flagellum—a miniature “outboard motor.”
- 2.B. The gap in scientific understanding is how these “irreducibly complex” structures could have evolved; ID fills that gap with “the Designer” [God]; if that gap shrinks through further scientific discoveries, our idea of God then shrinks as well.
- 3.A. Type 3.
- 3.B. More concordist.

### Part 2, chapter 2

- 1.A. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
- 1.B. No. The DVD has shown Christians who hold three very different views.
- 1.C. Nazism, eugenics, slavery, Marxism.
- 2.A. *Answers may include:* Essay, novel, recipe book, short story, poetry, history, newspaper, drama, romance, sci-fi, textbook, detective story, fantasy, fairy tale, email, text message, blog, business letter, thank-you note.
- 2.B. Deuteronomy 24:17 – law. Psalm 148 – poetry. Luke 11:2–4 – prayer. Ecclesiastes 6:7 – proverb. 2 Timothy 1:1–2 – letter. Luke 2:1–2 – history. Isaiah 61:1–2 – prophecy. Matthew 13:44 – parable.
- 2.C. *Isaiah 55:12* – Metaphorically. The genre of most of the Prophets is poetry. The author personifies mountains, hills, and trees to convey the prosperity and gladness that God's people will enjoy when he establishes his kingdom.  
*Hebrews 10:12* – Metaphorically. Jesus has a physical resurrection body, but God is spirit and does not literally have hands. Sitting “at the right hand” was a cultural image of authority and honor. The writer of Hebrews is expressing the theological truth that Christ has completed his work, has ascended to the position of highest honor, and is now ruling with the Father.  
*Acts 10:1* – Literally. The genre of Acts is history.
- 3.A. God is Creator.
- 3.B. *Answers may vary, but you should notice that Young Earth Creationists tend to fill in columns “similar” and “eternal truths”; Progressive Creationists tend to be split among “similar,” “eternal truths,” and “different”; and Theistic Evolutionists tend to fill in columns “eternal truths” and “different.” Note: We think that statements 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12 would be “eternal truths,” because we presume that Christians who hold these three viewpoints would agree with them.*

## Day 3: Chapters 3, 4, and 5

### Part 2, chapter 3

- 1.A. *Meaning of random #1:* In day-to-day life we use it to mean “purposeless,” which carries a worldview/metaphysics connotation.
- Meaning of random #2:* In a scientific sense it means that the microscopic details of a process may be unpredictable, but the overall process may be very predictable. The scientific sense does not necessitate belief in a particular worldview.
- 1.B. The second meaning.
2. The scientific data merely shows that the world is structured, but it does not prove God. We must then stand back and ask “why?” using metaphysics. We must ask which worldview is congruent with the facts.

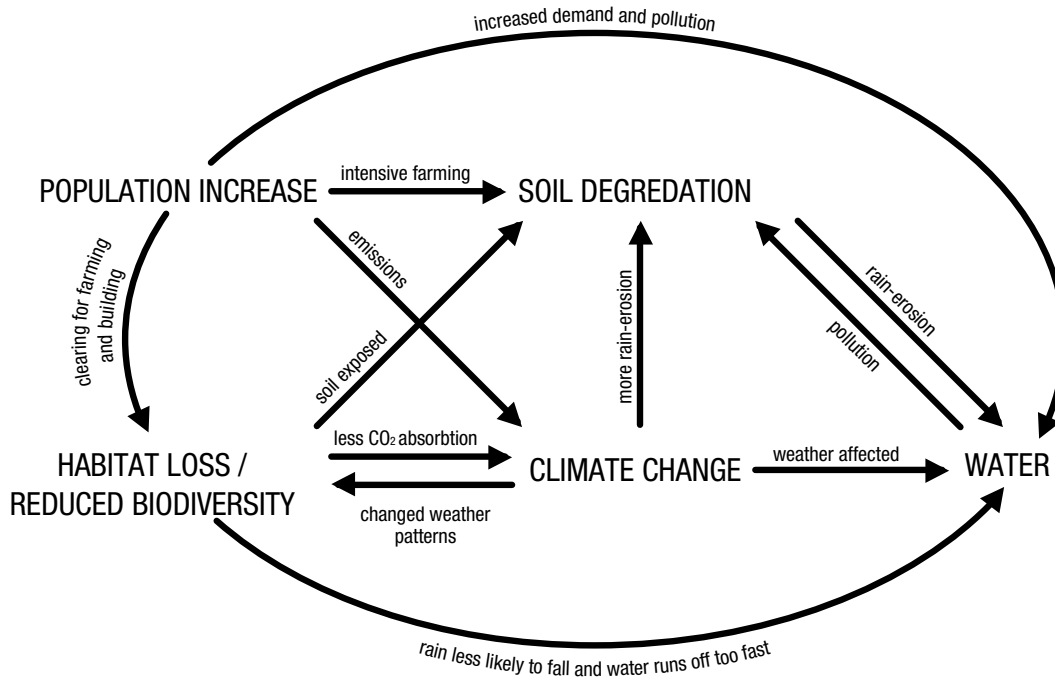
### Part 2, chapter 4

- 1.A. *Answers may vary, but may include:*
- People* – crime, abuse, pollution, building/living in disaster-prone areas, poverty.
- Nature* – hurricanes, disease, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, animal attacks.
- Both* – poverty, sickness, homelessness, fires.
- 1.B. Either physical evil was always present in creation, or it happened as a consequence of the fall.
- 1.C. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
2. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
- 3.A. Sinful human nature.
- 3.B. The poor and meek shall be blessed; the last shall be first; don’t seek status in the world’s eyes; put others’ needs before your own and do not grasp honor and position; honor the weaker parts of the body; bear one another’s burdens; do not show favoritism to the rich.
- 3.C. We can remember how Jesus endured suffering; he understands and he has triumphed. We can remember the sovereignty of God, exemplified in the story of Job. We can rejoice in the hope that one day God will right all wrongs. We can talk to God and hear from him in prayer. We can receive comfort from the family/community/church in which God has put us. We ask for forgiveness when we have done wrong, and we can ask God to help us forgive those who have wronged us.
- 3.D. There will be a new earth. God will be with the created world, and the world will be with him forever. There will be no more suffering or evil.

### Part 2, chapter 5

- 1.A. God powerfully controls creation. He is intimately involved in every detail. He rejoices in what he has made. He is good and merciful to his creatures, and he provides for them.
- 1.B. God told humans to fill the earth, subdue it, and rule over creation—which implies cultivating creation and taking care of it. God gave humans a privileged position, making them rulers over his creation.
- 1.C. Servants should use wisely what their master has given them. They should invest their resources and look after them. They should be faithful with what he has entrusted to them.
- 1.D. Creation is subject to frustration and in bondage to decay. Creation itself is waiting, even groaning, for redemption.

2. There are many different ways to draw this, but here is one:<sup>†</sup>



- 3.A. This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.
- 3.B. This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.
- 3.C. This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.
- 4.A. This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.
- 4.B. This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.

<sup>†</sup>. Test of FAITH Leader's Guide, page 73. Reproduced with permission, Paternoster 2009, Wipf & Stock 2010.

# SUGGESTED ANSWERS

## WEEK 3: Is Anybody There? Human identity and choice

### Day 1: Introduction

1. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
2. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
3. *Specifically Christian sources: the Bible, church teaching, conscience/conviction by the Holy Spirit, the wisdom and informed opinions of others.*

*Other sources: gut feelings/emotions, reason/logic, conscience/guilt, consensus (following the crowd, media, peers), utilitarianism (consequences, the best outcome), relativism (that's true for you), human authorities.*

*Review sheet: Answers to fill-in-the-blanks:*

*Box 1 – brains*

*Box 2 – environment, emerge*

*Box 3 – creative, choices*

*Box 4 – nature*

### Day 2: Chapters 1 and 2

#### Part 3, chapter 1

1. *Answers could include: In literature, we understand more about the whole novel/book/poem by studying the chapters/the characters/the lines/the words.*  
*For the second question, any pair of answers is correct, as long as it illustrates the whole/part relationship.*
- 2.A. *Answers could include: Food, sugar, caffeine, alcohol, drugs, sleep or lack of sleep, hormone levels, depression, mental illness, pain and physical health, head injuries. Note: Though these things do affect a person's mental and spiritual life, Christians believe that God is gracious and gives us his Holy Spirit to help us, regardless of our physical or mental state.*
- 2.B. *Although neuroscientists can simulate spiritual experiences, we believe that the religious experiences of millions of people find their source in a real, external spiritual world.*
- 2.C. *If the spiritual world is real, we would expect it to affect the physical world—and perhaps at times the intersection occurs in the workings of our brain. When we hear from God through prayer, reading the Bible or talking to wise people, something physical happens (in our brains) and something real happens in our relationship with God.*

## Part 3, chapter 2

- 1.A. To say that the camera is “just” metal and plastic does not take into account the purpose for which it was made and the way in which it is used, as well as the agency of the person operating the camera. Similarly, to say that humans are “just” DNA or biochemical reactions does not fully explain questions of meaning and purpose.
- 1.B. People might start to try to change the genes of other people (e.g., their children). Human beings might lose their value as persons. Talented people, or people with “great genes,” might feel under a great deal of pressure to perform. Also, they might not feel a sense of worth based on any self-discipline or effort they put forth, because they might think, “It’s just my genes.” On the other hand, people who have “normal” or “bad” genes might feel unable to achieve or be successful; they might just give up. People with bad behavior, or criminals, might be able to evade responsibility for their actions and say, “My genes made me do it!”
- 1.C. We have real choices to make, and God will hold us to account for them.
- 2.A. *Brain* = the physical organ in your skull, made up of neurons and built by genetics.  
*Mind* = the conceptual “I”; the agent that chooses and acts; consciousness.
- 2.B. *Basic “parts” could include:* atoms; hydrogen and oxygen; protons, neutrons, and electrons.  
*Emergent properties could include:* Crystal structure, six-sided pattern.
- 3.A. Loving God.
- 3.B. Jesus was raised with a real physical body: he was able to be touched and he ate fish. We will be raised with a body like his. We will have resurrection bodies in eternity—so they must be important!

## Day 3: Chapters 3 and 4

### Part 3, chapter 3

- 1.A. Creativity, moral reasoning, the ability to make choices. The scientists also mentioned the moral law, altruism, creating “useless” things like art, and our capacity for self-reflection.
- 1.B. We are made in the image of God. This is a gift, and it has nothing to do with our abilities. We can be in a relationship with God—or, more importantly, God is in relationship with us.
- 1.C. God gave us responsibility to rule the earth, and also the gift of a personal relationship with him. We believe that even infants and people with disabilities have souls with the capacity for relationship and responsibility.
2. *Galatians 3:26–29; Romans 12:4–8* – Each individual is important, regardless of his or her abilities and whether or not these are genetically based.  
*Mark 12:31; Philippians 2:3–4* – Love your neighbor as yourself; look to the interests of others.  
*Deuteronomy 10:18* – Protect and care for the vulnerable.  
*Matthew 25:31–46* – Care for the suffering.  
*Psalms 127:3–5* – Children are gifts from God.  
*Psalms 139:13–16* – God knows us—implying that we are people—while we are still in our mother’s wombs.



- 3.A. *Answers could include:* Infertility—although the child would only be the child of one parent. To replace a child or person who died. Duplication of talented individuals. To allow a homosexual couple to have a child—again, the child would only be the child of one parent. Curiosity. A source of compatible tissue for organ transplants. The cult called the Raelian Movement believes that cloning will bring immortality.
- 3.B. *Answers could include:* The child might struggle with huge expectations to be just like the deceased child. The child might have medical complications due to his or her genes not being “switched on/off” in the right way. The parents will probably be disappointed that the clone is not like the original child. The financial cost will be enormous.
- 3.C. *Answers could include:* One risk is making people commodities that you can buy. It allows people to control and create life in more powerful and dangerous ways. Cloning is another way for children to be born outside of a family; people might come to think that families are no longer important.
- 3.D. *Answers may vary.*
- 4.A. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
- 4.B. Christians have a calling to protect and care for the vulnerable; embryos and babies are very vulnerable and cannot speak for themselves. Christians have a responsibility to protect them.
- 4.C. *This is a self-reflection exercise to stimulate thought.*
- 4.D. *Effect on individual:* There will be expectations (from others and themselves) for that person to perform.  
*Effects on society:* Justice – is this enhancement available to all, or does it cause a wider rift between rich and poor? Enhancement increases differences between people, which could lead to conflict (e.g., jealousy or social injustice causing anger and conflict).

## Part 3, chapter 4

- A. The book of the Bible and the book of nature.
- B. We need to ask appropriate questions of faith and science. Use the right tools to answer our questions. (E.g., don't ask science to answer questions of meaning or value; don't expect the Bible to be a scientific textbook.)