



BIG QUESTION

Do we have to choose between science and the Bible?

CAMPFIRE | WEEK 5 OF 5

Science and God

GOD STORY

Psalms

KEY VERSE

Don't worry about anything.
No matter what happens,
tell God about everything.
Philippians 4:6a (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

- This series steps into topical teaching with big questions about prayer, scripture and science, denominations, and more. Because it gets into some meaty subjects, please be sure to read this lesson plan in advance and be prepared. You may get questions you don't have answers for—that's okay! Be honest with the students and learn together.
- An additional resource for leaders is available for this week's Big Question. Please take some time to review it.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Ask the students what their favourite fields of science are and introduce today's Big Question to lead into the lesson.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Compete in teams to help familiarize the students with things that fit on the same axes.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

My Story

4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Work through the Axes activity page together to dig deeper into the Big Question.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Read Psalm 104 and draw one of the images from the chapter. Highlight that as we learn about the world through science, we can praise God for his wisdom and creativity!

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- As the students arrive, welcome them and find out how their weeks have gone.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet the students and gather them together.
- Ask: What's your favourite branch of science (e.g., zoology, geology, astronomy, robotics, chemistry)?
- Depending on the size of your group, invite the students to share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Question: ***Do we have to choose between science and the Bible?***
- Ask the students how they'd answer that question.

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Pens
- Prizes

LEADER TIP

- To see what the axes (i.e., plural of a mathematical axis not a wood-chopping tool!) should look like, refer to the activity page for the Application Activity later in this lesson.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the students into teams of about five people.
- Give each group several sheets of paper and some pens.
- Direct them to fold each paper into four squares.
- Explain that you'll list two descriptions for the axes of a data graph. The teams will race to come up with an object for each quadrant. The first team to bring you a completed list for each round gets a point.
- Read the following descriptions one at a time:
 - Red/round
 - Sweet/small
 - Things you can see/things you love
 - Learned at school/learned from parents
 - In the Bible/in science class
- Award prizes to the team with the most points.



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Psalms)
 - Life Story (Kids sit around a campfire and chat about some big questions. This week's question is: ***Do we have to choose between science and the Bible?***)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for the Campfire series? (Philippians 4:6a)
 - What stood out to you in today's Life Story? How about the God Story?

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Axes activity pages
- Markers
- Pens

LEADER TIP

- If students are engaged, challenge them to add more ideas to the quadrants.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Explain that sometimes it seems as if the Bible and science compete to offer the "right way" to look at the world. However, we can learn about God, ourselves, and the world from both sources! Rather than competing, they are like two axes.
- Give each person an activity page.
- Place the writing supplies where everyone can share them.
- Review the page together.
- For each of the following statements, discuss whether we know it's true because of the Bible, science, or both, and place it on the page:
 - The earth revolves around the sun.
 - Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Humans are very creative.
 - God is very creative.
 - Pizza is delicious.
 - We need to take care of the earth.
 - There is no oxygen in space.
 - God cares about animals.
- Discuss: Are there ever times when you feel as if your belief in God conflicts with studying science (or the other way around)? If so, when and why?



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- God of All Creation activity pages
- Markers
- Pens

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- b. Guide the students to look up Psalm 104.
- c. Explain that this poem was written to honour God's creativity and power.
- d. Depending on how much time you have, review the whole chapter or focus on the following verses: 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 28, and 32.
- e. Give each person an activity page.
- f. Place the drawing supplies where everyone can share them.
- g. Direct the students to choose one of the images you just read about in the Bible and draw a picture of what it could look like.
- h. Encourage everyone to add a brief explanation of what the image they chose tells us about God (e.g., "God is amazingly powerful").
- i. Invite the students to share their work with the rest of the group.
- j. To wrap up, read aloud verse 24.
- k. Explain that this verse sums up the whole chapter. We don't know everything about how God created the world, but we can trust that he is wise. As we learn about it through science, we can praise God's wisdom and creativity!

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.