

Small Group Guide
Skeletons in the Closet: Christianity and Science: Friends or Foes?

Ice Breaker Question

**In a group discussion sometimes it is helpful to have people break up in pairs and share their answers. It is less intimidating from some individuals.*

Read Genesis One

Did anything stick out to you in the text or from the weekend sermon?

What attitudes towards science have you seen reflected in the church? If you grew up in the church, did you perceive science as something hostile to your faith or the Bible? How so?

Science can explain a lot about our world. But what are some things that science can't explain?

How can the various sciences deepen our worship of and appreciation towards the creator?

Christians frequently debate the meaning of Genesis one. Some Christians believe the days are literal 24 hour days and the earth is very young and other Christians believe the days are extended periods of time and the earth is very old. Here is a chart expressing three main views:

The 24-hour view (young earth view)	The days are seven 24-days, of one earth week, about six to ten thousand years ago.
The day-age view (Old Earth view)	The days represent an unspecified length of creative activity.

The Framework view	The days exhibit a logical, thematic order. The purpose of Genesis one is not 'how' and 'when' it is 'who' and 'why'?
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All three of these views are held by Christians who believe the Bible is the word of God and true in all it teaches, but these conversation have a tendency to generate more heat than light. However, for the sake of discussion share with the group what view you hold and why?

Genesis One intends to communicate these truths about humanity: people are made in the image of God, priests in His temple of creation, His representatives in the world, who are to care for creation and one another, creating culture that glorifies God. Take a moment a think about some practical implications of these truths. Share with the group.

Why does it matter to us that the there will be no final conflict between accurate biblical interpretation and good science?