

Scientists and the Scientific method

God is a Servant

God is Truth

Spiritual Awareness: Serving with talents

"There is a widespread, but erroneous view today, that real scientists do not accept the truth of the Bible. It is therefore interesting to learn that many of the founding fathers of modern science were Bible-believing Christians...These scientists found their faith in God's Word to be perfectly compatible with their scientific investigations, (from "21 Great Scientists who believed in the Bible".)

Christian scientists of the past served mankind, but some, like Galileo, were threatened with imprisonment for stating the truth. Persecution continues today, with scientists who believe in creation, being ridiculed. Many Christians, who do not bother to investigate the facts, choose to believe that the world was not made in six days, but formed over millions of years.

Biblical references

Matthew 25:14-29 - Parable of the talents

John 16:13 – The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

John 14:15-21 – The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.

John 18:37 – Everyone of the truth hears my voice

John 10 – The Good Shepherd – hearing the voice of God.

Romans 1:20 – God's invisible qualities clearly seen through the creation

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Truth): True or false?

Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Servant): Jesus, the humble servant

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Servant): Jesus, the faithful servant

Excellent resources available for purchase on-line:

- *21 Great Scientists who believed in the Bible, by Ann Lamont*
<http://www.amazon.com/Great-Scientists-who-believed-Bible/dp/0949906212>
- *Men of Science, Men of God, by Henry M. Morris*
<http://www.creationconversations.com/profiles/blogs/men-of-science-men-of-god-is-back-in-print>

Key Questions

How did Jesus serve others?

How can we serve God, using our abilities?

What does a scientist do?

How can scientists use their ability for God?

What must a scientist believe before he can serve God?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- Understand the work of a scientist.
- Explain the 'scientific method'.
- Study the important discoveries of scientists who founded their beliefs on the Bible.
- Provide a model of servant-hood through the study of Christian scientists.
- Describe the contribution of particular scientists to mankind.
- Decide whether science and Christianity are compatible.
- Identify examples of technology that serves mankind.

Skills

- research
- investigate
- predict
- assess
- report

Values

- recognize strength in the Christian faith
- strive to do great things for God
- desire to serve others using gifts and talents

Famous Scientists

Activities

- List and explain the various roles of scientists, e.g. anthropologists, archaeologists, chemists, engineers, astrophysicists, paleontologists.
- Research the lives and works of famous scientists. Explain how they sought truth from the Creator.
- Discuss careers in science.
- Research the lives of these scientists: Johannes Kepler, Robert Boyle, Isaac Newton, Carl Linnaeus, Leonhard Euler, Georges Cuvier, Michael Faraday, Samuel Morse, Charles Babbage, Matthew Maury, James Joule, Louis Pasteur, Gregor Mendel, William Thomson, Joseph Lister, James Clerk Maxwell, John Ambrose Fleming, George Washington Carver, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Wernher von Braun, (*21 Great Scientists by Ann Lamont*)
- Research the beliefs and works of Francis Bacon, Leonardo da Vinci, John Dalton and John Woodward. (A brief summary of their beliefs and can be found in the book, *Men of Science, Men of God* by Henry M. Morris.)
- Read and discuss the story of Galileo, (*Themes for Christian Studies 5, Truth*). Outline his discoveries.
- Research the development of one form of technology, e.g. aeroplane.
- Imagine areas of human need that require servant scientists to make a contribution.
- Discuss the contributions to science that are being made increasingly by women.

- Discuss the differences in beliefs between creation scientists and evolutionary scientists.

Scientific Method

The scientific method is just a way to examine a subject logically and learn from it. Briefly, the steps of the scientific method are:

1. Learn about a topic.
2. Ask a question.
3. Make a hypothesis (a good guess).
4. Design an experiment to test your hypothesis.
5. Observe the experiment and collect data.
6. Draw conclusions. (Does the data support your hypothesis?)

Note: It's okay to have a "wrong hypothesis." That's how we learn. Be sure to help your students understand why they sometimes get a different result than expected. (www.answersingenesis.org)

Activities

- Research the Scientific Method. Outline the steps. Ask the questions: Is it observable? Can it be tested? Can it be proved true or false?
- Explain the importance of the Scientific Method in the discovery of truth.
- Use senses and the Scientific Method to identify unknown substances.
- Use the Scientific Method to investigate a crime. Teacher sets up a crime site and briefs several students who have privately acted out their involvement. Using the Scientific Method, the class investigates a past event, discovering the limitation of science in presenting truth about the past.
- Apply the Scientific Method to the theory of Evolution.

Assessment

1. Present research on one famous great scientist. Include information on his/her discoveries. What impact did their Christian faith have upon their work?
2. Write a report on an experiment you have conducted and show how you have applied the scientific method.
3. What have you learned from the study of Christian scientists and the scientific method...
 - a. about God?
 - b. about doing what God wants me to do?
 - c. about the Bible?