



IRREFUTABLE PROOF OF CREATION

A BIBLICAL APOLOGETICS COURSE

STUDY GUIDE

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HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM



Study Guide

The study guide provides a place for students to expand their knowledge and understanding as they are challenged by the content of this curriculum. This can become a valuable tool when they need personal encouragement or equipping to help others. The guide presents several questions for each episode and space to record their answers and take additional notes during discussion.

The student's copy without answers is found at the end of this guide starting at page 24. The lessons with answers should act as a teacher's or facilitator's guide. Print several copies of the second section for students. The teacher should print one full copy of the entire guide.

Videos and Questions

Each lesson has several questions the students should answer after watching the videos. Then engage the students in discussion using the teacher's guide with answers.

Conclusion

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

DISCUSSION TIPS



The strength of this curriculum depends on the engagement of the students with the ideas presented. Use the following discussion tips to help you lead fruitful discussion:

- Discussion is effective when a majority of students are involved. Manage students as necessary to draw out those who are quieter and keep the more vocal from dominating the conversation.
- Create an environment where students feel safe to share their thoughts and experiences without judgment or ridicule.
- While you need to be aware of your time, do not cut short a discussion that seems especially engaging to the students. Invest your time where the students respond best.
- Have a plan but be flexible enough to allow the students to guide the discussion. In this way you will learn what aspects they are most interested in.
- Use the students' answers to the questions, especially if they changed their answers, to launch discussion.
- Use the main ideas provided as prompts for discussion. Ask whether students agree with certain statements in the video. Encourage thoughtful explanations.
- Ask questions that require thoughtful answers.
- Avoid leading questions; the goal of discussion is not to receive correct answers but to lead students to think about their answers.

Sample Schedule

Below is a sample schedule based on one and a half hours of class time. Exact timing will vary with segment lengths and success of discussion.

6:00–6:10	Open, introduction, and prayer
6:10–6:35	Watch video lesson, encourage students to think about and answer the questions while watching
6:35–6:55	Have students complete answering all questions on their own
6:55–7:20	Discuss each question as a class
7:20–7:30	Wrap-up, answer questions, make announcements, close in prayer

EPISODE 1

Refutable Proofs of Creation



Many common objections to Christianity revolve around creation and the biblical history recorded in Genesis. So Christians with a heart for sharing the gospel must be prepared to address this concern. There are many good lines of evidence that support biblical creation. Information theory states that information always originates in a mind. DNA is a profound example of complex information that demands an intelligent Creator. Additionally, carbon dating and comets are consistent with a young universe and entirely inconsistent with an evolutionary perspective. These and other good arguments, though, are refutable in the sense that the evolutionist can employ a rescuing device to dismiss the conclusion. We don't need evidence; we need an irrefutable proof of the Christian worldview.

1. What objections have you encountered when trying to share the gospel? How might an irrefutable proof of creation have been helpful in that situation?

Many people reject the gospel and for various reasons. Because naturalism and evolutionary ideas are so prevalent in the fields of education and science, many objections center around Genesis, and specifically, creation. Having an irrefutable proof of creation would equip the evangelist to confidently address such objections and defend the Christian faith.

2. How is information theory inconsistent with evolutionary explanations?

Information must originate from an intelligent mind. Evolutionary ideas reject the notion of a Creator. DNA is an example of a complex information system that must have a creator. Evolutionary explanations are not consistent or sufficient for explaining DNA. Evolutionists would claim that DNA evolved through a series of mutations. However, mutations never add new information, which would be required for molecules-to-man evolution. Everything we know about information (and DNA in particular) is consistent with a biblical worldview, but utterly incompatible with an evolutionary perspective.

3. Which line of evidence presented in this session do you find most powerful? Why?

Discuss answers, taking the opportunity to marvel at God's design and build confidence in defending the Christian worldview. These evidences can be powerful, and though they are not irrefutable, they may be effective in some conversations.

4. Why are evidences for creation such as information theory, carbon dating, and comets not considered irrefutable?

Evolutionists can refute any of these proofs by employing a rescuing device that dismisses the conclusion. The secularist can always propose a hypothesis that would explain the inconsistency of their view with the evidence. In science, there is always more to discover, and some things that we cannot test. Therefore, there is always a way to refute these lines of evidence for creation. This is why evidence cannot be our authority.

5. Read Romans 1:18–20.

a. Who is "them" in verse 19?

Ungodly and unrighteous men who suppress the truth.

b. What is plain to them, and why?

God's existence and power have been revealed to them by God.

c. What two things have been clearly perceived in creation?

His eternal power and divine nature.

d. How does this passage provide the basis for the irrefutable proof?

This passage explains that everyone knows God in their heart of hearts. They may have suppressed that truth in unrighteousness, but they are without excuse. God's existence and power has been made clear in creation. This is the essence of the irrefutable proof. Everyone already knows the Creator God and they borrow from His reality to make arguments against Him. Thus, the irrefutable proof focuses on exposing that suppressed truth.

EPISODE 2

The Myth of Neutrality



Everyone has a worldview—a network of presuppositions by which evidence is interpreted. A person’s understanding of reality is determined by their worldview. This is why evidence is never decisive when it comes to a worldview issue. Two people with opposing worldviews can look at the same evidence and interpret it differently. It isn’t an issue of evidence, but a debate of worldviews. This is why neutrality is a myth. The Christian should not set aside his ultimate presupposition simply because his opponent does not believe it is the Word of God. Agreeing to set aside the Bible is agreeing to evaluate the evidence from a secular point of view. This is tantamount to conceding defeat at the beginning of the debate. When someone proposes neutrality, you must remember that they are not neutral and you shouldn’t be.

1. What is a worldview and how does it help you think about the origins debate?

A worldview consists of presuppositions—our most basic beliefs about reality. These beliefs determine how we interpret the evidence. Understanding worldview is the key to resolving the origins debate. We all have the same evidence, but how we interpret it (based on our worldview) will determine our conclusion on the matter.

2. How is the claim that the evidence should be interpreted neutrally a self-refuting belief?

This claim belies a belief regarding how evidence should be interpreted. The belief that you should have no beliefs when interpreting the evidence is itself a belief. Therefore, it is a self-refuting belief. No one can escape having presuppositions.

3. What presuppositions do you hold? What is your most basic presupposition?

Encourage honest reflection. As Christians, the Bible should be our ultimate standard and thereby our most basic of presuppositions is that everything must be subjected to the authority of Scripture. However, if we are honest, many of us have been conditioned toward other primary presuppositions (such as naturalism, humanism, etc.). Identify presuppositions and discuss their validity and/or priority, as well as how they have informed beliefs up to this point.

4. What is the myth of neutrality? How does exposing this myth help to equip or encourage you to defend your faith?

No one is neutral. There is no such thing as neutral ground. In the course of debates and discussions, sometimes the critic will claim that the Christian must agree to leave the Bible out of a discussion since the critic does not agree that it is the Word of God. However, if you leave God's Word out of it, you're left with man's fallible word. It is not neutral to leave God out of the discussion; it is hostility toward God. The claim of neutrality is not neutral—it is a secular (i.e., anti-God) concept. Discuss how recognizing this myth empowers the Christian to debate confidently from the foundation of God's Word. Only by standing on God's Word can we have knowledge about anything.

5. Read James 4:4 and Matthew 6:24.

a. What two entities does James set as mutually exclusive?

James sets the world and God in juxtaposition. The choice is either God or the world and there is no possibility of compromise.

b. What attribute of God does James point to in relation to this juxtaposition?

God is jealous. Note: The jealousy of God is not the insecure, angry, selfish envy that we often feel. God is righteously jealous, demanding what rightly belongs to Him.

c. Considering Matthew 6:24, why can James make such a polar statement?

No one can serve two masters because his loyalties will be divided. James is right to juxtapose following God with friendship with the world. They serve different purposes, demand different priorities, and celebrate opposing morals. We cannot pursue both God and the world because those paths are set in opposite directions.

d. How do these verses help you to think about the myth of neutrality?

When you think about the opposing positions, it becomes clear that there is nothing neutral. You are either for God or against Him (Matthew 12:30). There are ultimately two worldviews, the one belonging to God and those that reject the Creator God of the Bible.

EPISODE 3

The Foundation of Knowledge



Science is knowledge, or the pursuit of knowledge. Scientists study the universe in an attempt to understand the reality in which they live. But how do they know what is true? And how can they actually know anything at all? What is knowledge? Only the Bible can make sense of knowledge. If the Bible were not true, it would be impossible to know anything is true. Knowledge is possible because God created mankind in His image. Truth exists because God is truth. To know something is true, one must first assume that his senses and memory are reliable. He must assume that he has the capacity for rational thought. He must also assume that laws of logic exist and that there is uniformity in nature. These are things that a non-Christian worldview cannot account for. Thus, biblical presuppositions—and only biblical presuppositions—make knowledge possible.

- 1. How have you been reticent to use your Bible in an evangelistic conversation? How might that conversation have been different if you refused to leave God's Word out of it?**
Encourage participants to share specific examples, evaluating the reasons for setting aside the Bible. Discuss how it is foolish to talk about the gospel while leaving out the very Word that reveals the gospel, or to talk about origins and set aside the only record of origins revealed by the one who created it all.
- 2. How does recognizing God as the source of truth motivate you to stand on His Word?**
When we recognize that God is the source of all truth and wisdom, we understand that His Word is the absolute standard for truth and understanding reality. This should motivate us to stand on Scripture confidently, not shying away from it but boldly proclaiming it. If we set aside the source and standard of truth, we forfeit the argument. Rather, our argument is bolstered when we are boldly standing on the truth of God's Word.
- 3. How might speaking with an atheist become easier by understanding that you don't have to persuade them that God exists?**
There are some strong arguments for the existence of God, and one who is seeking truth may well be persuaded. However, attempting to prove the existence of God to an ardent atheist can be complex and discouraging because they refuse to believe. Ultimately, the issue is not that they believe God doesn't exist but that they refuse to submit to the God who they know exists. Thus, they suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Understanding this frees the Christian to deal with the heart of the matter.
- 4. How is the irrefutable proof of creation a different kind of argument than you've encountered before?**
The irrefutable proof of creation doesn't focus on proving the existence of God or the truth of creation. Rather, it turns an internal critique on the critic's worldview, demonstrating that reality itself assumes the truth of the Christian worldview. The prerequisites of knowledge can only be accounted for in the Christian worldview. So the burden of proof shifts from the Christian to the secularist—and it is impossible for them to prove anything without borrowing from the Christian worldview.
- 5. Read Proverbs 1:7 and Colossians 2:3.**
 - a. What is the source of knowledge?**
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. God is the source of knowledge.
 - b. In whom are wisdom and knowledge hidden? (refer to the previous verse)**
Wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.
 - c. What was Paul's motivation for his statement in Colossians (see 2:4)?**
Paul didn't want the people to be deluded by arguments that may sound plausible but are not rooted in the true wisdom and knowledge of God.
 - d. How is recognizing God as the source of knowledge important to the irrefutable proof?**
Something is true if it corresponds to the mind of God. This can help us to evaluate truth claims. More importantly, it reveals that any argument must borrow from the biblical God. Any truth or rational thought must presuppose that there is truth and things can be known. And all wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.

EPISODE 4

Morality Demands a Creator



Everyone knows that God exists, that He is powerful, and that they've violated His moral standard. God has revealed these things in creation so that no one has an excuse for their unbelief. When people reject God, they are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. God, as omnipotent and sovereign Creator, is the standard of morality. Morality only makes sense in a universe created by a moral being, by which the concepts of good and evil are defined. Without a holy standard, how is evil measured? Without a lawgiver and judge, who is to say what is good and evil, or why good is preferred over evil? Without the biblical God, there is no consistent rationale for the concept or definition of right and wrong. This truth is evident because many borrow Christian morality even as they try to reject Christianity. And others may attempt to be consistent with their worldview by claiming there is no absolute morality, but they do not live consistently with that claim. Only the Bible can consistently account for the existence of absolute morality.

1. How did the illustration of the shoe debate help you to think about worldview debates?

Discuss answers, emphasizing worldview debates are not primarily about evidence. More shoes will not solve the argument when the real issue is with the rulers. In the same way, more evidence will not settle the matter when the real issue is the worldview—the means for interpreting the evidence.

2. How does this version of the morality argument differ from those you have heard before?

The morality argument is commonly used in defense of God's existence. The traditional argument basically states that the common understanding of morality implies that there must be a moral law-giver. Dr. Lisle's irrefutable proof version of the morality argument deals with the premise itself. The fact that morality exists—the fact that concepts of good and evil exist—demonstrates that the Christian worldview is true.

3. What major limitation of the traditional morality argument does Dr. Lisle's argument answer?

Assuming that a critic accepts and is persuaded by the logic of the morality argument, they can only be brought to a point of recognizing that there is a law-giver—not who that law-giver is. Thus, the traditional morality argument stops short of guiding someone to the true Christian worldview. Dr. Lisle's approach, on the other hand, points to the Christian God alone as the explanation for morality.

4. How did Dr. Lisle's responses to common objections help you to feel more equipped to handle such a conversation?

Discuss responses, encouraging participants to engage with practical scenarios and personal experiences. Many Christians are intimidated by apologetic conversations, especially those that center on these most fundamental of issues. Dr. Lisle's responses show that even the most daunting objections can be dismantled by simply revealing their inconsistencies—the suppressed knowledge of God that leaks out in their behavior.

5. Read Romans 2:14–15.

a. Who are the "Gentiles" in this verse?

The Gentiles in this passage are people who are not Jews. The implication is that they do not know the laws of God recorded in the Torah.

b. How do the Gentiles do what is right, even though they do not have the law?

They naturally know certain things about good and evil because the law is written on their hearts and their consciences condemn them.

c. How does this passage inform the moral argument for God's existence?

This verse indicates that there is an absolute moral code that is written on the hearts of men. God has created people with a conscience that recognizes good and evil. This demands the Creator God who is the standard of morality and the source of conscience.

EPISODE 5

Uniformity in Nature



God created the universe to be orderly and consistent. There are certain patterns in nature that can be observed, measured, and counted on to remain consistent. The laws of nature describe the consistent way in which God upholds His creation. It is due to this uniformity of nature that science is possible. It allows induction—understanding based on observations. It allows the scientific method to work. If a scientist could not rely on the uniformity of nature, he would never be confident that his results were accurate or that they would be accurate when repeated at another time or place. An evolutionist has no basis for the uniformity of nature; only the Bible can account for the consistent nature of the universe.

1. Why is it important not to confuse uniformity of nature with uniformitarianism?

Uniformity of nature refers to the orderliness of the universe. The laws of nature are consistent and predictable. Uniformitarianism is the belief that rates and conditions have always been the same as they are today—the present is the key to the past. These are two very different ideas. Uniformity presupposes a biblical worldview, but uniformitarianism is inconsistent with a biblical worldview.

2. How can a Christian confidently account for uniformity in nature?

According to the biblical worldview, there is no difficulty with uniformity. The laws of nature are simply descriptions of how God upholds His universe. Those laws are consistent because God Himself is consistent. The Christian can also be confident that the laws will continue in the future as they have in the past because God, who is beyond time, has promised such consistency—as long as the earth remains.

3. How can uniformity of nature be used as a proof for creation?

Uniformity of nature is a truth that is accepted by all scientists. In fact, assuming uniformity is the basis of all scientific inquiry. While the Christian scientist can easily explain uniformity from a biblical worldview, the secularist cannot defend its existence within their own worldview. The fact that we can know that the laws are consistent in time and space demonstrates that the Creator God of the Bible is upholding the universe by the word of His power.

4. Why is the irrefutable proof of creation an effective tool for evangelism?

The irrefutable proof demonstrates that the Christian worldview is reasonable and consistent with reality. It provides answers to those who are seeking and exposes the excuses of the skeptic. Most importantly, though, the irrefutable proof is more than a defense of creation or a winning argument. The power of the irrefutable proof is that it points to the biblical Creator. This is not a deistic argument; it is a biblical argument. Ultimately, it's about more than winning a creation versus evolution debate, it's about pointing people to Jesus Christ.

5. Read Genesis 8:22, Hebrews 1:3, and Psalm 148:7.

a. What did God promise in Genesis 8:22 regarding patterns of nature?

God promised that certain patterns of nature would continue in the same way as long as the earth remains.

b. Who upholds the universe (Hebrews 1:3)?

It is Christ who upholds the universe by the word of His power.

c. Considering Psalm 148:7, on which attributes of God do we depend for uniformity of nature? (Consider also Malachi 3:6)

We can depend on the uniformity in nature because God is sovereign (in control of all things) and omnipotent (all-powerful) and because He is immutable (unchanging) and faithful to fulfill His promises. God created all things in His omnipotence, and all things remain according to His sovereign decree. And because God is consistent and faithful, we can trust that He will uphold all things until His promised return.

EPISODE 6

Logic Reflects God's Mind



In order to know anything, there must be laws that govern knowledge and thinking. These laws are referred to as the laws of logic. These laws are a reflection of the way God thinks and the way He expects us to think. In a random chance universe, there is no explanation for these laws. The laws of logic are conceptual, universal, invariant, and exceptionless. Secularists cannot explain the existence of concepts, and they cannot explain why the laws are consistent, unchanging, and binding. There can be no rational argument against Christianity. Any argument that uses logic must stand on the Christian worldview to get started, which means that if it were successful in disproving Christianity, it would disprove itself.

1. How would you justify the laws of logic in a Christian worldview?

The laws of logic are the reflection of how God thinks and how He expects us to think. This explains why the laws of logic are conceptual, universal, invariant, and exceptionless. They are conceptual because they describe God's thinking, universal because God is omnipresent and upholding the entire universe, invariant because God does not change, and exceptionless because God is sovereign over all things.

2. Which of these logical fallacies have you encountered? How did you handle them and how would you handle them differently after this lesson?

Discuss answers, encouraging participants to use previous experiences to practice identifying logical fallacies and developing strategies for dealing with them. While it may be easy to fall into the trap of refuting the fallacious claim, the strength of the irrefutable proof is that it equips you to stay focused on the heart of the matter rather than going down the peripheral rabbit holes.

3. Which fallacies do you need additional help to understand?

Take the time to review the logical fallacies named in this lesson. Share explanations and examples as necessary to clarify the fallacies and equip participants to identify them in the course of an argument.

4. How are you encouraged by knowing that there are no rational arguments against Christianity?

Discuss answers. This can be an encouraging and liberating knowledge. Many people are intimidated to have gospel conversations, especially with scientists or those who seem to be especially intellectual. Many Christians feel ill-equipped or unprepared to answer their objections. The irrefutable proof (especially as it relates to logic) should embolden the Christian because there is no successful argument against Christianity.

5. Read 2 Timothy 2:7 and 1 Corinthians 14:29.

a. What types of thinking are commanded in these verses?

Timothy is told to consider or think carefully about what Paul had said. Those listening to the prophets are told to evaluate or judge what was spoken by the prophets. These are just two examples (there are many others) where the Bible encourages or commands reasoned thought and discernment.

b. Where does understanding come from?

The Lord gives understanding.

c. How do these verses relate to the logic portion of the irrefutable proof?

The Bible teaches us to think in a reasoned and orderly way because it reflects the way God thinks. Our ability to think logically stems from being created by God after His image. The rules of logic are simply descriptions of how God thinks, and therefore how the universe works. The biblical worldview is foundational for the existence of logic as well as the motivation to practice sound logic.

EPISODE 7

Taking It to the Streets



The goal of Christian apologetics is not just to win arguments; rather, the Christian does apologetics for the purpose of pointing people to Jesus. The irrefutable proof can be used to help people see the truth of the Bible and thus the truth of the gospel. Proverbs 26:4–5 provides a strategy for engaging a fool in conversation. The first imperative is to “do not answer.” In other words, the Christian must not accept the folly of the fool and thus become like him. In the second step, the Christian answers the fool in such a way that reveals the folly of his claims. The Christian does not embrace the presuppositions of the fool, but temporarily and hypothetically stands on those presuppositions to demonstrate that they lead to absurdity.

- 1. Why is the “don’t answer” command so important in dealing with the arguments of a nonbeliever?**

The “don’t answer” part of the strategy is a refusal to embrace the nonbeliever’s unbiblical presuppositions. We should never set aside what we know to be true or accept what we know not to be true just because the opponent demands it. The moment we cede our foundation, we have lost the argument and any grounds from which to convince the nonbeliever that Christianity is true. It is imperative that we “do not answer a fool according to his folly”.
- 2. What is so effective about answering a fool according to his folly?**

Answering a fool according to his folly refers to temporarily and hypothetically standing on his presuppositions in order to show that they lead to absurdity. This is effective because it exposes the truth to one who has suppressed it. It pushes him to be consistent with what he says he believes, thus revealing the unreasonableness of his position.
- 3. What is the key to using the “don’t answer . . . answer” strategy effectively?**

Discuss answers. The “don’t answer . . . answer” strategy helps the Christian to address the core issue of worldview without getting distracted by peripheral issues. The key to wielding the strategy is identifying the underlying assumptions of a given claim. It is the presuppositions that need to be exposed as foolish.
- 4. Do you find this strategy exciting or challenging? Why?**

Encourage honest discussion, encouraging each other in learning and applying this new strategy. Some may feel uncomfortable or overwhelmed with the idea of implementing this strategy while others may be energized and excited by what may be an effective new tool. Use the discussion to encourage those who are hesitant and help deal with any challenging factors. Encourage participants who are less confident to team up with a partner for their first few encounters. Discuss other ways to exhort participants to apply the irrefutable proof to practical evangelistic opportunities.
- 5. Read 1 Peter 3:15 and 2 Timothy 2:25.**
 - a. What should characterize our defense?**

We must be gentle, showing respect.
 - b. How is the Lord’s servant meant to correct his opponents?**

He corrects them with gentleness.
 - c. What is the motivation for this correction?**

Correction is given with the hope that the opponent might repent and be brought to a knowledge of the truth. In other words, the hope is for the opponent’s salvation.
 - d. How do these two verses inform our approach to the irrefutable proof?**

We strive to be ready to defend our faith and to correct our opponents. However, we don’t practice apologetics for the purpose of winning debates; we want people to hear the gospel and to trust in Jesus for salvation. To this end, we must conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect, even as we are ready to defend and correct.

EPISODE 8

Biblical Apologetics in Action



When the apostle Paul spoke to the Greek scholars in Athens, he was speaking to a group of people with a very different worldview than the Jews. He could not present the gospel message in the same way he did in the synagogue because the Greeks didn't have the same context—the same worldview—by which to interpret the evidence. Rather, Paul pointed out that they were standing on biblical presuppositions even though they did not acknowledge it. Paul began by providing biblical context, laying the foundation for the Christian worldview starting with creation. Next, he destroyed their worldview by pointing out its internal inconsistencies, exposing their innate knowledge of God. Finally, he presented the solution—trust in Christ. His strategy parallels the patterns demonstrated in Proverbs 26:4–5.

- 1. How has this lesson challenged you to think differently about Paul's sermon in Acts 17?**
Discuss answers. While some participants may have heard this passage used in a discourse about evangelism or missions, most will not have analyzed the sermon in light of Dr. Lisle's irrefutable proof of creation. Encourage participants to share how this practical example of the "don't answer . . . answer" method helps to clarify the strategy or encourage its implementation.
- 2. How was Paul's audience in Athens similar to many of our audiences today?**
Our world today is increasingly post-Christian. Many of the people we come in contact with are secular evolutionists with little to no background in the Christian faith. This is very similar to Paul's Greek audience. They did not have a Christian foundation; they operated out of a secular, pagan worldview. Increasingly, we live in a culture that is more like the Greeks in Acts 17 than the Jews that Peter spoke to in Acts 2.
- 3. How does using Paul's sermon as a practical example encourage you to use this strategy?**
It can be difficult to move from the theoretical to the practical. Seeing a strategy in action can not only help to clear up areas of confusion, it can also be the key to pushing past the barrier to putting the philosophy into practice. Furthermore, Paul's example is a biblical one, and thus worth emulating. Seeing that Paul used this strategy and that it was effective should encourage and motivate us to employ it as well.
- 4. How does knowing that Paul's sermon resulted in skeptics, seekers, and converts inform your understanding of successful evangelism?**
The Apostle Paul was hand-picked by God to be his ambassador to the Gentiles, and yet after one of his most famous discourses, very few trusted in Jesus. This should not be discouraging, but liberating. We must, like Paul, recognize that we are not responsible for changing people's hearts. We simply proclaim the truth, exposing their faulty worldview and demonstrating the truth of Christianity. If we faithfully deliver the message, we are successful; we leave the results to God.
- 5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23.**
 - a. What was Paul's driving motivation?**
Paul wanted people to know and respond to the gospel.
 - b. What did Paul mean that he became all things to all people?**
Paul was referring to the fact that he adapted to various situations in order to most efficiently share the gospel. He didn't want to be an obstacle to faith; he wanted to facilitate their belief as much as possible.
 - c. How is this claim illustrated in Paul's sermon in Athens (Acts 17)?**
Paul was speaking to a group of Greek scholars. Thus, he didn't preach the gospel to them in the same way that he spoke it to the Jews in the synagogue. He spoke to them in the style of a philosopher, pointing to their own religious worldview to expose their suppressed knowledge of the biblical God and point them to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - d. How does Paul's approach inspire your own evangelism?**
Discuss answers. Paul had a passion for the gospel and was willing to do whatever it took to win people to Christ. In the same way, we ought to be motivated by the gospel and flexible in how we engage with people. The "Don't answer . . . answer" strategy provides an efficient tool for meeting people where they are and pointing them to the truth of the gospel.

EPISODE 9

Testing Every Worldview



The AIP test is a practical framework for evaluating a nonbeliever's worldview. Every worldview apart from Christianity fails because it is arbitrary, inconsistent, and/or unable to account for the preconditions of intelligibility. A worldview fails if it is arbitrary because it is not based on reason or evidence—it is necessarily irrational. A worldview is false if it is inconsistent because truth can never contradict truth. An inconsistent worldview violates the law of non-contradiction. A worldview fails if it cannot account for the preconditions of intelligibility—the things required to have knowledge. Only the biblical worldview passes this AIP test. Once a nonbeliever's worldview has been shown to be faulty, the Christian can invite them to stand on the Christian worldview and, ultimately, believe the gospel.

1. How do you understand arbitrariness better as a result of this session?

Something is arbitrary when it is not based on reason or evidence. To be a rational thinker, one must have a good reason for what he or she believes. Christians are called to be ready to share the reason for our hope. Ours is not a blind faith, but a reasoned one. Identifying claims that are arbitrary is a simple way to expose a nonbeliever's worldview as folly and point them instead to the Christian worldview.

2. In what way are you better prepared to point out inconsistency in a nonbeliever's worldview?

Every non-Christian worldview is inconsistent. It may become apparent that the view is internally inconsistent, holding two contradictory claims. Another way to identify inconsistency is between the claim and the actions of the one making the claim. Thankfully, most people do not act in a way that would be consistent with their professed views, if they were carried out to their logical conclusions. Pointing out these inconsistencies can expose a nonbeliever's faulty worldview and provide an opportunity to share the perfectly consistent biblical worldview.

3. How will the AIP test benefit you in a practical conversation?

Discuss answers. The AIP test provides an easy-to-remember framework for evaluating worldviews or truth claims. When engaging with a nonbeliever, it can be hard to know where to begin. Critiquing their worldview can seem daunting. The AIP test helps to reveal points of entry, specific areas where the tables can be turned.

4. Which of the email examples was the most helpful for you? Why?

Encourage participants to share their thoughts regarding the practical examples. Some may be helpful in illustrating complex ideas. Others may resonate with previous experiences. Cultivate discussion that encourages and equips participants to apply these ideas as they engage nonbelievers.

5. Read Colossians 4:5–6.

a. Who are "outsiders" in verse 5?

These are non-Christians.

b. What does it mean to walk in wisdom and make the best use of time?

We are called to redeem the time wisely, knowing that Jesus will return and destroy this world along with the wicked. Therefore, we should prioritize gospel conversations.

c. What does wisdom and seasoned speech allow us to do?

Wise and gracious speech provides opportunities to share the gospel. Though the needed answers, arguments, and/or approach may vary from one conversation to another, we should strive to know how to answer each person.

d. How does this verse encourage you to engage in conversations using the irrefutable proof?

Discuss answers. We should find this verse motivating and encouraging. We are called to share the gospel, to provide answers, and to do so graciously, with wisdom. The irrefutable proof of creation provides an effective tool for knowing how to answer each person—not according to their folly but exposing the suppressed truth.

EPISODE 10

Responding to Evolutionary Claims



The AIP test can be very helpful in responding to an evolutionist. Though some evolutionists are demanding and adamant, the Christian does not need to be intimidated. The biblical worldview is the only worldview that provides a consistent and non-arbitrary answer for the preconditions of intelligibility. This means that any evolutionary argument can be demolished by identifying its areas of arbitrariness and inconsistency. Additionally, identifying logical fallacies pierces through the rhetoric and emotion to expose the irrationality of a claim. The reality is that everyone already knows in their heart of hearts the biblical God; all the Christian needs to do is to expose that suppressed knowledge of God. The Christian can engage confidently with nonbelievers, equipped with the irrefutable proof: the Bible must be true because if it were not, we couldn't know that anything is true.

- 1. Which claims in the article would you have found intimidating or difficult to respond to prior to this lesson? How did Dr. Lisle's handling of the article change your perspective?**
Encourage honest reflection. Evolutionists often employ strong and confident language that can seem daunting, making unsupported claims that sound like fact. Discuss how Dr. Lisle's surgical handling of the rhetoric revealed the weak foundation of each claim.
- 2. Which fallacies do you have a better understanding of as a result of this study?**
Dr. Lisle directly taught several of the most common fallacies in a previous lesson, and he identified several others demonstrated in this article. Discuss how the examples from the article illustrate fallacies and encourage participants to share other examples they have encountered. Encourage participants to think about how understanding and identifying fallacies can strengthen their apologetic defense of Christianity.
- 3. How has the analysis of this article strengthened your confidence in speaking with evolutionists?**
Discuss answers. The Christian should find this lesson encouraging because it illustrates the weakness of the arguments against creation. As demonstrated by the article, evolutionists don't have strong arguments; rather, they rely on rhetoric. Being able to break down the rhetoric and identify the logical fallacies equips the Christian to expose the evolutionist's case as arbitrary and inconsistent. The Christian need not be intimidated by the evolutionist.
- 4. How do you think the irrefutable proof of creation will impact your approach to evangelism or creation apologetics?**
Discuss answers, encouraging participants to identify specific areas of application. The irrefutable proof can help the Christian to be confident in his/her own beliefs and to recognize the shortcomings of other views. The irrefutable proof can also be used directly to challenge people of other worldviews, exposing their suppressed knowledge of God and inviting them to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- 5. Read Jude 3 & 17–23.**
 - a. What does it mean to contend for the faith?**
To contend for the faith is to struggle or exert intense effort in defense of the gospel. This is a call both to evangelism and apologetics.
 - b. Against whom does the church contend?**
Christians contend for the faith against scoffers who follow their own passions. These scoffers come in all forms—evolutionists, atheists, social progressivists, those of false religions, etc.
 - c. How should the church prepare to contend against the scoffers?**
Christians focus on discipleship, prayer, walking in love, and resting in the hope of eternal life through Jesus.
 - d. In what ways might we engage with various people (vs. 22–23)?**
These verses suggest that there are various types of people we may speak to. There are those who doubt or question the truth, those who are deceived, and those who are consumed by their sin. We may need to provide answers, to correct, or to rebuke. Regardless, our goal is the same—share with them the truth in hopes that they might repent and be saved. The irrefutable proof of creation can help us to do that.



STUDENT GUIDE

EPISODE 1—Refutable Proofs of Creation

Many common objections to Christianity revolve around creation and the biblical history recorded in Genesis. So Christians with a heart for sharing the gospel must be prepared to address this concern. There are many good lines of evidence that support biblical creation. Information theory states that information always originates in a mind. DNA is a profound example of complex information that demands an intelligent Creator. Additionally, carbon dating and comets are consistent with a young universe and entirely inconsistent with an evolutionary perspective. These and other good arguments, though, are refutable in the sense that the evolutionist can employ a rescuing device to dismiss the conclusion. We don't need evidence; we need an irrefutable proof of the Christian worldview.

1. **What objections have you encountered when trying to share the gospel? How might an irrefutable proof of creation have been helpful in that situation?**

2. **How is information theory inconsistent with evolutionary explanations?**

3. **Which line of evidence presented in this session do you find most powerful? Why?**

4. **Why are evidences for creation such as information theory, carbon dating, and comets not considered irrefutable?**

5. **Read Romans 1:18–20.**
 - a. **Who is "them" in verse 19?**

 - b. **What is plain to them, and why?**

 - c. **What two things have been clearly perceived in creation?**

 - d. **How does this passage provide the basis for the irrefutable proof?**

EPISODE 2—The Myth of Neutrality

Everyone has a worldview—a network of presuppositions by which evidence is interpreted. A person’s understanding of reality is determined by their worldview. This is why evidence is never decisive when it comes to a worldview issue. Two people with opposing worldviews can look at the same evidence and interpret it differently. It isn’t an issue of evidence, but a debate of worldviews. This is why neutrality is a myth. The Christian should not set aside his ultimate presupposition simply because his opponent does not believe it is the Word of God. Agreeing to set aside the Bible is agreeing to evaluate the evidence from a secular point of view. This is tantamount to conceding defeat at the beginning of the debate. When someone proposes neutrality, you must remember that they are not neutral and you shouldn’t be.

1. **What is a worldview and how does it help you think about the origins debate?**

2. **How is the claim that the evidence should be interpreted neutrally a self-refuting belief?**

3. **What presuppositions do you hold? What is your most basic presupposition?**

4. **What is the myth of neutrality? How does exposing this myth help to equip or encourage you to defend your faith?**

5. **Read James 4:4 and Matthew 6:24.**
 - a. **What two entities does James set as mutually exclusive?**

 - b. **What attribute of God does James point to in relation to this juxtaposition?**

 - c. **Considering Matthew 6:24, why can James make such a polar statement?**

 - d. **How do these verses help you to think about the myth of neutrality?**

EPISODE 3—The Foundation of Knowledge

Science is knowledge, or the pursuit of knowledge. Scientists study the universe in an attempt to understand the reality in which they live. But how do they know what is true? And how can they actually know anything at all? What is knowledge? Only the Bible can make sense of knowledge. If the Bible were not true, it would be impossible to know anything is true. Knowledge is possible because God created mankind in His image. Truth exists because God is truth. To know something is true, one must first assume that his senses and memory are reliable. He must assume that he has the capacity for rational thought. He must also assume that laws of logic exist and that there is uniformity in nature. These are things that a non-Christian worldview cannot account for. Thus, biblical presuppositions—and only biblical presuppositions—make knowledge possible.

- 1. How have you been reticent to use your Bible in an evangelistic conversation? How might that conversation have been different if you refused to leave God's Word out of it?**

- 2. How does recognizing God as the source of truth motivate you to stand on His Word?**

- 3. How might speaking with an atheist become easier by understanding that you don't have to persuade them that God exists?**

- 4. How is the irrefutable proof of creation a different kind of argument than you've encountered before?**

- 5. Read Proverbs 1:7 and Colossians 2:3.**
 - a. What is the source of knowledge?**

 - b. In whom are wisdom and knowledge hidden? (refer to the previous verse)**

 - c. What was Paul's motivation for his statement in Colossians (see 2:4)?**

 - d. How is recognizing God as the source of knowledge important to the irrefutable proof?**

EPISODE 4—Morality Demands a Creator

Everyone knows that God exists, that He is powerful, and that they've violated His moral standard. God has revealed these things in creation so that no one has an excuse for their unbelief. When people reject God, they are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. God, as omnipotent and sovereign Creator, is the standard of morality. Morality only makes sense in a universe created by a moral being, by which the concepts of good and evil are defined. Without a holy standard, how is evil measured? Without a lawgiver and judge, who is to say what is good and evil, or why good is preferred over evil? Without the biblical God, there is no consistent rationale for the concept or definition of right and wrong. This truth is evident because many borrow Christian morality even as they try to reject Christianity. And others may attempt to be consistent with their worldview by claiming there is no absolute morality, but they do not live consistently with that claim. Only the Bible can consistently account for the existence of absolute morality.

1. **How did the illustration of the shoe debate help you to think about worldview debates?**

2. **How does this version of the morality argument differ from those you have heard before?**

3. **What major limitation of the traditional morality argument does Dr. Lisle's argument answer?**

4. **How did Dr. Lisle's responses to common objections help you to feel more equipped to handle such a conversation?**

5. **Read Romans 2:14–15.**
 - a. **Who are the "Gentiles" in this verse?**

 - b. **How do the Gentiles do what is right, even though they do not have the law?**

 - c. **How does this passage inform the moral argument for God's existence?**

EPISODE 5—Uniformity in Nature

God created the universe to be orderly and consistent. There are certain patterns in nature that can be observed, measured, and counted on to remain consistent. The laws of nature describe the consistent way in which God upholds His creation. It is due to this uniformity of nature that science is possible. It allows induction—understanding based on observations. It allows the scientific method to work. If a scientist could not rely on the uniformity of nature, he would never be confident that his results were accurate or that they would be accurate when repeated at another time or place. An evolutionist has no basis for the uniformity of nature; only the Bible can account for the consistent nature of the universe.

- 1. Why is it important not to confuse uniformity of nature with uniformitarianism?**

- 2. How can a Christian confidently account for uniformity in nature?**

- 3. How can uniformity of nature be used as a proof for creation?**

- 4. Why is the irrefutable proof of creation an effective tool for evangelism?**

- 5. Read Genesis 8:22, Hebrews 1:3, and Psalm 148:7.**
 - a. What did God promise in Genesis 8:22 regarding patterns of nature?**

 - b. Who upholds the universe (Hebrews 1:3)?**

 - c. Considering Psalm 148:7, on which attributes of God do we depend for uniformity of nature? (Consider also Malachi 3:6)**

EPISODE 6—Logic Reflects God’s Mind

In order to know anything, there must be laws that govern knowledge and thinking. These laws are referred to as the laws of logic. These laws are a reflection of the way God thinks and the way He expects us to think. In a random chance universe, there is no explanation for these laws. The laws of logic are conceptual, universal, invariant, and exceptionless. Secularists cannot explain the existence of concepts, and they cannot explain why the laws are consistent, unchanging, and binding. There can be no rational argument against Christianity. Any argument that uses logic must stand on the Christian worldview to get started, which means that if it were successful in disproving Christianity, it would disprove itself.

- 1. How would you justify the laws of logic in a Christian worldview?**

- 2. Which of these logical fallacies have you encountered? How did you handle them and how would you handle them differently after this lesson?**

- 3. Which fallacies do you need additional help to understand?**

- 4. How are you encouraged by knowing that there are no rational arguments against Christianity?**

- 5. Read 2 Timothy 2:7 and 1 Corinthians 14:29.**
 - a. What types of thinking are commanded in these verses?**

 - b. Where does understanding come from?**

 - c. How do these verses relate to the logic portion of the irrefutable proof?**

EPISODE 7—Taking It to the Streets

The goal of Christian apologetics is not just to win arguments; rather, the Christian does apologetics for the purpose of pointing people to Jesus. The irrefutable proof can be used to help people see the truth of the Bible and thus the truth of the gospel. Proverbs 26:4–5 provides a strategy for engaging a fool in conversation. The first imperative is to “do not answer.” In other words, the Christian must not accept the folly of the fool and thus become like him. In the second step, the Christian answers the fool in such a way that reveals the folly of his claims. The Christian does not embrace the presuppositions of the fool, but temporarily and hypothetically stands on those presuppositions to demonstrate that they lead to absurdity.

1. **Why is the “don’t answer” command so important in dealing with the arguments of a nonbeliever?**

2. **What is so effective about answering a fool according to his folly?**

3. **What is the key to using the “don’t answer . . . answer” strategy effectively?**

4. **Do you find this strategy exciting or challenging? Why?**

5. **Read 1 Peter 3:15 and 2 Timothy 2:25.**
 - a. **What should characterize our defense?**

 - b. **How is the Lord’s servant meant to correct his opponents?**

 - c. **What is the motivation for this correction?**

 - d. **How do these two verses inform our approach to the irrefutable proof?**

EPISODE 8—Biblical Apologetics in Action

When the apostle Paul spoke to the Greek scholars in Athens, he was speaking to a group of people with a very different worldview than the Jews. He could not present the gospel message in the same way he did in the synagogue because the Greeks didn't have the same context—the same worldview—by which to interpret the evidence. Rather, Paul pointed out that they were standing on biblical presuppositions even though they did not acknowledge it. Paul began by providing biblical context, laying the foundation for the Christian worldview starting with creation. Next, he destroyed their worldview by pointing out its internal inconsistencies, exposing their innate knowledge of God. Finally, he presented the solution—trust in Christ. His strategy parallels the patterns demonstrated in Proverbs 26:4–5.

- 1. How has this lesson challenged you to think differently about Paul's sermon in Acts 17?**

- 2. How was Paul's audience in Athens similar to many of our audiences today?**

- 3. How does using Paul's sermon as a practical example encourage you to use this strategy?**

- 4. How does knowing that Paul's sermon resulted in skeptics, seekers, and converts inform your understanding of successful evangelism?**

- 5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23.**
 - a. What was Paul's driving motivation?**

 - b. What did Paul mean that he became all things to all people?**

 - c. How is this claim illustrated in Paul's sermon in Athens (Acts 17)?**

 - d. How does Paul's approach inspire your own evangelism?**

EPISODE 9—Testing Every Worldview

The AIP test is a practical framework for evaluating a nonbeliever's worldview. Every worldview apart from Christianity fails because it is arbitrary, inconsistent, and/or unable to account for the preconditions of intelligibility. A worldview fails if it is arbitrary because it is not based on reason or evidence—it is necessarily irrational. A worldview is false if it is inconsistent because truth can never contradict truth. An inconsistent worldview violates the law of non-contradiction. A worldview fails if it cannot account for the preconditions of intelligibility—the things required to have knowledge. Only the biblical worldview passes this AIP test. Once a nonbeliever's worldview has been shown to be faulty, the Christian can invite them to stand on the Christian worldview and, ultimately, believe the gospel.

- 1. How do you understand arbitrariness better as a result of this session?**

- 2. In what way are you better prepared to point out inconsistency in a nonbeliever's worldview?**

- 3. How will the AIP test benefit you in a practical conversation?**

- 4. Which of the email examples was the most helpful for you? Why?**

- 5. Read Colossians 4:5–6.**
 - a. Who are "outsiders" in verse 5?**

 - b. What does it mean to walk in wisdom and make the best use of time?**

 - c. What does wisdom and seasoned speech allow us to do?**

 - d. How does this verse encourage you to engage in conversations using the irrefutable proof?**

EPISODE 10—Responding to Evolutionary Claims

The AIP test can be very helpful in responding to an evolutionist. Though some evolutionists are demanding and adamant, the Christian does not need to be intimidated. The biblical worldview is the only worldview that provides a consistent and non-arbitrary answer for the preconditions of intelligibility. This means that any evolutionary argument can be demolished by identifying its areas of arbitrariness and inconsistency. Additionally, identifying logical fallacies pierces through the rhetoric and emotion to expose the irrationality of a claim. The reality is that everyone already knows in their heart of hearts the biblical God; all the Christian needs to do is to expose that suppressed knowledge of God. The Christian can engage confidently with nonbelievers, equipped with the irrefutable proof: the Bible must be true because if it were not, we couldn't know that anything is true.

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 - d. **In what ways might we engage with various people (vs. 22–23)?**