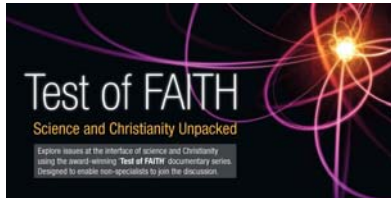
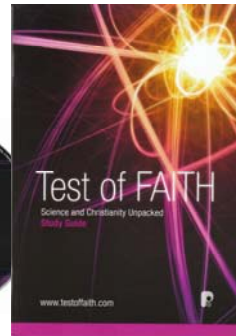


## An Outline of the Test of FAITH Course on Science and Christianity

*Developed by The Faraday Society in the UK*



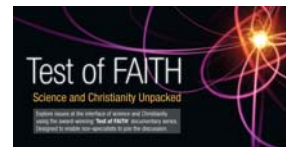
Presented by Peter H Barry  
at an ISCAST meeting  
in the School of Physics  
at the University of NSW  
April 19, 2010



**In the presentation  
some parts of the Test of FAITH  
DVD were played as indicated**

[www.testoffaith.com](http://www.testoffaith.com)

The relationship between science and faith is often represented as a battleground. The claim is that science has pushed God into the margins. But is the truth more complex? Talking to leading scientist-believers, we probe the issues at the heart of this debate. Has science really murdered God? Or is the God question being redefined in new ways by science? Does the possibility of a Creator remain an ineradicable challenge?



The 'Test of Faith' film is a three-part documentary which recently won Silver in the category Best Documentary in the [2009 IVCA \(International Visual Communication Association\) Awards](#). The DVD contains extensive bonus features and material on the science / faith interface that is designed to be relevant and accessible for churches, with contributions and extended interviews from leading scientists and theologians.

## Material Available for Test of FAITH Course

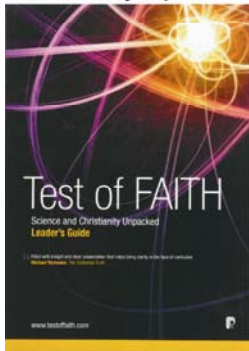
Available directly from Faraday Society: <http://www.testoffaith.com/>

or locally from Koorong Books: <http://www.koorong.com/>

See also information and review on ISCAST website: <http://www.iscast.org/testoffaith>

See also Test of FAITH on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/thetestoffaith>

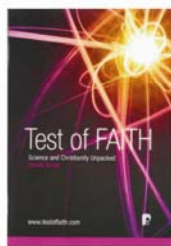
**123-page Leader's Guide**  
Science and  
Christianity unpacked



There is also other material  
available for youth and schools

[www.testoffaith.com](http://www.testoffaith.com)

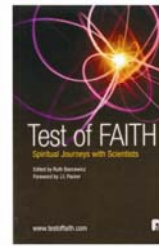
**Study Guide**  
Science and  
Christianity unpacked



**DVD**  
Does science threaten  
belief in God?



**119-Page Booklet**  
Spiritual Journeys  
with Scientists



### Test of FAITH

#### Main Menu

- Part 1: Beyond Reason?  
Science, Faith and the Universe
- Part 2: An Accident in the Making?  
Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis
- Part 3: Is Anybody There?  
Freedom to Choose (Neuroscience & faith)

#### Bonus Features

Audio / Subtitle Setup



[www.testoffaith.com](http://www.testoffaith.com)

#### Bonus Features

Trailer	Biographies (pdfs)
Short videos	The Test of Faith Course
Bonus Interviews	Resources

#### The Test of FAITH Course: Science and Christianity Unpacked

The course is designed to help small groups explore the issues in the Test of FAITH documentary at their own pace using discussion questions, bonus interviews and other activities. The Study Guide has been designed with non-scientists in mind, and with multiple options to allow users to tailor the course to their own needs. A detailed Leader's Guide will provide all the content of the Study Guide, plus suggested responses to questions, critical background information, resources and ideas for making the most of the DVD.

**Please Note:**

In addition to samples of the material and sample questions taken from the *Test of FAITH* material and their websites, some of the summaries of the sections are just meant to be indicative of the material in those sections and are not necessarily a comprehensive and complete description of those sections. Similarly, there are a number of different ways in which the courses can be run, as indicated in the Leaders' Guide and I have just indicated two of those possible course structure options.

**Some Alternative Course Structure Options**

**Basic Option (with optional Introductory session)**

Week 1: Session 1: DVD [Chapter selection 1-4 + 5 (preview)]

Week 2: Session 2: DVD [Chapter selection 1-5 + 6 (preview)]

Week 3: Session 3: DVD [Chapter selection 1-4]

or

**In-depth/bonus options (with optional Introductory session)**

Week 1: Session 1: DVD [Chapter selection 1-4 + 5 (preview)]

Week 2: Bonus Session (DVD Interviews) 1b

Week 3: Session 2: DVD [Chapter selection 1-5 + 6 (preview)]

Week 4: In-depth Session 2.1 - Interpreting Genesis

Week 5: In-depth Session 2.2 - An Accident in the Making (evolution)

Week 6: In-depth Session 2.3 - Evolution, Suffering and the Fall

Week 7: Bonus Session (DVD Interviews) 2b – The Environment

Week 8: Part 3: DVD [Chapter selection 1-4]

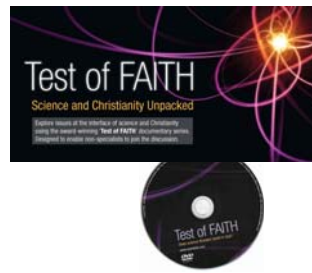
Week 9: Bonus DVD Interviews 3b: Is Anybody There? Thinking about human identity

Very helpful introductory questions and quotes are provided, with discussion topics and questions to go with DVD video presentations. These are complemented with excellent **Briefing Sheets** at the back of the Study Guide and **web links for other material**.



### Bonus DVD Interviews 1b

- 1.1 Ard Louis & John Polkinghorne – Facts & Faith
- 1.2 Ard Louis – Intelligibility
- 1.3 John Polkinghorne & Katherine Blundell – A Personal God
- 1.4 Deborah Haarsma – The Big Bang
- 1.5 David Wilkinson – The Big Bang
- 1.6 Deborah Haarsma – The Multiverse
- 1.7 David Wilkinson – The Multiverse
- 1.8 David Wilkinson – Supporting Christians in Science



### Bonus DVD Interviews 2b

- 2.1 John Houghton – Environmental Issues
- 2.2 John Houghton – The Putrefied World
- 2.3 Alister McGrath – The Putrefied World
- 2.4 Ian Hutchison – What do we do?
- 2.5 Catherine Cutler – What do we do?
- 2.6 John Houghton – What do we do?

### Bonus DVD Interviews 3b

- 3.1 David Wilkinson – The Image of God
- 3.2 John Bryant – The Beginning of Life
- 3.3 Denis Alexander – Genetic testing
- 3.4 John Bryant, Francis Collins & John Polkinghorne – Enhancement
- 3.5 Bill Newsome – Emergence
- 3.6 Bill Newsome – Emergence
- 3.7 Bill Newsome – Emergence

## Other Resource Material on DVD

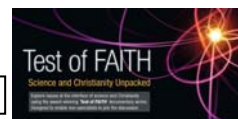
3 or 4 shortened (~2 min ea.) DVD videos for each of Sessions 1-3

### Biographies (in pdf format) of many of the contributing scientists on the DVD Interviews

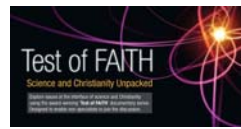
Dr Denis Alexander	Professor Simon Conway Morris
Professor Katherine Blundell	Catherine Cutler
Professor John Bryant	Dr William A. (Bill) Demski
Rev Dr Alasdair Coles	Dr Deborah Haarsma
Dr Francis Collins	Professor Peter Harrison

### Booklet - Test of FAITH – Spiritual Journeys with Scientists Edited by Dr Ruth Bancewicz; Forward Dr J. I. Packer

- The Journey Begins – Dr Ruth Bancewicz
1. Learning the Language of God – Dr Francis Collins
  2. Being Human More than a Brain – Rev Dr Alasdair Coles
  3. Exploring God's Universe – Dr Jennifer Wiseman
  4. Biology, Beliefs and Values - Professor John Bryant
  5. Life in the Lab – Professor Bill Newsome
  6. Thinking Technology – Professor Rosalind Pickard
  7. A Deeper Logic – Dr Ard Louis
  8. The Faith of a Physicist – Rev Dr John Polkinghorne
  9. Heart and Mind: Understanding Science and Faith - Dr Deborah Haarsma
  10. The God Solution? – Professor Alister McGrath



Session (Part) 1: Beyond Reason? Science, Faith and the Universe



Play DVD Session 1 Chapters 1 & 2: 00:00 - 14:13

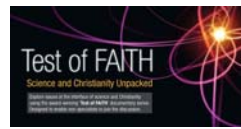
What was new or interesting for you?  
What did you find most surprising or challenging?  
What do you think the main messages were?  
What do you think? Do you agree?

Q. 1. Why do people today sometimes think that there is a conflict between science and religion?  
Q. 4 Why aren't the gaps in scientific knowledge good proof for God?

Has science done away with faith? The first scientists in the West were Christians; conflict started later in Victorian period by Huxley and other scientists to get rid of clergy engaged in science. How do we see the World – the how and why questions?; God, the Big Bang and the 'God of the Gaps'; Creation, miracles and prayer; Fine tuning (the Anthropic Principle – the strong nuclear force that enables carbon to exist stably; the balance between matter and energy at the big bang; the amount of order at the inception of the universe; the gravitational constant and the cosmological constant; the precise ratio of proton : electron mass enables DNA to exist and be stable; can our world be explained by an alternative hypothetical multiverse option?

In-depth/bonus option  
Week 1: Session 1: DVD [Chapter selection 1-4 + 5 (preview)]  
Week 2: Bonus Session (DVD Interviews) 1b

Session (Part) 1: Beyond Reason? Science, Faith and the Universe



Briefing sheets in Study Guide

Briefing Sheet Session 1: Beyond Reason?

DO WE LIVE IN A MULTIVERSE?

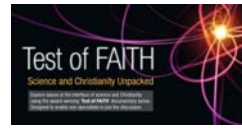
Briefing Sheet Session 1: The Big Bang

How did the universe start?

How old is the universe?

# Session (Part) 1: Beyond Reason? Science, Faith and the Universe

Briefing sheets in Study Guide



**Briefing Sheet Session 1: Fine-tuning**

**3.** The amount of **matter** and **energy** present at the time of the Big Bang had to be **very** finely balanced. If it had been exactly right, the universe would either have collapsed as soon as it began because of the strength of gravity or it would have blown apart too quickly. The probability of this balance occurring was about 1 in 10<sup>121</sup> (one with sixty zeros after it).

**4.** In the universe, **entropy** always **increases**. The universe must have been much more ordered when it began in order for it to be as organised as it is now. Roger Penrose, a former professor of mathematics at Oxford, calculated that the chance that our universe would have this amount of order randomly is one in ten to the power of 10<sup>121</sup>. This number is so large that if you were to write a zero on every atom in the visible universe, you would run out of atoms before you ran out of zeros.

**5.** Gravity would cause the universe to collapse, but there is a force called the **cosmological constant** that works against gravity. The cosmological constant has to have a very precise value so that the universe can be stable. If it were any greater, all the matter in the universe would be torn apart very quickly; if it were smaller, the universe would collapse.

**6.** Atoms are made of **protons** and **electrons**. The mass of a proton must be almost exactly 1840 times the mass of an electron in order for the building blocks of life, such as DNA, to exist and be stable.

**7.** The number of dimensions in our universe is right for life. You can only have planets with stable orbits if you have three dimensions in total. Any more than three and things would become very unstable, and we could not survive.

**Briefing Sheet Session 1: Scientists and Faith through History**

**Thomas Huxley**

After Thomas Huxley, also known as Darwin's 'dog', was the first to make biology scientific, he gave it a logical scientific basis and to make science – religion is not a way of thinking. But if it is not, it is a science, and science is based on the facts of the natural world, not on faith. Huxley was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to use the word 'evolution' to describe the way in which life has changed over time. The 'struggle for survival' which you might call a kind of 'struggle for life', was his theory of evolution. He was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to use the word 'evolution' to describe the way in which life has changed over time. The 'struggle for survival' which you might call a kind of 'struggle for life', was his theory of evolution.

**Scientists of faith**

**Isaac Newton (1643-1727)**

Isaac Newton was a brilliant scientist who was also a Christian. He was the first to show that the laws of physics could be explained by the laws of nature, and he was the first to show that the laws of nature could be explained by the laws of God. He was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to show that the laws of physics could be explained by the laws of nature, and he was the first to show that the laws of nature could be explained by the laws of God.

**Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)**

Galileo Galilei was one of the first scientists to use a telescope to observe the stars. He was the first to show that the stars were not just points of light, but that they were made of gas and had their own light. He was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to show that the stars were not just points of light, but that they were made of gas and had their own light.

**Michael Faraday (1791-1867)**

Michael Faraday was a brilliant scientist who was also a Christian. He was the first to show that electricity and magnetism were two sides of the same coin. He was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to show that electricity and magnetism were two sides of the same coin.

**James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)**

James Clerk Maxwell was a brilliant scientist who was also a Christian. He was the first to show that light was made of electromagnetic waves. He was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to show that light was made of electromagnetic waves.

**Ernest Rutherford (1871-1937)**

Ernest Rutherford was a brilliant scientist who was also a Christian. He was the first to show that atoms were made of protons and neutrons. He was a brilliant scientist and a brilliant writer. He was the first to show that atoms were made of protons and neutrons.

**Robert Hooke (1635-1703)**

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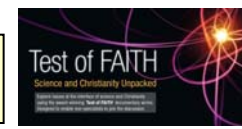
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# Session (Part) 2: An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis



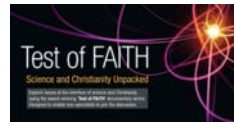
**Play DVD Session 2 Chapters 1 - 5: 00:00 - 29:03**

What was new or interesting for you?  
 What did you find most surprising or challenging?  
 What do you think the main messages were?  
 What do you think? Do you agree?

- Q1. What are the [first two] views on creation we heard?
- Q2. What is the third view on creation?
- Q4. What are the two meanings of the word 'random' that Ard Louis describes?
- Q5. Which meaning does he say fits with evolution?
- Q6. The biggest challenge to faith that comes from evolution is the role of suffering and death in the process. How do the two scientists here, John Polkinghorne and Francis Collins, answer that challenge?
- Q7. What is the source of hope that Alister McGrath gives us in the first comment?

How do we understand Genesis; Christians hold different views on how God created the world; The majority of Christians working in science believe that God used an evolutionary mechanism to create the world; Theistic evolution still raises a number of issues for Christians, the main one being suffering; Also, Christians know that God has called them to care for creation.

## Session (Part) 2: An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis



Week 3: Session 2: DVD [Chapter selection 1-5 + 6 (preview)]

In-depth/bonus options

Week 4: In-depth Session 2.1 - Interpreting Genesis

Discussion topics: Genesis 1; Interpreting Genesis; A Deeper Meaning; A Question of Days; What's the Bottom Line?

Week 5: In-depth Session 2.2 - An Accident in the Making (evolution)

Discussion topics: It's a Process; What a Waste?; Animal Death; A Random Process?; Is there a Purpose in Evolution?

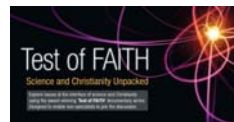
Week 6: In-depth Session 2.3 - Evolution, Suffering and the Fall

Discussion topics: Human Evolution; The Fall; Suffering;

Week 7: Bonus Session (DVD Interviews) 2b – The Environment

Discussion topics: Environmental Issues; God's Purpose for Creation; The Putrified World; What Do We Do?

## Session (Part) 2: An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis



Briefing sheets in Study Guide

### Briefing Sheet Session 2: An Accident in the Making?

Some evolutionary biologists say that the world is without design or purpose. They think that it came into being through a meaningless process, ruled by random chance. The Bible says that we are made in God's image.

#### ARE THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER?

Some people are essential of anything that predates a very old age for the earth, and of evolutionary theory. And some say that living things could not have evolved without any intervention by an intelligent being. They claim that the world was created by an "Intelligent Designer".

But others say that evolution doesn't have to lead to atheism.

They say that Genesis was meant to be interpreted as an important but not scientific message. And that we can see relative evidence for common ancestry in our DNA.

Test of Faith - Briefing Sheet Session 2: An Accident in the Making? (www.testoffaith.com)

Some people say that evolution is a **totally chance** process – like the random throw of a dice – or ruled with a purposeful God.

But random can mean two things:  
1. In day-to-day life we use it to mean "unreliable".  
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.

So although evolution may appear random, it may be the best way of finding solutions to biological problems.

For example, in fact, the Professor of Paleobiology, Simon Conway Morris, believes that evolution can only go in a very few directions – and if you started the process again from scratch, you would end up with very similar things – which fits with the idea that we were meant to be here.

But evolution has other challenges for faith – what about the suffering and death that are part of the process? This is the toughest question for Christians in this area. Some view it as the process of producing beautiful life through evolution is a fitting way for God – who loves and gives the people freedom – to create.

It **does** seem a necessary product of a creation that is able to have life in each variety – and that science cannot make paradise on earth. We know that it can be misused, because human beings are flawed creatures.

THE COMMAND GIVEN IN GENESIS WAS NOT TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY HOW THE WORLD WAS CREATED, BUT TO LOOK AFTER IT.

What we know about climate change must move us to action. People in the West have benefited from cheap energy in the past. They have a moral duty to reduce their own consumption and help developing countries to overcome unsustainable ways.

That change must start with the human heart.

Test of Faith - Briefing Sheet Session 2: An Accident in the Making? (www.testoffaith.com)

### Briefing Sheet Session 2: Views on Genesis 1

#### GOD IS CREATOR

We should read Genesis 1 as a historical and scientific, common-sense statement of the facts.

1. The six days in Genesis are twenty-four hours long, so in total God created the world in 144 hours, about 10,000 years ago. This is the only way to take the Bible seriously. The Sabbath commandment in Exodus that refers to the creation week, and the journeying of Jews in Leviticus, support this view. Advocates of this view look for scientific evidence that the earth is much younger than mainstream science claims, and that evolution cannot have happened. This view is incompatible with modern mainstream science and says that mainstream science has interpreted the evidence wrongly because of false assumptions about the physical laws (i.e. that they are always the same through time and space). For example, there is the idea that small changes may have taken place in animal populations (microevolution) but new species could never form, and that gaps in the fossil record track this idea.

#### ASSUME MIRACLES IN CREATION

2. The 'day' of Genesis 1 refer to long periods of time. The Hebrew word yom has as many different meanings as 'day' does in English. Hebrew does not have a word for a long period of time, except 'eternity' for ever was used instead. The biblical support for this view comes from the seventh day of God's activity, which is never said to end. This is used by those to clarify the Sabbath law and as a theological theme about heaven by the author of Hebrews. In addition, Scripture teaches that 'for God a day is like a thousand years', meaning that God measures time differently than we do.

In this view, the events of natural history happened in the order given in Genesis 1, but were stretched out over much longer periods of time. This is consistent with the billions of years time frame of mainstream science, but the order of events is somewhat different. God miraculously intervened at some points during the development of elements, such as the creation of plants or birds. (These were not created in the order suggested by evolutionary biology.)

#### VERY OLD UNIVERSE, LONG TIME SCALE OF CREATION

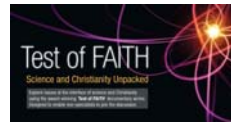
3. There are different types of literature in the Bible: history, songs, poems, parables, etc. Genesis 1 should be interpreted with an eye for literary devices such as repetition and figurative language, and with an understanding of cultural, historical and biblical context.

For example, the sun and moon are not called by their proper names, because these names also referred to gods in the surrounding pagan cultures. Instead, they are called 'big light' and 'small light' to emphasize that there is only one God. The narrative is structured around God creating nature by separating things, then filling those spaces.

In this view, Genesis is not a scientific text. We should look first at what the text meant to the first audience to learn its non-scientific message (the 'what' and 'why'), then at modern science to understand how and when God created the universe, the earth and life.

Test of Faith - Briefing Sheet Session 2: An Accident in the Making? (www.testoffaith.com)

# Session (Part) 2: An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis



## Briefing sheets in Study Guide

### Briefing Sheet Session 2: Is there Purpose in Evolution?

**Overview**  
2. Change originates from different directions and most of the time it is a result of a series of small changes, not a single large change. This is why evolution is a gradual process. It is thought that if you "rewind the tape of life," and let evolution happen all over again, you would end up with something very different.

Stephen Jay Gould was a world-class paleontologist and writer of some very popular science books. He was known as "Doc" and thought the evolution was a population, unfiltered process. He thought that if you "rewind the tape of life," and let evolution happen all over again, you would end up with something very different.

Richard Dawkins is a world-class biologist and writer of some very popular science books. He was known as "Doc" and thought the evolution was a population, unfiltered process. He thought that if you "rewind the tape of life," and let evolution happen all over again, you would end up with something very different.

Simon Conway Morris worked on the same type of fossils as Stephen Jay Gould. He was a paleontologist and writer of some very popular science books. He was known as "Doc" and thought the evolution was a population, unfiltered process. He thought that if you "rewind the tape of life," and let evolution happen all over again, you would end up with something very different.

What does this mean? These two types of animals evolved independently but occupied very similar environments. So the process of evolution is not completely random but converges on certain solutions to a problem of how to "make effective flippers, hooves, hooves, or paddles."

It could look as if things were meant to be that way... is it for a purpose?

\* The general evolutionist's view is that evolution is completely open-ended. It will go on indefinitely into the future. It will not stop. It will not end. It will not have a purpose. It will not have a goal. It will not have a direction. It will not have a destination. It will not have a final state. It will not have a final form. It will not have a final purpose. It will not have a final goal. It will not have a final direction. It will not have a final destination. It will not have a final state. It will not have a final form. It will not have a final purpose. It will not have a final goal. It will not have a final direction. It will not have a final destination.

\* Richard Dawkins is a world-class biologist and writer of some very popular science books. He was known as "Doc" and thought the evolution was a population, unfiltered process. He thought that if you "rewind the tape of life," and let evolution happen all over again, you would end up with something very different.

**Further Reading**  
Stephen Jay Gould, *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale*, 1977  
Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 1986  
Simon Conway Morris, *Life's Solution: How Evolution Became the Most Versatile and Powerful Invention on Earth*, 2003  
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Simon Conway Morris, *Life's Solution: How Evolution Became the Most Versatile and Powerful Invention on Earth*, 2003

### Briefing Sheet Session 2: Views on Genesis 2 and 3

This sheet outlines the different views that the biblical account of the creation of humankind and the scientific account of human evolution might have in common. It also outlines the different views that the biblical account of the fall of Adam and Eve might have in common with the scientific account of the fall of Adam and Eve.

#### Genesis 2: Who were Adam and Eve?

A. One should read Genesis 2 as a historical and scientific, common sense, statement of the facts. God intended to create humankind in the best way possible, and he did so.

B. One should read Genesis 2 as a historical and scientific, common sense, statement of the facts. God intended to create humankind in the best way possible, and he did so. However, the scientific account of the fall of Adam and Eve is a metaphorical way of describing the same event.

C. One should read Genesis 2 as a historical and scientific, common sense, statement of the facts. God intended to create humankind in the best way possible, and he did so. However, the scientific account of the fall of Adam and Eve is a metaphorical way of describing the same event. The fall of Adam and Eve is a metaphorical way of describing the same event.

D. As in Model C, with the early chapters of Genesis are not a historical account, they do refer to events that really happened. But they happened in a way that is not described in the text. The fall of Adam and Eve is a metaphorical way of describing the same event.

E. Genesis 1 should be interpreted with an eye for literary device such as metaphor and figurative language. There is a historical connection between the theological and biological stories. The question of the birth of the first hominid, not humankind, is essentially unresolvable. The purpose of the early chapters of Genesis is to give a theological account of the role and importance of humankind in God's creation.

### Genesis 3: Views on the fall

A. There was no death at all before the fall. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they died. This was the beginning of death. There were also big changes in the animals, plants and humans were possible.

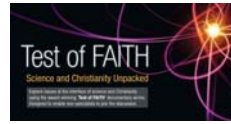
B. The fall of Adam and Eve was metaphorical. When they disobeyed God they died spiritually, not physically. The physical deaths of animals and plants were already occurring.

C. Adam and Eve are a group of people God created. They were not the first people God created. They were the first people God created who were able to sin. The physical deaths of animals and plants were already occurring.

D. The fall was a conscious rejection of the growing awareness of God's calling. It led to spiritual death. The physical deaths of humans happened throughout evolutionary history.

E. This is the eternal story of us all. It is a theological account that describes the common experience of separation from God through disobedience to God's commands. The result for us is a spiritual death. The physical deaths of humans happened throughout evolutionary history.

# Session (Part) 2: An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis



## Briefing sheets in Study Guide

### Briefing Sheet Session 2: The Science behind Climate Change

**Overview**  
2. The greenhouse effect is the process by which the atmosphere warms the earth's surface. It is caused by the fact that the atmosphere is made up of gases that trap heat. The greenhouse effect is a natural process that has been going on since the earth was first formed. It is what makes the earth warm enough to support life. However, human activities have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which has led to global warming.

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The average temperature on earth has risen over the last century. There is strong evidence that this is due to human activities. The temperature has risen by about 1°C since 1950. This is a significant increase, especially when you consider that the average temperature on earth is about 15°C. This means that the temperature has risen by about 6.7% since 1950. This is a significant increase, especially when you consider that the average temperature on earth is about 15°C. This means that the temperature has risen by about 6.7% since 1950.

**STRONG GLOBAL WARMING OBSERVED SINCE 1970'S**

As the world heats it expands, so the temperature continues to increase the sea level will rise. Rising sea levels could cause serious damage around the world. The temperature change is not just a local phenomenon. It is a global phenomenon. The temperature has risen by about 1°C since 1950. This is a significant increase, especially when you consider that the average temperature on earth is about 15°C. This means that the temperature has risen by about 6.7% since 1950.

### Briefing Sheet Session 2: Climate Change Questions

**Q1: The earth's climate always varies. Aren't we just in a natural period of warming?**  
A. The earth's climate varies due to many different factors, including cycles of ice ages caused by changes in the distance between the earth and the sun, volcanic eruptions and changes in the sun itself. However, none of these factors is enough to explain the rapid changes in the last 100 years.

**Q2: There isn't enough carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to cause any significant change, is there?**  
A. Although there isn't a big volume of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere, it can have a significant effect. It also has an indirect effect because it traps heat very strongly. It also has an indirect effect because it traps heat very strongly. It also has an indirect effect because it traps heat very strongly. It also has an indirect effect because it traps heat very strongly.

**Q3: Isn't the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere the result of climate change, rather than the cause?**  
A. As the volume and rate of rain fall, they do release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists can find the origin of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through chemical analysis. Most of the increase in CO2 levels comes from burning fossil fuels.

**Q4: I thought that the observations of weather balloons and satellites were inaccurate?**  
A. In the early 1980s there were serious doubts in the way that data was collected and in the way it was analyzed. These errors have been corrected, and now the data from weather balloons and satellites agrees with data collected by other methods.

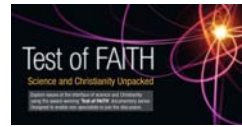
**Q5: Aren't computer models of the climate inaccurate?**  
A. Although the climate is very complex, scientists have been able to create increasingly accurate models of the way it works. These computer models have been used to simulate changes in the climate over the course of the last century, and their simulations have matched what actually happened. Using these models, scientists can give general predictions about the course of the climate in the future on a global scale, based on different predictions about human behaviour.

**Q6: Isn't climate change caused by the sun becoming more active?**  
A. The sun's activity does play a role in shaping climate. However, the sun is not enough to explain the recent warming. Also, there has been very little change in the sun's activity over the last three decades, so this cannot account for the observed warming.

**Q7: Surely it's not a big deal. Aren't climate scientists exaggerating?**  
A. The earth's ecosystems are very finely balanced. Even a change of 2-3°C would be greater than has been seen for the thousands of years, and many species would find it very difficult to adapt. The people most affected will be those in developing countries and the poor, causing greater social unrest, as well as food, clean water and medical treatment.



## Session (Part) 3: Is Anybody There? Freedom to Choose



**Play DVD Session 3  
Chapters 1 & 2:  
00:00-12:52 & 23:00-25:59**

What was new or interesting for you?  
What did you find most surprising or challenging?  
What do you think the main messages were?  
What do you think? Do you agree?

- Q2. If spiritual experiences are accompanied by activity in certain parts of the brain, does that mean that spiritual experience is meaningless, and God is not involved?  
Q3. What are the two reasons why someone can't say that what we do is determined entirely by our brains?

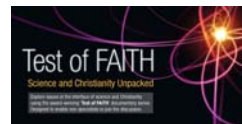
Neuroscience and Faith; The brain and spiritual experience; we are not just machines – mind is more than brain; 'emergence' suggests that we are more than just the sum of our DNA; we can exercise choice; cloning. Human beings remain made in the image of God. The idea of science and religion in conflict is misguided. For the believer, science can lead to increased wonder at God

### In-depth/bonus option

Week 8: Part 3: DVD [Chapter selection 1-4]

Week 9: Bonus DVD Interviews 3b: Is Anybody There? Thinking about human identity

## Session (Part) 3: Is Anybody There? Freedom to Choose



### Briefing sheets in Study Guide

**Briefing Sheet Session 3:  
Is Anybody There?**

Some scientists claim that we can only determine if we are physically characterized, and that spiritual experiences are just a product of the brain.  
But neuroscience also shows that we are made in the image of God.

**When we are having religious experiences, something happens in our brains.**  
But that doesn't mean that religious experience is just what is in our brain. The experience also comes from God.

And it is possible to artificially stimulate certain parts of the brain, and make someone feel happy or sad.  
But that doesn't mean that it is possible to feel happy or sad for genuine reasons.

**We are not just determined by our biology.**  
Our experiences and the environment we live in also play a role in shaping who we are.  
And these things matter. That's why it's important to think about the whole of us.

So we can't just say that our beliefs and perspectives are just the product of our brains.  
But we can't be defined just by looking at the cells in the brain.

It's the mind that emerges from the cells of an organism – it isn't the product of an organism, but it is a product of an organism.

With genetic technology, we now have the ability to edit genes or create new genes.  
But genetic engineering would be more than the work of God.

We are created. We have the ability to think, reason, and feel.  
We have a mind that is not just a product of our biology.

These abilities allow us to go beyond our biological nature.

To truly understand things, we need to use our minds, feelings, and emotions. We need to use our hearts and our souls. We need to use our whole selves to understand the world.

We need to use our hearts and our souls to understand the world. We need to use our hearts and our souls to understand the world.

**Briefing Sheet Session 3:  
When Does Human Life Begin?**

**A) Human life begins at fertilization (0-6 hours)**

**Biblical/theological arguments**

- This is the origin of a "new individual".
- This is when God's creative power is at work.
- Relationship with God is established.
- As in the Bible, we believe that life begins as soon as there is something that is being formed. The message is that life begins as soon as there is something that is being formed. The message is that life begins as soon as there is something that is being formed.

**Biological arguments**

- Fertilization provides a fully precise moment of beginning.
- The genetic make-up of the individual is specified during this stage.

**B) Human life begins at implantation (7-10 days)**

**Biblical/theological arguments**

- Christians in general see with the mother begins – she can become aware of her pregnancy.
- Relationship with God is established.
- Relationship with God is established.
- Relationship with God is established.

**Biological arguments**

- There is a high rate of embryo loss before implantation (50-60%).
- Implantation is a process that takes time and involves the embryo and what will become the placenta.

**C) Human life begins at the primitive streak stage (14 days)**

**Biological argument**

- The development of the primitive streak marks when the nervous system will begin to form. The marks for sensation and pain are involved in defining humanness and in determining how we feel others.

**D) The beginning of human life is a continual process**

This is the view that all of the above "milestones" are not that critical, since the development of human life is a continual process. From fertilization through to birth and onwards, human life continues to form and progress at the very beginning, although present and will increase in time with development.

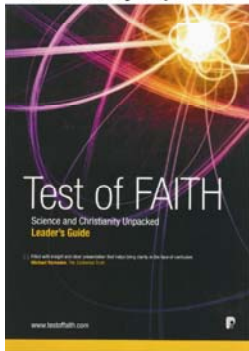
**Some Bible passages that are relevant to this discussion**

- When we begin to see that human development is shaped and purposed by God from the beginning.
- Psalm 139:13-14
- God establishes a relationship with Isaac and Jacob before birth – Isaiah 49:1, Jeremiah 1:5
- God's knowledge of us in the womb – Psalm 139:13-14 and Job 38:29-31
- An important marker of new life was "signifying" when a baby kicked for the first time – Luke 1:41
- Being in relationship to an important part of personhood – Genesis 2:18
- Cost of human experience – Genesis 2:24

## Material Available for Test of FAITH Course

Available directly from Faraday Society: <http://www.testoffaith.com/>  
 or locally in Australia from Koorong Books: <http://www.koorong.com/>  
 See also information and review on ISCAST website: <http://www.iscast.org/testoffaith>  
 See also Test of FAITH on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/thetestoffaith>

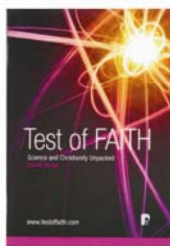
**123-page Leader's Guide**  
**Science and Christianity unpacked**



There is also other material available for youth and schools

[www.testoffaith.com](http://www.testoffaith.com)

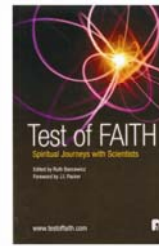
**Study Guide**  
**Science and Christianity unpacked**



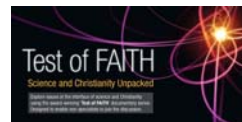
**DVD**  
**Does science threaten belief in God?**



**119-Page Booklet**  
**Spiritual Journeys with Scientists**



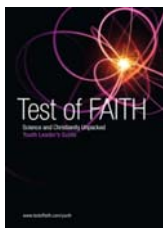
## Other Resource Material



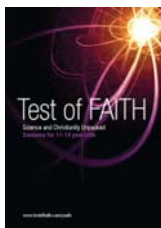
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cambridge-United-Kingdom/Test-of-FAITH/91538575910?>

### Special Test of FAITH version now for Youth workers

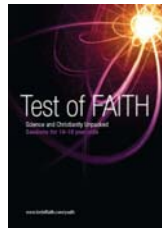
Youth Leaders Guide



Study Guide  
 11-14 yr olds



Study Guide  
 14-18 yr olds



### Resources for schools

The Test of FAITH film explores the relationship between science and religion, and the generally perceived idea that they are in conflict. Scientist believers discuss how they fit their faith and professional science work together. Based on the film (which is included with the book) the materials for schools are aimed at GCSE and A level groups in the UK who are exploring the relationship between science and religion within the exam syllabus.

## Test of FAITH – The Tour 2010



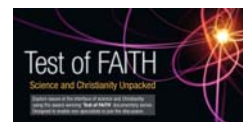
For interest

UK Tour  
Feb 22-May 19

Manchester  
Durham  
Aberdeen  
St Andrews  
Middlesex  
Bristol  
Nottingham  
Sheffield  
Glasgow  
London

Speakers (2 each from): Dr Ruth Bancewicz, Prof John Bryant, Dr Denis Alexander  
Dr Keith Fox, Rev Dominic Smart, Dr Ard Louis

For further details see: <http://www.testoffaith.com/tour/>



## What Should We Do? Should We Consider Running this Course Ourselves Somewhere?

Please note that while much of the material is taken from the *Test of FAITH* material and their websites, my summaries of the sections are just meant to be indicative of the material in those sections and are not necessarily a comprehensive and complete description of those sections. Similarly, there are a number of different ways in which the courses can be run, as indicated in the Leaders' Guide and I have just indicated two of those possible options.

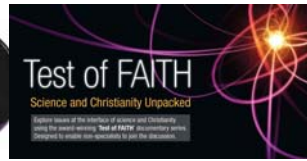
Em.Prof. Peter H Barry (p.barry@unsw.edu.au)

## Brief Course Overview

Part 1: [Chapter selection 1-4 + 5 (preview)]

Part 2: [Chapter selection 1-5 + 6 (preview)]

Part 3: [Chapter selection 1-4]



### Part 1: Beyond Reason? Science, Faith and the Universe

Has science done away with faith? The first scientists in the West were Christians; conflict started later in Victorian period by Huxley and other scientists to get rid of clergy engaged in science. How do we see the World – the how and why questions?; God, the Big Bang and the 'God of the Gaps'; Creation, miracles and prayer; Fine tuning (the Anthropic Principle – the strong nuclear force that enables carbon to exist stably; the balance between matter and energy at the big bang; the amount of order at the inception of the universe; the gravitational constant and the cosmological constant; the precise ratio of proton : electron mass enables DNA to exist and be stable; can our world be explained by an alternative hypothetical multiverse option?

### Part 2: An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis

How do we understand Genesis; Christians hold different views on how God created the world; The majority of Christians working in science believe that God used an evolutionary mechanism to create the world; Theistic evolution still raises a number of issues for Christians, the main one being suffering; Christians know that God has called them to care for creation.

### Part 3: Is Anybody There? Freedom to Choose

Neuroscience and Faith; The brain and spiritual experience; we are not just machines – mind is more than brain; 'emergence' suggests that we are more than just the sum of our DNA; we can exercise choice; cloning. Human beings remain made in the image of God.