

Reconciling Faith & Science

Note: Focus the bulk of your time on allowing students to create and discuss their theories. Students need to have their booklets to do this!

Large Group

Watch this YouTube video together before breaking into small group (will be easier to screen share that way). Leaders, pay special attention! This video is an example for students about forming their own “theory.”

YouTube – Science and Religion || Mayim Bialik

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZh1MrDHL0Y>

Small Group P.1 – reflect on video

Get your students’ initial thoughts on the video.

1. What made sense about Mayim’s theory?
2. What did you not understand about Mayim’s theory?
3. Do you think Mayim knows all of these things beyond a shadow of a doubt? Can she even know all these things beyond a shadow of a doubt? If not, then why does she believe them?

Small Group P.2 – discuss “theory”

Consider what theory is and how it differs from fact.

1. What are theories? Can you think of a scientific theory you know?
2. In science, a theory can best be understood as an interpretation of observable realities. Theories are not just “hunches” but contain facts AND observations. The facts will not change, but the theories may be changed based on new observations and evidence. They can be proven or rejected, improved or modified. They must be approached with care and rationality.

Small Group P.3 – creating theories

Share the last page with your students (display on table or copy/paste into the chat on zoom).

Begin by asking students to create a hypothesis (idea/hunch). This should try to include beliefs about creation, evolution, and faith specifically. They don’t need to share it.

Tell your group that we have already done our research! Their booklets are full of research about these topics. They will be using that research to collect the facts and observations to form their theory.

Set them on their way! Their goal is to select what is relevant to their hypotheses and then create a theory based on whether their hypotheses are or are not supported by their research.

Small Group P.4 – sharing theories and reflection

Go around and have students share a basic summary of what they have come up with. Discuss and remind students that there is no “correct” theory. If there was, it would be called fact.

Review Isaiah 55:8-9.

1. What kinds of things does God know that you do not?
2. What are things that God does that you do not understand?
3. Are you ok with not knowing?
4. Can we trust God in the unknown? *Dig deep.*

Small Group P.5 – pray to close

Thank God that we can learn more about him through science.

Ask God to comfort us and give us trust in God for all that we do not know.

Creating Theory

1. I have an idea/hunch.
2. I ask questions and do research.
3. I collect facts and observations.
4. I interpret the way those facts and observations contribute to my original idea/hunch.

- If my interpretation can be proven without a doubt, it is fact.
- If my interpretation is proven incorrect by other or new evidence, it is rejected.
- *If my interpretation can be or likely is accurate but is not absolute, it is a theory.*