

The Case for a Creator: 10-Week Lesson Plan

Objective: To explore scientific and philosophical evidence for God's existence and equip students to think critically about faith and science.

Required text: Case for a Creator STUDENT EDITION by Lee Strobel

Week 1: Introduction – Is Faith in a Creator Reasonable?

- **Key Question:** Can belief in God be logical and scientific?
- **Main Topics:**
 - Lee Strobel's journey from atheism to faith
 - Science and faith: enemies or allies?
 - Overview of the evidence we'll explore
- **Activity:** "What Do You Believe?" anonymous survey & discussion

Week 2: The Origin of the Universe – Did It Have a Beginning?

- **Key Question:** Does science point to a universe with a beginning?
- **Main Topics:**
 - The Big Bang Theory and its implications
 - The Kalam Cosmological Argument
 - What Genesis 1:1 says about creation
- **Activity:** Balloon expansion demo (to illustrate the expanding universe)

Week 3: Fine-Tuning – Is the Universe Designed for Life?

- **Key Question:** Could the precise conditions for life be an accident?
- **Main Topics:**
 - The Anthropic Principle
 - Constants and forces (gravity, strong nuclear force, etc.)
 - The odds of a life-permitting universe
- **Activity:** "The Coincidence Calculator" (students evaluate the improbability of life-supporting conditions)

Week 4: DNA and the Signature of a Designer

- **Key Question:** Is DNA evidence of a Creator?
- **Main Topics:**
 - DNA as an information system
 - Complexity beyond chance
 - Intelligent design vs. naturalistic evolution
- **Activity:** DNA extraction from strawberries (shows how DNA is real and tangible)

Week 5: The Origin of Life – Accident or Intention?

- **Key Question:** How did life originate?
- **Main Topics:**
 - Spontaneous generation vs. intelligent cause
 - The Miller-Urey experiment and its limits
 - Probability of life forming by chance
- **Activity:** “Build a Cell” challenge (students attempt to assemble basic cell parts with random materials, illustrating complexity)

Week 6: Fossils and the Case for Intelligent Design

- **Key Question:** Does the fossil record support evolution or design?
- **Main Topics:**
 - Missing links and abrupt appearances in the fossil record
 - The Cambrian Explosion
 - Differences between microevolution and macroevolution
- **Activity:** “Fossil or Fiction?” (students analyze real vs. hypothetical fossil evidence)

Week 7: Mind and Consciousness – A Clue to God?

- **Key Question:** Can the human mind be explained by evolution alone?
- **Main Topics:**
 - The difference between brain and mind
 - Free will, morality, and self-awareness

- Is consciousness evidence of the soul?
- **Activity:** “Thought Experiment” (students examine the difference between a computer and a human mind)

Week 8: Science and Faith – Are They Compatible?

- **Key Question:** Do scientists have to reject God?
- **Main Topics:**
 - Famous scientists who believed in God
 - The myth of “science vs. religion”
 - How Christianity laid the foundation for modern science
- **Activity:** Debate: “Can a scientist believe in God?”

Week 9: The Biggest Objections – Addressing Doubts

- **Key Question:** What are the toughest challenges to belief in a Creator?
- **Main Topics:**
 - “Who created God?” and other common objections
 - Evolution vs. intelligent design: can they coexist?
 - Why does God remain hidden?
- **Activity:** Students role-play as skeptics and defenders of faith

Week 10: Summing It Up – How Should This Change Our Lives?

- **Key Question:** How does knowing there is a Creator impact our lives?
- **Main Topics:**
 - Implications of a designed universe
 - The personal side of the Creator
 - Sharing what we’ve learned with others
- **Activity:** Student presentations: “Why I Believe in a Creator”

Additional Notes:

- **Weekly Homework:** Assigned readings from *The Case for the Creator (Student Edition)* and reflection questions.
- **Visuals:** PowerPoint slides, videos (e.g., *The Privileged Planet*), and guest speakers (if available).
- **Class Format:**
 - 10 min: Opening discussion/question of the week
 - 20 min: Teaching segment
 - 10 min: Hands-on activity or debate
 - 10 min: Small group discussion

Would you like any adjustments based on your church's specific teaching style?