



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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January 22-28, 2024

SERMON SERIES: "HARD QUESTIONS"

Sermon: "Is Christianity Anti-Science?"

by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflections:

1. Science and faith have not always gotten along. Why is that?
2. Name some ways that you think the two, science and faith, are actually compatible.
3. If you have any scientific training or background, name some ways that you see God in your work or in the science.
4. The sermon will speak to Dr. Francis Collins, and his discernment of God within DNA research and discovery. When you think of DNA, its complexity, and its wonder, do you see God in it all?
5. A few contemporary authors, mostly from the humanist side have said, or might say that "science has disproved Christianity." What do you say about that?
6. How do you speak with family, friends, your children about the relationship of science and God?
7. Take a moment and define beauty. What is the relationship of that definition to God?

Monday, January 22: Read Genesis 1-3

Why is there a seeming division between Christianity and science? Are the two concepts in conflict? Do we have to choose faith over reason? This week, we prepare for a sermon by Pete Moon where we will explore through scripture how we can both acknowledge the deep division that exists while setting ourselves free from the innate limitations of looking at the natural world, social sciences, and history solely through a secular lens. We begin today with where most of us start – and many stop – reading the Bible: the Creation Story. Instead of viewing it as an intentionally scientific and historical description of creation, instead, try reading it as a way of telling us everything we need to know about God and God's relationship with us and our world. Does that make a difference? What does it tell us through this lens? How might the early chapters of Genesis provide an even deeper truth than science?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Ask someone whose faith you admire how they rectify the seemingly incompatible differences between Biblical and scientific accounts of creation.*

Tuesday, January 23: Read Luke 1:1-4

The gospel of Luke begins with a written commitment to stick to eye-witnessed facts, careful investigation, and “orderly accounts” of what happened, so the reader might “know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” All of us probably appreciate this approach; we want to be able to trust the validity and authenticity of the source. It’s easy to turn a cynic’s eye toward the varying and sometimes conflicting accounts in the gospels, just as with the creation story. Instead, what if we focused on the very beginning of our reading today, which states, “Many people have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us...”? What caused so many people to want to write about this? What has been fulfilled? What do we feel in our own hearts when we think about Jesus, the gospel message, and the difference Jesus has made in our lives?

- **Study Opportunity:** If you are curious or struggling with arguments against the authenticity of the gospel accounts, check out Lee Strobel’s book, *The Case for Christ* (Zondervan, 2016).

Wednesday, January 24: Read Psalm 104

Take time to relish the detail and degree of observation exhibited by the psalmist in today’s reading. When was the last time we took time to marvel at the way the heavens are “stretched out like a tent”, the firmness of earth’s foundation, the pathways of rivers, and the way everything in creation perfectly knits together in the places provided them? The ancient writers were not disconnected from nature and reality, they were far more intimate and observant of it than we are today. What have we lost in our modern culture that Biblical writers can tell us about our world? Where does our soul want to sing and meditate in response to the glory of nature and our earth?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Take time to go on a walk outside –even in the cold – and allow yourself to marvel at the beauty, science, and interconnectivity of nature. Give thanks.*

Thursday, January 25: Romans 1:18-20

Paul’s seemingly harsh words against “godless” and “wicked” people reveal a frustration for what Paul deems a failure to recognize what is right in front of everyone’s eyes: God’s eternal power and divine nature being revealed through nature for everyone to see, regardless of their upbringing, culture, or religious education. Do you agree? Using this reasoning, should everyone given access to nature be privy to the call of God and therefore responsible for answering it? What does this say about people of other religions? What does it say about our responsibility as stewards of the earth?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss with your small group, friends, and/or family what you believe about what nature is telling all of humanity about God.*

Friday, January 26: Read Matthew 6:25-29

Reading this passage has often been recommended for addressing anxiety, as it begins, “Do not worry.” It also quickly turns our eyes to the glory and perfection of God’s creation, pointing out how the smallest animals and wildest flowers are cared for and beautifully made. We are part of this glorious creation, and our world seems to be increasingly disconnected, self-absorbed, and increasingly on our own thoughts, actions, and schedules rather than recognizing the abundance around us. This is not progress. How can spending more time looking out, looking up, and praising the God of our creation help reveal to us the greater truths of our world, ourselves, and our God?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Slow down. Notice. Breathe in. Share your observations with another.*

Saturday, January 27: Scripture Memorization: Psalm 19:1

“The heavens are telling the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

Sunday, January 28: Let us prepare our hearts and minds by praying our Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and most merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have disregarded your Word and Sacraments. Forgive us, O Lord. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things, that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, and from henceforth may ever walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN