

GOOD SCIENCE, GOOD FAITH

Thinking Biblically about Science

A High School Course for Individuals, Homeschool Co-Ops, and Christian Schools

STUDENT WORKBOOK

by

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with

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LAUNCHPAD

CONTENT

This course is designed to encourage individuals, homeschool co-ops, and Christian high schools to explore the harmony between the Bible and the record of nature. The course's overarching goals are two-fold: present a (1) **BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL** approach to interpreting Genesis 1 as being the error-free Word of God; and (2) **SCIENTIFICALLY RESPONSIBLE** understanding of the record of nature. A key foundational assumption for this entire course is that the discoveries of modern science will always be in harmony with the Word of God.

Each of these twenty lessons is designed with the aim to firmly ground young people in the Christian worldview in order to prepare them for the day when they will be confronted with alternative perspectives.

A GENERAL WORD ABOUT SCIENCE EDUCATION

The scholar team at Reasons To Believe actively promotes the importance of scientific literacy. For this reason, we recommend using mainstream science curriculum, especially during the high school years. Secular texts in chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science, and biology expose students to the kind of research they will encounter in university studies, as well as the broader culture. Reasons To Believe holds that neither the scientific nor biblical data supports naturalistic evolution. However, we do think it's critical that Christian young people know how to respond to its claims from a testable creation model perspective. For this reason, we advocate the idea that a good science education should include a rigorous and respectful study of biological evolution.

HOW IS GOOD SCIENCE, GOOD FAITH DIFFERENT FROM A TRADITIONAL SCIENCE COURSE?

Good Science, Good Faith should be used in conjunction with, not as a substitute for, a traditional science curriculum. It has been designed to integrate information 11th and 12th grade students have already learned in their biology, chemistry, physics, and geology courses and how these disciplines of science connect to the Christian worldview.

FORMAT

Good Science, Good Faith is available in two forms: (1) as a self-study or teacher-led course, or (2) by enrolling in Reasons Academy, RTB's high school distance education program.

Reasons Academy students will be supervised by a trained Reasons To Believe apologist and will interact with others in an online learning environment. The Online Instructor will be available to answer students' questions, in addition to providing accountability. For more information about how to enroll in Reasons Academy, visit our website at <http://www.reasonsacademy.com> or call (800) 482-7836.

RESOURCES

The following is a list of the books and DVDs used in the Good Science, Good Faith course. Many are available through Reasons To Believe. Order online at <http://store.reasons.org> or call (800) 482-7836.

PART 1: CREATION AND THE BIBLE

- A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross
- The John Ankerberg Debate: Young-Earth vs. Old-Earth*, Hugh Ross/Kent Hovind
- Dual Revelation*, Reasons To Believe docudrama
- Galileo's Battle for the Heavens*, PBS docudrama
- Inherit the Wind* (1960s version starring Spencer Tracy)

PART 2: CREATIONISM vs. NATURALISM

- Creation vs. Evolution 101*, Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz
- Journey Toward Creation*, Reasons To Believe documentary
- The Icons of Evolution*, Illustra Media
- Evolution* (episodes 1 and 7), PBS documentary
- If We Had No Moon*, Discovery Channel documentary
- The Day the Earth Nearly Died*, Discovery Channel documentary

You will also need:

- One LITERAL translation of the Bible: New American Standard Bible (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), or New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) provide the best word-for-word translations.

along with...

- One DYNAMIC EQUIVALENT translation of the Bible: Although not word-for-word translations—the New International Version (NIV), Today’s New International Version (TNIV), and the New Living Translation (NLT) try to convey the major thoughts of the passages into modern English.

Most of these translations are available for free at <http://www.biblegateway.com> or <http://www.studylight.org>.

MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

The following is a list of the major writing assignments in the Good Science, Good Faith course.

PART 1: CREATION AND THE BIBLE

- Pastor Interview
- Video Report
- Research Paper on a topic of the student’s choice related to the age of the Earth

PART 2: CREATIONISM vs. NATURALISM

- Teacher Interview
- Research Paper on a topic of the student’s choice related to the creation/ evolution controversy
- Final Exam

OPTION: Omitting one of the research papers can reduce the writing load of the course.

MATERIALS

- Students will need access to a computer that is capable of playing MP3 audio files and a DVD player. Most lessons require students to watch a video or listen to a lecture and then answer questions about it.
- Students will also need access to a high-speed Internet connection.

LECTURE OUTLINES

- Outlines (PDFs) of the audio lectures and most of the video lectures are included on the Good Science, Good Faith CD-ROM. These optional resources can be printed out as an aid to facilitate the student’s ability to follow key points of lecture content.
- It is recommended that these documents be stored in a three-ring binder for reference.

GRADING

It is suggested that grades be determined on the following basis:

Study Questions	40% (2% per lesson)
Pastor Interview.....	5%
Teacher Interview	5%
Video Report.....	10%
Research Papers	30% (15% each)
Final Exam	10%

Lesson 18 includes an extra credit assignment for students who need to make-up points for their final grade. It is recommended that it be given a 3% point value.

OPTION: Omitting one of the research papers will reduce the writing load of the course. Instead of having students write two research papers worth 15% each, they would write one paper worth 30% of the final grade.

The final grade for the students enrolled in the online version of the course will be determined according to the formula above.

Letter grades for the online version of the course are determined as follows:

A	94–100%
A-	90–93%
B	84–89%
B-	80–83%
C	74–79%
C-	70–73%
D	64–69%
D-	60–63%
F	BELOW 60%

LESSON FORMAT, PACING, and HOMEWORK

Instructors and students are encouraged to begin each lesson with prayer as these concepts are often new to many students and can be intimidating.

Each lesson contains preparatory reading and questions (usually involving looking up biblical passages related to the lesson), followed by approximately 2–3 hours of lecture content, 1–2 chapters of reading, and comprehension questions.

It is important for students to complete each task in the lessons in the order it is presented. Students can either complete the written sections on their own or together in class prior to viewing the lecture portion of each lesson. Students should complete the study questions on their own, as they represent a reflection on their personal insights from the lesson's content.

In order to complete this course in one school year, students will need to spend about five hours per week working through the lessons. If this course takes longer than a year, however, that's okay. It's more important that the student truly grasp these critical ideas prior to entering university studies.

Study questions and papers can be stored in the student's binder. Ideally, students' work should be corrected after it is returned.

FINAL EXAM

The second semester begins a new course, but the content for the final exam is cumulative for the entire year. The final exam is included in the Good Science, Good Faith Answer Key. It is recommended that students be given 90 minutes to complete the final exam.

COURSE CREDITS

The Student Hour provides the common standard used by U.S. universities to measure high school academic achievement. One Student Hour consists of approximately 12 hours of class time with an instructor over the course of one semester. Traditionally, this breaks down into a 50-minute meeting one day per week for 14–16 weeks.

Upon completion of the Good Science, Good Faith course (lessons 1–20), we recommend the following credits should be assigned:

Bible or Religion.....	1 credit
Philosophy of Science	1 credit

With that in mind, parents will still want to verify high school graduation standards in their area, as well as the university entrance requirements.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS and ACCREDITATION

Most states classify homeschools as private schools. In these cases, parents are the ones who provide the "accreditation" for their child's education. In other words, the parents, not a third party, provide the quality guarantee for their children's education. While homeschooling is legal in all 50 states, parents should check their local laws so as to conform to their requirements and provide proper documentation. The Home School Legal Defense Association has a helpful summary of those laws on its website (<http://www.hsllda.org>).

While courses offered through Reasons Academy are not accredited by any third party, our graduate and undergraduate courses (on which our high school course is based) are all accredited by the highest level of university accreditation. Qualified instructors conduct our distance education program, but parents are ultimately responsible for gauging the progress of their child's education and assigning the appropriate letter grade. The Reasons Academy Online Instructor will recommend a grade based on the student's performance, but parents have the final say in the matter.

One issue of which Christian parents should be aware is that some universities now question the use of young-earth-creationist science textbooks. In 2005, the University of California system proposed requiring students who used creation-science textbooks in high school to take a proficiency exam in order to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of science before entering college. It remains to be seen what if anything will result from such efforts. Because Reasons Academy does not use creation-science textbooks, this issue need not be a concern for parents who choose our program.

The Good Science, Good Faith course provides a serious, academically challenging, and highly rewarding program. Our textbooks and videos are from mainstream publishers, including PBS and the Discovery Channel. Even so, Reasons Academy makes no guarantee regarding the acceptance of our courses by any public or private school or any other educating body. Questions regarding acceptance requirements should be directed to the admissions official at the institution of application.

ADDITIONAL HELP for INSTRUCTORS

The instructor acts more as a facilitator than a formal teacher for this program. No amount of direct biblical or scientific knowledge is required. During the course of the study you can ask any science-related questions by calling the Reasons To Believe Science-Faith Hotline, (626) 335-5282, 7 days a week (5:00–7:00 PM, Pacific Time). Trained apologists will be happy to assist you.

If you are using this course in a classroom situation, consider encouraging parental involvement. Copy and distribute the “Message to Parents” (see p. 19) and “Assignment Schedule” (see pp. 33–34; 141–142) so they can help with student accountability. Instructors may also want to consider distributing the “What Is Old-Earth Creationism?” handout (see p. 21) to help parents become familiar with the distinctive features of this course.