



In the Beginning

A Video Curriculum Exploring the Catechism of Creation

Facilitator Guide

In the Beginning is a video curriculum that examines science and faith through the lens of leading ordained scientists in The Episcopal Church. This four-week program provides a platform to delve into *A Catechism of Creation*, a document that explores The Episcopal Church's understanding of creation as it applies to the origins of the universe, evolution, and care for the natural environment.

Developed by the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith, the *Catechism of Creation* is written in a question-and-answer format, similar to the Catechism in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Part I builds upon the Bible's basic doctrine of creation. Part II outlines the modern scientific worldview, including the Big Bang and the evolution of life. Part III presents the biblical roots for environmental care. Each section's bibliography encourages further study of science, technology, and Christian faith.

In the eleven videos, Episcopal clergy who are trained as scientists or environmentalists discuss aspects of the theology of creation, creation and science, and creation care. Speakers include former presiding bishop and oceanographer, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori; the bishop of Rhode Island and physicist, the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely; evolutionary biologist, the Rev. Lucas Mix; microbiologist, the Rev. Alistair So; and environmentalist, the Rev. Stephanie Johnson. The videos are three to six minutes in duration, and each should be followed by discussion.

We recommend showing the *Catechism of Creation* videos over four consecutive weeks. *The Catechism of Creation* and the list of resources provided at the end of this guide are available for those who wish to delve more deeply into the subjects raised in the videos.

1. Planning and Generating Interest

In the Beginning: A Video Curriculum Exploring the Catechism of Creation can be offered at any time in the year. We suggest offering this program as a four-week course, reserving a Sunday for each segment and then a final Sunday to allow for additional discussion. The *Catechism of Creation* is divided into three segments: the Theology of Creation, Creation and Science, and Caring for Creation.

Here are some descriptions of each program that can be used in bulletins, newsletters, or other forms of advertising.

- **To announce the program:**

How can faith and science coexist? Come and learn with *In the Beginning*, a four-week program that examines science and faith through the lens of leading ordained scientists in the The Episcopal Church. This video-based curriculum provides a platform to delve into *A Catechism of Creation*, a document that explores The Episcopal Church's understanding of creation as it applies to the origins of the universe, evolution, and care for the natural environment.

Presenters include former Presiding Bishop and oceanographer, Katharine Jefferts Schori; the Bishop of Rhode Island and physicist, Nicholas Knisely; evolutionary biologist, the Rev. Lucas Mix; microbiologist, the Rev. Alistair So; and environmentalist, the Rev. Stephanie Johnson.

[Provide meeting dates and times here]

- **For each session:**

- **The Theology of Creation.** Explore the relationship of science and Christianity with ordained scientists in The Episcopal Church. These experts discuss the biblical creation stories, how God creates, and how God relates to creation in videos based on the Episcopal Church's Catechism of Creation.
- **Creation and Science.** Explore the relationship of science and Christianity with ordained scientists in The Episcopal Church. These experts discuss religion and science, the origins of the universe, and evolution in videos based on the Episcopal Church's Catechism of Creation.
- **Caring for Creation.** Explore the relationship of Christianity and the environment with ordained scientists in The Episcopal Church. These experts discuss Christian responsibility for the environment in videos based on the Episcopal Church's Catechism of Creation.

2. Preparations

You should read the *Catechism of Creation* thoroughly before presenting. The videos are intended to generate interest in the *Catechism of Creation*, which contains more detail than the videos. You can download the *Catechism of Creation* from <http://episcopalscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/CreationCatechism.pdf>

You should have several printed copies of the *Catechism of Creation* available. Some parish members will want a hard copy.

- ◆ Find a meeting place that is comfortable and has good sight lines to a projector screen. In most cases, the videos are shown from a projector connected to a laptop computer. [Note that Mac computers generally require a special cable that will connect from a dvi port on the computer to a vga connection on the cable from the projector.]
- ◆ The video files are very large. If the wireless connection is high-speed, then the videos can be watched directly from the YouTube channel at <http://tinyurl.com/h2l2ux5>. (Check this the week before the first class.) If not, the videos can be downloaded from this link: <http://tinyurl.com/IntheBeginningVideos>.
- ◆ Check the volume of the video through the computer, projector, and speakers. If possible, have external speakers rather than rely on the small speaker in the projector or computer—the computer speakers can make the sound from the videos difficult to hear and subject to distortion.
- ◆ Depending on the amount of discussion, you should be able to watch and discuss three videos in a forty-five-minute adult education session. The videos are three-to-five minutes each, and you should allow for ten minutes of discussion after each video. It's okay if discussion runs a little long—that is why you reserved the fourth Sunday.

Presenting the Videos

Questions to stimulate discussion. Use these if discussion lags. It is always better though to address the interests and questions of the group first. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. They are intended to generate reflection and conversation.

- **Class 1: The Theology of Creation**
 - Video 1: *Biblical Creation Stories*. What do references to creation in Genesis, Job, Psalms, and Isaiah tell us as a whole? Or, do they tell us different things?
 - Video 2: *How God Creates*. What are the implications of a transcendent God—a God that creates out of nothing?
 - Video 3: *How God Relates to Creation*. Do you think that God has a continuing role in creation? If so, in what ways?

- **Class 2: Creation and Science**
 - Video 4: *Does the Bible Teach Science?* Do you think science and religion are separate activities or are they somehow related? How so?
 - Video 5: *Cosmology*. How does the current understanding of the origins of the universe change your conception of God?
 - Video 6: *Evolution*. How does your understanding of evolution affect your understanding of how God works in the world?
 - Video 7: *Biblical Literalism, Spirituality, and Evolution*. How do we understand the authority of the Bible when reading Genesis? Do literal understandings help or hinder us? What is the role of allegory?
- **Class 3: Caring for Creation**
 - Video 8: *The Christian Responsibility for Creation*. What is our responsibility to creation in view of the biblical idea of a new creation?
 - Video 9: *The State of Creation Today*. What role, if any, has Christianity played in environmental desecration? What role can it play in calling us to relationship and preservation?
 - Video 10: *How Should Christians Respond?* What are things that you think we should do as a parish for the environment? What will you do as an individual?
- **Class 4**
 - Finish any videos. Continue discussion. You might develop as a class an activity or mission project that deals directly with care for creation. These could include starting a recycling program in the church or community, hosting a clean-up day, or launching a letter-writing campaign or advocacy for an issue in your area.

◆ For those who wish to engage in individual study, a resource list is provided below. Many of the readings would also be useful for group study or a Bible study program.

3. Resources

The Episcopal Church's Network for Science, Technology, and Faith has a helpful website with additional resources, including a PDF of the *Catechism of Creation*.

<http://episcopalscience.org/resources/catechism-creation/>

The videos can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/IntheBeginningVideos> or viewed on the YouTube channel at <http://tinyurl.com/h2l2ux5>

Lent is Not Rocket Science, published by Forward Movement, is an excellent resource with daily meditations connecting science and faith. It is written by one of the leaders of this curriculum, Bishop Nick Knisely, and is available at www.forwardmovement.org.

Session 1: Biblical Creation Stories

The Holy Bible

(New Revised Standard Version)

Old Testament and Apocrypha

Cosmology and Theology: Psalms 8:1-4; 89:11-12; 102:25-27; 104; 139:1-18; 148; Genesis 1:1-2:4; 2:4-2:24; Sirach 42:15-43:33; Job 12:7-10, 26:7-14, chapters 38-42; Jeremiah 10:11-13; 51; 15-16

God: Creator and Redeemer: Isaiah 40-43; Isaiah 45:12, 15-18, 21-23; Psalms 33; 74:12-23; 77; 136

Wisdom: Proverbs 8; Sirach 24:1-7; Wisdom 7:7-8:1

New Testament

Christ the Creator: 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:9-23; Hebrews 1:1-13; Psalms 102:25-27; 110:1; John 1:1-14

Christ and the New Creation: Romans 8:18-25; 2 Peter 1:1-8; Revelation 4:11; 21-22:5

The Book of Common Prayer

Biblical Studies

Bailey, Lloyd R., *Genesis, Creation, and Creationism*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993: "Part Two: Genesis and Creation," p. 53-111.

*Berry, R. J., *God and Evolution: Creation, Evolution and the Bible*. Vancouver, BC: Regent Publishing, 2001: Chapter 3: "The Bible Account," p. 46-64.

*Borg, Marcus J., *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but not Literally*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2001. Chapter 4, "Reading the Creation Stories Again."

Clifford, R. J., S.J., "Creation in the Hebrew Bible," in R. J. Russell, et al., *Physics, Philosophy and Theology: A Common Quest for Understanding*. Vatican City State: Vatican Observatory, 1988, p. 151-170.

Hyers, Conrad, "Comparing Biblical and Scientific Maps of Origins," in *Perspectives on an Evolving Creation*, ed. by Keith B. Miller. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003, p. 19-33.

Hyers, Conrad, *The Meaning of Creation; Genesis and Modern Science*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1984.

*Schneider, Robert J., I: What the Bible Teaches about the Creation; II: Theology of Creation: Historical Perspectives and Fundamental Concepts, in *Science and Faith: perspectives on Christianity and science*:www.berea.edu/SpecialProject/scienceandfaith/.

Stek, John H., "What Says the Scriptures?" in Howard J. Van Till et al., *Portraits of Creation: Biblical and Scientific Perspectives on the World's Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990, p. 203-265.

Van Till, Howard J., *The Fourth Day; What the Bible and the Heavens are telling us about Creation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986: Part One: The Biblical View, p. 1-93.

Theological Studies

*Deane-Drummond, Celia, *Creation Through Wisdom: Theology and the New Biology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2000.

Edwards, Denis, *Breath of Life: A Theology of the Creator Spirit*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

Hayes, Zachary, OFM, *The Gift of Being: A Theology of Creation*. “New Theology Studies 10.” Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001.

Hayes, Zachary, OFM, *A Window to the Divine: Creation Theology*. Quincy, IL: Franciscan Press, 1997.

Powell, Samuel M., *Participating in God: Creation and Trinity*. “Theology and the Sciences Series.” Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003

Session 2: Creation and Science

Evolution and Theology of an Evolving Creation

American Association for the Advancement of Science: Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion: <http://www.aaas.org/spp/dser/>.

American Scientific Affiliation: <http://www.asa3.org/> [an organization of Christians in the sciences].

Ayala, Francisco, “Darwin and the Teleology of Nature,” in *Science and Religion: In Search of Cosmic Purpose*, ed. by John F. Haught. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2000, p. 18-41.

Ayala, Francisco, “The Evolution of Life: An Overview,” in Russell, R. J., William R. Stoeger, SJ, and Francisco Ayala, ed., *Evolution and Molecular Biology: Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action*. Vatican City State: Vatican Observatory Publications, 1998, p. 21-57.

Bailey, Lloyd R., *Genesis, Creation, and Creationism*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993: “Part Two: Genesis and Creation,” p. 53-111.

Barr, Stephen, *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.

*Berry, R. J., *God and Evolution: Creation, Evolution and the Bible*. Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2001.

Christians in Science (UK): <http://www.cis.org.uk/>.

Edwards, Denis, “For Your Immortal Spirit Is in All Things: The Role of the Spirit in Creation,” in *Earth Revealing: Earth Healing, Ecology and Christian Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Edwards, Denis, *The God of Evolution: A Trinitarian Theology*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999.

Ferris, Timothy, *The Whole Shebang: A State-of-the-Universe Report*. New York, NY: Simon & Shuster, 1997.

Fortey, Richard, *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth*. New York, NY: Knopf, 1998.

Gray, Terry, “Biochemistry and Evolution,” in *Perspectives on an Evolving Creation*, ed. by Keith B. Miller. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003, p. 256-287.

Haught, John F., *Deeper than Darwin; the Prospect for Religion in the Age of Evolution*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2003.

Haught, John F., *God After Darwin: A Theology of Evolution*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000.

Haught, John F., *Responses to 101 Questions on God and Evolution*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2001.

Hurd, James P., "Hominids in the Garden," in *Perspectives on an Evolving Creation*, p. 208-233.

Johnson, Elizabeth, CSJ, "Does God Play Dice? Divine Providence and Chance," in *An Evolving Dialogue: Theological and Scientific Perspectives on Evolution*, [revised and edited by James B. Miller. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2001, p. 353-370.

Matsumura, Molleen, ed., *Voices for Evolution*, rev. ed. Berkeley, CA: NCSE, 1995: Part III: Religious Organizations, p. 84-119.

Miller, Keith B., "Common Descent, Transitional Forms, and the Fossil Record," in *Perspectives on an Evolving Creation*, p. 152-181.

Miller, Kenneth, *Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution*. New York: Cliff Street Books, 1999.

Moltmann, Jorgen, *God in Creation: A New Theology of Creation and the Spirit of God*. The Gifford Lectures, 1984-1985. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993.

Murphy, George, *The Cosmos in the Light of the Cross*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2003.

National Center for Science Education:
<http://www.natcensci.org/>.

*Peacocke, Arthur, S.O.Sc., "Biological Evolution: A Positive Theological Appraisal," in *Evolution and Molecular Biology*, p. 357-376.

*Peacocke, Arthur, S.O.Sc., *Evolution: the Disguised Friend of Faith*. Philadelphia and London: Templeton Foundation Press, 2004.

*Peacocke, Arthur, S.O.Sc., *Paths from Science toward God*. Oxford: One World, 2001.

*Peacocke, Arthur, S.O.Sc., *Theology for a Scientific Age: Being and Becoming, Natural, Divine, and Human*. Theology and the Sciences Series. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993.

Peters, Ted, ed., *Cosmos as Creation: Theology and Science in Consonance*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Peters, Ted and Martinez Hewlett, *Evolution from Creation to New Creation: Conflict, Conversation, and Convergence*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2004.

*Polkinghorne, John, S.O.Sc. and Michael Welker, eds., *The End of the World and the Ends of God: Science and Theology on Eschatology*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2001.

*Polkinghorne, John, S.O.Sc., *The Faith of a Physicist: Reflections of a Bottom-Up Thinker*. The Gifford Lectures, 1993-1994. "Theology and the Sciences Series." Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1994.

*Polkinghorne, John, S.O.Sc., *The God of Hope and the End of the World*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003.

*Polkinghorne, John, S.O.Sc., *Quarks, Chaos & Christianity: Questions to Science and Religion*. New York: Crossroads, 1996.

*Polkinghorne, John, S.O.Sc., ed., *The Work of Love: Creation as Kenosis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.

*Schneider, Robert J., "Essay III: Does the Bible Teach Science?"; "Essay IV: Big Bang and the Universe Story"; "Essay V: Evolution for Christians"; "Essay VI: Human Evolution and the Image of God," in *Science and Faith: perspectives on Christianity and science*: www.berea.edu/SpecialProject/scienceandfaith/.

The Talk. Origins Archive; Exploring the Creation/Evolution Controversy:
<http://www.talkorigins.org/>.

Tattersall, Ian, "Human Evolution: An Overview," in *An Evolving Dialogue*, p. 197-209.

Van Till, Howard J., "The Fully Gifted Creation," in *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*, ed. by J. P. Moreland and John Mark Reynolds. "Counterpoints Series." Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999, p. 159-218.

Wilcox, David, "Finding Adam: The Genetics of Human Origin," in *Perspectives on an Evolving Creation*, p. 234-253.

On Young Earth Creationism and "Intelligent Design"

Access Research Network: <http://www.arn.org/> [Intelligent Design Movement].

Answers in Genesis: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/home.aspx> [Young Earth Creationism].

Bailey, Lloyd R., *Genesis, Creation, and Creationism*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993.

Behe, Michael, *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York, NY: The Free Press, 1996.

Behe, Michael, "Evidence for Intelligent Design from Biochemistry," in *An Evolving Dialogue*, p. 445-455.

Dembski, William, *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Dembski, William, "The Intelligent Design Movement," in *An Evolving Dialogue*, p. 439-443.

Dembski, William, et al., *Mere Creation; Science, Faith & Intelligent Design*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

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Giberson, Karl W., and Donald A. Yerxa, *Species of Origins: American's Search for a Creation Story*. New York: Roman and Littlefield, 2002.

Institute for Creation Research: <http://www.icr.org/> [Young Earth Creationism].

Morris, Henry M. and John Morris, *The Modern Creation Trilogy: Scripture and Creation, Science and Creation, Society and Creation*. Word Publishing, 1997.

Numbers, Ronald, "The Creationists," in *An Evolving Dialogue*, p. 279-317.

Pennock, Robert T., *Intelligent Design Creationism and Its Critics: Philosophical, Theological, and Scientific Perspectives*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001.

Pennock, Robert T., *Tower of Babel; The Evidence against the New Creationism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999.

Peterson, Gregory R., "The Intelligent-Design Movement: Science or Ideology?" in *Zygon. Journal of Religion and Science* 37 (2002) 7-23.

Towne, Margaret, *Honest to Genesis; A Biblical and Scientific Challenge to Creationism*. Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2003.

Van Till, Howard J., "E Coli at the No Free Lunchroom: Bacterial Flagella and Dembski's Case for Intelligent Design" (<http://www.counterbalance.net/id-hvt/index-frame.html>).

Van Till, Howard J., "Special Creationism in Designer Clothing: A Response to The Creation Hypothesis," in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 47 (1995) 123-131.

Session 3: Caring for Creation

A Rocha: Christians in Conservation:
<http://en.arocha.org/home/index.html>.

*Berry, R. J., ed., *The Care of Creation; focusing concern and action*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

*Berry, R. J., *God's Book of Works: the Nature and Theology of Nature*. London: T & T Clark, 2003.

Bouma-Prediger, Steven, *For the beauty of the earth: a Christian vision for creation care*. "Engaging Culture Series." Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001.

Braaten, Laurie J., "May the Glory of the Lord Endure Forever! Biblical Reflections on Creation Care," in *Perspectives on an Evolving Creation*, p. 414-434.

Chapman, Audrey R., Rodney L. Peterson, and *Barbara Smith-Moran, *Consumption, Population, and Sustainability: Perspectives from Science and Religion*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2000.

DeWitt, Calvin B., "Christian Environmental Stewardship: Preparing the Way for Action," in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 46 (June 1994), p. 80-89 (<http://www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/1994/PSCF6-94DeWitt.html>).

Earth Ministry: <http://www.earthministry.org/>.

*Eco-Congregation, Scotland: <http://www.srtp.org.uk/ecocong/resources/modules.shtml>.

Edwards, Denis, "For Your Immortal Spirit Is in All Things: The Role of the Spirit in Creation,"

in Denis Edwards, ed., *Earth Revealing, Earth Healing: Ecology and Christian Theology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Edwards, Denis, *Jesus and the Cosmos*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1991.

*Episcopal Ecological Network: *Caring for God's Creation, Called to be Stewards*: <http://eenonline.org/>.

Evangelical Environmental Network and Creation Care Magazine: <http://www.creationcare.org/>.

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Oelschlaeger, Max. *Caring for creation; an ecumenical approach to the environmental crisis*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1994.

Santmire, H. Paul, *The Travail of Nature: The Ambiguous Ecological Promise of Christian Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1985.

Santmire, H. Paul, *Nature Reborn: The Ecological and Cosmic Promise of Christian Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000.

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Resources marked with an asterisk indicate Anglican/Episcopal writers or websites.