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DISCUSSION GUIDE – Based on the 3-minute video at OverflowToday.com titled: Got Science? Genesis 1 and Evidence

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last OverflowToday show.

Read Romans 1:18-20

A relationship of actions and reactions is profiled in this passage. Discuss these elements and the characters involved. Do you see this played out in contemporary life at all? Cite examples.

Section 2

Watch the podcast entitled “Got Science? Genesis 1 and Evidence” at <http://OverflowToday.com>

Featured is Dr. Stephen Meyer, author of the book SIGNATURE IN THE CELL, and Director of the Center for Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute.

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you watched this?

Meyer made a distinction between a theory's basis and a theory's implications. Discuss this point and its importance.

Meyer said that Intelligent Design (ID) is based on two primary pillars. What are they?

Scientific evidence and scientific reasoning.

How did Meyer compare the above empirical and intellectual foundation to another theory of origins and what did he contend regarding the validity of both theories?

He pointed out that ID and Darwinism both use the same foundation of scientific evidence and scientific reasoning. If you disqualify ID because of its basis, you must disqualify Darwinism.

Meyer cited four primary scientific evidence examples of intelligent design in the human body. What were those? Let's pool our ignorance and discuss what we know about any of the four.

Digital code found within every human cell. (See Meyer's book SIGNATURE IN THE CELL)

The fine-tuning of the laws and constants of physics. (Or fine-tuning of the universe)

Nanotechnology. (Tiny machines found in living organisms)

A complex, functionally integrated information processing system.

Dr. Meyer said that when we find any of the above four examples occurring in virtually any context, we conclude that only one type of cause is behind such. What is that cause?

Intelligence

Can anyone think of an example of any form of scientific endeavor or research that would be an exception to the above contention? (Apart from the origins of man controversy)

When archaeologists find the crudest and simplest of drawings of stick figure men on ancient cave walls, do they ever even suggest that random processes over billions of years produced these markings?

The author said that even though Intelligent Design is not religiously based, it does overlap with religion in a particular way. What was that?

The idea of an intelligent being creating the very complex components of life is an idea that happens to match religions that teach about a God who created the earth and life. Intelligent Design is "religiously friendly."

What did Meyer say are proper reasons and improper reasons to disqualify a theory?

Proper reasons – The theory is shown to have logical or scientific failings.

Improper reasons – The theory's ramifications. Where the theory leads one.

Let's try to craft the very simplest explanation of the theory of Intelligent Design in one sentence. Suggestions?

If needed: Some kind of intelligence is necessary to explain the origin of complex life, even as basic a life organism as a single human cell.

According to Stephen Meyer, are all advocates of Intelligent Design Christians? Why or why not?

Not all ID proponents are Christians. One does not have to be a religious person to see clear evidence of design.

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days.

One suggestion (if needed):

Each person in the group approach three friends this week and ask: "In our weekly theology discussion group, we are considering what things we see around us are caused by random forces and what things occur as the result of an intelligent agent performing an action. We are compiling the results for next week's meeting. Could you give a verdict on six things we see around us as to whether they were caused by some sort of intelligence, or whether they were caused by random forces over time?"

Caused by some level of intelligence

Caused by random forces

- 1) *The path of a river*
- 2) *The profile of a mountain range*
- 3) *An empty wasp nest*
- 4) *An empty bird nest*
- 5) *Stick figure drawings on ancient cave wall*
- 6) *The faces on Mt. Rushmore*
- 7) *Computer code for a Word document*
- 8) *DNA code on the inside of every human cell*

Thank you. Did your responses in the left and right column follow a pattern or switch back and forth?

Which responses were you more sure of and which responses less sure of?

Do you see any inconsistencies in your reasoning for items 1-8, or is your reasoning consistent.

If you see inconsistencies, what are other possible causes for that particular item?

Meet back next week to report on what happened.

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