

# Declaring the Designer

## \*student guide

1. Scientific evidence points to an Intelligent Designer consistent with a Creator God as described by the Bible.
2. Many in the “scientific community” refuse to follow the evidence because their definition of science excludes God.
3. A lot of misinformation has been given to the public by confusing Darwinism with basic evolution and by claiming a theory is proven based on very limited evidence.

Now that you have the knowledge to understand these key points, what do you do with that information? Ultimately, one must get from the concept of an Intelligent Designer to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

All of the information can be more than a little overwhelming, and most people will feel intimidated thinking they must understand and articulate everything they believe about the science of design in a spiritual conversation. However, the gospel is clear and simple, and regardless of how you get to it, when a conversation turns from the scientific to the spiritual, the message never changes—Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.

### Opening Questions

1. What are common misconceptions about the gospel message?
2. How do most people feel they need to communicate the gospel?
3. Is the gospel any different depending on the circumstances?
4. How does discussing Intelligent Design create a bridge?

**1** Your starting point is found in three words: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Avoid anger and frustration, which only leads to heated emotion. Everything you say should be based on the truth of \_\_\_\_\_, with the \_\_\_\_\_ as your guide.

2 Timothy 2:23-24

*“Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient...”*

You cannot argue someone into heaven, and when your emotions get the best of you in a discussion, Satan is quick to charge in and the conversation will quickly spiral downward.

You *are not* in this to convince someone of \_\_\_\_\_; that’s something \_\_\_\_\_ has to do.

**2** Acknowledge their \_\_\_\_\_ even if you can’t agree with their \_\_\_\_\_.

Kind words can go a long way in laying the groundwork for a productive conversation.

Let them know you appreciate the fact that they are taking the time to think through the issue and discuss it with you. You may not appreciate their \_\_\_\_\_, but you appreciate the fact that they are \_\_\_\_\_.

Ask questions that will \_\_\_\_\_ their thinking:

“If you can consider there is a creator; then who is He and how has He communicated with his creation?”

Proverbs 2:3-5

*“...if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,  
If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.”*

The pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ is a step in the right direction. Applaud them for their interest. Trust that this is the first step on a lighted path for them.

Remember to be \_\_\_\_\_. The Holy Spirit works in God’s timing - not yours.

3 Don't try to do \_\_\_\_\_ job; do \_\_\_\_\_. It is not a matter of the \_\_\_\_\_ but of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Your job is to bring Christ to them; it's God's job to bring them to Christ.

You have made the \_\_\_\_\_—it's the Holy Spirit who is responsible for \_\_\_\_\_.

John 6:44

*"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..."*

You can't \_\_\_\_\_ them through debating the \_\_\_\_\_ issue that they need to place their trust in Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:14

*"...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

Their own \_\_\_\_\_ cannot make them appreciate the gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

*"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."*

The issue is ultimately \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_—someone can be mentally astute and yet spiritually blind. It is the Spirit of God in man that helps us to discern truth.

*\*This principle must be understood clearly within the context of the creation debate - spiritual discernment is a necessary ingredient for the faith of men.*

4 Take the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_.

You are not \_\_\_\_\_ a position - you're \_\_\_\_\_ a person.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

*"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."*

Corinth was a city filled with intellectuals and philosophers who loved to \_\_\_\_\_. Paul gave himself to \_\_\_\_\_, not defense.

What Paul was declaring was clear and simple: Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.

When Paul was faced with the intellectual elite of the day, his greatest strategy was proclamation.

Acts 17:18-21

*"Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, 'What does this babbler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,' because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, 'May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.' For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing."*

You are asserting a \_\_\_\_\_ and stating a \_\_\_\_\_, rather than defending a \_\_\_\_\_ or offering a \_\_\_\_\_.

Proclaim the identity of the Designer, and reveal who He really is!

Acts 17:23-25

*"Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."*

5 Keep in mind that Christianity stands or falls on one thing: \_\_\_\_\_.

In order to come to faith in Christ, you don't have to prove that the world came into existence through creation. The burden of proof is on disproving the resurrection and therefore the deity of Christ.

Instead of trying to \_\_\_\_\_ creation - and there are those who would argue that neither \_\_\_\_\_ **or** \_\_\_\_\_ can be proved using the scientific method - ask them to \_\_\_\_\_ the resurrection, which is one of the most attested facts of history.

Ultimately, they do not need to know what Darwin said or did; they need to know what Christ said and did. Christianity does not rely upon the Genesis account of creation; it relies on the empty tomb.

**6** People need to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

The gospel by which we are saved is: *Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead.*

Don't get stuck on the issue "how did the world get started"; rather, make the issue "what the Lord did for you."

Instead of answering the question "how did the world \_\_\_\_\_?", help the unbeliever see that they need to be asking the question, "where will I be when it \_\_\_\_\_?"

Most \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_ recognize a \_\_\_\_\_.

We must be clear that the God of Genesis is the Father of Jesus Christ and the only creator of the universe, and He has reconciled Himself to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

A great opening line to introduce the gospel would be to ask them something like this:

*"It seems you have spent a great deal of time considering how the world began, have you ever stopped to consider where you will be when it ends? Can I show you in the Bible, which I believe to be the Creator's message to us, the answers to four questions about God that directly impact your future?"*

Get someone engaged at this point by getting their \_\_\_\_\_. It is so much easier to walk through a door that is opened for you rather than trying to break it down.

So once they agree to listen, ask these simple questions:

**1. \_\_\_\_\_?**

The Bible says all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made - He created you, me, the earth, stars, oceans, the animals, and everything.

**2. How do you find the \_\_\_\_\_?**

The answer is to recognize what separates you from Him; in one word—sin. The Bible tells us "*the wages of sin is death*"—that means we are forever separated from God (Romans 6:23). And no one is excluded because the Bible also says that everyone has sinned and falls short of the glory of God (\_\_\_\_\_).

**3. So what has God done to \_\_\_\_\_ the problem of sin which separates us from Him?**

He did what you would be unlikely to do for another. He took our punishment. He sent His perfect Son to die in your place and mine. We are told in the Bible that "*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (\_\_\_\_\_). Because God's Son took our place on a cross and rose the third day, God can now pardon us and give us eternal life with Him instead of punishing us with eternal separation from Him.

**4. How do we receive this \_\_\_\_\_?**

We must believe, that is: trust in Christ alone to save us. One of the better known sentences from the Bible is "*for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life*" (\_\_\_\_\_). The moment you trust Jesus, He freely gives you what you cannot earn.

The Bible also clearly says "*by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*" (\_\_\_\_\_).

These are four questions that can help you share the gospel with someone in the midst of a conversation about Intelligent Design—even with someone who has never read or believed in the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_ says: "*for the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing, even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*"

So, whatever method you use, be certain to stress these four facts:

We are all \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ for sin is \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us and \_\_\_\_\_.

We are \_\_\_\_\_ only through \_\_\_\_\_.

### Review Questions

1. We are all \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The penalty for sin is \_\_\_\_\_. What does this mean for the unbeliever? (eternal separation from God)
3. Christ died for us and \_\_\_\_\_. (The resurrection is the crucial element in Christianity.)
4. We are saved ONLY through \_\_\_\_\_.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Pray that the Lord will change their \_\_\_\_\_ and open their \_\_\_\_\_ to hear the truth.

How much time have you spent talking to God about \_\_\_\_\_, not merely talking to them about God?

Pray that God would show such a person his need and open the door for the gospel.

We are in a \_\_\_\_\_ battle.

Ephesians 2:1-5

*"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..."*

Most of all, depend on God! Ask Him to show the unbeliever their need, to help them understand the gospel, and to use you to bring them to Christ.

The Creator of the universe, the God who sent His Son, wants to use you to share the good news. Those who take for granted what science tells them as fact have only heard what the popular worldview has to offer. Darwin's theory of natural selection imposes upon us a meaningless life wrought with struggle where only the strong survive. In that view, there is no hope. If they do believe in a god, he is distant and cold. You can tell them who God is and what God says in His word. The Designer did not just create us and remain in silence; He spoke through Scripture and through Jesus Christ, by whose death and resurrection our reconciliation with Him is made possible.

**Don't miss your opportunity - use the discussion about Intelligent Design to declare the intelligent and loving Designer!**

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