

Matt and Tiffany travel to Arizona to see a massive hole in the ground thought to have been created by a giant meteor crashing into the ground.



**Discussion Leader:** Dr. Stan Hudson was a geology major at the University of California at Riverside before becoming a Christian. He then shifted his studies to theology, eventually earning a Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary. Today he combines both interests, co-hosting the weekly radio program "Sink the Beagle," a light-hearted approach to creationism and evolution issues. He currently pastors two churches in the university towns of Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Washington.

When we talk about "faith," we usually think about religion. However, as this program showed, all people have faith in something. That is, we all have assumptions about reality based upon experience and our worldview. Our first program dealt with worldviews.

## 1 QUESTION:

Today's program took Matt and Tiffany to the Meteor Crater in Arizona. What is Meteor Crater's claim to fame in science?

### ANSWER:

It's the best-preserved example in the world of a crater produced by meteor impact.



## 2 QUESTION:

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Theologian Ed Zinke said that he discovered faith as the foundation of reason, and not vice versa. What do you suppose he meant?

### ANSWER:

Perhaps he found that as he believed in the Biblical model, evidence then seemed to come and support it. The order for him was believe first...then evidence would be forthcoming and a "reasonable" worldview would be established. This is not to say that faith begins with NO evidence. But there is always some room to doubt; faith then is a *decision to believe, in spite of unanswered questions.*



## DEFINITION:

**FAITH**—There are many definitions but for our purposes let's use the belief of something to be true without absolute proof. That doesn't mean evidence and experience are not brought to bear in supporting or even creating faith; it is the opposite of doubt. Faith is much more common than one might think. Even science relies on faith, according to science philosopher Michael Polanyi, since man's passions are impossible to remove from his attempts to discover. Both creationism and evolutionism require faith; both rely on a model that involves events not observed today.



**3 QUESTION:**

At the Meteor Crater in Arizona the idea of life coming to earth on an asteroid or meteor was mentioned. Does that idea sound feasible (remember, a Nobel prizewinner believed it)?

**ANSWER:**

There are two views---one is something like “a planet blew up that had simple life (like a bacteria) on a fragment, this shot across space, passed through earth’s atmosphere and landed, planting a seed of something that eventually would evolve. The other view is that space aliens brought life to earth (which also evolved). The first view’s problems are many, including blowing up a planet, the vacuum of space, the earth’s atmosphere and the crash landing ... these sorts of conditions and events are often detrimental to life! And the aliens theory... hmmm.

**DEFINITION:**

**SCIENCE**—Once simply the study of nature and how it works, now it is more the study of nature and how to understand its workings and origin entirely from natural law. Modern science was born when such Christians as Isaac Newton wished to appreciate God more by the study of what He had made. Now references to God are considered contrary to pure science.

**4 QUESTION:**

What do such ideas require in the area of faith?

**ANSWER:**

Plenty! But other options might not seem better to some. Remember, one of the problems facing the standard model is many feel that *more* time would be needed than three or four billion years (!) for life to evolve from non-organic compounds.

**5 QUESTION:**

Several people who were interviewed didn’t seem to have many ideas about how life started; does it seem odd to you that people were puzzled...and maybe even didn’t seem to think it was that important?

**ANSWER:**

Maybe we all have a tendency to avoid the big questions, especially if we suspect we won’t like the answers.

**6 QUESTION:**

Dr. Standish added that “we can recognize intelligence when we see information, even though we might not understand that information” just yet. What principle of “intelligent design” is this illustrating?

**ANSWER:**

Remember, naturalism says that through lots of time and chance anything is possible. But is everything we see “likely” to have just happened? An example would be when we might hike through a desert and see a stack of flat rocks. We might see that the rocks’ organization suggests someone placed them that way; what would be the chances for them to be there through natural processes (“luck”)? So, *organization suggests intelligence.*

**7 QUESTION:**

In today’s world we so appreciate science’s advances. Cliff Goldstein mentioned how we love the computer and cell phone, and we have science to thank for our modern conveniences. He believes that this tends to give us faith in science for all of the answers of life. Does that make sense?

**ANSWER:**

Sure! If they can do so many things well, you would think their discoveries would lead to solid and truthful answers on origins. There are some who aren’t happy with science’s answers, though.

**8 QUESTION:**

Cliff Goldstein also said science is a “faith venture.” What do you suppose he meant?

**ANSWER:**

Science has to at some point proceed on various assumptions, many of which can’t be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt...they require some faith to operate.

**9 QUESTION:**

He also said that science didn’t allow their assumptions to be challenged; that is, they seem somewhat closed-minded to ideas challenging their model of origins. Should science be that way? Why or why not?

**ANSWER:**

Science has become in the area of origins fairly rigid and defensive. There could be spiritual reasons for this; the Bible mentions scoffers in the last days—see II Peter 3.

**10 QUESTION:**

When is it appropriate for scientific assumptions to be accepted and not challenged?

**ANSWER:**

When there is strong empirical evidence for it and not against it. It should be a model or theory that provides answers for the appropriate questions. Even so, to *never* challenge a model or theory...that seems a little over the top. For years it was assumed man would never be able to fly; this was based upon the best science of the day. But better science came along and assumptions had to change.



**11 QUESTION:**

Cliff Goldstein mentioned that religion admits that it depends upon faith, but that science doesn’t admit it when they rely on faith. Do you agree? Should science be more frank about this?

**ANSWER:**

It’s possible that science doesn’t want to use terms that sound religious. And yet Michael Polanyi, a science philosopher, has written that it’s impossible to do good science without faith-like assumptions; and his work has been reasonably well accepted by scientists.

**12 QUESTION:**

Bob, the park guide, said that he was trying to remain “open-minded” about questions of origins. Did it sound like he was doing a good job? And should we remain open minded, too?

**ANSWER:**

Remember the astronomer John from program #4? He liked the saying “don’t be so open-minded that your brains fall out!” All truth can withstand scrutiny...how else could it be truth? Even so, once something’s established as our worldview, a model of reality so to speak, we automatically operate within that model. You can’t help it!

### 13 QUESTION:

Matt wondered if it were possible to believe in God and in evolution, too. What do you think?

#### ANSWER:

Many millions do; it would be fair to say worldwide that most Christians do. For instance, the Roman Catholic Church, the pope in particular, has written that believing in evolution is not against the Bible...and it's the largest church in the world by a mile. It's possible; but is it logical?

### 14 QUESTION:

Paul also said that he thought it was possible to have faith, but without your life showing it. What do you think he meant?

#### ANSWER:

Maybe he means it's possible to believe in God intellectually, but for that not to impact other areas of your life. You could believe God exists, but you might not ever try to talk to Him or ...?

### 15 QUESTION:

Cliff Goldstein challenged us with this question: Are you really a seeker of truth? Then he added, "It might cost you something...but it will be worth it!" True?

#### ANSWER:

The cost might be in letting old and cherished ideas go...perhaps friends and family who also cherish those ideas. But for those who feel they have found truth, it is worth it.

