

REVIEW:

Last week: Subjective Truth and Objective Truth

- Subjective truth is based on personal opinion.
 - Objective truth is a claim about reality not affected by personal opinion.
 - God's existence is not based on personal opinion. It is objective.
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A CRIME SCENE

A good detective looks at a crime scene for two things:

- What is the evidence?
- What is the most reasonable explanation for the evidence?

Looking for the best explanation to the evidence:

- Can the evidence be explained from inside the room, or do you have to go outside of the room for the best explanation?

Build a suspect list:

- Based on the evidence and explanation, build the criteria for the most probable suspect.
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CRIME SCENE FOR "IS THERE A GOD?"

The **UNIVERSE** is the crime scene!

Evidence that needs to be explained:

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| 1. Cause of space, time, and matter | 5. Immaterial minds—not just brains |
| 2. Fine-tuning of universe | 6. Free Agency |
| 3. Origin of life in the universe | 7. Moral Truths |
| 4. Appearance of design in biology | 8. Objective Evil |

How do I explain the evidence?

Different theories, different things left unexplained.

- Can the evidence be explained from inside the room (the Universe), or do you have to go outside of the room (the Universe) to explain them?
- What is the best explanation for this evidence?

Suspect profile from this body of evidence:

Suspect—An Evidence Leaver: Each piece of evidence requires a specific kind of evidence leaver. Here is the kind of evidence leaver we need to find. One that is:

1. Not made up space, time, or matter
2. Purposeful and directed towards life
3. Intelligent
4. Able to communicate directions such as DNA
5. Creative and resourceful
6. Conscious mind acting freely to create other conscious minds that act freely
7. Gives moral truth and obligation
8. Has a standard for good by which evil is defined

4 kinds of evidence in the crime scene of the Universe:

1. Cosmologic
2. Biologic
3. Mental
4. Moral

What is a reasonable explanation for the evidence?

- 100's of theories that all line up together OR
- One common causal explanation for all eight pieces of evidence

A "theory of everything"—God—is the cleanest explanation to fit the suspect profile.

THERE IS AN EVIDENCE TRAIL.

- Look at the evidence. See the miracles it displays.
- Learn to explain the evidence to others.
- There is verifiable evidence and explanation for the hope you have. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

You, acting as a Jury, what kind of inferences or conclusions do you draw from this evidence trail?

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:

Passages to consider: Psalm 8; Psalm 139:13-16; Joshua 24:15; Galatians 5:16-22

1. **Icebreaker:** Which do you prefer: solving mysteries, exploring new things, or doing puzzles?
 2. From the sermon, what stood out to you?
 3. Which piece of evidence in the universe crime scene resonated with you?
 4. Read Psalm 8 and Isaiah 40:25-26. What is important about God being the Creator of the Universe?
 5. What evidence helps you personally believe and respond to God? A) What questions might you have?
 6. How would you explain evidence for God to someone curious about God?
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Resources:

- Norman Geisler's book *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*
 - Listen to Jim Putman's daily devotion on FaceBook or Youtube.
 - J. Warner Wallace, both as books or series on RightNow Media:
 - o *Forensic Faith*
 - o *Cold Case Christianity*
 - o *God's Crime Scene*
 - YouVersion Bible App: *God's Crime Scene* reading plan
 - Real Life University's *Apologetics* class on YouTube (follow the link from www.reallifeministries.com/rlu)
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Passages to prepare for next week, Contagious: Fear of Faith—What are you carrying? Week 3 *Cold Case Christianity*

This week, read John 10:22-25, John 5:31-37, and Luke 1:1-4.

As you read, ask yourself these questions:

- a) What is the passage saying about God, human beings, and the world?
- b) What do I learn about myself from this passage?
- c) What adjustment does this require of me in my thinking, believing, and doing?