

## HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

### WELCOME!

We are thrilled that you are taking this cosmic adventure with us! This curriculum is designed to be a launchpad for a meaningful group exploration. Along the way, we hope that you'll discover more of how science can illuminate and expand faith. Enjoy the journey.

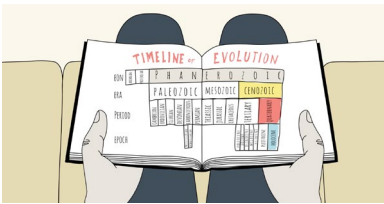
### CURRICULUM USE

Though designed for youth ministry, we expect *A Cosmic Adventure Through Science & Faith* to connect with people across many contexts. Carefully crafted using active learning pedagogy, the questions and activities in this curriculum scale to reach people of all ages.



EXPERIENCING THE EPISODES IN ORDER IS RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED.

### OVERVIEW



#### EPISODE 1: A TALE OF TWO BOOKS

Do you feel like faith and science are in competition, that you've got choose one or the other? The different stories told by faith and science often overwhelm us. But what if our faith could be enlarged and inspired by science?



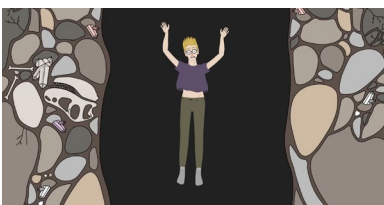
#### EPISODE 2: HURLING THROUGH SPACE

Throughout history, Christians have been central to advancing our understanding of the universe through science. But recently, many Christians are being taught to ignore or fear science. What if we as people of faith were reinvigorated to celebrate scientific discovery as an expression of our God-given capacity to know and understand?



#### EPISODE 3: LOBSTERS AND POETRY

New scientific discoveries can continually inform and expand our understanding of the universe. As our perspective grows, we are confronted with a choice: are we willing to shed old beliefs in order to embrace an enlarged faith that fits our new understanding?



#### EPISODE 4: ATOMS, ARRANGED TO LOVE

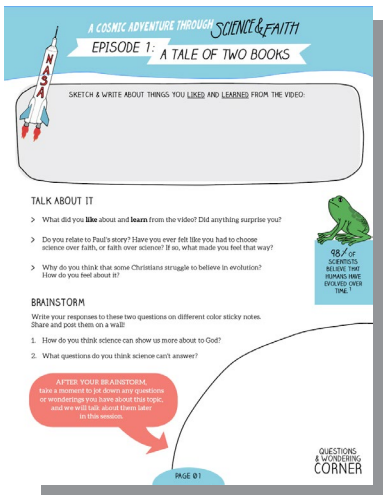
Are we fantastically complex collections of atoms and nothing more? Or are we fantastically complex collections of atoms that somehow carry the divine image and have a deep capacity for love? How might faith provide understanding about life that science cannot?

# COMPONENTS



## VIDEOS

Through animation and lively storytelling, each video episode explores an aspect of the relationship between science and faith. Our host and guide for this cosmic adventure is Dr. Paul Wallace, an astronomer, professor, theologian, and self-proclaimed science nerd!



## STUDENT GUIDE

A companion student handout is provided to follow-up each video episode (2 Page PDF file). Use the **Student Guide** as an outline to facilitate reflection and discussion **after watching each video**. The **Student Guide** provides all of the questions and activities for the curriculum.

Activities in each **Student Guide** are carefully designed to follow the corresponding video episode.

### Student Guide activities include:

- > Sketch & Write Observations
- > Talk About It Dialogues
- > Questions & Wonderings Corner
- > Brainstorm Together
- > Quick Take
- > Relax and Reflect
- > Write then Share
- > Science and Faith Factoids



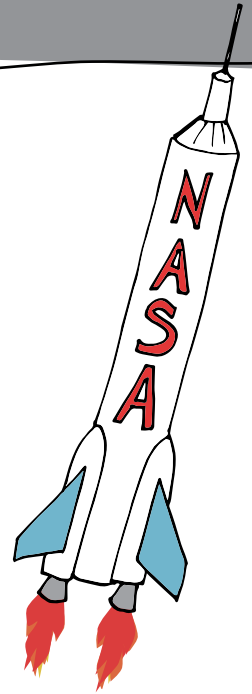
CURRICULUM COMPONENTS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL FORMAT.

# PREPARATION

1. **Download the video episodes** for *A Cosmic Adventure Through Science & Faith*.
2. **Download and print** a copy for each participant of the **Student Handouts** for *A Cosmic Adventure Through Science & Faith* (2 Page PDF file).
3. Set-up a **projector with speakers or a television** for your group to view the video episodes.

# INSTRUCTIONS

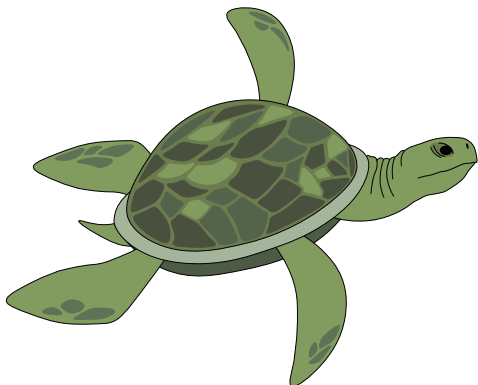
1. **Watch a video episode with your group.** Ask participants to **sketch and write** on the Student Guide. A box on the top is provided to capture things they liked and learned, and the bottom right corner is for questions and wonderings.
2. **Follow** the activities and discussion questions in **the Student Guide** for that episode. **Take turns reading** the questions and prompts aloud.
3. **Rinse and repeat** with another episode!



# TIPS FOR LEADERS

- > **Let go of the role of expert teacher and embrace the role of co-learner, encourager, and guide.** Participate alongside your students. There is no need for you to be the expert or to do a lot of background preparation before leading. The activities and discussion questions are designed for all to explore and inquire together.
- > **Listen and learn** about (and from) your students. The questions and activities intentionally encourage divergent thinking, providing space for your group to express their questions and growing understanding. Be patient, allowing participants time to process, and room for different opinions, tangents, tension, questions, and wondering.
- > **Embrace the questions.** This adventure is not necessarily about answering questions, but living with them and embracing them. Many of the mysteries that science and faith explore are bigger than our answers. We hope to give space for you to model what it means to live in the tension of our wonderings, doubts and the unknown. Faith often grows in presence of the transcendent.

TAKE TURNS  
WITH  
PARTICIPANTS  
READING THE  
QUESTIONS  
AND PROMPTS  
ALLOUD.

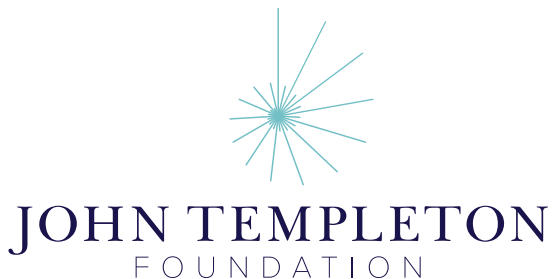


# SCIENCE for YOUTH MINISTRY

## ABOUT SCIENCE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Luther Seminary has received a grant from the John Templeton Foundation to fund a three-year project called *Science for Youth Ministry: The Plausibility of Transcendence*. The project will catalyze faith-and-science conversations with young people through youth ministry and will produce materials to encourage those discussions. We are confident that with time, energy, and resources, science can go from an afterthought in American youth ministry to a primary concern. From the academic to the popular, from large conferences to curricula, science needs to become an integrated topic across the youth ministry landscape.

SCIENCEYM.ORG



VIDEOS AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPED BY:



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