

Introduction:

1. How do you react when you visit the American Museum of Natural History, or see a show on cable TV, where the narrator says “hundreds of millions of years ago before humans evolved “?
2. When have you thought you understood why and how something happened, and then changed your mind about it? Why did you?

Understanding:

3. Read Romans 1:20. Does this say there is a contradiction between faith and science? Why do you think so? What does it imply about how we react to new scientific discoveries?
4. Read Psalm 33. What does this Psalm say about the creation of the universe (see especially verses 6-9)? What are the connections in this Psalm between the creation of the universe and God’s Word and how we live our daily lives?
5. Read 1 Kings 4:33-34 about King Solomon. What does this tell you about the “two books”: God’s world and God’s Word? Is there a contradiction between the two of them here? Why do you think so?
6. Of the days in Genesis 1 some Christians say “It’s literal days” and others say “its poetic days “. Which way do you look at it? What truth about God is even more important here than whether it’s poetic or literal days?

Questions 7 thru 9 have the 3 views of human origins that Pastor Dave described in the sermon. When you describe them try to be objective about their pros and cons. (Then in question 10 you’ll explain which one you prefer.)

7. Young Earth Creationism believes that God created the earth and everything in it in 6, 24-hour days, and that the earth is young—6-10,000 years old. They believe that some of the geological discoveries that make the earth appear ancient are really the result of Noah’s flood. What are the strong and weak points of this view?
8. Old Earth Creationism agrees with mainstream geology that the earth is about 4.5 billion years old. Most old-earth creationists believe that when Genesis talks about “days,” it’s talking about much longer periods of time. They believe in microevolution, or slight changes within species, but they say that at key moments, God intervened and miraculously created new species. What are the strong and weak points of this view?
9. Evolutionary Creationism, sometimes called theistic evolution, also believes the earth is 4.5 billion years old, and they accept the mainstream model of evolution. They believe that God designed and used the process of evolution to create and develop life on earth. What are the strong and weak points of this view?
10. Which of the three types of Creationism do you most agree with? Why is that?

Application:

11. Someone dropped out of a Bible Study because they believed in evolution but the other group members kept mentioning how ridiculous they found evolution. What would be a better way to handle disagreements about evolution amongst Christians?
12. In the light of today’s teaching be prepared to explain why “What is your view on creation versus evolution?” or, “Are you young-earth or old-earth?” is less important than “Who do you say that Christ is?” How do you move the conversation to the bottom line: God created us; we’ve all fallen way short of God’s glory, and we desperately need a savior?