

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Be a Creation Discippler

by Dave Nutting

Creation Evangelism is a very good thing. But have you heard of Creation Discipleship? What's the difference, you might ask. Well, creation evangelists give presentations showing the truth of the Bible beginning in the book of Genesis. This is a great opening to share the whole truth of Scripture including the Gospel message. Each one of our speaking teams report people coming to the Lord as a result of the creation message. In fact, Lanny and Marilyn Johnson, who speak to lots of children every year, report that each year 75 – 100 kids indicate decisions for salvation in their programs. I am very thankful for the fruit of this ministry and would love to see an army of people equipped to share in this way across the nation. (That is one reason why we are so excited about launching the Discover Creation Training Institute in August of this year.)

Now, what about Creation Discipleship? A major concern I have had for years is the huge number of church youth who totally abandon their faith while they are students. Polls indicate a staggering 70-80%, and it's not just college students, but a large number are middle school and high school age. Evolution is the chief reason young people at the universities give us for quitting the church, dumping the Bible, and leaving their faith. Imagine the heartache you would feel if your high school daughter or college son would

tell you they can't believe anymore and give evolution as the reason.

Because evolution is devastating the faith of our youth worldwide, church leadership cannot ignore it. I am convinced that leaders, including senior pastors and youth pastors, must adopt a Creation Discipleship approach right along with their other Bible instruction. It is imperative that they come alongside their students because many of them are being blasted out of the water by evolutionary teaching. These leaders need to be proactive before it happens rather than reactionary after someone drops out. Unfortunately, many of these students just drift off the scene and the leadership really doesn't know why.

Consider carefully this statement: "Evolution is not science. It is a philosophy posing as science." Think about that in light of Colossians 2:8 which states, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy . . . (NAS).

In October, while I was speaking for a campus ministry, a young lady told me how she was struggling with her faith because of evolutionary teaching. After listening to my presentations, she told me, "That has all changed

now." It doesn't take much truth to combat a lot of falsehood – only two lectures at her university! She saw that evolution is a philosophy, not science, and that there are lots of holes in the supposed "scientific evidence" supporting evolution. That is the power of Creation Discipleship.

Our team at AOI is busy conducting seminars and other events to reach as many young people and adults as we can each year, but we can only do so much. We need YOU to join us in this battle for the hearts and minds. Here is what you can do:

1. Encourage your church leadership to be Creation Disciplers. Help them use high quality creation materials in their classes, youth group meetings, AND EVEN IN SERMONS as many young people only attend that one church function.

2. Be a Creation Discippler yourself. Don't wait for the leadership to do it. Find at least one student in your church. It might be your own, or even the pastor's child. Strike up a conversation with them asking how they are doing with the

creation vs. evolution

debate. Then throughout the year, keep feeding them information and encourage them to share it with others who might be struggling. We all have a big job to do, but it is vitally important. Please start today! **AOI**



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Considering Logical Fallacies: (Scientific) Mob Appeal by Scott Mauser

The problematic reasoning that I would like to address in this issue is really a combination of a logical fallacy and a very useful tactic in argumentation, which unfortunately is often used in a disingenuous or immaterial way. This combination can be very effective in sidetracking a true quest for truth.

The fallacy component is usually referred to as the “Appeal to the People” (or Majority), or, depending on the variation, the “Snob Appeal” or “Mob Appeal” fallacy. This is usually an attempt to convince you to hold something as true simply because that is what the majority or the influential believe. In our case, the majority would be evolutionary scientists. This tactical maneuver has an emotional aspect as well as being a fallacy of relevance, as no one wants to be on the outside looking in, especially in the academic world. Instead of addressing the argument directly, it distracts us by setting forth a seemingly important statistic (since the majority or elite must be right), but does

not answer the argument itself. This mode of persuasion also gives the user the psychological advantage of embarrassment.

Appealing to experts (authority) and their work for support and validation of a position is a legitimate tactic in argumentation when used appropriately. I believe it is appropriately used only when accompanied with the expert’s reasons why the argument is true or false, not just saying so-and-so believes it, which is generally an unreliable means for assessing facts. For our purposes, we will assume that the appeal is to a bona-fide scientist, in an appropriate field of expertise, without unreasonable bias, but used in a misleading way.

Let’s see how this plays out. When we bring up scientific problems with evolution, we often get a response that sounds something like this, “I don’t need to look into it! I know it is false if Richard Dawkins, PZ Meyers, Jerry Coyne and practically every other reputable scientist of biology rejects it. Are you smarter than they are?” (They hope that this will shame us into running away with our tails between our legs – our vestigial tail – that is.)

Notice how their rebuttal does not mention applicable studies or specific research (which would be a legitimate use of authority) to falsify the argument. Instead, they merely use the name of a well-known scientist, or more commonly a majority group, such as “all or most reputable biologists.” (This is a variant of another fallacy, “Appealing to Illegitimate Authority,” by using unnamed experts as proof). They use a legitimate source of support, credentialed scientists, and merge it with the mob appeal to shame us into submission.

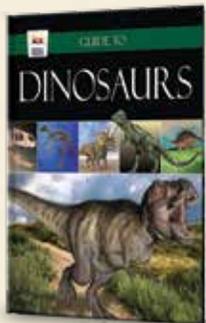
We want to argue ideas and evidence, but are “conveniently” pushed aside by the skeptic who name-drops a bandwagon of experts, whereas the facts and arguments of these experts are unfortunately sidestepped. Their “argument” ends up depending on how many experts they can name. Make sure to ask for just the facts when the scientific mob turns down your investigation. **AOI**

Book Review: Guide to Dinosaurs

by Dave Nutting

One way you can be a Creation Discippler is by providing high quality resources to your family and others in your church. Since a lot of children are drawn into evolution through dinosaur books and DVDs, you can come alongside them by giving them great dinosaur books from a Biblical creation perspective.

A brand new book just “jumped out” at me entitled **Guide to**



Dinosaurs. The cover alone will cause children (and adults!) to pick it up. It gives lots of great information on many types of dinosaurs, tells what is wrong with the evolutionary interpretations, and puts dinosaurs into a Biblical framework.

We highly recommend that Christian homes and church libraries have a wide variety of dinosaur books and DVD’s from a creation perspective for their children. Otherwise, they

may get the impression that the sheer volume of evolutionary books must mean they are right. Also we encourage you to have enough on hand to loan to neighborhood children. Your Guide to Dinosaurs is great for all ages, 8.5 x 11.25 Hardcover, 117 pages. Available for **\$17** or 3 for **\$45** (Shipping and Handling \$4.00). Remember, your purchase helps the ministry of AOI. **AOI**

What about the Dinosaurs?

by Dave Nutting

After our creation seminar a woman said, "I believe in creation," but then sheepishly whispered, "But what about the dinosaurs? How do they fit in the Bible?" Unfortunately, she was not alone. Numerous children and adults have been taught that dinosaurs prove evolution, and thus have nagging doubts about the Bible. This common idea likely started as early as preschool!

I can't forget a church presentation I gave on dinosaurs when I **clearly** presented a Biblical model on dinosaurs. I explained how, according to Genesis 1, dinosaurs were created on Day 6 of Creation Week, along with the other kinds of land animals. (Flying reptiles and water reptiles would have been created on Day 5, along with the other flying and water creatures.)

I **clearly** presented how people lived at the same time as

dinosaurs, since both were created on Day 6 and showed images depicting dinosaurs from cultures worldwide. These images were carved into solid sandstone rock faces, shown in mosaics, drawn on pottery, and on ancient Papyrus. They were etched onto metal seals and on burial stones thousands of years ago. And they were even carved into solid rock columns of ancient temples. I also **clearly** showed how dinosaurs may have become extinct mostly due to Noah's Flood. Those on the Ark later reproduced and became greatly feared. This is when so many cultures talked about them and included them in their art. Based on worldwide accounts, I suggested the idea that it became a heroic deed to slay one of these dinosaurs, which they called dragons. I also **clearly** made the case, based on historical evidence, that it is possible that the final demise of the dinosaurs came as heroic men like St. George (actually known as the dragon slayer) hunted them to extinction.

Afterwards, Mary Jo took a few minutes to summarize my clear presentation. She asked the audience (which included a bunch of younger children) a couple questions: "When did dinosaurs live?" The answer chorused by the majority of children was: "Millions of years ago!" She then asked, "Did people ever see dinosaurs?" The answer once again chimed by the children was "NOOOOOO!"

Yipes! **So much for my clear** and logical presentation! As Mary Jo asked other questions, the adults were astounded at how much evolution the children

had already bought into. They knew they had their work cut out for them as their children were being taken captive by evolutionary philosophy already in elementary school and before!

So how did these children become entrenched in evolutionary ideas? They certainly had not come to these conclusions by careful reasoning and examining the evidence.

During preschool and early elementary school they merely accepted it and parroted back what they had read or been

taught. Unfortunately, this is all too common.

A 6-year-old boy was absolutely infatuated with dinosaurs (as so many children are). He had many evolutionary

dinosaur books, DVD's, and even dinosaur pajamas. When we shared a more biblically-consistent view with him, he told us, "But, but, but ... my book said it was true, and my teacher said it was true, too!" How do you argue with that?

Many university students and professors also appeal to the testimony of "experts" (including those in their distant childhood past.) They have now accepted evolution and its "so-called evidence" as fact without rigorously examining it for themselves. Then when presented with a "different view," they dismiss it without investigation and often with open ridicule. (See Scott's article on page 2 regarding appealing to "expert" authority.)

Do you see why we have to be proactive in arming children with the truth of God's Word, teaching them to distinguish between "facts" and "interpretations," and helping them discern true science from philosophy or belief? By seeking opportunities to develop critical thinking skills, and providing quality books and DVDs on creation you can help children (and adults) develop a firm foundation and stand on the truth of God's Word. This is where parents and other Creation Disciplers can make a huge difference, even before these children enter school. Be a Creation Discip! **AOL**



Director's Column by Dave Nutting



In this issue, we mentioned how many young people (including elementary age) struggle with, or even abandon their faith as a result of evolutionary teaching. We also encouraged you to become Creation Disciplers. This is so crucial. You might wonder how it is possible to turn the tide with evolutionary teaching being so rampant across this world. I believe the key is to understand and do two critical things:

1. Even a small amount of truth can overturn a lot of falsehood. You may not have all the answers, but share what you do have. Refer others to us for questions you can't answer.

2. Encourage young people who are interested in this subject of worldviews, apologetics, and creation to become Creation

Disciplers. Hopefully, some of these young people will help other young people in their church and in their schools. If you know of some promising students, send them to our Discover Creation Training Institute. (For information, go to DiscoverCreation.org and click on Training Institute.) Ask your church to provide, in whole or in part, scholarship help for someone else who will carry forth this message. Our goal at DCTI is to train these individuals (young or older) in our 1-year program to be able to answer the hard questions and minister in their own communities and beyond. We will also be training them to train others to do the same. It is with this multiplication that we will be able to turn the tide.

Please remember AOI in your giving this year as we attempt to turn the tide! God bless you and have a wonderful new year standing firmly on the Truth of His Word! 

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Items Needed!



2 Large Screen TV's
For lectures, presentations, and programs .



12 or 14-Passenger Van(s)
for both DCTI outreach activities and field trips.



Trailer(s) for hauling gear needed for the DCTI outreaches and field trips.



Furniture for DCTI student housing as well as the general AOI ministry.



Money for DCTI student scholarships and AOI ministry expenses.



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