



From the Dust and Test of Faith: **Catalyzing Deeper Conversations on** **Science and Faith through Film**

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Test of FAITH

Introductory resources on science & Christianity
from The Faraday Institute for Science & Religion

DVD & study materials for adults, youth & churches

Contributors include: Dr Francis Collins, Dr Jennifer Wiseman, Prof Alister McGrath,
Prof Deborah B. Haarsma, Revd Dr John Polkinghorne, Prof Bill Newsome, Dr
Denis Alexander, Prof Rosalind Picard, & Dr Ard Louis

www.testoffaith.com

Motivation

- Inform and stimulate healthy conversations about science and Christian faith
- On campus: students, faculty, and staff
- Churches: small group Bible studies
- Bridge science and faith communities
- Remove barriers to the spread of the gospel
- Students are hungry for this!

Film vs. Other Media

- Books
- Articles
- Blogs
- Audio
- Event with speaker or panel

Advantages of Using Film

- Engaging (sight + sound)
- Inexpensive
- Portable
- Flexible
- Quick
- Easy

***From the Dust:
Conversations in
Creation***

***Test of Faith: Does
Science Threaten
Belief in God?***

Highway Media,
BioLogos (2012)

Faraday Institute
(2009)

67 min
(4 x 17 min)

87 min
(3 x 29 min)

Focus on Genesis,
creation, evolution

Universe, evolution,
environment, brain,
free will, ethics

fromthedustmovie.org

testoffaith.com

Film Trailers



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Test of Faith Resources

- DVD with bonus footage
- Website (testoffaith.com)
- Leader's guide
- Study guide
- Book: *Spiritual Journeys with Scientists*



From the Dust Resources

- DVD with bonus footage
- Sample discussion questions in DVD insert
- Website (fromthedustmovie.org)
- Leader's guide available from me



Ways to Use a Film

- Entire film at once
- Entire film at once with additional structure
- Segments of film over several sessions
- Segments of film with additional structure

Considerations

- Time available
- Worldview(s) of audience
- Age group
- Scientific background
- Biblical/theological knowledge
- Interest in topic(s)
- Willingness to do homework

Sample Groups

- Christian students from secular colleges
- Christian faculty & staff from secular colleges
- Bible study/small group
- General audience at Caltech event

Using *Test of Faith*



- General audience: show a 30 min segment, group discussion or panel Q&A—can be good as an outreach event for non-Christians
- Christian audience: use study guide, include some scripture, songs, and prayer
- Very conservative Christians may tune out without a significant emphasis on the Bible

Using *From the Dust*

- Primarily targets a Christian audience, but ok for the spiritually curious, too
- Easy to include scripture, songs, and prayer
- Respectfully juxtaposes views of evolutionary creationists and young-earth creationists



Sample *From the Dust* Curriculum

- Orientation/expectations meeting
- Genesis 1
- *From the Dust* part 1
- *From the Dust* part 2, Genesis 1
- *From the Dust* part 3
- *From the Dust* part 4
- Genesis 1-3



Sample *From the Dust* Curriculum

- Read a short article before the meeting
- Open with a song of praise and brief prayer
- Discuss the article
- Watch film clip or read from Genesis
- Discuss
- Close with prayer and/or song



Selected Articles

1. Joseph Lam *“The Biblical Creation in its Ancient Near Eastern Context”*
2. Tim Keller *“Creation, Evolution, and Christian Laypeople”*
3. Ernest Lucas *“Interpreting Genesis in the 21st Century”*





Selected Articles

4. Ian Hutchinson *“Warfare and Wedlock: Redeeming the Faith-Science Relationship”*
5. Dennis Venema *“Genesis and the Genome: Genomic Evidence for Human-Ape Common Ancestry and Ancestral Hominid Population Sizes”*
6. Ard Louis *“How Does the BioLogos Model Need to Address Concerns Christians Have About the Implications of its Science?”*

Conclusions

- These films are good **conversation starters**
- A sense of **community** is important
- **Small groups** are better than large groups
- **Gradual pace** minimizes overload
- **Articles** extend and deepen engagement
- Reading **Genesis** honors biblical authority
- **Song & prayer** set the tone and promote unity

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CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP
-  **HARVEY MUDD**
COLLEGE