

# Missional Apologetics Training

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Session 4 : How can we Share Our Faith when Others don't want to listen?

# Session 1 Review

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- Survey Review
- Discussion on Current Evangelism Methods
- Evangelism and Results
- Challenges in Post Modern Generation Outreach
- Methodologies
  - Agnosticism
  - Atheism
  - Rationalism
  - Fideism
  - Pantheism etc.

## Session 2 Review

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- Absolute vs Relative Truth
- Worldviews
  - Naturalism
  - Pantheism
  - Theism
  - Spiritism and Polytheism
  - Postmodernism
- Truth – God- Jesus –Action Framework

# Session 3 Review

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- Is it Ok to have questions about faith & God?
- What should we do with all the questions?
- How does different views change the answers?
- Some guidelines for dealing with questions?
- Belief Systems – “isms”
- Questions about God
- Questions about Jesus Christ
- Questions about the Bible
- Questions about Christian Doctrines

## Session 4 Outline

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- Review Questions
- How can we trust that gospel accounts are correct? - Criteria for Historical Document Validity
- The Challenges of Science
- What is a person-centered approach?

# Questions about God

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1. Why is the world full of suffering?
2. Is the risk of freedom worth all the suffering?
3. Why would an all-powerful God need our prayer?

# Questions about Jesus Christ

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1. Why should I trust Gospel accounts?
2. Aren't gospel's full of contradictions?
3. Why should I believe in resurrection?

# Criteria for Historical Document Validity

## Internal Evidence

Was the author in a position to know what he or she is writing or is it a heresy.

Are there generic information or irrelevant material?

Does the document have self-damaging material?

Is the document reasonably self-consistent?

Is there evidence of legendary accretion in the document?

## External Evidence

Does author has any motive to fabricate what they wrote?

Are there other materials which confirm the material in the document?

Does archeology support or go against the material in the document?

Could contemporaries of the document falsify the document's account, and would they have a motive for doing so?



# Questions about the Bible

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- Why are there so many different interpretations of the Bible?
- What about the “holy books of other religions”?

# Questions about Christian Doctrines

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- Do all non-Christians go to hell?
- How can another man's death pardon me?

# The Challenges of Science

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- Modern Science - Method (S) - Observation, Theory, Prediction, Testing
- Science Started on May 28 585 BC 6:13 PM - Miletus  
- THALES of Miletus - Predicted shadow will fall on city. - Eclipse predicted
- Earlier, Events in Nature= Act of Gods (Meaning)

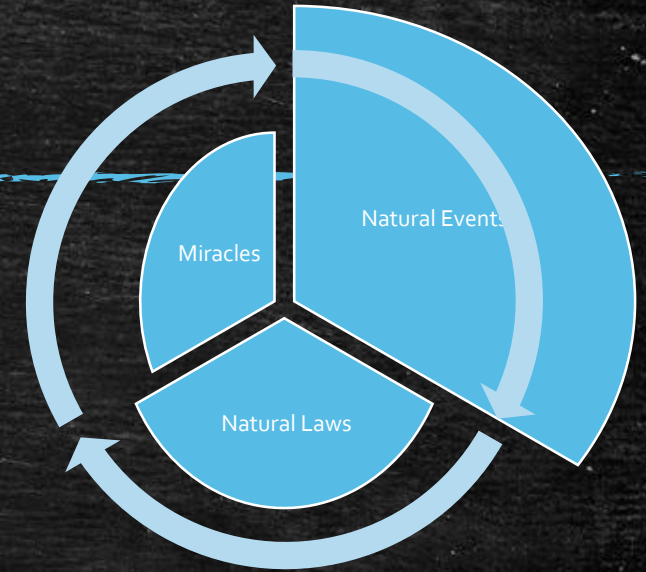
# Intellectual Side vs Institutional Side

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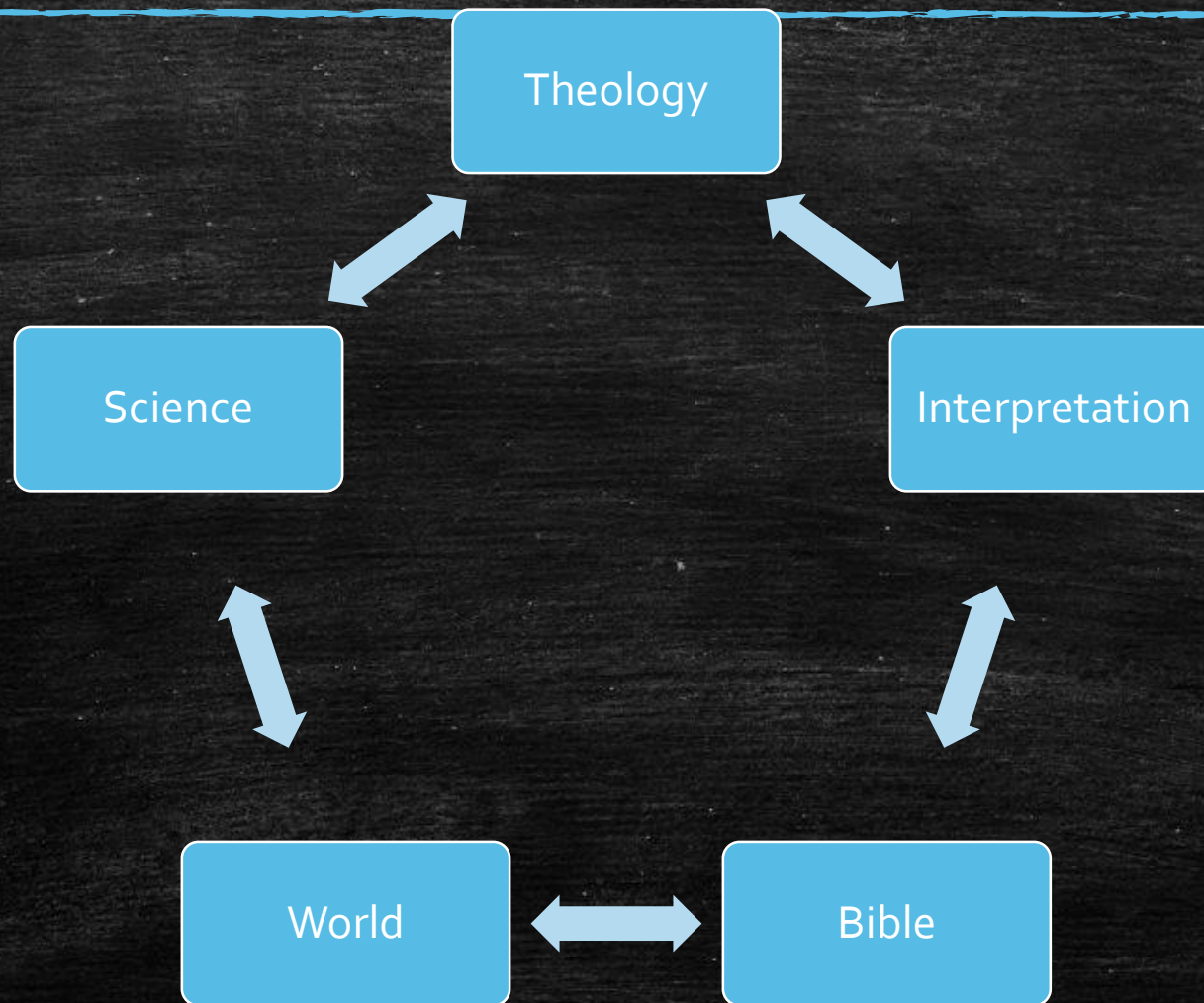
- Intellectual side
  - Modernism - Accepted Science
  - Fundamentalist- Rejected Science
  - Liberation Theology - Social Gospel-> Labor Unions - > Now Gay Rights -> Science vs Bible
  - Conservative Theology- Spirit Gospel - Rapture -> Both/AND Theology -> Science and Bible
- Institutional Side - Taken by modernist and Fundamentalist taken out
  - Major Churches
  - Seminaries
  - Publishing House
  - Media Outlets
  - Mission Agencies

# Natural Events vs Miracles

- Exodus 15:9-10 vs 14:21
  - Class A Miracle - God -> Effect
  - Class B Miracle - God is the Effect
- Natural Law - Description -(Hume: Miracles = Violation of Laws of Nature)



# Theology & Science



# Science & Bible

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- Bible is not a science text
  - Bible uses metaphors
- What we learn from WORD and WORLD should fit together
- There is no conflict between right interpretation of Scripture and Nature
  - Scientism (Science + Atheism) vs Christianity = Contradiction
  - Science (Science) vs Christianity = No Contradiction

# Evolution

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- Micro Evolution - LEGIT
- Macro Evolution - Total - Grand Evolutionary Scheme
- Evolution accounts for survival of fittest but does not account the arrival of fittest.



# What is a Person-Centered Approach?

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- Apologetics and Real Life- The context in which apologetics is very important to understand
- Every assessment of the case for Christianity is made by real people who have unique agendas firmly in place.- This is true and we should be try to understand the agenda. It may not be evident easily but we should try to understand it so that we can help the other person.
- Apologetics at theory and practical side is important. Moving from just philosophical side to personal side.
- An apologetic conversion includes developing a proper set of attitudes, listening carefully, being emotionally sensitive, using evidence, being patient, and inviting a response.

# Conclusion

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- This Session
  - The Challenges of Science
  - What is a person-centered approach?
  - How can we be engaged with others about our faith?
- Next Session
  - Why should we think about missional apologetics?
  - How to start a faith related conversation?
  - How to build relationships?
  - Divine Appointments