

2026-7-26



A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What do I see?*

- 1 Dr. Mortenson identified America's spiritual decline, noting that nearly 50% of school-aged children doubt the truth of the Bible and that America is becoming less Christian despite having more churches and Christian institutions than any other country. What other indicators would you add to that list?
- 2 Why is Genesis 1-11 "foundational" for the Christian faith?
- 3 What are the "Seven C's of History" and how do they shed light on the foundational issues of life?
- 4 What actions can help us rebuild America's foundation?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

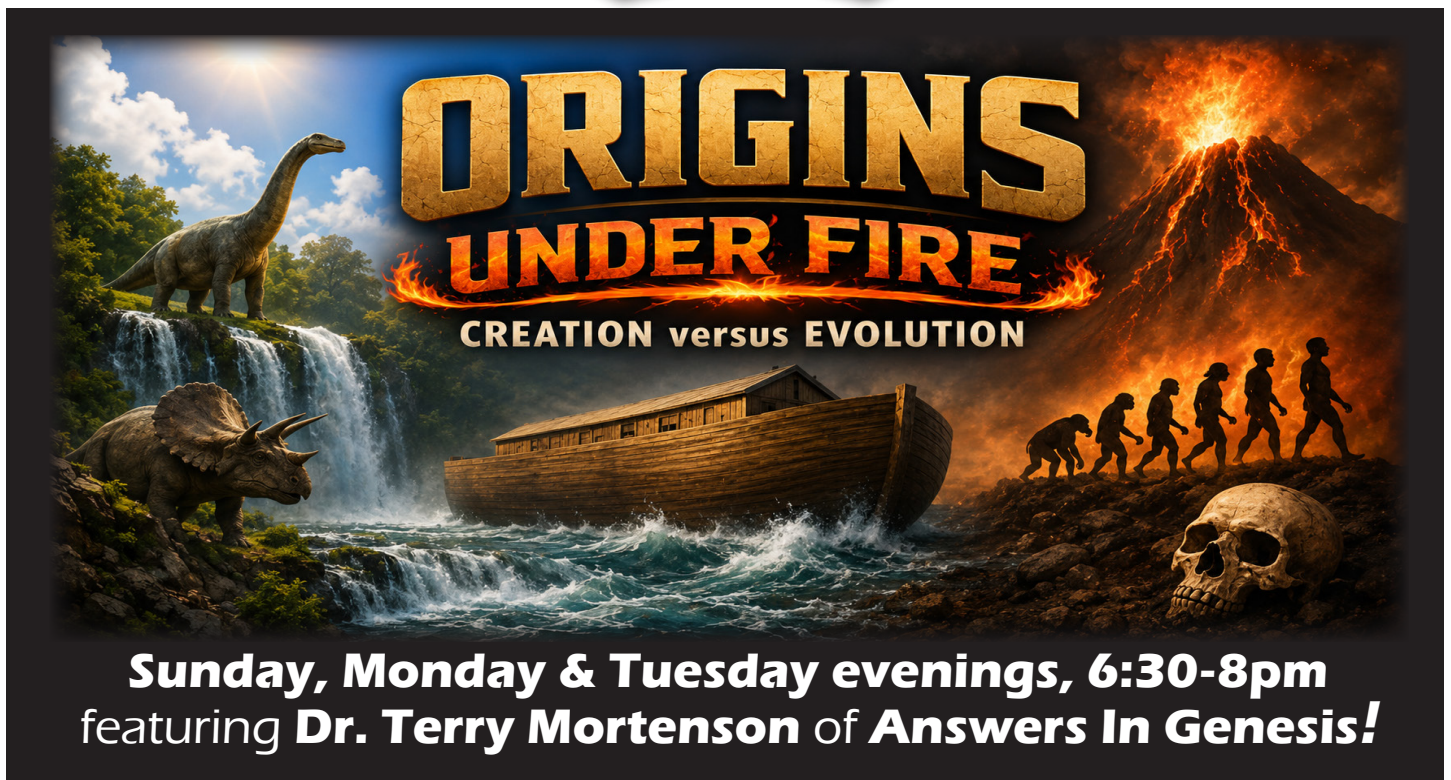
- 5 How do doctrines such as sin, death, redemption, morality, and the identity of Christ depend on Genesis being accepted as real history?
- 6 Why does it matter that we believe in a literal Adam?
- 7 In what ways do evolution and millions of years undermine morality?
- 8 Why is it important that churches teach apologetics in addition to teaching Bible stories?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- 9 How confident are you that you can defend the Bible is true?
- 10 What questions about Genesis, creation, or evolution have you avoided or never seriously studied? What practical step could you take this week to strengthen your understanding of the Christian faith?
- 11 In what ways could you help younger TCCers develop a biblical worldview?
- 12 What part of the sermon's argument did you find most persuasive, most challenging, or most in need of further study?

- ① Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first.
- ② Because Genesis 1-11 answers the fundamental questions such as: [1] What are humans and why are we here? [2] What is the world chaotic? [3] What is true and right? etc. Genesis 1-11 answers the most common question skeptics ask: "If there is a good, loving God, why is there suffering and death?"
- ③ Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. They help us know why the world is as it is and if there is any hope for humanity.
- ④ Teaching Genesis as literal history, emphasizing apologetics in churches, and use quality biblical resources in the home and church.
- ⑤ Because Genesis, literally "the book of beginnings", tells us where sin, death, redemption, morality, etc. came from and what they mean.
- ⑥ Because Jesus is called the "second/last Adam", and so if the first Adam was not a real historical person, then Paul's comparison between Adam and Christ in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 loses all meaning.
- ⑦ Rejecting Genesis removes the objective foundation for moral truth and human accountability before God.
- ⑧ Because Christians need to know not only what the Bible teaches but also how to defend its truth claims against competing worldviews.
- ⑨ Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first.
- ⑩ Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first. (Why not go to AnswersInGenesis.org/store/ and pick out a resource to help in that area?)
- ⑪ Volunteer with Michelle (Birth to Pre-K), Jeanette (K-5th), or Austin (6th to 12th).
- ⑫ Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first.

Beginning Tonight!



- Sunday evening, July 26 Ape-men, Adam and the Gospel
- Monday evening, July 27 Millions of Years: Unscientific Origin, Catastrophic Consequences
- Tuesday evening, July 28 Noah's Flood: Washing Away Millions of Years

Learn more about Dr. Mortenson's here:



Sermon Summary

America has the greatest number of churches, seminaries, Christian colleges, bookshops and broadcasting, yet we are becoming less Christian every day. Why? Studies reveal that almost 50% of school-aged children already are doubting that the Bible is true. Half of those students identified the teaching of evolution as the decisive factor. Psalm 11:3 asks, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Genesis 1-11 is the foundation of the Christian faith. When we abandon the foundation, the whole house collapses—culture, modesty, gender, marriage, truth. Why do pain, suffering, death and disasters exist? Evolution and the Bible have opposite and incompatible explanations. If evolution is true, then God lied. We must choose who we will believe.

Many Christians have accepted evolutionary assumptions without knowing that they are incompatible with Scripture. The number one skeptical question is: “If there is a good, loving God, then why is there suffering and death?” And if we don’t believe Genesis, we have no answer for them. And if Adam was not a literal man—then neither is Jesus, the “Second Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45 & Romans 5:14)! The “**Seven C's of History**” tell the true story of history:

THE SEVEN C's IN GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN



Believing in evolution and millions of years deny all these truths, and logically lead to anarchy and totalitarianism. Christians rightly oppose abortion and other moral evils in our world today, yet over the past two hundred years many Christian leaders have undermined the truth of Genesis—destroying the foundation upon which truth and morality are built! Churches teach “Bible stories”, but not how to defend them as true (apologetics). Secular education claims to teach “real history”—and they teach how to defend it (“millions of years”).

We must rebuild the foundation (Genesis as literal history). Churches must teach apologetics. AnswersInGenesis.org has articles, videos, magazines, books and curricula for children and adults. Even articles and books at the highest technical levels. More than ten thousand resources are available for free. The major reason most people believe in evolution is simply because that’s all they’ve ever heard. Hundreds of resources are available at every level!

Does it really matter what we believe? Yes! Evolution and a belief in millions of years destroy the basis for morality, contradict the Bible’s teaching on death, make the gospel unbelievable, and undermine the reliability and authority of the Bible. Evolution and millions of years are destructive lies! We are in a battle—arm yourself with trustworthy resources!

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

The Bible calls Christians to be prepared to explain and defend their faith. Apologetics (from the Greek apologia, meaning "defense") is not about winning arguments but about giving a rational defense for our faith.

1 Peter 3:15 urges always to be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Monday— Know and Revere Christ as Lord. Read 1 Peter 3:15, noting that Peter begins not with arguments but with worship: "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy." The foundation of apologetics is not intellectual skill but submission to Christ. Confidence in defending the faith comes from knowing the One we are defending. The best defense of Christianity begins with a heart devoted to Christ.

- Why does Peter place devotion to Christ before giving reasons for faith?
- How does personal confidence in Christ affect our witness?
- What dangers arise when apologetics becomes merely intellectual?

Tuesday— Be Prepared to Give Reasons for Your Hope. Read Acts 17:2–3 & 18:4. Paul regularly reasoned from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that Jesus is the Messiah. Christian faith is reasonable. God invites people to consider evidence, testimony, prophecy, and the resurrection of Christ. Christians should know what they believe about what they believe—and why.

- What reasons for your faith could you explain to a skeptic?
- Why is the resurrection central to Christian apologetics?
- How can we better prepare ourselves to answer common questions?

Wednesday— Use Scripture as Your Ultimate Authority. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 & Hebrews 4:12. Scripture is inspired by God and equips believers for every good work. While evidence and logic are valuable, God's Word ultimately carries divine authority. Jesus and the apostles continually appealed to Scripture. The Christian faith is defended effectively when grounded in God's Word.

- Why is Scripture indispensable in defending the faith?
- How did Jesus use Scripture when challenged?
- How can we avoid relying solely on human wisdom?

Thursday— Answer with Gentleness and Respect. Read 1 Peter 3:15 & 2 Timothy 2:24–25. We must not be quarrelsome but kind and patient. Biblical apologetics concerns both content and character. A correct argument delivered arrogantly contradicts the gospel it seeks to defend. Our manner should reflect the grace of the message we proclaim.

- What is the difference between defending the faith and arguing for the sake of winning?
- How can humility strengthen our witness?
- Why are gentleness and truth both necessary?

Friday— Trust the Holy Spirit to Open Hearts. Read John 16:8 & 1 Corinthians 2:4–5 & 2 Corinthians 4:4–6. The Holy Spirit convicts people of truth and brings spiritual understanding. Arguments alone cannot produce conversion. God uses our witness, but only the Spirit can regenerate the heart. We present the truth; God changes hearts.

- How does reliance on the Holy Spirit change our approach to apologetics?
- Why is prayer essential in evangelistic conversations?
- What comfort comes from knowing conversion is God's work?

Saturday— Live a Consistent Christian Life. Read Matthew 5:16 & Titus 2:7–8 & Philippians 2:14–16. We are called to let our light shine before others. A godly life provides credibility to our verbal witness. While Christians are not perfect, a transformed life demonstrates the power of the gospel. A transformed life is one of the strongest evidences for a transformed heart.

- How does Christian character support Christian truth claims?
- In what ways can inconsistent living undermine our witness?
- What aspects of your life most clearly display the gospel?