

THEO'S A.R.K.®



TRUTH IS AN ADVENTURE!

THANK YOU

for trusting us with the all-important task of aiding you in educating young people in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. At Anchor New England we are passionate about reaching the next generation with the gospel and providing tools to assist in discipling them toward a life-long commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to create premium Christian worldview content and curriculum for the purpose of equipping, encouraging, and strengthening believers all over the world, in order that the gospel would be proclaimed, and the kingdom of God advanced.

For more information about how Anchor New England can come along side of you with high quality Christian worldview and apologetics materials please visit our website at www.anchornewengland.org.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Ryan Goding
Executive Director,  ANCHOR NEW ENGLAND

IN THE BEGINNING

EPISODE 1

Teachers Guide: THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

In this episode, we are introduced to Theo and his friends Sophia and Thomas. Theo has recently suffered the loss of both of his parents in a tragic lab accident. This unfortunate turn of events has caused him to isolate from his friends and to spend much of his time in his grandparent's basement. While in the basement, Theo dives into his work experimenting on a new technology (the A.R.K.) which he believes will allow him to “hack the space time continuum”. Theo believes it is possible that a personal God has created the entire universe. Despite his excitement, Theo's friends seem less than receptive to his newfound theological interests. So, in an effort to convince his friends of his reasonableness, Theo cites a very well-known classical argument for the existence of God... The Cosmological Argument.

The Cosmological Argument was made popular by an Italian theologian by the name of Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274). Aquinas served in the Roman Catholic Church as a Dominican Friar. This meant that he had taken a vow to be a monk and to live his life completely devoted to God. His explanation of The Cosmological Argument appeared in what many consider his most famous work - the *Summa Theologica*. Aquinas unpacks his argument in several steps.

First, Aquinas contends that *change is always occurring* in the world. Change is something which happens all around us and is often easily observable. For example, you may wake up one Spring morning to discover that the snow which once covered your porch has melted. There has been a change in your environment.

Second, he explains that *each change is actually an effect* which is the result of some prior cause or set of causes. The melting of the snow is *caused* by the rising of the Sun in the morning which results in the warming of the earth. *All effects are caused by something else.*



Next, Aquinas reasons that all causes are themselves a result of prior events or circumstances. Therefore, every cause has itself been caused. He concludes that every cause-and-effect event exists in a great chain of events which stretches backward from this present moment to the beginning of time. Since we know (and science has supported the theory) the universe had a beginning, we can reason that something or someone was its cause. Logic dictates there must be a "first cause" or a "first mover". The first cause is also referred to by philosophers as the "uncaused cause". Christians believe that God is the uncaused cause. God was not caused, but instead exists eternally and possesses all power of being in Himself. He was not made. God is the maker of all things.

Finally, Aquinas argues that all created things are contingent, which is to say they are dependent upon some outside source for their existence. The universe could not have created itself. "Nothing" cannot create anything. If "nothing" existed before the universe existed, then the universe would have never come into being. The universe was caused by God and is dependent upon Him for its continued existence.

Some atheists are fond of saying the universe is a "product of time plus chance". However, it seems silly anyone would regard "chance" as having the capability of creating anything. Merriam-Webster defines the word chance as "*something that happens unpredictably without discernible human intention or observable cause.*" i.e. an accidental or unexplainable happening. In other words, "chance" is not a *thing* that can act on another thing. Chance has no physical form or power. It is simply a word people use to describe the appearance of a set of circumstances which they have no explanation for. Once we understand that chance is only an idea and not a thing that has creative ability, the argument is easily dispatched. Further, if nothing exists then time would not exist either. Time is a construct of measurement which is used in this created reality. If there is no universe, there is no time. How then, could time be part of the equation for creating a universe if time itself was non-existent? You see how silly these arguments are when logic is applied?!

We need look no further than God's inspired Word to get a sense of what occurred to bring about the creation of the universe. The Bible is full of scripture which testifies to the eternality and creative power of God.

Take some time with your student to review the verses on the next page.



Scripture Review:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ~ Genesis 1:1 – 3 ESV

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ~ Psalm 19:1 – 2 ESV

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ~ Psalm 90:2 ESV

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. ~ Isaiah 40:28 ESV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ~ John 1:1 – 5 ESV

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ~ Romans 1:19 – 20 ESV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for him. And he is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ~ Colossians 1:15 – 17 ESV

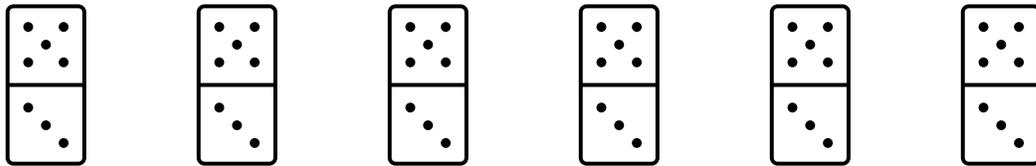


Activity:

Take out several dominos and line them up in a row. After the dominos are lined up, tell the child to wait for an unspecified period of time for “time and chance” to tip the first domino and begin the chain reaction causing each successive domino to fall.

After you have discussed why the dominos will never fall unless acted upon by an outside force, encourage the child to tip the first domino triggering the chain reaction.

Explain why a “first cause” is necessary to trigger the event. Discuss why it is logically necessary that God would be the “first cause”.



Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Using your own words, explain the cosmological argument for the existence of God.
- 2.) What is the “uncaused cause”?
- 3.) What is the “first cause”?
- 4.) How would you respond to someone who told you the universe was a product of time plus chance?
- 5.) Explain why the Bible’s description of the creation event is logical.

