

Adam's First Daddy

MOVIE:

EXPULSED: NO

INTELLIGENCE REQUIRED



Lesson Objective:

To effectively communicate to teens that humankind was created in the image of God. From him we derive our identity. This we believe through faith.

Intro to the Movie:

In 2008, Ben Stein, activist, talk show host, Presidential speechwriter, and millionaire, released *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. This documentary style film exposes the growing evidence among academia that views contrary to or critical of the theory of evolution are “expelled” from the table of discussion. Stein travels the world to interview professors and leaders in their field to uncover this blatant closed-mindedness and to follow the evidence to its logical conclusion.

This film has been highly criticized for being overtly biased and condescending toward the evolutionary view. The purpose in showing the film, however, is not to demean evolution. Rather, we want to use it to spark discussion on the questions Stein raises and the thought-provoking implications of an evolutionary worldview.

It is worth stating that all of us ought to earnestly seek out the truth wherever it may be found. What we're after is the truth of our universe's origins and not necessarily a narrow quest for hand-picked evidence that supports our worldview. Consequently, an honest search requires critical evaluation of all the evidence. But in the end everyone, whether a creationist or an evolutionist, will believe what they believe based upon faith, for we cannot *not* have faith. The issue of origins needs to be decided by which theory is more plausible based upon the evidence. In other words, which theory is more reasonable and worthy of your faith.

(The 3D Lenses) With that as background information, invite your teens to watch carefully Stein's documentary. Does Stein really approach the topic fairly, or in a

biased manner? How so? Challenge them to identify his thesis statement and that of leading proponents of evolution.

*** Special Aid to the Leaders:** Here is Stein's thesis and the question he is ultimately investigating: *Is the theory of intelligent design being unduly expelled from academia? If so, why?* This question frames the whole documentary. It is hard, given the evidence he presents, not to see that Stein has good reason to believe theories of intelligent design are being forcefully and aggressively silenced. Somehow, they must be a threat to those who believe otherwise.

Discussion Group Questions:

1. Okay, so what did you think? Do you believe Stein approaches the topic fairly, or in a biased manner? Explain your reasoning.
2. What is the question Stein is attempting to answer? Do you believe he has a good basis for his inquiry? Why or why not?
3. What did you feel were the most persuasive elements of the film? Did you learn anything new? If so, what? How is this subject handled in your DoD school (or other public school)?
4. What do you believe: does evolution or some form of intelligent design offer a more reasonable explanation of the universe's origins? State why you believe what you believe.
5. The Bible says that in the beginning God created everything we see today (Genesis 1:1; Job 38 – 41; John 1:3; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3). Do you agree or disagree with the Bible's teaching on whose we are and where we've come from? Explain.
6. Explain in your own words what this statement means and whether or not you agree or disagree: We all (meaning evolutionists or creationists) have the same evidence. The dividing line is the interpretation of that evidence.
7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: It is impossible to not have faith. Explain.

Group Input:

Leader-solicited responses from the large group on reactions to some of the questions.

Gathering of ideas and themes recognized in the discussion groups with a focus on guiding the audience toward the main objective: *To effectively communicate to teens that humankind was created in the image of God. From him we derive our identity. This we believe through faith.*

Bullet Objective:

Put this summary in your own words, but here are some ideas you can use:

Whenever we set out on a discussion of the universe's origins, strong emotions are typically attached to peoples' beliefs. So to help level the playing field and to at least begin with something both sides can agree upon, let's establish one "rock in the mud" so-to-speak: no matter what you believe, we have to have faith in something. The evolutionists, for instance, have faith in time and chance. The creationists have faith in God. (This is what philosophers/theologians call Prime Reality; is there a Creator or did it all just exist. Which is THE beginning point?)

The next question is: Which theory has more persuasive evidence to support it? Or which theory is more plausible. Notice we said plausible. Can someone explain the difference between *plausibility* and *possibility*? (Answer: Plausibility is what's more likely to occur while possibility is what could occur.)

We believe it is more reasonable to believe, based up science, philosophy, mathematics, anthropology (the study of humankind), sociology (the study of human society), epistemology (the study of knowledge), and theology (the study of God), that something outside of this universe created everything seen and unseen. Often times, those who adhere to intelligent design theory are mocked and ridiculed for being backwards and stupid. But this is not the case. You do not have to commit intellectual suicide to believe that God created the universe. We believe this with strong, persuasive evidence. We can't go back in time to empirically record the first minutes of our universe. Both creationists and evolutionists will have to concede this fact.

That said; let’s take a brief look at this issue of identity and how our understanding of “the beginning” impacts our view of self. (With your students fill out the chart below. For the leader’s benefit, brief answers are included.)

	Evolution	Creation
Universe’s Origin	Explosion created everything seen and unseen. Something came from nothing. Requires faith in time and chance.	An all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God created all that is seen and unseen. Something came from a Supreme Being. Requires faith in God to do what he says he can do.
Human Purpose	The carnal redistribution and preservation of one’s genetic information. Inferior genes systematically eliminated from pool.	To glorify God in everything one says and does. To partner with God to accomplish his purposes.
Destiny/Afterlife	Nothing. No consequences for deeds done on earth. (This, by the way, smacks at our innate sense of justice.)	Heaven or Hell. Eternal consequences for deeds done on earth.
Morality	Relative and humanistic	Absolute and eternal
Truth	Subjective. Oriented around the individual.	Objective. Oriented toward something outside of humankind.
Dignity/Value	Little if any at all. Value determined extrinsically by one’s ability to be an asset to society. One species among many.	Created in God’s image. As such value is intrinsically bestowed to each individual. One of a kind creation, separate in form and function from all creatures.

Here’s what the Bible says, friends, concerning your identity:

Psalm 8:4-6

- 4...what are human beings, that you think of them,
mere mortals, that you care for them?
- ⁵Yet you made them inferior only to yourself;
you crowned them with glory and honor.
- ⁶You appointed them rulers over everything you made;
you placed them over all creation....

Genesis 1:26-27 –*human beings are the only creatures created in God’s image*

²⁶Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small. ” ²⁷So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female....

Genesis 1:31 – *the only day that God says he’s “very pleased” was the day he created the first humans*

³¹God looked at everything he had made, and he was *very* pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

That is what God thinks of you! Isn’t that incredible?! You are valuable to him. He honors you. He thought so much of humankind that he bestowed glory upon us. He delegated to us unbelievable authority and responsibility – to care for the creation and to rule over it, that is, to be stewards of God’s creation We were designed to be responsible for and care for all that God created.! That is our original identity.

You are not a product of random mutations or chance copulations over eons of millennia. No, you were designed to image God and to do something significant with your life. You are here, in this room for a reason. It is no accident. Your life has meaning and purpose. He dignifies you. God says you are more valuable to him than the sum total of all the galaxies and solar systems. Compared to them in size you are less than an ant, but praise God that when he looks down from heaven he sees what we cannot see. He sees a portion of his image inhabiting a planet he specially designed nestled inside a solar system he tweaked just right in order to enable us to live and breathe, to laugh and smile. That’s how much God thinks of us. And to top it all off, for the first humans, he created as their home a pristine garden so beautiful that you couldn’t imagine another more glorious dwelling. It was literally heaven on earth! God withheld from humankind no blessing in Genesis 1 and 2. He opened up the floodgates and poured out upon us every good gift your mind could possibly conceive. That, my friend, was Adam’s first Daddy. This is where our original identity comes from! This is who we were truly meant to be; sons and daughters of that Father! What a Daddy!

It almost makes you wonder: How could anyone have asked for anything more? Why would you ever want to do anything to ruin what God set up?

Challenge:

1. Here's what we want to challenge you to do sometime in the next week. On a clear night when you can see the stars and moon, lie down somewhere and stare up into the night sky. Focus your attention on just one of those stars and begin to imagine all that is in between your eyes and that star. As you do that, remind yourself of all that we talked about.
2. If you live in an area with a lot of light pollution and you can't get a good view of the night sky, then stare long and hard at yourself in the mirror. Try to look at yourself as though you were seeing yourself for the very first time. As you do remind yourself of all that we talked about.

Lord, thank you for taking such care in creating this universe and especially in creating us. Thank you for the gift of life. We pray for each of these students that you would help them to see themselves as you do. Bless each of them in their own special way. Amen!