

10/24/21 LIFE NIGHT: "CANCELLED" (History, Science, and the Bible)

Dear Parents,

One of the biggest challenges your teens may face when it comes to reading Scripture is the belief that science is more legitimate than Scripture and should be pitted against each other. There does not have to be any contradiction between science and Scripture, and if we understand each for what it is, we can see that they actually complement the other. It is important to understand that before we are tempted to pit Scripture and science against one another, we need to recognize that they have two different purposes. One is to tell us the sacred truths we need to know for our salvation, and the other is to explain the created world from observation. They are not mutually exclusive, but can instead work together.

"Faith and science: 'Though faith is above reason, there can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason. Since the same God who reveals mysteries and infuses faith has bestowed the light of reason on the human mind, God cannot deny himself, nor can truth ever contradict truth.' 'Consequently, methodical research in all branches of knowledge, provided it is carried out in a truly scientific manner and does not override moral laws, can never conflict with the faith, because the things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God. The humble and persevering investigator of the secrets of nature is being led, as it were, by the hand of God in spite of himself, for it is God, the conserver of all things, who made them what they are'" (CCC 159).

The goal of the Life Night, *Cancelled* is to dialogue about the relationship between science, history, and Scripture and inspire teens to understand the fullness of truth through their compatibility. The conversation starters below may help you begin conversations with your teens about the content they learned during the Life Night.

Jim Hogan will be our guest speaker this Sunday! He is an amazing and dynamic teacher, as many of you well know. We are blessed to have him at St. Helen. Jim will be covering the key concepts:

- A common objection to the validity of Scripture is incompatibility with science; there is, however, no contradiction between the two and each one complements the other.
- Respect for the genres of Scripture allows us to situate our growing scientific knowledge and study of history in the context of our faith.
- Scripture teaches the truth of God and His work in human history without error.

Conversation starters to use at home:

What are they teaching at your school regarding faith and science, if anything?

Have you ever struggled in thinking that science is more reliable than faith or Scripture? What made you feel this way?

What is one thing you learned at the Life Night that you found helpful in understanding how faith and science work together?

What is one question regarding faith and science that you want to work towards finding an answer? How can we, your parents, or maybe Theresa, Fr. Jay, or one of the Life Teen Core members help you to find the answers? (*Please let me, Theresa, know if your teen has any questions that we can address at Life Teen or in a conversation with your teen*).

We look forward to seeing you and your teen(s) this Sunday! All are welcome at the 5pm Mass! The Life Night for high school teens will start immediately after the 5pm Mass and end at 8pm.

God bless you!

Theresa
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