

Grade 12 Catechism Lesson Plan

Chapter 7: Christian Faith and Science

Duration: 45–60 minutes

Theme: Seeking Truth through Faith and Reason

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the relationship between faith, reason, science and theology.
2. Explain why faith and reason are complementary.
3. Understand the Christian view of creation, evolution and the Big Bang.
4. Recognise the opportunities and ethical challenges of Artificial Intelligence.
5. Appreciate the contribution of the Church and Christian scientists to scientific progress.
6. Apply Christian values while using science and technology responsibly

2. Introduction

“What is Truth?”

Write on the board:

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Ask the students:

“If something is trending on Instagram and has a million views, does that make it true?”

Take a few responses.

Then ask:

“How do we know something is true?”

Students may say: by seeing it, checking facts, reasoning, asking questions, etc.

Now ask:

“Can science answer every question we have?”

For example:

Why am I here?

What is the purpose of my life?

Why should I do what is morally right?

Why does anything exist at all?

Is there a God?

Then introduce the chapter:

“Human beings have always searched for truth. Science helps us understand the world around us. Faith helps us respond to truths that go beyond what can be physically measured. So, today we will explore whether faith and science are enemies—or whether they can work together in our search for truth.”

3. Presentation of the Lesson

A. Four Ways of Seeking Truth

Explain briefly:

Sensory Experience – We learn through our senses.

Reasoning – We analyze facts and relationships.

Intuition – We recognize certain truths through inner understanding.

Faith – We respond to God's self-revelation.

A Christian uses both faith and reason in the search for truth.

B. Faith and Reason

Faith is our response to God's revelation.

Reason enables us to think, question, analyse and understand.

Science uses reason and observation to discover how the world works.

Theology seeks to understand the truths of faith rationally.

Key Point:

Faith and reason come from the same God; therefore, they are complementary, not contradictory.

Use St. Augustine's statement:

“Understand in order to believe; believe in order to understand.”

C. Can Reason Lead Us Towards God?

Briefly introduce St. Thomas Aquinas and his Five Ways.

Students need only understand the basic idea:

Motion → There must be an Unmoved Mover.

Cause → There must be a First Cause.

Contingency → There must be an eternal Being.

Degrees of perfection → There must be an absolute source of goodness, truth and beauty.

Order and purpose → The order of the universe points towards an intelligent source.

Reason cannot put God into a laboratory, but it can lead us to ask rational questions about God's existence.

D. Creation, Big Bang and Evolution

Explain the three ideas simply:

Faith teaches:

→ God is the Creator and prime cause of the universe and life.

Big Bang theory:

→ Provides a scientific explanation of the early development and expansion of the universe.

Evolution:

→ Explains biological development and change over time.

Emphasise:

The Christian need not see scientific theories such as the Big Bang or evolution as automatically denying God.

Genesis should not be treated as a modern scientific textbook. Its central message is that God created, creation is good, human beings have dignity and life has a purpose.

E. Bible and Science

The Bible is divinely inspired, but written by human authors within their historical and cultural context.

Therefore:

The Bible reveals God's message; science investigates the workings of creation.

They need not be placed in opposition.

F. Artificial Intelligence

Connect this immediately

AI can help in:

Medicine

Education

Industry

Research

But it also raises questions about:

Truth and misinformation

Academic honesty

Privacy

Human responsibility

Bias

Human dignity

Key message:

AI may be powerful, but it must always remain a tool serving human beings—not a replacement for human conscience, wisdom and responsibility.

G. The Church and Science

The Church has supported scientific education and research and many priests, religious and Christian lay people have contributed to science.

Mention a few examples:

Fr. Georges Lemaître – Big Bang theory

St. Albert the Great – science and philosophy

Gregor Mendel – Father of Genetics

Fr. Eugene Lafont, S.J. – contribution to scientific education in India

Sr. Mary Kenneth Keller – pioneer in computer science

Conclude:

The Christian faith encourages us to discover, understand and use God's creation responsibly.

4. Activity

Activity I – “Can Science Answer Everything?”

Group Discussion – 10 minutes

Divide students into small groups.

Give each group one question:

- How did the universe develop?
- Why does the universe exist?
- How did living organisms develop?
- Why should human life be respected?
- Can AI decide what is morally right?

Ask them to classify their question under:

SCIENCE | REASON | FAITH | MORE THAN ONE

Each group gives a one-minute explanation.

Teacher's conclusion:

"Science and faith may approach different dimensions of truth. The important thing is not to make them enemies, but to understand what each can and cannot answer."

Activity 2 – "AI: Use It or Lose It?"

This will be particularly relevant for Grade 12.

Present this situation:

A student has an important assignment due tomorrow. He asks AI to write the entire assignment. He submits it under his own name and gets 95%.

Ask students:

Is this:

- Smart use of technology?
- Cheating?
- Acceptable if the teacher cannot find out?
- Something that depends on how AI was used?

Then ask:

- "What would Science say?"
- "What would Reason say?"
- "What would Faith and conscience say?"

Finally ask:

"Just because technology allows us to do something, does it mean we should do it?"

Key conclusion:

Scientific and technological progress must always be guided by truth, human dignity, morality and responsibility.

5. Bible verse

"He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed." Psalm 148:6

6. Practical Application

“Live the Truth”

Ask students to practise these five things:

- Think before believing – verify information before forwarding it.
- Question intelligently – do not be afraid of asking difficult questions about faith or science.
- Use AI honestly – use it as a learning tool, not as a substitute for your own thinking.
- Respect human dignity – technology should never be allowed to exploit or dehumanise people.
- Appreciate creation – see the beauty of the world not merely as scientific data, but as God's creation.

7. Conclusion

Write on the board:

SCIENCE → HOW?

FAITH → WHY?

REASON → UNDERSTAND

WISDOM → HOW SHOULD I USE IT?

Tell the students:

“We live in a world where knowledge is increasing rapidly. But knowledge without wisdom can be dangerous. As Christians, we are called to seek truth with our minds, recognise God with our faith, and use our knowledge for the good of humanity.”

My Resolution

“In the diversity of creation, I see You and glorify You.”