



Grasping The Nettle

EQUIPPING THE CHURCH AND TRANSFORMING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES RELATING TO SCIENCE AND GOD

Newsletter Summer 2016

WHAT IS THE NETTLE?

It is the sometimes controversial – even prickly – subject of science and God.

IN A NUTSHELL:

- There is a widespread view that there is a battle between science and God as conflicting explanations for our existence and that science has all but won.
- Science has a public image of being a form of learning preserved for experts; one to which ordinary folk have little or no access. Consequently, Christians typically feel daunted about entering the science and God arena.
- There is a *contrasting* view of science and God. It maintains that both are complementary, not conflicting, ways of investigating our existence. This view is well supported by the scientific evidence but it appears that the microphone is in the tight grip of those who dismiss God as having any role in creation and in our contemporary world.

This is a nettle which, in significant numbers, Christians across Scotland are eager to ‘grasp’.

HOW CAN WE GRASP THE NETTLE?

The GTN strategy involves Christians working at both LOCAL LEVEL and PUBLIC LEVEL. In this way Grasping the Nettle is taking root in individual churches and communities while at the same time developing a national profile. Each nurtures the other.

LOCALLY, GTN offers a variety of ways of exploring the subject of science and God with the aim of introducing thousands across the country to the astonishing wonders of our existence and exploring how science itself can provide powerful evidence that points to a creator’s mind at work.



The main resource is EXPLORING THE GOD QUESTION which in six half hour documentaries takes viewers on a journey that begins 13.8 billion years ago at the birth of the universe and ends with the wonders of the human mind and brain. For more details, see www.thegodquestion.tv/explore. Presently all resources are available at a 25% discount for those who are using the series in connection with GTN. The discount code is **GTNSCO25**.

With the experience of Exploring the God Question behind them, Christians will have a much better grasp of the issues and even be confident enough to discuss them with those who have assumed until now that science and God are in conflict. Increasingly, churches are also EXPLORING THE GOD QUESTION in their COMMUNITIES, in venues varying from church halls to hotels and golf clubs to pubs.

PUBLICLY, some quite high profile EVENTS are being planned across the country, one of which is likely to be in the SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT building. Discussions have been held with editors about their NEWSPAPERS hosting articles on the GTN agenda. Plans are underway to bring Grasping the Nettle to the BUSINESS COMMUNITY. The subject of science and God features in certain SCHOOL CURRICULA. To support these studies a new series for schools has been launched: INTRODUCING THE GOD QUESTION www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce.

Why not keep fully up to date by joining us at the annual GRASPING THE NETTLE DINNER which will be held on Thursday 1st September 2016. For details see www.graspingthenettle.org/dinner.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN GRASPING THE NETTLE?

GTN has a STEERING BOARD representing major denominations in Scotland: The Church of Scotland, The Free Church of Scotland, The Scottish Episcopal Church, The Baptist Union of Scotland and The Catholic Church through The Bishops' Conference of Scotland. There is also representation of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland and University Chaplaincy. GTN is supported by a COUNCIL OF ADVISERS drawn from education, media, business, politics, law, academia and the church. We are especially indebted to a succession of Church of Scotland Moderators for their valued support and active participation in GTN.

But crucially important is the growing number of 'AMBASSADORS' who are being increasingly equipped and encouraged to share the reasons why they are convinced about the existence of a creator.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Please visit the Grasping The Nettle website www.graspingthenettle.org or email any questions to office@graspingthenettle.org. There is a newly produced Grasping the Nettle booklet. If you would like an electronic copy, please email your request.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Can you spread the word about GTN and thereby interest others? Can you organise or participate in Exploring the God Question sessions in your church? Might you attend or even help organise a GTN local event? Can you pray for the work of GTN? Would you be interested in attending a GTN training event? If you know teachers of RME or RMPS in Scotland can you direct them to the website for the new series for schools, found at www.thegodquestion.tv/introduce?

Might you attend the GTN dinner? Could you invite friends/colleagues to your home and view and discuss Exploring the God Question?

If you can answer yes to any of the above you can be involved with GTN in a way that contributes to its onward progress and impact. Welcome!



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