

News Story Summary

In August of 2015, scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory demonstrated that hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor can generate enough electricity to power a small lightbulb. According to one article, this was a “eureka moment” for scientists, because it “seems to support a theory first formed in 1989: that these ocean floor vents were the source of an electric zap that may have shocked the first life on Earth into existence, like a miniature version of Frankenstein's monster.”

The theory is that all we see and experience as life began when this electrical spark interacted with the hydrogen and methane bubbling up from the earth's core and the carbon dioxide in the water to form amino acids, the building blocks of life.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrases “Researchers Use 'Seafloor Gardens' to Switch on Light Bulb or “New Science Appears to Confirm a Theory That Could Reveal the Origin of All Life”)

Focus Attention

Before the group arrives, write, “IN THE BEGINNING, GOD...” on the board. As the group arrives, ask, “Where do we find those words?” Point out that they are the first four words of the book of Genesis and that almost every English translation of the Bible begins with these four words. Ask, “Why do you think people have such a problem with these four words? To what lengths have people gone in order to prove that these four words aren't true?” Share a summary of the news story, and comment that this is just the latest of numerous spins on the theory of evolution. Assert that a lot of people seem desperate to find an explanation for the origin of life that doesn't involve God.

Introduce today's Bible passage by pointing out the main point for this session: Not only did God create all the universe out of nothing, He did so with purpose. As we begin the study, encourage group members to reflect on what that purpose was.

Challenge

Point out the four subheadings in this session: “Out of nothing;” “By His word;” “In His image;” and “for His glory.” Remind group members of the main point of the session, that God created all the universe out of nothing, and He did so with purpose.”

State: Our purpose is to bring glory to the Creator. Maybe this is why so many people are so committed to finding an explanation for the origin of the universe that doesn't involve God—they don't like the idea of existing for anyone's glory except their own.

Lead the group to consider what they can do this week to bring glory to God in their personal lives.