

# The Origin of Life

# Preparedness Course

**“Evangelize by Defending Genesis Effectively”**

## **Planning and Procedure Manual**

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*A preparedness course designed to  
train and prepare students in creation apologetics*

Presented by:  
Creation Science Ministries

Instructor:  
Bruce M. Lerner

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*“But sanctify the Lord God in all your hearts: and be ready  
always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a  
reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”  
1 Peter 3:15*

# Master Calendar & Checklist



## Overview

Overview of the preparedness course Page 3

## Planning and Procedures

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finances	Page 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small group leaders	Page 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Form a planning team	Page 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure a course facility and dates	Page 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign letter of commitment	Page 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course promotion	Page 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Order preparedness manuals from Creation Science Ministries (Materials)	Page 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distribute materials to group leaders (preparedness manual and small group leader guide)	Page 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinate logistics (snacks and lunch and dinner for day 2)	Page 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final course preparation (including student registration)	Page 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample registration form	Page 13
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample promotional flier	Page 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample Course Registration Log	Page 16

# Preparedness Course Overview

EDGE (Evangelize by Defending Genesis Effectively)

## **Instructor – Bruce Larner**

Bruce Larner has been an airline pilot for 38 years, has been a ground and flight instructor for the Federal Aviation Administration. He has been in the computer field since 1977 designing programs, web pages, service and repair. He became a completed Jew in 1997, began taking Bible courses from Liberty University, and additional training in creation apologetics from Dr. Kent Hovind of Creation Evangelism, Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis and others. He travels throughout the U.S. speaking on the scientific and Biblical evidences for creation to all age levels.

## **Course Administrator**

Marianne Larner (the speaker's wife and assistant)

Phone: (801) 302-1111

E-mail: [bruce@creationscienceministries.org](mailto:bruce@creationscienceministries.org)

## **Concept**

Thank you for your desire to host and promote our Preparedness Course. This course is designed to prepare students from High School to adult, to defend the Creation view of origins and train others to do the same. The concept was borne out of a growing need for more creation teachers and trainers and the Biblical mandate to “go and make disciples.”

## **Goal**

The goal of the this preparedness course is to train students to challenge misleading information used to support evolution in academia and media, and stand firm on the truth of Biblical Creation, preparing them to:

- Confidently challenge the accuracy of information presented to support evolution.
- Defend Biblical Creation using scientific evidences, facts, and statements or quotes by scientists.
- To accomplish these goals without being confrontational.

## **Format**

The Preparedness Course is generally a two-day, 14-hour, hands-on Creation course. The program is usually held on weekends (Friday evening and all-day Saturday), but can also be coordinated as a weeklong camp retreat.

## Topics

The following are just a few questions that will be answered in this course:

- What is the difference between microevolution and macroevolution?
- Why can't natural selection create new species?
- Why was the "Miller Experiment" (presented in most biology textbooks) a failure?
- Why can't evolution stand up against the Second Law of Thermodynamics?
- Why isn't 15 billion years enough time for complex molecules to evolve by natural processes?

## Procedures

This manual is designed to walk you through the entire process of conducting the preparedness course. We hope you will find the contents to be practical and easy to use. We highly recommend that you first skim through this manual to familiarize yourself with the overall workshop planning process and then read each section in its entirety.

If any questions should arise, Mr. Larner is available to assist in all phases of the planning, but this manual should serve as your primary reference guide from the formation of the planning team to the actual workshop.

## Course Schedule

Friday	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 8:00 pm

## Course Enrollment Numbers

The following is a guideline for the minimum and maximum numbers of students:

Minimum        20

Maximum        100

For every 6 students there needs to be at least one volunteer small group leader. For 20 students a minimum of 4 small group leaders is required. For 100 students a minimum of 17 small group leaders is required. For more information about the role of small group leaders go to the web site: "<http://www.creationscienceministries.org/sgl.htm>" or you can download a complete copy from the same web location (28 pages in Microsoft Word format).

## Registration Fees

Registration fees should be handled by the local team. The local team should determine the policy for when students need to make payment. A sample registration form is provided at the end of this document.

# Finances

## Costs

The total fee for sponsoring this course depends upon:

1. The number of students
2. Travel and expenses (travel fares, lodging, food)
3. Amount charged to students for attending the course

### Creation Science Ministries Cost Breakdown for Conducting the Preparedness Course

<b>CSM Honorarium</b>	\$1,000	<b>Travel and Expenses (2 people)</b>
<b>Student book cost</b>	\$10	(Estimated cost)
	(Regular cost is \$15)	Travel
		\$1,300
		Food
		\$105
		Lodging
		\$240
		Air
		35/day
		3 nights
		<b>Total</b>
		<b>\$1,645</b>
		Promotion
		\$300
		<b>Totals</b>
		<b>\$1,945</b>

### Church/Organization

Total church income from student charges				Total estimated cost to church/organization			
Students	\$25	\$35	\$45	Students	Cost*	T&E	Total
20	\$500	\$700	\$900	20	\$1,200	\$1,945	\$3,145
30	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,350	30	\$1,300	\$1,945	\$3,245
40	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$1,800	40	\$1,400	\$1,945	\$3,345
50	\$1,250	\$1,750	\$2,250	50	\$1,500	\$1,945	\$3,445
60	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$2,700	60	\$1,600	\$1,945	\$3,545
70	\$1,750	\$2,450	\$3,150	70	\$1,700	\$1,945	\$3,645
80	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$3,600	80	\$1,800	\$1,945	\$3,745

\* cost includes the cost of student books plus CSM honorarium

- Each small group leader will also need to purchase a student manual at \$10 per manual. This cost is not included in the above figures.
- It is recommended that the cost of the course be FREE to all small group leaders.
- Also available for small group leader training is a video titled “The Origin of Life” from Creation Science Ministries. One copy of this video is shipped with the student manuals.

**Registration Fees**

To offset the cost of the course, we recommend that you charge registration fees of \$25, \$35 or \$45 per person (which will include the cost of the student manual valued at \$15). With a \$35 registration fee, you will “break even” at 40 students (travel not included). If you charge \$45, you will almost break even at 80 students, which includes cost for travel. If you exceed the “break even” point, the additional registration revenues can be donated to your local church or organization. So, essentially, if the workshop is well promoted and reasonably attended, it can serve as a fundraiser for your church.

# Small Group Leaders

The Preparedness Course is divided into 5 sessions. After the information is presented on each topic, students will break up into small groups (no more than 6 per group). Each small group is made up of 3-6 students and one group leader.

A small group leader is a facilitator who serves in the following ways:

- Encourages each member to become involved and participate fully in learning activities
- Stimulates conversation with challenging questions
- Reiterates relevant scientific points presented in the lecture
- Encourages members to work together to accomplish the tasks

Each small group leader should be familiar with the subject area before the course starts (this does not imply a high level of scientific expertise is needed). This can be done by:

- Reading through the student manual
- Viewing or reading other resources
- Watching the video titled, “The Origin of Life,” available through Creation Science Ministries

The requirements for becoming a small group leader are:

- Being a Christian
- A belief in the inerrancy of Scripture
- A belief in special Creation by God in 6 literal days
- Some knowledge of the creation/evolution issue (why it is important)
- A background in some area of science or a desire to want to learn more about science
- A servant’s heart and a desire to help others

## Prayer

We encourage you to ask your friends, family and church members to pray for a successful outreach, from the initial planning stage to the weekend of the course. Please pray that the Lord would draw people to the workshop and that they may be open to learn how to defend the truth of creation and ultimately reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, thus furthering His kingdom and bringing Him glory.

# Form a Planning Team

When forming a planning team, carefully select 2-4 dedicated Christians supportive of Creation evangelism. This team will help promote and implement all phases of bringing the preparedness course to your community.

## Team responsibilities

- Select an overall course coordinator who can act as the primary contact to Creation Science Ministries
- Responsible for overall supervision to ensure a successful course
- Conduct planning meetings
- Select and coordinate small group leaders. Ensure that all small group leaders receive materials (course manual and small group leaders guide and optionally the Origin of Life video)
- Secure a facility for the course
- Promote the course

## Small group coordination

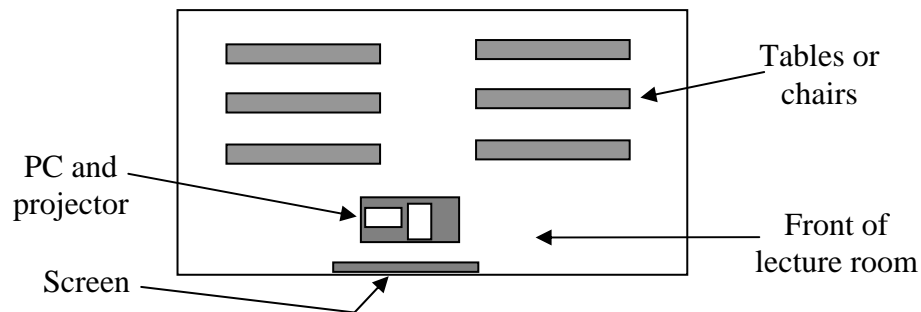
Recruit small group leaders on a ratio of one leader for every 4-6 registrants (six students being the maximum). It is also okay to have co-leaders for small groups if a leader is not confident enough to lead alone. **Small group leaders are absolutely essential to the success of the workshop, so this position is critical.**

## Course Facility

A suitable workshop location must be secured which will be available and accessible from set up (Friday at least one-hour prior to start of course) through take down (Saturday night at 9:30 pm).

The facility must be large enough to seat the number of anticipated students comfortably, plus have a quiet breakout area for each small group. If there are 60 students you will need at least 10 breakout areas.

The main lecture facility should be set up traditional classroom style as illustrated below:



## Sign A Letter of Commitment with CSM

Once your planning team has secured a facility and date, Creation Science Ministries will send you a commitment letter. This is intended to be a letter of understanding, **not a legal contract**. Please read it carefully and have the designated person sign and return it to CSM at:

Creation Science Ministries  
12770 S. Natalie Drive  
Riverton, UT. 84065

The initial holding fee for sponsoring this course is \$100, which must be paid to Creation Science Ministries upfront in order to secure the event. CSM cannot make any firm calendar commitments until the commitment letter and fee have been received. The \$100 holding fee is refundable if the course is cancelled 1-month prior to the course start date. CSM will mail an invoice for the remainder of the course amount one-week prior to start of course.

In the event of a course cancellation, the host will reimburse CSM for any materials shipped (course manuals and video).

# Course Promotion

It is vitally important that the sponsoring church leaders are convinced that this is an important message that needs to be taught to our youth and adults. History has demonstrated that if the pastor and youth pastor are not supportive, attendance and enthusiasm will likely be low.

First, people must know what a preparedness course is and why it is important. This is a Christian-based education program designed to train and prepare students in the area of creation apologetics so that they can defend their faith and be witnesses to others. Sample fliers are located at the end of this document.

This is not just a lecture course where students come and listen. This is a course where students participate and become prepared to speak and defend the Bible, and it only takes fourteen hours. One of the most powerful tools we have is learning to ask good questions.

## Asking Questions – A Powerful Tool

A key component in the critical thinking process is learning how and what questions to ask. So often, as Christians, we are put in the “defensive mode” by others asking questions. Sometimes it is more valuable to understand why someone is asking a question before attempting to give answers. Jesus provided a perfect example of this when He was confronted by the chief priest and elders in Matthew 21:23-27. The chief priest asked Jesus the question, “*By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?*” Jesus did not answer the question. Rather he asked them a question. Jesus’ response was, “*I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things.*”

Jesus turned the entire situation around by asking a question. In other words, He put the chief priest on the defensive. By doing this He brought out that they did not have an answer (21:27) and were just trying to trick Him.

## The Key

A key to a well-attended workshop is having church pastors/ministers repeatedly and enthusiastically “talk it up” from their pulpit.

The following are suggested ways to distribute information and promote the preparedness course.

- Statement/endorsement during church services/bulletin
- Youth pastor recruitment during youth meetings (high school and college groups)
- Christian radio stations can also help bolster attendance through advertising
- In church lobbies
- At Christian bookstores
- At Christian schools
- Local Christian media
- Additionally, CSM can customize and print registration brochures for your course.

## Order Materials

The planning team will need to establish where course leaders' materials should be shipped. The shipment will include student manuals and small group leader guides for each group leader and one video titled "The Origin of Life."

Materials that are necessary for the course include:

- Student course manual. One copy for each student and small group leader.
- Small group leaders' guide (this is a free document). One copy of this manual will be shipped. Additional copies can be obtained by making copies or from the Internet. Copies can be downloaded on the Internet from:

[www.creationscienceministries.org](http://www.creationscienceministries.org)

Additional materials that are shipped include: One copy of the Origin of Life video

## Distribute Materials

Materials should be distributed to small group leaders when they arrive so that each leader will have time to read through the student manual and leaders guide. Any questions they may have can be resolved through the planning team or by contacting Creation Science Ministries.

The planning team may want to select a night when they show the "Origin of Life" video to the small group leaders. Leaders that cannot attend should borrow the tape to review the information. This video contains much of the material presented in the course.

The course instructor (Bruce Lerner) will arrive one day prior to the course (usually Thursday) to conduct a 2-hour evening training session for all small group leaders. It is requested that all leaders be familiar with the course material prior to this training session. The key to the success of this course lies with the small group leaders.

## Coordinate Logistics

Friday evenings' session runs from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. There will be one short break during this session. It is optional whether to have snacks for this session. Saturday meetings run all day long (9:00 am until 8:00 pm). We will have a 60-minute lunch period and a 90-minute dinner period for all involved. These meal periods can be arranged in several ways:

- Volunteers bring meals into the building (this is the recommended method)
- Each person is "on their own" for going out to get meals

In addition, it would be helpful to have snacks for break times.

# Final Course Preparation

Approximately 1-week prior to the start of the course the planning team should determine if enough students have enrolled for the course.

Approximately 2-days prior to the start of the course the planning team should ensure that all small group leaders have read the materials (student manual and Small Group Leaders' guide) and watched the video.

A crew should be selected to do room setup and breakdown. The room should be set up at least one hour prior to the start of the course.

A person should be selected to help with determining which students will be grouped together. A recommendation is that groups be homogeneous by age group. For example, high schools students together, college age students together and adult students together. The final groupings can be adjusted during the first course lecture period. This allows for any late enrollments at the door (if allowed).

Nametags can be made for each student and leader.

All meals arrangements should be made.

# Creation Preparedness Course Registration Form

**Course:** The Origin of Life Preparedness Course  
**Date:** (Dates of the course)  
**Time:** Fri: 6 pm – 9 pm, Sat: 9 am – 8 pm  
**Location:** (*Your location*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home church \_\_\_\_\_

Check one  Home school  
 Public school  
 Christian school  
 Adult

Grade 8 9 10 11 12 College Adult

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Course cost \$35 \*\*\* This may vary \*\*\*

(Make check payable to Sponsoring church or organization)

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**Return this form to:**  
*Your church/organization*  
*Address*  
*City, State, Zip*  
*Attention: Team Leader*

# Creation Training Course

## Preparing and Training Christians

A 1 ½ day course for high school through adult

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**When**      Dates

**Where**     Your Church/Organization location

**Times**     Friday the 16th 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

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### **What is a preparedness course?**

A preparedness course is a Christian educational program designed to train and prepare students in the area of critical thinking and creation apologetics.

### **What you will learn**

This course is designed for those who seek to critically and logically investigate the scientific evidence for the origin of life.

This is not intended to be a course in biology, but rather to provide each student with all of the evidence, which includes evidence that has been left out of the textbooks.

The information presented is in an easy to understand format and is intended to prepare the student to know the truth about science, the Bible, and why evolution is not scientifically possible.

### **Course Goal**

The goal of this course is to help students recognize information that is used to support the evolution of life presented in textbooks, classroom discussions, and by the media and then:

1. Ask, with confidence, scientific questions that help clarify or challenge the accuracy of information presented to support evolution without being confrontational.
2. Give relevant information that supports the question or statement through the use of scientific evidences or facts including statements and quotes by scientists.

## **Additional Information That Can Be Used In Promoting This Course**

### **Student Growth**

The purpose of a creation-preparedness program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to:

- State the biblical evidence for creation.
- State scientific evidences for creation.
- State with confidence scientific questions that challenge popular beliefs in evolution.
- To Glorify God by acknowledging Him as the Creator and by becoming prepared to be a witness to others about God's Creation.

In all aspects of this program, each student is made to feel safe in being able to openly contribute information, whether correct or incorrect. The purpose is to prepare for success, not to grade, fail, or make anyone feel they have fallen short of learning. Every gain in a student's ability to strengthen his/her faith in God's Word and to prepare them to be a witness is a success.

### **Preparedness Course Design**

This preparedness course is designed to go beyond the traditional lecture style of presenting information. It is intended to focus on four different skills involved in learning.

1. Reading                      To discover new ideas and concepts
2. Listening                      To be able to focus and understand
3. Speaking                    To be able to express ideas to others
4. Critical thinking          To be able to discern truth

The format of the preparedness program is designed to provide each student with the ready knowledge to speak, defend and ask challenging questions regarding the subject of creation and evolution.

### **The Method**

The methods used in this preparedness course are based on:

- Apologetics... so that we can use reason and defend our faith.
- Athletics... so that we ourselves can be trained by doing and not just hearing.
- Leadership and management training... so that we can learn to investigate facts, problems, and needs.
- Computer network communications... so that the encoding and decoding of information is not just understood, but acted upon.

# Sample Course Registration Log

As students begin to register it is helpful to maintain a log

<b>Registrant</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Paid</b>
John Smith	123 Main Street	(123) 346-7890	HS	Ck
Joe Johnson	456 Elm Street	(123) 555-5555	Col	Cash