

Science Frontiers and Religion – Unit 1 – Religion and Science

Guide to the Presentation/Discussion of 11 May 2026

This document may be useful for three types of readers.

The first may have missed the meeting and want to see what it was about. If that is you, see the section titled “Presentation”.

The second may be looking for the references so that they can probe deeper into the topics. If that is you, see the section titled “Notes”.

The third reader may be someone who will reuse the material and offer the study series to a new group of people. For that, see the section titled “Production Artifacts”.

I hope you find what you need.

Contents (clickable)

Unit Title: Religion and Science 1

Presentation May 11, 2026: 2

Production Artifacts: 3

Notes: 3

Wikipedia: 3

YouTube Videos 3

Essays 3

Books 3

Related Sources: 3

[Unit Title: Religion and Science](#)

Both Science and Religion are mentioned in the name of this series of study units. It may surprise many to know that both require faith in the unproveable. We begin this study unit considering an illustrated essay entitled “Astrophysics finds Religion – Can You”. In the essay, we learn that most astrophysicists prefer to believe in something (the multiverse) without any empirical support in order not to deal with observations of our universe.

Then, we pose a transgressive question to be answered in the final meeting. Finally, the title of this series uses the term “frontiers” in a way that requires explanation. Our explanation will take the form of a short review of how science has been understood differently over history. Today part of the scientific community works opportunistically with a variety of methods – a frontier approach from which we derive our title: Science Frontiers and Religion.

Presentation May 11, 2026:

We discussed how scientists, when forced, adopt fantasy as establish fact when there seems no alternative. As an example, we used the fine-tuned-universe problem which has converted most astrophysicists to a faith in the multiverse. This issue, the fine-tuned-universe, is covered very well in many places. However, two readable documents were produced specially for this unit.

1. “Astrophysicists Find Religion – Can You” an illustrated PDF file [available on Google Drive here](#).
2. A short summary of the same argument [available on Google Drive here](#).

During the meeting in May 2026, the second document, the summary, was shown by sharing video on Zoom and the ideas were discussed with participants.

Both documents have an unusual format that is in landscape mode with text on the left half and illustration on the right. The format might be reconsidered for future iterations of this series.

It is fairly widely known that the “multiverse” idea is a natural reaction to the evidence behind “A Finely Tuned Universe”. If anyone rejects the multiverse because no evidence exists to support the idea, what must that person think? It appears the universe was created with intention. If so, why was it done? For many secular people, that is a hard topic to contemplate as it flirts with the Intelligent Design argument. At the same time, Christian believers regard it as self-evident that God created the world out of Love. By asking about intention without giving answers, we are transgressing on both beliefs.

The second part of the meeting played a video which you [can view or download here](#). The audio/visual in this video introduces the whole series by talking about the inspiration for it and then shifting to the history of Science, and how the nature of inquiry has change. The march of science goes on and part of it is truly frontier in the sense that it pushes past boundaries of the past. Our notion of frontier science includes emergence and Biology. Both are discussed at length in subsequent units.

[Technical tip: The video is on Google Drive. If you view such a video in a web browser, it may show a fuzzy copy. To see screens at the sharpest detail, download the file from Google and then click the file to view it on your native Mac or Windows app. If your web browser doesn't want to download, go to the Google Drive File [in this linked folder](#) and look for file “SFR Unit 1 Intro.mp4” to download.]

Production Artifacts:

The PowerPoint files for "[Astrophysicists Find Religion](#)" and [for the summary](#).

The PowerPoint file for the video "[SFR Unit 1 Intro](#)". The script for this PowerPoint presentation is contained in the notes attached to each viewgraph.

The document you are reading is file "[SFR Unit 1 Guide.docx](#)".

If it is impossible to open the links to PowerPoint from your web browser, then open the folder on [Google Drive here](#) and download files: FindFaith.pptx, FindFaithSummary.pptx, and "SFR Unit 1 Intro.pptx".

Notes:

Wikipedia:

Read about "[Fine-Tuned Universe](#)"

Read about "[Rare Earth hypothesis](#)"

YouTube Videos

[A Fortunate Universe](#) – Luke Barnes (4 min video also see book below)

[Longer review of the same book](#) with more insights by Neil Shenvi

[Crises in Cosmology](#) – Sabine Hossenfelder

[What Could Be the Purpose of the Universe?](#) – Sabine Hossenfelder

[Why does the universe exist? | Truth](#) – Lisa Randall

Essays

[A Short Review of Lewis and Barnes'](#) A Fortunate Universe by Neil Shenvi

[A Christian Perspective on Fine-Tuning](#)

[Review by Peter Robinson](#) in the WSJ of the upcoming movie "The Story of Everything".

Books

A Fortunate Universe – Life in a Finely Tuned Cosmos by Geraint Lewis and Luke Barnes

[Here is an interesting review of "A Fortunate Universe"](#)

In Just Six Numbers – The Deep Forces That Shape the Universe by Martin Rees

The Multiverse – When One Universe Isn't Enough by Brian Cleeg

Related Sources:

The connections between religion and science are discussed in many books and articles. I'd like to list just three sources although I have only glanced at them myself at this point in time:

1. The Institute on Religion in the Age of Science www.iras.org . You can explore many articles in their journal Zygon www.zygonjournal.org
2. "Infinity in Your Hand: A Guide for the Spiritually Curious" a book by William H. Houff. I'm including this example of literature because the author was a scientist and Unitarian clergy.
3. New (2026) feature length film "The Story of Everything" should be a very slick presentation of evidence for intelligent design or, I would argue, of justification for pushing out the frontier of science. The film [was reviewed favorably in the WSJ](#).

4. A palate refreshener – “It is human stories all the way down” ["A Final Message" from Rev. Dr. David Breeden](#)