

FINDING GOD IN AN AGE OF SCIENCE

# Homeschool Discussion Guide

for

JOHN LENNOX + KEVIN SORBO

# AGAINST *The* TIDE

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ

This guide created by [Homeschool Adventure](#) in partnership with [Pensmore Films](#).

Be prepared to stand  
**AGAINST THE TIDE**  
Take the journey with us ...

# PERSUADED BY EVIDENCE

C.S. Lewis moved from an atheist to an apologist late in life. Trained to think logically, he had the integrity to examine the evidence for God's existence. That process ultimately led him to become a Christian.

*"You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me.*

*"In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."*

— C.S. Lewis

*Against The Tide* takes us on a journey from Oxford to Jerusalem as we encounter the evidence for belief in the God of the Bible.

The journey begins in The Eagle and Child, the Oxford pub where C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and other literary greats discussed weighty matters and shared works in progress such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

In the pub, we meet actor Kevin Sorbo (*God's Not Dead*) and the brilliant scholar John Lennox. As we travel with John and Kevin, they will lead us through an examination of:

- **Scientific Evidence**
- **Autobiographical Experience**
- **Historical Evidence**

We're stepping out of the pub now and traveling to the campus. Oxford can be a bit drafty, so put on your coat.

***Let's go!***

# SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

## *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

Scientists don't make the laws of nature, they simply discover them. An important question to ask is whether scientific evidence leads us to or away from belief in God?

C.S. Lewis argued:

*"... men became scientific because they expected Law in Nature, and they expected Law in Nature because they believed in a Legislator."*

At the Radcliffe Observatory, John and Kevin climb the steps of an elliptical staircase uniquely designed to represent the precise orbit and movement of the planets.

As they admire the 220-year-old scientific building, they discuss how a finely tuned, mathematically precise universe—one that mysteriously and suddenly came into existence—presents quite a challenge for atheism to explain.

### **3 QUESTIONS:**

1. Can something come from nothing? (**God in the Cosmos**)
2. Is it reasonable to believe the finely tuned forces necessary to support life were produced by mere chance? (**God on the Earth**)
3. Can mind come from mere matter? (**Conscious Minds**)

### **IMAGINE ...**

You travel back in time and arrive in C.S. Lewis's lecture hall. He concludes a brilliant lecture and—rather than leave immediately after the lecture—he pauses to answer questions.

*What will you ask him?*

# THE STORY OF A MAN

## *Who Stands Against The Tide*

In John's backyard in rural Oxford, he talks with Kevin about what equipped him to respond to arguments against the existence of God.

Unlike C.S. Lewis, John grew up in a family with two parents who were serious Christ followers. His dad introduced him to the work of C.S. Lewis—and John read every book Lewis wrote.

His father also handed him *The Communist Manifesto* and stressed the importance of learning about what other people believe.

Years later, that advice proved extremely valuable when John traveled through Eastern Europe and Communist Russia—sharing his faith as he lectured on mathematics, apologetics, and the exposition of Scripture. It also helped prepare him to debate prominent atheists.

*“Karl Marx said religion is the opium of the masses. But Czeslaw Milosz, who had reason to know, writes: ‘A true opium of the people is a belief in nothingness after death — the huge solace of thinking that for our betrayals, greed, cowardice, murders, we are not going to be judged.’*

*“Thus, if God does exist, atheism can be seen as a psychological escape mechanism to avoid taking ultimate responsibility for one's own life.”*

— John C. Lennox

### 3 QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways are you living out your faith so it can be seen by those who know you best? (**Living faith**)
2. Do you think there is value in studying non-Christian worldviews? Explain why or why not?
3. Do you agree with John when he says that atheism and communism go hand-in-hand? Why or why not?

### IMAGINE ...

You're on a stage about to debate the most popular atheist of your day. What is your greatest fear? What do you hope to accomplish?

***How did you prepare?***

# HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

## *Who is this Jesus?*

*“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”*

—John 20:30-31

As John Lennox and Kevin Sorbo walk the streets of Jerusalem, they encounter pilgrims of all three major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Lennox describes how Christianity deals with the issue of pain, suffering, and death in a way that no other religion does. Christ on the cross demonstrates that God hasn't remained distant from the problem of suffering and pain ... He has entered into it.

How do we know that God came here in human form? Christianity is “geared into history.” Driving out demons, miraculous healings, raising the dead ... these supernatural events testify that Jesus was no ordinary man.

And the most significant event in all of history—Jesus's resurrection—was witnessed by hundreds of people..

### **3 QUESTIONS:**

1. Is it reasonable to think that the God who created a world that adheres to natural law would be able to supercede those laws? Why or why not?
2. Are there extra-biblical sources that substantiate the fact that Jesus was a real person? If so, can you name two?
3. What does John Lennox believe happened during the transfiguration?

### **IMAGINE ...**

You're in Professor Radisson's classroom. He just asked you to write “God is dead” on your paper.

***What will you do?***

# BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

When asked whether he entertained any doubts about his faith, John Lennox emphatically answered, "Yes!" But years of listening to critics, asking questions, and searching for answers only led to a deepening of his faith.

As Professor Lennox states, you cannot prove the existence or identity of God with absolute certainty, but you can examine the evidence and prove it beyond a reasonable doubt.

Once you view the world through a biblical lens, the absurdity of rejecting God comes into focus.

*"The universe can and will create itself from nothing. It is not necessary to invoke God."*

—Professor Stephen Hawking

*The universe is best explained by the existence of a purposeful creator. All competing claims lack explanatory power."*

—Professor John Lennox

Which do you think requires more faith? Belief in Professor Hawking's statement or belief in the God of the Bible that states: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"*?

## SUIT UP AND STAND.

Preparing for battle requires **focus and discipline**. Make no mistake, there is a battle raging, but the ultimate victory has already been won.

Don't be intimidated. Ask questions. Explore worldviews. You will discover that our **Christian faith is rational**. It gives life true meaning and purpose today—and hope for tomorrow.

## ONE NAME.

In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, when Aslan tells Lucy she won't be returning to Narnia, she sobs, "How can we live never meeting you?"

Aslan explains that leaving Narnia and returning to her world, she will learn to know Him by another Name.

***His Name is Jesus.***

# READY TO DIG DEEPER?

If you're ready to set off on your own journey of discovery, here are a few recommended resources that will expand your horizons:

## John Lennox Books

## John Lennox Debates

- Richard Dawkins vs John Lennox | Has Science Buried God? Debate
- John Lennox vs. Richard Dawkins | The God Delusion Debate
- John Lennox vs. Christopher Hitchens | Is God Great?

## C.S. Lewis Books

- *Mere Christianity* (with the *Mere Christianity Journal*)
- *Surprised By Joy*
- *The Chronicles of Narnia*