

FROM THE AUTHORS



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What do you tell students who show an interest in science but worry that it conflicts with their faith?

We encourage more Christians to consider a scientific career because their presence in science is necessary for the church's witness in the world. Christians in every generation have engaged the best of secular learning about the world, sifting it for what is true and valuable so that it might be incorporated into Christian thinking. In the case of science, however, this assessment cannot be done well by outsiders who lack the proper skills and training to evaluate scientific theories. If Christians are

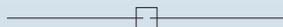
going to have a beneficial dialogue with science—which will show non-Christians the ongoing relevance and vitality of the Christian tradition—it will be guided by those who understand science from the inside.

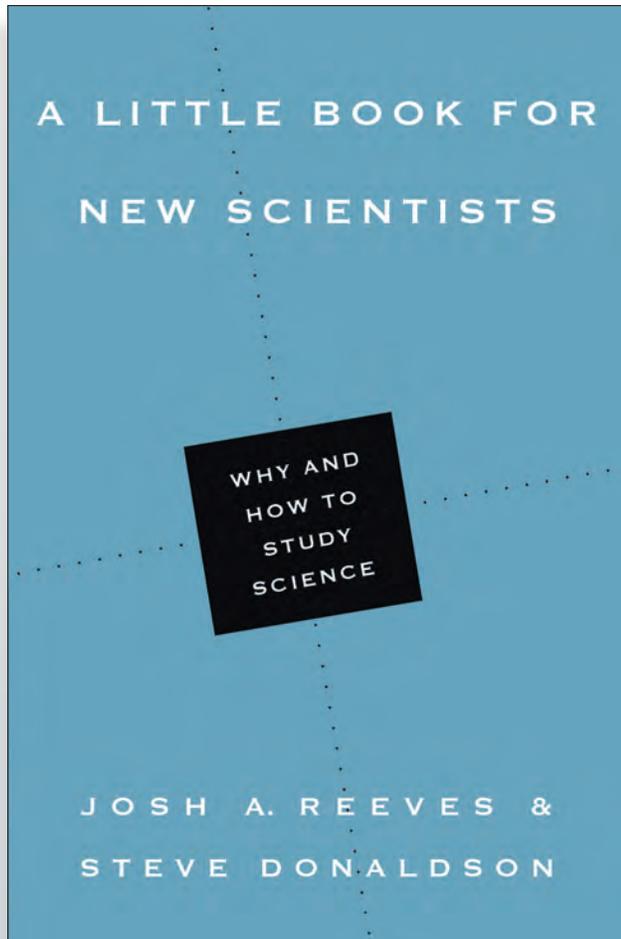
What do you hope readers take away from your book?

We want our readers to perceive that God is bigger than any human ideas about him, no matter their source (i.e., Scripture or nature). This has the effect of helping to create a safe space from which to ask penetrating, potentially disturbing questions. From there one can move to the exciting possibility that the scientist will be able to perceive aspects of God's handwork in ways that may be inordinately challenging or even inaccessible to the non-scientist. This is not to privilege the sciences over other methods of inquiry and insight but simply to acknowledge that science is a wonderfully fascinating way to explore aspects of the divine-human relationship. We also note that some of our own best role models have been authors who encouraged us to think deeply about difficult issues and assisted us in doing so. With some of those individuals we have felt a special affinity and resonance, even though we have never met them in person. We hope this book has a similar effect.



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INTRODUCTORY >>>

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Too many young Christians interested in the sciences have felt torn between two options: remain faithful to Christ or study science.

Heated debates over the past century have created the impression that we have to choose one or the other. The result has been a crisis of faith for many students. Josh Reeves and Steve Donaldson present a concise introduction to the study of science that explains why scientists in every age have found science congenial to their faith and how Christians in the sciences can bridge the gap between science and Christian belief and practice.

If Christians are to have a beneficial dialogue with science, it will be guided by those who understand science from the inside. Consequently, this book provides both advice and encouragement for Christians entering or engaged in scientific careers because their presence in science is a vital component of the church's witness in the world.

"A Little Book for New Scientists is certainly the most concise and helpful book for young persons (and their parents) on a science career that I have ever seen. I would hope that every young person considering a career in the sciences will read this book and then take it down off their shelf about once a year—rereading it regularly as they proceed through graduate school and their post-doc years. If I'd had this book when I was beginning my career, I would have wanted it in a prominent place on my bookshelf—right next to my Bible."

—DARREL R. FALK

emeritus professor of biology at Point Loma Nazarene University,
author of *Coming to Peace with Science*

JOSH A. REEVES (PhD, Boston University) is a project administrator in the Samford University Center for Science and Religion in Birmingham, Alabama. In that role, he manages the New Directions in Science and Religion project, which brings constructive science and religion dialogue into the church.

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