



Chapter 6 Leader Guide - A Change of Mind

God's Crime Scene for Kids

Prepare Yourself:

Read the following sections in *God's Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines the Evidence for a Divinely Created Universe*:

Chapter 6 - Free Will or Full Wiring: Are Real Choices Even Possible?

Read the following section in *God's Crime Scene for Kids*:

Chapter 6 - A Change of Mind

Important Concepts In This Chapter:

This chapter explores whether our choices are really our own or simply the result of a deterministic series of purely physical events in our brains. This can be a difficult concept to understand, even for adults. Take time to read the adult chapter carefully so you can explain the concept to your younger reader. A human being can choose to knock over a set of dominoes, but the dominoes have no ability to fall or stand on their own. If our actions are simply the result of physical activity in our brains, we are much like the dominoes. Our "decisions" wouldn't be true decisions at all; they would simply be the result of neurons firing in our brain, and we don't have control over this activity any more than dominoes have control. Worse yet, unless we have the true ability to make free choices, none of us could ever be held accountable for our actions. Help your reader understand that the ability to think and make free choices is evidence that the universe isn't purely physical. We are more than deterministic, physical beings; we are more than brains. We have minds and the capacity to make free decisions. Help your reader to understand that this ability to choose isn't possible in an atheistic universe, because a purely physical universe is governed only by natural laws.

Good Questions to Ask:

"What did Jason and Hannah change their minds about?"

"Have you ever changed your mind about something? What was it?"

"Why must we have *minds* in order to make free choices? Why wouldn't this be possible if we had *brains*, but not *minds*?"

"What is the difference between 'determinism' and 'free will'? Why is free will necessary in order to hold people accountable for their actions?"

"Why did Detective Jeffries use the illustration of the dominoes?"

"Do you blame a domino if it falls over? Why or why not?"