



# Catholic Central Activity Guide

## Episode 48: Faith and Reason

### Diving Deeper

- ▶ How are faith (philosophy/theology) and reason (science) like different tools for finding out different kinds of truth? Do faith and reason share a similar purpose?
- ▶ When Pope Leo XIII said, "Truth cannot contradict truth," what did he mean? Is it possible for faith and science to arrive at different conclusions and both be correct?
- ▶ Superstition occurs when someone uses faith without reason. What are some examples of superstition?
- ▶ In *Fides et Ratio*, St. Pope John Paul II lists fundamental questions asked by every culture in every time in search of meaning: "Why is there evil? What is there after this life?" What are some other questions that science alone cannot answer?

### Go Forth

- ▶ Choose a Catholic scientist who has contributed significantly to their field and learn a little more about them. How were they motivated by both faith and reason in their pursuit of knowledge? You might consider: Julius Nieuwland, Mary Kenneth Keller, Louis Pasteur, Gregor Mendel, Georges LeMaitre, Blaise Pascal, Claude Bernard, Maria Agnesi, or Georgius Agricola, among many others.
- ▶ In the introduction to *Fides et Ratio*, St. Pope John Paul II wrote: "The desire for knowledge is characteristic of all people." Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal an area of knowledge for you to grow. Consider questions of both faith and reason as you examine this new topic. How has it developed historically? What future developments might happen? Are there obstacles to current studies? How can it be used to help others? Are there moral or ethical issues involved? What are contemporary scientists, philosophers, and theologians saying about this topic?



### Resources

- ▶ [Pontifical Academy of Sciences website](#)
- ▶ [The \(Catholic\) Science Guy, An Interview with Guy Consolmagno, S.J., Director of the Vatican Observatory](#)
- ▶ [St. Pope John Paul II's 2002 Address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: The Cultural Values of Science](#)

