

Name _____ Date _____

Handout 1-A

Gallery Walk Reflections

1. Describe five of the images, stories, or quotations that you see during your gallery walk that most strike you. Why did you select each of these?

2. Christians have always believed that it is possible to use human reason to discover that there is a God. How does what you see here suggest that they are right to believe this?

3. Do you think you could come to know God *only* through observing and thinking about examples such as these? Why or why not?

“God of the Gaps”

1. In his book *The Language of God*, the scientist Francis Collins (famous for leading the Human Genome Project that mapped human genetics) includes a description of a common temptation related to seeking God through Natural Revelation:

“Some theists have identified the appearance of RNA and DNA as a possible opportunity for divine creative action. If God’s intention in creating the universe was to lead to creatures with whom He might have fellowship, namely human beings . . . couldn’t God have stepped in to initiate the process?”

This could be an appealing hypothesis, given that no serious scientist would currently* claim that a naturalistic explanation for the origin of life is at hand. But that is true today, and it may not be true tomorrow. A word of caution is needed when inserting specific divine action by God in this or any other area where scientific understanding is currently lacking. From solar eclipses in olden times to the movement of the planets in the Middle Ages, to the origins of life today, this ‘God of the gaps’ approach has all too often done a disservice to religion (and by implication, to God, if that’s possible). Faith that places God in the gaps of current understanding about the natural world may be headed for crisis if advances in science subsequently fill those gaps. Faced with incomplete understanding of the natural world, believers should be cautious about invoking the divine in areas of current mystery. . . . There are good reasons to believe in God, including the existence of mathematical principles and order in creation. They are positive reasons, based on knowledge, rather than default assumptions based on (a temporary) lack of knowledge.”

*in 2006

Francis S. Collins, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* (New York: Free Press, 2006), 92–93.

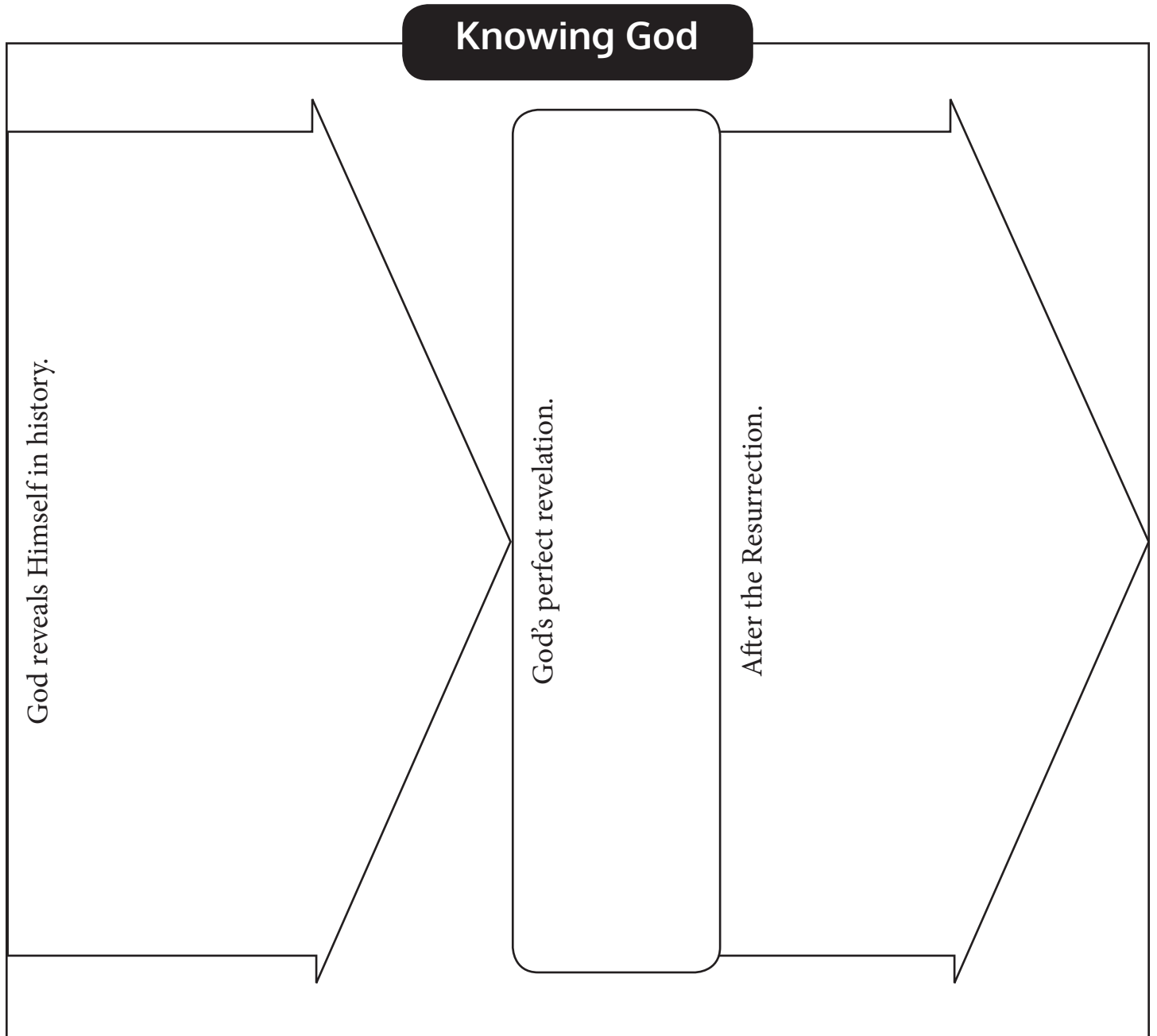
1. Can you think of an example of someone using a “gap” as evidence of God’s existence?

2. Why does Collins consider the “God of the gaps” temptation to be dangerous for faith?

3. What are some ways that our faith can be shaped by the things we *do* know, as opposed to the things we *don’t* know?

Knowing God

What can we know through Natural Revelation? In the perimeter of the box below, write what we can know about God through Natural Revelation. Then, read Section 3 in “Knowing God Through Divine Revelation” the textbook to complete the rest of the graphic organizer.



The Deposit of Faith

Definition of this term:

SACRED _____
What is this part of the Deposit of Faith?
A relevant quote from the Catechism:
How is trust among members of the Church important with regard to Sacred Scripture?
Other notes:

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