

# KID SPIRIT

## Group Guides



### **Science & Spirit**

*Vol. 1, No. 3*

Although they seem very different to us now, science and religion have been more and less closely related during different periods of history. In this issue we looked at the intersection of science and religion in our everyday lives.

1. Genetic modification is one of the many scientific developments that can change (and has changed) life for a great number of people. What do you think about its ethical implications? Is genetically modifying plants more or less ethical than genetically modifying animals? What about humans? What scientific discovery do you think has the greatest ethical implications?
2. Many thinkers from the Enlightenment on have tried to use science to explain religion or religious feelings. How successful have they been? Is it possible to "explain" religion using science? Do you think that religions and belief systems can stand alone today without being supported by scientific data? In contrast, could science itself also be said to be fundamentally founded on faith?
3. Our Big Question asks, "Is there a limit to what we should know?" Should we give in to our scientific curiosity and deal with the effects that come as a result of new discoveries? Should we exercise some restraint, as we have so far done with the Large Hadron Collider? While genetic engineering allows us to create plants resistant to certain diseases, it also unleashes unknown side effects. Our knowledge of nuclear physics has given us a powerful, clean source of energy, but also the potentially deadly atomic bomb. The Pope recently wrote a document that outlined how Catholics might deal with these new developments. How do you think we should approach difficult decisions brought on by science?

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