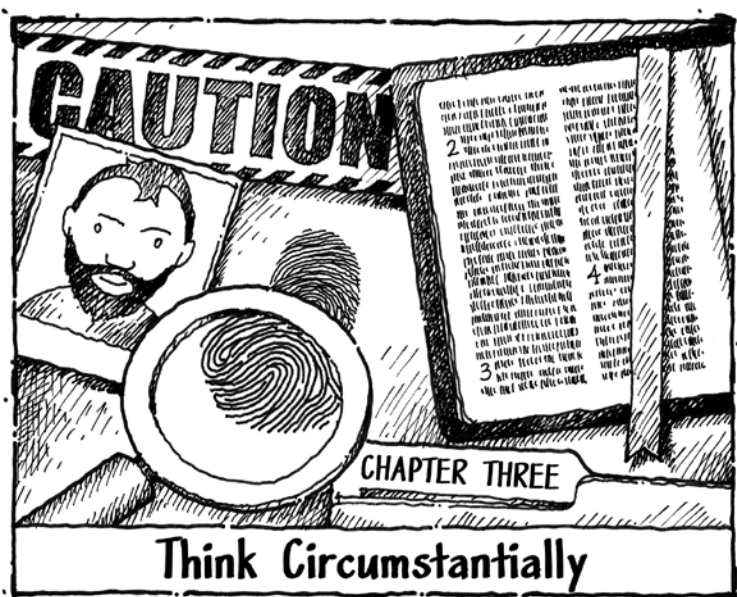


"As detectives, we have two possible ways to find out where this skateboard came from..."

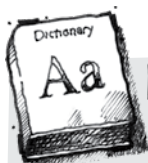


## Examine an Important Kind of Evidence!



During the week, you find yourself thinking “big” thoughts—thoughts about God and whether He is real. You wonder if Jeffries might be able to help answer your questions, but when you meet the following Tuesday, he’s more interested in the skateboard.

“As detectives,” he booms out in his big voice, “we have two possible ways to find out where this skateboard came from. First, we could try to find a *witness* who was there when the skateboard was placed in the shed. Witness evidence is called ‘direct evidence.’”



## Detective Definitions

### Direct/Indirect Evidence:

Sometimes we are lucky enough to have a witness who can help us understand what happened in the past. But what do we do when there isn't a witness available to us? We rely on "indirect" evidence.

All kinds of things can be used as evidence to make a case, so take some time to think carefully about all the other facts you might be overlooking.

"What if there wasn't a witness?" you ask.

Jeffries smiles like he's glad to hear the question. "Then we'll have to use 'indirect evidence.' We also call this 'circumstantial evidence.'"

"I think I've heard about that. It's not as good as a witness, right?" asks Hannah.

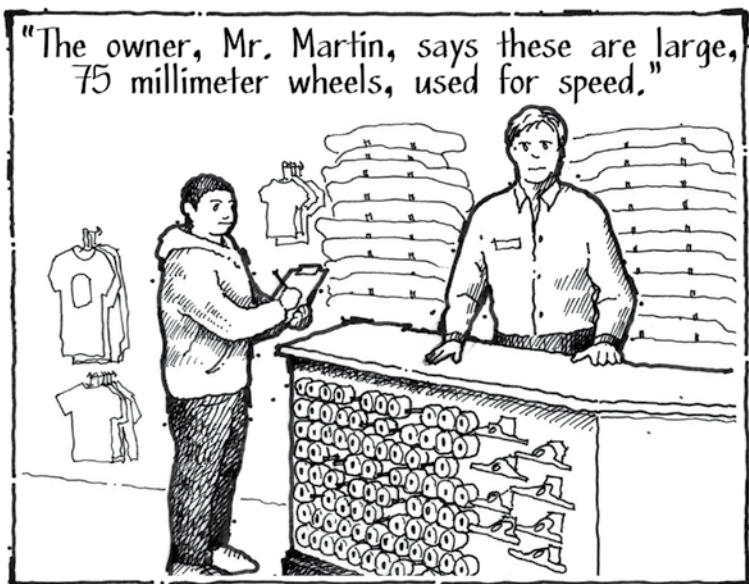
"Not true," Jeffries replies. "We didn't have a witness last week, but we were able to figure out the skateboard was old! We used *circumstantial* evidence. The skateboard's location, the sticker, the cobwebs—that was *all* circumstantial evidence."

Jeffries looks at Daniel. "I asked Daniel to do some investigating for

me this week."

"Yes sir," replies Daniel, standing to his feet. "I went to Great Skates, our only local shop for skateboards. The owner, Mr. Martin, says these are large, seventy-five-millimeter wheels, used for speed.

"He's the only guy who sold skateboards with these wheels ten years ago—and they're not made anymore." Daniel sits back down.



"Good work, Daniel," Jeffries says while nodding. "So now we have even more *indirect* or *circumstantial* evidence that the skateboard is old. By the way, I was in the crime lab all day, with no windows. But I knew it was raining outside. How? One of my assistants came in; I knew she had just arrived, and I saw big drops of water on her coat and hair. If she had simply told me it was raining, I would have known about the rain from the direct evidence of her

## CSI Assignment

Jesus also wants us to collect the evidence. Read John 10:25. What kind of evidence did Jesus say would "testify" about Him? Read Acts 1:2-3. Jesus stayed with His disciples for forty days after the resurrection and provided them with many \_\_\_\_\_

statement. But I didn't need her to say a thing. The indirect evidence of the water drops and her wet hair was more than enough. See the difference?" asks Jeffries, scanning the cadets for responses.

You speak up: "Can we talk a little more about the Jesus case? I was thinking about God and miracles this week. It seems to me that if God is real, then miracles *can* happen. I get that. But how are we supposed to collect evidence about God—even indirect evidence? He's invisible!"



Jeffries smiles at you and you see his top row of teeth, which aren't exactly straight. But still, he smiled! He replies, "This is a perfect example for this week's lesson. Indirect evidence can be powerful, and we *do* have indirect evidence for

God. A lot of it, actually."

Everyone is paying attention now. "Where?" asks Daniel. "What kind of indirect evidence?"

Jeffries walks up to the whiteboard. "Let's make a circumstantial-evidence diagram as we list the evidence for God." He starts to draw.

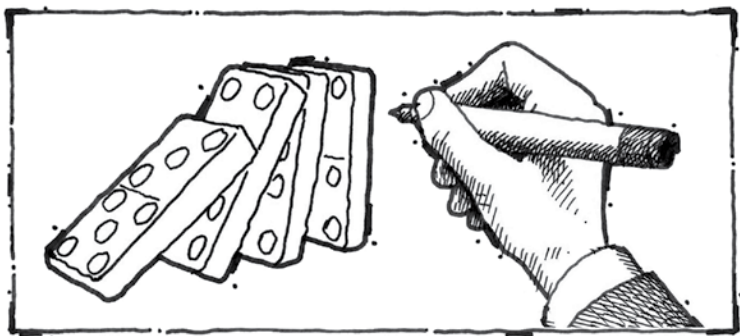
You lean over and whisper to Daniel and say, "I didn't realize detectives have to be artists."

Jeffries overhears you, smiles, and jokes, "Better to be an *artist* than a *con artist*!" Everyone laughs. Jeffries continues drawing and says, "This won't be difficult to sketch out."

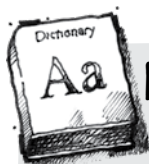
"First, we're in a universe that began to exist, just like we talked about before. What made it begin? Whatever it is, it would have to be

something outside of space, time, and matter. We know that God fits that description.”

Jeffries draws a set of falling dominoes on the board as a symbol of a universe that “starts” to exist (like a row of dominoes that start to fall when the first one is pushed).



He continues, “Next, scientists tell us that the universe is incredibly fine-tuned for the existence of life. The laws of nature and physics are amazingly delicate. Scientists have no idea why this is the case, unless of course, the universe was designed for a purpose: to be the home for human beings like you and me. It seems reasonable that God would design in this way if He created us like a loving Father.” Jeffries draws a designer’s compass on the board as a symbol of the fine-tuning of the universe.

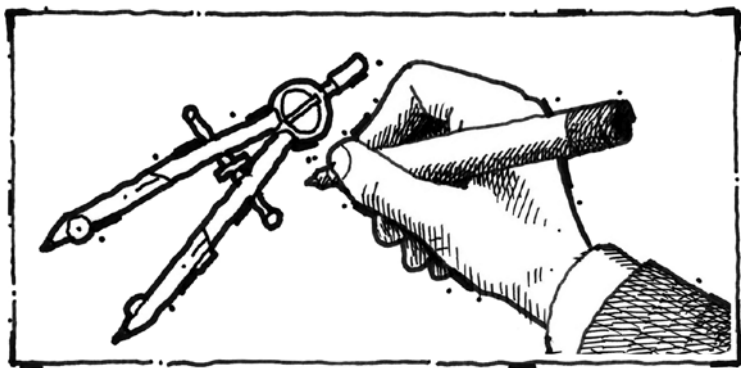


## Detective Definitions

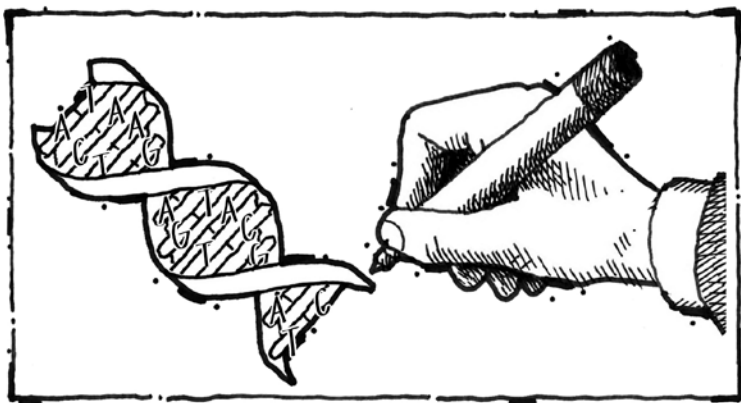
### Con artist:

Someone who gains the trust (or confidence) of another in order to lie or take advantage of them.

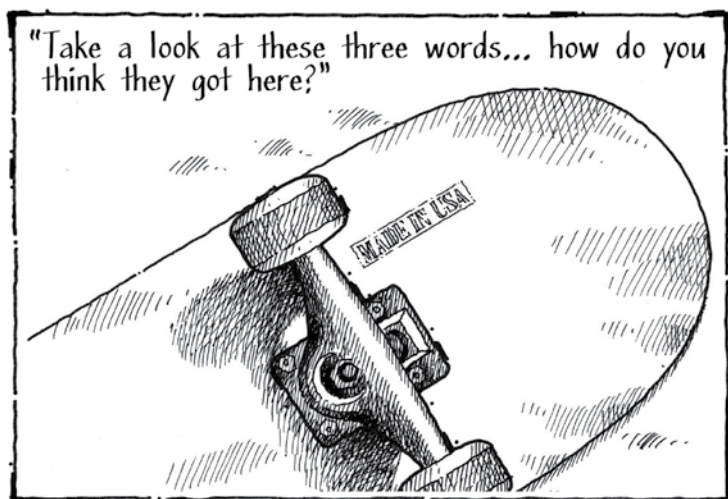
Some people think the disciples of Jesus were con artists, but is this a reasonable conclusion?



There's more. "Scientists also see signs of design in biology. Your body is incredibly designed, and you even have information in your body called 'DNA.'" Jeffries draws a DNA molecule:



"The DNA molecule is an instruction manual for your body. It contains more information than all the books in your school library, and information is a sure sign of intelligence." Jeffries picks up the skateboard. On the bottom of the board, he finds a small stamped set of words:



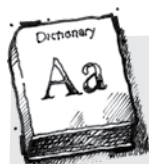
“Take a look at these three words,” he says, showing them to the cadets. “How do you think they got here?”

Hannah quickly raises her hand. “That’s easy. Someone put them there; probably the company that made the board.”

“Couldn’t they have just landed here by accident?” asks Jeffries.

“It doesn’t seem likely,” answers Hannah.

“I agree,” replies the detective. “In fact, information like this sentence always comes from intelligence. You can’t get this simple sentence from



## Detective Definitions

### Information:

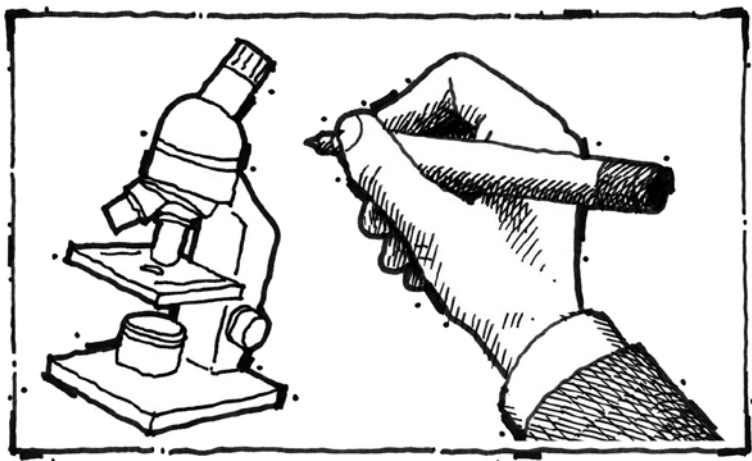
A series of symbols, objects, or letters that describe a specific idea or request.

The information in this book, for example, is written with a series of letters in a specific order. The information in DNA is written with a series of “nucleotides” that are also in a specific order. The information in this book (like all information) is the result of an intelligent source (the author). But who is the intelligent author of the information in DNA?



chance or the laws of physics. When you see information, you know it was caused by intelligence; in this case, the people who made this board.”

He points to the DNA molecule on the whiteboard. “The information in this molecule is billions of times more complex than that sentence on the bottom of the skateboard. Whatever created the information in DNA would have to be a lot smarter. If there is a God, He would be the most intelligent Being ever, right? He could easily create the information and design we see in our DNA,” Jeffries says as he draws a microscope as a symbol of the design we see in biology.



He sees the cadets and some look like they are ready to head out for the day. But he motions their attention back to him. “One more thought for today: As a police officer, I know it’s never okay to steal something for the fun of it. Where does that kind of moral truth come from? Is it just a matter of opinion? Does it come from the state where we live?”

“Yes, I think so,” answers Hannah.

Jeffries asks another question: “What if the state didn’t have a law about stealing? Would that make it okay to steal?”

The cadets talk about it, and they agree it wouldn’t be okay to steal, even if there weren’t a law against it.

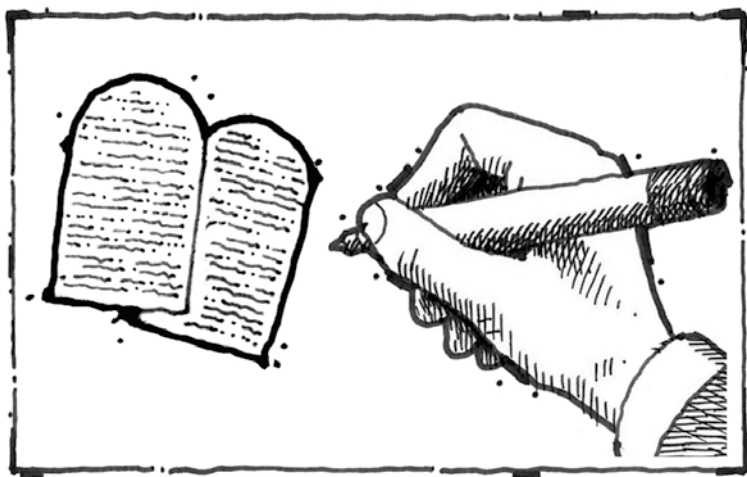
“All right then,” continues Jeffries, “the truth about stealing seems to come from something *other* than my personal opinion or the state where I work. It’s bigger than all of us. God is also bigger than all of us, so God is the better explanation for the source of truth about stealing.” He draws two tablets on the whiteboard symbolizing the Ten Commandments of God.



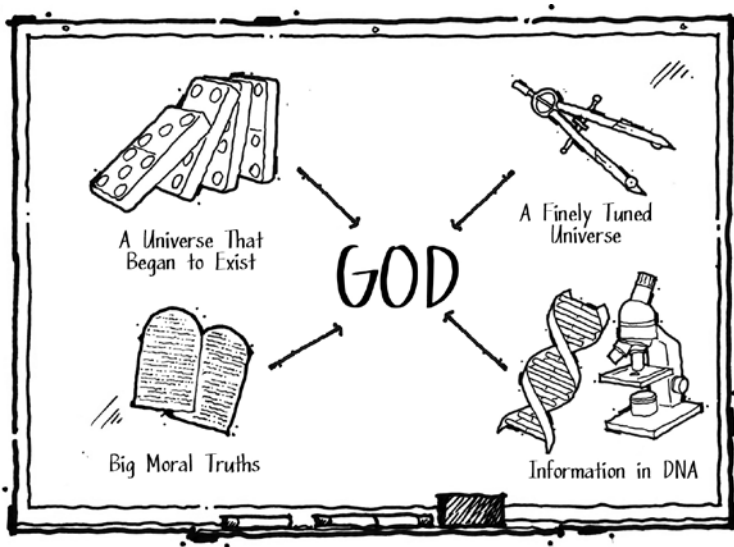
## A “Tool” for Your Detective Bag!

### Circumstantial Evidence

Remember that nearly everything can be used as evidence. There are many ways to build a case for God’s existence and many kinds of evidence you can use to discover the truth about God. Look closely at the world around you to find more evidence of God’s existence.



Detective Jeffries's diagram is now complete:



"Take a look at this circumstantial case for God. Four very different pieces of evidence all point to the same conclusion. God is the best explanation for all this evidence."

The cadets look around at one another and consider what Detective Jeffries has just said.