

# Group 1 Aquinas' Toolbox

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## RESOURCES

### Primary

1. Aquinas, Edward Feser, ISBN 978-1851686902
2. Aquinas 101 Videos <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/>

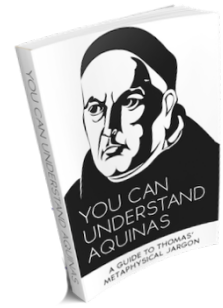
### Introductory

3. Free E-Book: Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages  
<https://taylormarshall.com/2013/05/free-book-is-ready-thomas-aquinas-in-50.html>
4. Free E-Book: You Can Understand Aquinas  
<https://pintswithaquinas.com/>

### Supplementary

5. Documents available with videos at <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/>

## Meeting 1: Introduction



**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages** by Dr. Taylor Marshall, Pgs. 1-11 (e-book)
  - Available free online: <http://newsaintthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Thomas-Aquinas-in-50-Pages-Final.pdf>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>

- 7. The Science of Theology
- 8. The Principle of Non-Contradiction
- 9. Argument and Dialectic
- 10. Being and Metaphysics

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

- Summa Theologiae I, Q1, A5
  - <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/st-ia-q-1#FPQ1A5THEP1>
- Selection From Fr. Thomas Joseph White, OP, The Light of Christ
  - <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/selection-light-of-christ-40-41>
- Selection from Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book 4, Chapter 3
  - <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/selection-from-aristotle-book-4-chapter-3>
- Selection from Jonathan Lear, Aristotle: The Desire to Understand
  - <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/lear-247-248>

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

7. The Science of Theology

1. How is theology different from other sciences?
2. What makes this science possible?
3. What does faith depend upon?

8. The Principle of Non-Contradiction

4. What is metaphysics? What is its purpose?
5. What is the principle of non-contradiction?
6. What is a first principle?

9. Argument and Dialectic

7. Briefly outline the format of the disputed question.

10. Being and Metaphysics

8. What is metaphysics? What is its object?
9. How are humans and kangaroos the same? How are they different?
10. What is common to all beings? (Hint: The Transcendentals)

## Meeting 2: Tools Part I

**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **You Can Understand Aquinas** by Matt Fradd, Pgs 6-10
  - Available free online: <https://pintswithaquinas.com/>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>

- 11. Act and Potency
- 12. Form and Matter

Aquinas, Feser Pg. 8 – 16

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

On YouTube

- Plato, Aristotle, and Stocism [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5\\_V00sevog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5_V00sevog)
  - Particularly notice the differences between Plato and his student Aristotle.
  - Plato's Allegory of the Cave is important for understanding his idea of truth.
  - Aristotle ultimately differs from his teacher.
  - This is important to us because Plato influences Augustine, and Aristotle influences Aquinas.

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos and Feser)

11. Act and Potency

1. What is the difference between actuality and potentiality?
2. What is change?
3. Consider, what are some of the things that a calf (a baby cow) can potentially become?
4. What is the ultimate cause of all change?
5. What must this ultimate cause be?

12. Form and Matter

6. How did Plato and Aristotle differ regarding their understanding of forms?
7. What is a "form?" What are some other words for "form?"
8. What are particularly things made of?
9. What is the union of matter and form called?
10. How does matter and form relate to act and potency?

Aquinas, Feser Pg. 8 – 16

11. Describe Parmenides view. Pg. 9
12. How does Aquinas define change? Pg. 10
13. Name something that is a compound of act and potency but does not have matter. Pg. 13
14. How does hylomorphism differ from contemporary materialism? Pg. 14

## Meeting 3: Tools Part II

**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **You Can Understand Aquinas** by Matt Fradd, Pgs 1-6
  - Available free online: <https://pintswithaquinas.com/>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>

- 13. Essence and Existence
- 14. The Real Distinction

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

- Aquinas, Feser Pg. 24-31
- 15. Universals and Particulars

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

13. Essence and Existence

1. What did the presocratic philosophers have in common with contemporary scientists?
2. What are some problems with this idea? (0:50 – 1:10)
3. What two things make an essence?
4. What gives order to all the parts of a thing?
5. All existing things have essence (man, kangaroo, tree). Can you think of anything that has essence but not existence?

14. The Real Distinction

6. Can anything cause itself? Why or why not?
7. What most immediately causes a human or a kangaroo to exist? (After God)
8. What does contingent existence mean?
9. What does it mean to say that God is essential existence?

## Meeting 4: Tools Part III

**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **You Can Understand Aquinas** by Matt Fradd, Pgs 12-14
  - Available free online: <https://pintswithaquinas.com/>
- **Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages** by Dr. Taylor Marshall, Pgs. 11-12 (e-book)
  - Available free online: <http://newsaintthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Thomas-Aquinas-in-50-Pages-Final.pdf>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>

- 16. Nature and Natures
- 17. Substance and Accidents
- 18. The Four Causes

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

- Aquinas, Feser Pgs. 16-23

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

16. Nature and Natures

1. What was Heraclitus' view of change? What were some problems with this view?
2. What was Parmenides view of change? What were some problems with this view?
3. How did Aristotle solve this problem?
4. What is constant in something that is changing, for example, a boy? (1:27)
5. How can we determine natural law?

17. Substance and Accidents

6. What is a substance?
7. What is an accident?
8. List the ten categories.

18. The Four Causes

9. What is the efficient, material, formal, and final cause of a table?
10. What is the efficient, material, formal, and final cause of a car?
11. What is the efficient, material, formal, and final cause of a book?
12. What is the efficient, material, formal, and final cause of a human?

## Meeting 5: Application I

### Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>

- 26. The Powers of the Soul

### Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>

- 19. Teleology
- 20. Primary and Secondary Causality
- 22. Three Acts of the Mind

### Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- 21. Analogy <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/introduction-to-thomistic-philosophy>
- Summa Theologiae Ia IIae Q.1, a. 2 Whether it is Proper to the Rational Nature to Act for an End
  - Available here: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/st-ia-ii-ae-q-1#FSQ1A2THEP1>

### Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

#### 19. Teleology

1. What is teleology?
2. Consider, what is the relationship between teleology and natural law?
3. Consider, what is the relationship between teleology and modern science?
4. What is the ultimate end of all things?
5. How would Aquinas define perfection?

#### 20. Primary and Secondary Causality

6. What is the difference between primary and secondary causalities?
7. Can modern science investigate both types of causes?
8. Why is a miracle not a secondary cause?
9. Why does God give secondary causality to creatures?
10. Describe two mistake or extremes made when considering God's role in causality?

#### 22. Three Acts of the Mind

-Intelligibility, Reality is made to be known and the Mind is made to know Reality

11. How do we know things?
12. When we know something, what is it that we know?
13. Describe the first act of the mind?
14. Describe the second act of the mind?
15. Describe the third act of the mind?

**Meeting 6: Application II**  
**The First Way: Argument from Motion**  
**The Second Way: Argument from Efficient Causes**

**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **You Can Understand Aquinas** by Matt Fradd, Pgs 15
  - Available free online: <https://pintswithaquinas.com/>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 28. The Five Ways (Just First and Second Ways)
- **Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages** by Dr. Taylor Marshall, Pgs. 15-16 (e-book)
  - Available free online: <http://newsaintthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Thomas-Aquinas-in-50-Pages-Final.pdf>
- Aquinas, Feser Pgs. 65-90\*

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

- Summa Theologiae; I, Q. 2, a. 3 Whether God Exists
  - Available here: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/st-ia-q-2#FPQ2A3THEP1>

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos and Feser)

28. The Five Ways

1. What is the basic principle behind the five ways?
2. What are some more examples of an invisible cause from a visible effect, i.e., fire from smoke or infection from illness?
3. If Aquinas is correct, and humans can reason the existence of God, then how can we account for the prevalence of atheism and agnosticism in our society?
4. What is the first way?
5. What is the second way?

Feser

6. What does motion mean, in an Aristotelian sense? (Pg. 65)
7. What moves God? (Pg. 67)
8. Can something cause itself? Why or why not? (Pg. 81)

**Meeting 7: Application III**  
**The Third Way: Argument from Possibility**  
**The Fourth Way: Argument from Degrees of Being**  
**The Fifth Way: Argument from Design**

**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **You Can Understand Aquinas** by Matt Fradd, Pgs 15-17
  - Available free online: <https://pintswithaquinas.com/>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 28. The Five Ways (Just Third, Fourth and Fifth Ways)
- **Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages** by Dr. Taylor Marshall, Pgs. 15-17 (e-book)

Available free online: <http://newsaintthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Thomas-Aquinas-in-50-Pages-Final.pdf>

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

- Summa Theologiae; I, Q. 2, a. 3 Whether God Exists
  - Available here: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/st-ia-q-2#FPQ2A3THEP1>
- Aquinas v Dawkins on God's Existence
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N9IPxWb\\_gA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N9IPxWb_gA)
- Edward Feser Explodes Richard Dawkins' "refutation" of Aquinas' 5 ways
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNxnGQDT0As>
- Aquinas, Feser Pgs. 90-120

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos and Marshall)

28. The Five Ways

1. What is the third way?
2. What is the fourth way?
3. What is the fifth way?

Marshall

4. What does Aquinas mean by necessary or contingent being? (Pg. 15)
5. What do think are some problems with the fourth way?
6. What are some examples of natural, unintelligent things which work for an end?
7. Marshall says that the fifth way depends on the complexity of things. Do you agree?



## Meeting 8: Application IV

**Introduction:** (Get your feet wet)

- **Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages** by Dr. Taylor Marshall, Pgs. 19-26 (e-book)

Available free online: <http://newsaintthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Thomas-Aquinas-in-50-Pages-Final.pdf>

**Primary Resources:** (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 29. Divine Attributes
- 30. Naming God

**Supplementary Reading:** (If you want to go deeper)

- Summa Theologiae; I, Q. 4, a. 1 Whether God is Perfect?
  - Available here: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/st-ia-q-4#FPQ4OUTP1>
- Aquinas, Feser Pgs. 120-130

**Questions** (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

29. Divine Attributes

1. What are the 8 Divine Attributes?
2. In your own words, explain Divine Simplicity?
3. When God tells Moses, "I am who am," what does that mean?
4. God's perfection depends upon what metaphysical principle? (5:09)
5. What attributes logically flow from Divine Simplicity?
6. What attributes logically flow from Divine Perfection?

30. Naming God

7. How can we know God?
8. What are the three ways in which we name God?
9. What does Aquinas mean by analogy?
10. How do we come to perfectly know God?