

HARVEST Lesson 1: Worldview



Q: Define worldview. What primarily contributes to the formation of a person's worldview? A worldview is the perspective a person has on the reality of the world they live in. It is largely formed by the cultural expectations and family environment. Our personal experiences with people, relationships, tragedy, abuse, sickness, etc. will also offer input on what we believe about why things happen and for what reason.

Q: Why is our worldview so important? Is it okay to have a different worldview? What is truth? Why are we here? What is my purpose? The major life questions are answered by our worldview which is why it is so important to have a proper, biblical worldview - the only worldview founded upon Truth. A person's worldview can be distorted through their personal experience and will even affect their view of who God is. Read **Romans 1:20** and surrounding verses.

Q: Describe the American worldview in a nutshell. What does a Christ-centered worldview look like? Worldviews will vary by culture, but the American worldview specifically tends to focus on pleasure and self gratification, happiness, a sense of entitlement, and a fear of death. There is a belief that if you work hard that you can be or achieve anything you want - regardless of what other people say or think. The Christian worldview places our status in a position of serving others, not ourselves, and focuses on humility instead of self-pride. The biblical worldview says that we are here for a short time and will spend an eternity in God's presence or separated from Him, depending upon our standing before God through Christ. (*Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 12:2; Colossians 2:8*)

Q: If God is so much greater, why do we worry about what other people think of us? Read **1 Corinthians 4:3-4** and **Galatians 1:10**. People in western culture tend to be concerned about what others think of them. How we dress, where we live, where we work, and what we drive. Even Christians often fear being viewed as a holy roller, Bible thumper, charismatic, Jesus freak, or a religious fanatic. We like to be loved and accepted and sometimes Christianity isn't considered acceptable because it is stereotyped as intolerant, hypocritical, or excessive. We shouldn't seek to be obnoxious or offensive, but we should never be ashamed of the good news, either (*Romans 1:17*).

Q: What is it that makes controversial topics controversial? Why is it uncomfortable to talk about these topics? Consider **Proverbs 31:8-9**. Controversial topics are topics that not everyone agrees upon and can often bring great tension to conversation. They are topics that many people feel passionate about but there are opposing views. Topics that people feel cannot be compromised and there is a clear, right answer in their minds. These topics stir up strong emotions in us that push us to take a stand and to protect what we feel is the proper perspective according to our worldview.

Q: Do you have a Bible reading plan that has worked well for you? What about it do you like? Do you know of other helpful Bible study resources? YouVersion, Navigators (5x5x5), TheBibleProject, One Year Bible, The Chronological Bible, Logos software... There are certainly several good options available. It is important to consider the author/publisher so that you can be confident it is reliable teaching. You would also want to look at how much time you are willing to commit to a study and what you hope to get out of it. What is most important is your consistency to get God's Word into your heart on a regular basis. Look at **Psalm 119:11** and **2 Timothy 3:16** for verses about the importance of reading God's Word.

Q: Do you know someone who is fully devoted to the will of God? How can you tell? When God is at the center of a person's life, it's not that hard to tell. They talk about God regularly and are engaged in the church they attend because they want to see His kingdom move forward. They make their involvement with ministry and church a priority and will even make sacrifices to their personal agenda to show up and serve where needed. They aren't perfect, but they want their lives to reflect the love of God and so they work to rid their lives of bad habits. They are upset about the things that make God upset and they rejoice about things that make Him happy! Read **Romans 12:1** and **Galatians 2:20** for a couple of verses about living a life committed to God.

Q: Have you been praying for someone who wants nothing to do with God? What do you think has caused them to feel this way? What can you do to address it? It is a great discipline to regularly pray for those who are lost, and especially those that God has placed in our circle of influence. As we pray, the Holy Spirit may speak to us about a person's life, worldview, and needs. At the same time, as we appeal to God, the Spirit will also be at work in the lives of those for whom we pray; softening their hearts to hear about the truth of God's love. Ask God for wisdom to discern their needs and how to communicate with them about what they need to hear. In **Romans 10:1**, Paul's heart was broken for the lost sheep of Israel, his own people. Our hearts should also break for those who have not received the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ. Paul mentions his commission in **Acts 26:18** that he was sent that his people "*may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in [God]*."

Q: Who needs you to pray for them to be touched by God in a way that draws them to the salvation found in Jesus Christ? Write down three names and commit to praying for them! Emphasize the importance of prayer. Prayer can change us and invites God to act. He wants us to engage in the work that He is doing and He wants us to ask Him to do what only He can do! Start praying daily for these three people and don't stop until God answers your prayers.

Class Assignment: During the next six weeks we will be writing out a simple testimony of what God has done in our lives. Then, our goal is application! There are many ways to share God's love, but we want to challenge you to communicate it through words and offer an invitation for people to come and learn more about God at church.

Let's set a goal of sharing your faith with three people over the next 6 weeks – that's one person every two weeks. For now, pray about who that would be and write down a list of names along with some specific prayer requests. For example, maybe God wants you to speak with Janice and you know that Janice is struggling with depression. Start to pray for your list of people and ask God to show them their need for Him.

Memory Verse:

Luke 10:2 - *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

PRAYER REQUESTS: