



Lesson 1: What Is the Christian Worldview?

 **Anchor of the Week: The Christian worldview is the way God views the world.**

Anchorsaway is a college-level Christian worldview educational experience targeting high school seniors and college students. Our purpose is to encourage each student's inner transformation through the working of the Holy Spirit and equip them to confidently live out their faith in every area of life, be it on the college campus or in the workplace.

The goal of Anchorsaway is for students to live passionately, think Christianly and love others unconditionally, for the glory of God.

Only 2% of evangelical students know why they believe. – Josh McDowell

The world will not listen to you until you demonstrate to them that you are living out the Christian worldview.

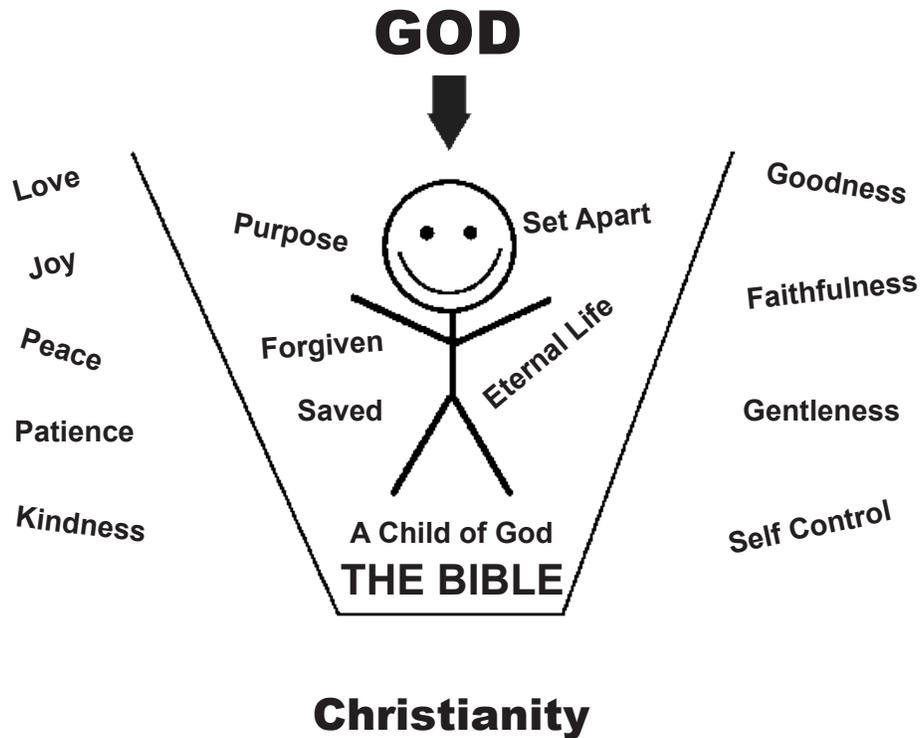
When people see you, they will see your God...and that is as close as some of them will ever get to church.

A. What is a worldview?

1. It is the way in which one views the world.
2. An understanding of how the world works and one's purpose in the world
3. The basic set of beliefs by which one explains the world, interprets circumstances and lives his/her life
4. The foundation from which one lives, views life, thinks and responds to the world in which he/she lives

B. All people wrestle with the Five Life Questions:

1. From where did I come?
2. Why is there such a mess in the world?
3. What hope do I have?
4. What is my purpose in life?
5. What happens when I die?



Christianity rests on the belief in the God of Scripture who created the universe and everything in it. The Bible is the foundation of the Christian worldview. God has revealed Himself to man through the person of Jesus Christ. The person who responds to the leading of the Holy Spirit and believes that Jesus died for the sins of the world and rose again (proving His deity), is a Christian. When the Christian chooses to allow the Holy Spirit to guide him/her, the fruit of the Spirit (as shown above) will overflow in his/her life.

A. Key Characteristics of Christian Theism

1. The Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God and is the “handbook” for living the Christian life.
2. God created the universe and everything in it.
3. God is a personal Being who has revealed Himself to man (through the Bible, Jesus, and creation).
4. Man is sinful from birth, and therefore unable to be in a personal relationship with a holy God.
5. The relationship between sinful man and a holy God is only restored through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ (through His death and resurrection).
6. Salvation comes only as a gift from God, not through man’s good works.
7. Because Christ died for us, we have the privilege of living for Him by imitating God, through the Holy Spirit, in all we do, say, and think.

B. How does the Christian worldview answer The Five Life Questions?

1. From where did I come?

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The universe and everything in it was created by the personal Creator, God.

2. Why is there such a mess in the world?

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, sin entered the world. As their descendants, we have all been born with a sinful nature, separating us from fellowship with God. Our natural tendency is to live to please ourselves, instead of living for God (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23, 5:12).

God's character reflects His unchanging moral standard for the world, the standard which defines right and wrong behavior.

3. What hope do I have?

God's Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth to die on the cross for our sins. He was raised to life again, so that if we believe in Him, we can have a personal relationship with God (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10; I Corinthians 15:3-4). We become His children and receive salvation, through Jesus Christ, as a gift of God's grace, not because of anything we have done (Ephesians 2:8-9).

4. What is my purpose in life?

My purpose on earth is to love God, to love others unconditionally, and to live life to the fullest (Matthew 22:36-40; John 10:10).

My goal is to imitate God in what I do, say, and think. As I live my life in Christ, I can, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, be a part of leading others into a relationship with Jesus Christ. I will also work for the renewal of our culture so that justice and righteousness will reign here on earth (Genesis 1:28).

5. What happens when I die?

Those who believe in Jesus Christ will live forever with Him in heaven (John 3:16, 14:2-3; Revelation 21:1-4).

ENDNOTES

- ¹ All Scripture passages come from the NIV Study Bible (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995) (unless otherwise indicated)
- ² "Anchors Aweigh," U.S. Navy 18 March 2005. <<http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/traditions/music/anchor1.html#Etymology>>
- ³ Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999) xi,xiii.

Recommended Reading

Key Sites:

"Anchors Aweigh," U.S. Navy 18 March 2005 <<http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/traditions/music/anchor1.html#Etymology>>.

Hughes, Donna M. "The Internet and Sex Industries: Partners in Global Sexual Exploitation." *Technology and Society Magazine* Spring 2000. 21 March 2005 <www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/siii.htm>.

"Pornography Consumption Statistics (2003)." ed. Matt Smith. 21 March 2005 <www.porndestroyswomen.org>.

"World HIV & AIDS Statistics." Avert.org. 21 March 2005 <<http://www.avert.org/worldstats.htm>>.

Key Books:

Colson, Charles, and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999.

Federer, William J. *America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations*. St. Louis, MO: Amerisearch, 2000.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929. Reprint, New York: Scribner's, 1995.

McDowell, Josh and Bob Hostetler. *Beyond Belief to Conviction*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2002.

Pearcey, Nancy. *Total Truth*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004.



Small Group Discussion Guide

Lesson 1: What Is the Christian Worldview?

Small Group Objective:

The goal is to get to know your small group and to begin to develop a sense of community. The student needs to know that the small group is a safe place and one that encourages questions about life, God and anything in between. Each student needs to be given the opportunity to speak. Do not let one person dominate the discussion.

✓ Check Points:

- Bring 3 x 5 cards for your students to write down any questions they may have which aren't answered during the discussion.
- Prepare a brief personal testimony to share with your small group.

Small Group Discussion: (Do not feel that you must cover all questions. Make sure that you keep your group on topic. Always end in prayer!)

1. As the small group leader(s), introduce yourself. Share a brief testimony of how you came to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and why you wanted to lead this small group.
2. Pass around a sign up sheet for each student's name, address, phone, school, and where they are going after high school. Type them up and send the information to the person in charge of recording all students' names.
3. Have each student introduce him/herself and ask what school he/she goes to and what he/she likes to do outside of school.
4. What makes an effective small group?
 - a. Be on time and be committed to come every time the class meets.
 - b. No question is a stupid question; you can always pass if you are called on and you do not wish to answer.
 - c. Be courteous and listen to others.
 - d. Pray for each other even if you forget other student's names.
 - e. Be bold and meet other students. It is good practice for next year.
5. Have the students turn to the devotionals in the back of their notes and show them how to use them this coming week by doing day one together.

(Note: When contacting them this next week, make sure to ask them, "What is it about the devotionals you like?" Tell them that this is what you will be asking. Once they do one, they will love it!!)

6. What do you hope to get out of your involvement with Anchorsaway?
7. Has someone ever challenged you in your faith? How did you respond?
8. What are some things that you want to study in Anchorsaway?
9. What questions do you want answered?

(Note: If your students respond to question 7 or 8, take note and share it with the Teacher so that they can be addressed.)

10. How would you define the Christian worldview?
11. What does it mean to live out the Christian worldview?
12. Do most Christians live out the Christian worldview? Why or why not?
13. When someone sees you, what worldview would they think that you embraced?
14. What questions, if any, come to mind as a result of this week's lesson?
15. Ask for prayer requests and tell students that you will be faithful to pray for them.
16. Encourage students to record prayer requests in the prayer request section of their handbooks.
17. Spend the remaining time in prayer.

(Note: If the students have questions that you are unable to answer, simply thank them for the great question and tell them you don't know the answer, but will get back to them by the following week. Be sure to call or email your members in your small group each week. Talk about a question they raised or how their week is going. Send group questions to the large group leader so they can be answered at the beginning of the next week's lesson.)

★ After the Session

1. Contact each small group member during the week. Ask them about their devotional time, a question they have raised, or how their week is going.

Prayer Requests



Student Devotionals written by T.M. Moore

What is the Christian Worldview?

The daily readings are intended to supplement the material presented in the lessons, to establish the biblical basis for worldview thinking, and to help students develop the discipline of allowing the Word of God to dwell in them richly (Colossians 3:16).

Begin each reading in prayer, using the suggested words from one of the Psalms to get you started. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer along the trajectory indicated by the Psalms as you prepare to read and meditate in God's Word.

Next, read and meditate on the text, paying careful attention to key words, action words, and words that stand out as important for you personally. Let the questions provided guide your meditation as you reflect on the text you have read. (All Scripture references are from the English Standard Version, Crossway Books.)

In the journal section, complete a one-sentence thought that you can take with you into the day to help you further internalize the Word of God. Let the words provided get you started, but make the thought as personal to your own situation as you can.

Close your devotional time in prayer, beginning with the words provided and letting the Holy Spirit lead you on from there.

Day 1: Your Word is Truth

Pray: "...the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9).

Read: John 17:14-17

Meditate: Who is the speaker?

To "sanctify" means to "set apart for holy purposes." What would be some examples of "holy purposes" I might undertake today?

How does the Word of God help me to be set apart for holy purposes? Can I fulfill such purposes apart from the Word of God?

If God is going to be able to set me apart for holy purposes through His Word of truth, what will this require of me?

Journal: Today my friends will be able to tell that God has set me apart for holy purposes when...

Pray: "My heart is steadfast, O God" (Psalm 108:1).

Day 2: Let God Be True

Pray: "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever" (Psalm 119:160).

Read: Romans 3:3, 4

Meditate: What does it mean to be "unfaithful?" Is this somehow related to God's truth? How?

Does the unfaithfulness of people affect God's truth? How about when I am unfaithful to Him?

In their unfaithfulness, people may "judge" God (v. 4), concluding that His Word is not truth. What does it mean to say that God will be true and justified in what He says, even though people may lie about Him and His Word? Do I ever lie about God?

Journal: I want to be faithful to God's Word, so, today...

Pray: "Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths" (Psalm 25:4).

Day 3: Choose This Day!

Pray: "Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble...He sent out his word and healed them" (Psalm 107:19, 20).

Read: Joshua 24:14, 15

Meditate: Joshua is calling the people of Israel to get serious about the Lord. Do people today serve other “gods” besides the Lord? What might be some examples of these “gods?”

Would Joshua encourage me to think that I could serve both God the Lord and any of these other “gods?” What would he say to me?

Can I say what Joshua did at the end of v. 24? What does it mean to “serve the LORD?” What is one way I can do that today?

Journal: Today I will have many opportunities to choose between the false “gods” of unbelieving worldviews and the God of truth; therefore...

Pray: “You are my King, O God” (Psalm 44:4).

Day 4: Who Loves Ya, Baby?

Pray: “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 107:1).

Read: Romans 8:35-39

Meditate: According to Paul, what kinds of things are God’s love for me stronger than? Are these things able to make God stop loving me?

Let me see if I’ve got this right: The God whose Word is true, even though everyone else is lying and serving false “gods,” this God keeps loving me even through tribulation, distress, danger, and all the rest? If He holds so tightly to me, what does that suggest about how I need to respond? What does that require of me?

I’m going to say vv. 38 and 39 aloud. Now I’m going to say them again. Do I *really* believe this? Is there someone I can tell this to today?

Journal: Today I'll probably meet someone who is distressed or troubled or otherwise bummed out. I'm going to tell that person...

Pray: "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble" (Psalm 107:2).

Day 5: Set Your Mind

Pray: "Your people will offer themselves freely in the day of your power" (Psalm 110:3).

Read: Colossians 3:1-3

Meditate: Have I been "raised with Christ?" What does that mean? For now? Forever?

I need to choose this day what to "set" my mind on. How would I explain to my friends what it means to "set" their minds "on things that are above?" What will try to distract me from that?

My life is hidden with Christ in God, and nothing can separate me from His love. How can I keep this thought in mind throughout the day ahead?

Journal: When I think of Jesus, seated at the right hand of God, and my life hidden with Him...

Pray: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of righteousness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness" (Psalm 45:6, 7).