

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Study Guide

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM LESSON 5: IDENTIFYING WORLDVIEWS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple Essentials module titled Introduction to Evangelism. This series of lessons aims to prepare participants to effectively share the Gospel with others. Understanding how God equips us for ministry and how to prepare our Gospel message for various worldviews will help us bring the unchanging message of the hope found in Jesus Christ to a world that does not yet know Him.

The Study Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 5: IDENTIFYING WORLDVIEWS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

This lesson will help us understand what a worldview is, and why it is important to consider a person's worldview when presenting them with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

Everyone's view of life is conditioned by their background, culture, family, status, religion and personality. We all react to information in different ways. When sharing the gospel with someone, it is very important to know something about the person and their background, to ask basic questions about where they grew up, and show genuine respect for their views about life. Opinions on politics and religion are often very personal and sometimes extreme. Understanding this can help us know where to start when sharing about Christ.

GETTING STARTED

1. Have you ever had difficulty communicating with someone from another country or who spoke a different language? Talk about what was misunderstood as you tried to communicate.

2. What things influence your life's purpose? What factors contribute to how you see God?



STUDY

- ❖ **WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?:** A worldview is the lens through which we see the world. Everyone has a worldview. Our culture, family background, religion, and where we live all influence how we see the world, and subsequently our opinions on some of the most important topics to mankind.
 - The following philosophical questions are all answered based on a person's worldview:
 - What is our purpose?
 - What makes a person good?
 - Is there one God, many gods, or no god?
 - What happens to us after we die?
 - If there is a god, how are we to relate to Him?
 - There are also many practical day-to-day life questions that can be answered within the confines of a person's worldview:
 - What constitutes a punishable crime?
 - Should capital punishment be allowed or abolished?
 - Should people be drafted for the military?
 - Do you think democracy is better than communism or socialism?
 - Should we legalize marijuana and other such drugs?
 - Should marriages be arranged by parents or not?
- ❖ **YOUR WORLDVIEW:** Consider the following questions regarding your worldview and write down your thoughts.

Where does your worldview come from? What do you feel is the purpose of life?

What issues do you feel strongly about?

- ❖ **WORLDVIEWS AND THE GOSPEL:** Why is it important to understand someone's worldviews when sharing the Gospel with them? Have you ever had someone try to teach you something that they believed in strongly, but to you it just couldn't possibly be true? Have you ever thought that no matter how hard you try to convince someone of something, they just won't ever agree with you? We can be thankful that it is God who changes hearts, but it is important



when we witness to someone to take the time to understand who we are talking to. What has the person's family or culture been teaching them for years? If someone believes in many gods and you speak to them about Jesus, they may think that you are speaking about another god rather than the one and only God.

- Paul provided us with a good example of discovering someone's worldview before sharing the Gospel with them. Read through Acts 17:16-22 and list what Paul did to understand the worldview of the Athenians.

- What possible problems could a person encounter if they do not follow Paul's example?

- Jesus' meeting with the woman of Samaria is another example of two different cultures facing one another. Read John 4:1-15 and describe how their worldviews differed.

❖ RESEARCHING OTHER WORLDVIEWS

- Consider the following ways to discover someone's worldview.
 - Ask questions to find out what they believe about God, the purpose of mankind, the best way to set up a society, etc.
 - Ask them personal questions about their family, their occupation, and their religious practices, and this will give you further insight.
 - Make the message personal to them, addressing the spiritual needs they have. This will allow you to build a bridge from one worldview to the other.
 - Consider learning about other religions and worldviews in your area.



- Consider how people from various economic backgrounds might hold different views.
- Pray and ask God to give you wisdom as you speak (James 1:5).

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Our worldview is the lens through which we view the world, influenced by our culture, family background, religion, and where we live.
- ❖ Our worldview determines how we answer philosophical and practical questions of life.
- ❖ In order to share the gospel effectively with someone, we need to have some understanding of their worldview. The Apostle Paul was a good example of this.
- ❖ Asking basic questions about family background and one's belief in God will begin the process of building a bridge from your worldview to theirs.
- ❖ We need to rely on God's wisdom (James 1:5).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some of the worldviews of people in your community (or those you intend to share the Gospel with)? How can you prepare to share the Gospel in a way that makes sense to them?

Believing in Jesus and becoming a Christian will result in a worldview change. Why is this change sometimes difficult? How can you help a new believer change their worldview? What are the risks if this worldview does not change?