

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM

LESSON 5: IDENTIFYING WORLDVIEWS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled 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.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians, those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christianity, as well as those preparing to teach these Christian practices and beliefs. Also, those with an interest in Christian thought will find value in these lessons as they pertain to daily living and choices.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help you as a leader in your preparation. These lesson outlines may be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found online at www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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LESSON 5: IDENTIFYING WORLDVIEWS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

PURPOSE

To 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.

LEADER'S NOTE

The most important thing for participants to understand in today's lesson is that they must be aware of who the audience is when they share Christ with them. Some of your participants may come from backgrounds with worldviews other than a Christian one. Build upon this and ask them to share with the group what to be aware of when witnessing to someone of that background. You will need to pull together ideas and examples from the worldviews that exist in your own community. What particular challenges does a believer face when witnessing where you live?

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions to ask the group.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Do people around you disagree about the purpose of life? What makes a person "good"? What rules should a person live by?
- ❖ What things influence your life's purpose? What factors contribute to how you see God?
- ❖ Politics and religion are two topics that people often disagree about. Why do these topics incite such passion from people who are willing to even die for their position?

STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **What is a World View?** 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 contribute to how we



see the world, and subsequently influence 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?

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS

- Consider your worldview. What do you feel is the purpose of life? What issues do you feel strongly about? Try to determine where your worldview comes from. How do you view the world and why?

TEACH

- ❖ **Worldviews and the Gospel:** Why is it important to understand someone's worldviews when sharing the Gospel? 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 speaking into them for years? If someone believes in many gods and you speak to them about Jesus, they may just think that you are speaking about another god rather than the one and only God.
- ❖ **The Example of the Apostle Paul**
 - 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 look for the indications that Paul took the time to understand the worldview of the Athenians.
 - He observed (v 16).
 - He reasoned (v 17).
 - He knew about their culture and sought knowledge (v 17, 21).
 - He spoke to them respectfully (v 22).



ASK THE PARTICIPANTS:

- ❖ When have you tried to share the Gospel and not followed this example of Paul? What possible problems could a person encounter if they do not follow Paul's example?

TEACH

❖ Researching Other Worldviews

- How can you find out a person'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.

DISCUSSION

- ❖ 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?
- ❖ What ways can you gauge the worldview of someone you are ministering to? What homework might be necessary? What resources are at your disposal to help you learn and become more prepared?
- ❖ 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?

PRAYER

Close the lesson in prayer. Pray that God would give participants wisdom in sharing the Gospel to the ends of the earth, including the communities around them. Pray using Psalm 25:5: "Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long."