

Road Trip
to
TRUTH
STUDY GUIDE

Season 1



WELCOME!

High schools, college campuses, political platforms, workplaces, and even social influences are rife with atheistic, evolutionary, and postmodern ideas that are incompatible with a Biblical worldview. No Christian is immune to secular assaults on their faith.

The *Road Trip to Truth* curriculum is intended to equip participants for the onslaught of postmodern ideas they will encounter in an increasingly secular world. The goal of this study is to introduce students to many of the ideas and arguments they will likely face and to persuade them of the reality and defensibility of the Christian worldview.

After this study, participants should be able to demonstrate the irrationality of an atheistic worldview, describe the Christian worldview and its basis, articulate the Gospel, and recognize many of the ideas and arguments indicative of non-biblical worldviews.

Each lesson will include:

- VIDEO episode from *Road Trip to Truth* (30 minutes), broken into four segments
- FOUR KEY questions for each student to consider and answer
- Scripted CONNECTION POINTS to help foster conversation
- ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS, if time permits
- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for further study and lesson preparation
- Time for PRAYER as a group or individually

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Here is the basic format of the *Road Trip to Truth* Bible Study

- 1 Begin with prayer
- 2 Have the class answer FOUR KEY questions before watching the video.
- 3 Teacher plays segment one of *Road Trip to Truth*.
- 4 Discuss question one using the CONNECTION POINT.
- 5 If time permits, additional questions have been provided.
- 6 Watch segment two (Repeat steps 3-5).
- 7 Session Summaries can be printed and handed out at the end of the class. (See Appendix A)

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Below is a sample schedule based on one hour and fifteen minutes of class time. Exact timing will vary with segment lengths and success of discussion.

6:00–6:05	Open prayer, introduction, and have participants answer all FOUR KEY questions.
6:05–6:15	Watch video SEGMENT ONE.
6:15–6:20	Discuss segment one and participants' answers to question one.
6:20–6:30	Watch video SEGMENT TWO.
6:30–6:35	Discuss segment two and participants' answers to question two.
6:35–6:45	Watch video SEGMENT THREE.
6:45–6:50	Discuss segment three and participants' answers to question three.
6:50–7:00	Watch video SEGMENT FOUR.
7:00–7:05	Discuss segment four and participants' answers to question four.
7:05–7:15	Wrap-up, answer any questions, make announcements, close with prayer.

HELPFUL DISCUSSION TIPS

- **Don't cut short an engaging discussion.** Invest your time where the participants respond best. It's not imperative that you finish all four segments of each session in one sitting.
- **Have a plan, but be flexible.** Allow the students to guide the discussion. In this way you will learn what aspects they are most concerned with.
- **Encourage thoughtful explanations.**
- **Avoid leading questions;** the goal of discussion is not to receive correct answers, but to lead participants to think about their answers.
- **Be prepared to offer correction to false ideas,** especially toward the end of the curriculum, but when possible, guide participants to discover for themselves the flaws in their thinking.

Session 1: What is Truth?

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Religious beliefs are (choose one)
 - A. Absolutely true or false
 - B. A matter of personal preference (i.e., what is true for you may be different than what is true for me)
2. Christianity is (choose one)
 - A. The only way to God
 - B. One of many ways to God
3. The Bible we have today (choose one)
 - A. Includes mistakes and changes
 - B. Is the same Bible that was written by the original authors
4. The main point of the Bible is to (choose one)
 - A. Show us how to live moral lives
 - B. Reveal the only truth that leads to eternal life

SEGMENT 1:

THE LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 1. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Truth is reality, that which corresponds to reality.
- The same source of truth that stands behind the laws of logic and math stands behind the laws of morality.
- Belief can be relative, but truth cannot be relative.
- The law of non-contradiction states that $A=B$ and $A \neq B$ cannot both be true.
- We know there are moral absolutes, so a moral lawgiver must exist.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Truth, by very definition, cannot be relative because it is reality. Reality is not based on interpretation or feelings. People agree that math and logic are based on absolute rules. But the same standard that stands behind the laws of logic and math stands behind the laws of morality. That standard is the holy and unchanging Creator God. Psalm 119:142 says, “Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.” It is this consistent righteousness and justice—the very character of God—that defines morality. If God is the standard of reality that defines truth, then we must look to His Word to find the answer to the question, “What is truth?”

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Do you think “Truth is that which corresponds to reality” is a good definition of truth? Why or why not?
2. One of the students said that even a lie can be the truth if enough people believe in it. What do you think about that perspective?

SEGMENT 2:

THE BIBLE'S DEFINITION OF TRUTH

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 1. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Truth is embodied in a single person—Jesus
- Jesus defied the odds by fulfilling over 300 prophecies
- Other faiths and religious writings are self-refuting or internally inconsistent and cannot account for everything that we see in the world around us
- The Bible, and a Biblical worldview, is internally consistent and externally verifiable
- As Savior, as Lord, as Judge, and as God He has every right to claim to be the truth

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the second question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Atheism is a worldview that claims everyone can define their own truth. Theism states that God defines truth. Atheism, like all religions apart from Christianity, are self-refuting, internally inconsistent (i.e., they contradict themselves), or they cannot account for the world around us. But the Bible does not contradict itself and it can account for the world around us. This is what we mean when we say the Bible is externally verifiable. For example, time and time again archaeological finds have confirmed history as described in the Bible, like the Tel Dan stele that verifies that David was king over the United Monarchy of Israel. We can trust the Bible when it teaches that Jesus is truth. First John 5:20 says, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.” In John 14:6, Jesus said “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” God, as Creator, gets to post the signs telling what is right and wrong. And in the Bible, God has defined truth as Jesus Christ.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How would you have answered the question about Nazi Germany? Do you think what they did was wrong? On what reasons do you base your conclusion?
2. How does understanding that Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies—and how improbable that is— impact your perception about the truthfulness of the Bible?



SEGMENT 3:

OBJECTIONS TO BIBLICAL TRUTH

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 1. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- God is the ultimate authority behind the reality we live in
- The men who wrote the Bible faced persecution and death for what they wrote
- Although there are apparent errors in Biblical manuscripts, there are no major contradictions
- There are over 6,000 manuscripts of the New Testament
- The Bible is the Word of God and clearly reveals truth

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the third question has changed after watching the video. The main ideas listed for each video segment can become talking points or questions to help generate discussion.

>> Connection Point <<

Because truth comes from the unchanging nature of God, we can know what is true. God has told us what is true about Himself in His Word. Many people object to the Bible as the authority on God and reality, saying they will believe in God when He reveals Himself to them personally or supernaturally. But God has already revealed Himself plainly. Isaiah 45:18–19 says that God, the Creator of all things, did not speak in secret or refuse to be found by those who seek Him. He said, “I the Lord speak the truth; I declare what is right.” God is the standard for what is right and true, and He has revealed to us not only the truth about who He is but also about the only way to eternal life with Him.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Do you feel that the objections to the Bible were satisfactorily answered? What objections do you still have?
2. Do you think it is unreasonable for those students to claim that they would believe in God if they saw a miracle or if God directly revealed Himself to them? Why or why not?

SEGMENT 4:

THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 1. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- There is only one truth that leads to eternal life
- The central message of the Bible is the Gospel
- To have faith in Christ is to believe the facts, trust in Jesus, and a willingness to obey Jesus
- There is truth in this world because God created it and His Word is truth
- The Christian faith is a reasonable faith centered on Jesus Christ and His great work

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the third question has changed after watching the video. The main ideas listed for each video segment can become talking points or questions to help generate discussion.

>> Connection Point <<

This is the message the entire Bible is pointing to: we are sinners who justly deserve hell, but Jesus paid the price to restore us and make us members of His family. When asked what must be done to be saved, Paul said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). This means believing the facts about who He is, trusting in His death and resurrection as the payment for our sins, and being willing to obey Him. There is truth in this world because God created it, and His Word is truth. We see laid out in the Bible the foundation of a reasonable faith based on Jesus Christ and His great work. We will further explore this reasonable faith as we continue on the Road Trip to Truth.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How would you describe the central message of the Bible?
2. What is faith? Is it enough to believe that the Bible is true?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.



Barnett, Tim. "Can the Bible Be Reliable If It Had Human Authors?" Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/can-the-bible-be-reliable-if-it-had-human-authors-?>

The assumption that the Bible must contain mistakes because it was written by men is to assume that men always make mistakes. There are books written by men that do not contain mistakes, so the fact that men wrote the Bible does not require that mistakes were made. For the concern to be valid, a specific instance of an apparent mistake must be evaluated. Further, the objection assumes that the Bible was merely written by men. However, the Bible claims to be divinely inspired. Certainly God could have prevented the human authors from making a mistake.

GotQuestions.org. "Is Truth Relative?" GotQuestions.org.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/is-truth-relative.html>

Many deny absolute truth by claiming that whatever you believe is true for you, but if I don't agree, it isn't true for me. The idea of relative truth sounds tolerant and open-minded, but it is actually self-refuting and passes judgment on what someone else believes to be true. There are certainly statements that are relative, but there are other statements that describe objective reality and, therefore, cannot be relative. Opinions are generally relative, but the Bible teaches that there is an objective spiritual reality just as there is an objective physical reality and truth is not relative.

"What Is Truth?" GotQuestions.org. <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-truth.html>.

Truth can be defined as that which corresponds to reality, that which matches its object, or simply telling it like it is. Truth is based on reality. The Bible teaches that Jesus embodied truth. Jesus is truth. There are several philosophies that object to truth or try to redefine it. Truth is offensive, and rather than conform to truth, many simply reject the reality of truth. But there are consequences to being wrong, and truth does matter, especially in the realm of Christianity. To reject truth is to reject Jesus.

Kunkle, Brett. "Can We Trust the Bible?" Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/can-we-trust-the-bible-?>

When a dispute arises, it is settled by turning to the appropriate authority. In matters of religion, that authority is God Himself. We can trust the Bible because what we have is what is written and what we read is what God said. We can have confidence in the method of transmission as the Scriptures were handed down in writing in many different lines, resulting in a host of manuscript copies that we can examine for reliability. Further, the Bible is packed with fulfilled prophecies and transcendent truths that can only be explained by the revelation of God. Although written by 40 different men, the Bible demonstrates the unity of a single Author. The Bible has proven its reliability through the supernatural impact on the lives of countless individuals who have been transformed by the Word of God.

Lawson, Steven. "The Moment of Truth: Its Reality." Ligonier Ministries.
<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/moment-truth-its-reality/>.

Jesus is truth. There is reality, the way things really are. Truth is not how things appear or how we want them to be or popular consensus. Truth is the way things really are. Truth is divine; it is the self-disclosure of God's own nature. Truth is absolute, the definitive standard by which everything is measured. Truth is objective and singular. Truth is unchanging and eternal, authoritative, powerful, and determinative. Your eternal destiny is determined by the truth.

Lux, Tenebras. "On Subjective Emotion and Objective Truth." The Republican Standard.
<https://therepublicanstandard.com/on-subjective-emotion-and-objective-truth/>.

Relative truth and the emphasis on the value of the individual's feelings is the alchemy of philosophy—trying to create value from something worthless. In this pursuit, truth has been sacrificed in favor of self-indulgence. Self is god, and thus the goal becomes to externalize internal desires, anything goes. In this worldview, truth has no value and meaning is found in subjective emotion.

Slick, Matt. "Since the New Testament Writers Were Biased, Can We Trust Their Testimony?" CARM.org. **<https://carm.org/writers-biased-trust-their-testimony>.**

Being biased does not mean being untruthful if your bias leans toward truth. The disciples were biased toward Jesus, who taught honesty, righteousness, and truth. Jesus warned against bearing false witness. The Gospel writers were careful to record truthfully what they saw and experienced. Also, if what they wrote was false, there were many people at the time who could have exposed the inaccuracies. But that didn't happen. Opponents did arrest, beat, and kill those who followed Jesus. The disciples wrote what they saw and were willing to die for that truth. We can trust their testimony.

Slick, Matt. "What Is the Purpose and Message of the Bible?" CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/what-is-the-purpose-and-message-of-the-bible>.

The purpose of the Bible is to reveal who God is and what His will is for mankind. The Bible is a history book that conveys the account of God's work, from creation to redemption to the end of all things. This work was (and will be) accomplished through Jesus Christ, the central character of the Bible. Scripture documents the prophecies about the coming Messiah, the arrival of Jesus, and his ministry to sinners. The Bible explains God's original design, the fall of mankind into sin, the need for the Savior, the promise of the Savior, the perfect life and substitutionary death of Jesus, and the offer of salvation and reconciliation to any who would truth in the name of Jesus.

Session 2: Can Everybody be Right?

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Truth is decided by (choose one)
 - A. The consensus of a group of people
 - B. What corresponds to reality

2. Postmodernism holds that truth (choose one)
 - A. Can be discerned through reason and empirical scientific method
 - B. Is determined by groups and/or individuals

3. Tolerance is (choose one)
 - A. Accepting everyone's views as valid (i.e., it is their truth)
 - B. Treating someone fairly even when you believe they are wrong

4. God is (choose one)
 - A. Unfair in His intolerance of other religions
 - B. Just in His judgment of sin

SEGMENT 1:

WHAT IS TRUTH AND CAN WE KNOW IT?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 2. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The Coherence Model of Truth states that truth is whatever coheres within a given group.
- The Correspondence Theory of Truth says that truth is whatever corresponds to reality.
- If truth originates from the heart of man, we have elevated ourselves above God, the sole arbiter of truth.
- The belief that truth is relative leads to the idea that reality is relative.
- To say I am absolutely certain of something, we must have all knowledge that would refute any counterclaim or we must have revelation from someone who does have all knowledge.
- The God who knows all things has given us His mind in a reliable revelation, so we can know those things for certain.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Many hold to the Coherence Model of truth, in which truth is whatever a group agrees truth to be. This is not just wrong, it is rebellious because it elevates man above God, the sole arbiter of truth. It is also problematic because when reasoned out, this view tends to lead to a denial of reality itself. In the Correspondence Theory, truth is whatever conforms to the mind of God, what corresponds to reality. To be certain about one thing, one must have all knowledge to refute any counterclaim or must have revelation from someone who has all knowledge. The God who knows all things has given us His mind in a reliable revelation, the Bible. John explains that “God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything” (1 John 3:20). We can know truth, not because we find it in our hearts or cultures, but because it has been revealed to us by the God who knows everything.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Is the correspondence theory or coherence theory of truth more common? Which do you think is the most valid?
2. How can you know something is absolutely true? Is claiming to know truth an arrogant claim to know everything?



SEGMENT 2: POSTMODERNISM

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 2. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Pre-modernism is the idea that truth comes from God (or some divine origin).
- Modernism claims that all truth can be discerned through the empirical scientific method.
- Postmodernism teaches that truth cannot be discerned as an objective reality; truth is what you decide it is.
- The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in the late 17th and 18th centuries that emphasized reason and individualism rather than tradition.
- The foundational claim of postmodernism doesn't work with the way that postmodernism is practiced; everyone can't be right all the time.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Every generation has a different lens through which they observe the world. Before the Enlightenment, most people believed that truth was given by God. But the growing emphasis on reason and scientific discovery led to the idea that man could discern truth through empirical study. This idea has largely given way to postmodernism, the idea that truth cannot be discerned and that each individual decides his or her own truth. The problem is that not everyone can be right all the time. Two contradictory truths cannot both be right. This is foundational to all logical thought. We know that there is truth and that it can be known, because the God who knows all things has promised us: "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How does the illustration about baseball umpires help you to understand how different lenses view truth and reality?
2. What is postmodernism? How is the claim of postmodernism inconsistent with the way it is practiced?

SEGMENT 3: TOLERANCE

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 2. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Tolerance doesn't mean that all claims are equally valid, it means that we should not treat each other poorly on the basis of our differing opinions.
- When someone says they won't tolerate intolerance, they're actually being intolerant.
- Intolerance is not inherently bad. The good kind of intolerance can help human flourishing.
- Traditional tolerance admits that we are truly different, but that we should treat each other fairly despite our differences.
- Jesus welcomes all, including sinners, but He called those sinners wrong and called them to repentance.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Postmodernism teaches that we should be tolerant of everyone's views because everyone is right and no one is wrong. We've already seen how that cannot logically be the case. Is accepting everyone's view as true for them really being tolerant? Tolerance doesn't mean that all claims are equally valid; it means that given the fact that we are going to have differing opinions, we should not treat each other poorly on the basis of our differing opinions. In other words, one cannot be tolerant unless one disagrees with your claim. Some people claim that Jesus was more tolerant than Christians are today. While it is true that Jesus was loving toward people and that He welcomed all, Jesus never compromised truth. He called sinners to repentance, exposing their views as wrong and lovingly correcting them. Jesus came not "to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32) and He explained the consequence of rejecting Him: "I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5). Jesus clearly called people to reject their false views and to follow Him in truth.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What does tolerance mean? How does this definition differ from what culture has led you to believe?
2. Was Jesus tolerant? Is Christianity tolerant?

SEGMENT 4: THE TRUTH

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 2. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- God is not tolerant of evil things, He will judge evil.
- We have all done evil things and we deserve to be held accountable by the perfect Judge.
- But God is gracious and He offers the gift of redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- It is a right and good thing for God to be intolerant of other religious systems that are just wrong.
- We can reject Him as truth or surrender to Him as truth, but we cannot accept Him as one of many truths.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

God is perfectly righteous and He is rightly intolerant of evil things. As the Creator of the universe and the sole arbiter of truth, He defines what is right and wrong. We've all done evil things, sinned against our creator. God "has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:31). God does not take sin lightly; He is just and He will judge us for our sin. But God is gracious, and He has provided a way of redemption. We can be justified through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, who died to pay the punishment for our sin. God Himself took on flesh, lived a perfect life, suffered and died on the cross, and defeated death by rising again, all so we might be reconciled to God. This is the only way to satisfy the wrath of God, and so it is a right and good thing for God to be intolerant of other religious systems. Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father. So we can reject Him as true or we can surrender to Him as truth. But we cannot accept Him as one of many truths.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Is there ever a point where intolerance is good?
2. What does the tolerance of God look like? What does His intolerance look like?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Brake, Aaron. "What Is Truth?" Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/what-is-truth-1>.

Historically, there have been three dominant theories of truth put forth by philosophers. The pragmatic theory holds that truth is what works. This view is self-defeating and counterintuitive. It also implies relativism. The coherence theory holds that truth is logical consistency among a set of beliefs an individual holds. But, this view implies that contradictory propositions can be true, if held by different people. This also implies relativism and seems counterintuitive. The third view is the correspondence theory, which states that truth is when an idea, belief, or statement corresponds to the way the world really is (i.e., reality).

Koukl, Greg. "Jesus, Propositions, and the True Message of the Gospel." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/jesus-propositions-and-the-true-message-of-the-gospel?inheritRedirect=true>.

There are some within certain Christian circles that deny that truth is about proposition, instead claiming that the truth is a person, Jesus, and therefore truth is all about relationships. The problem is that while Jesus did claim to be the truth, He also claimed the Spirit to be truth, and the God's words to be truth. Jesus communicated using language and propositions. Jesus used propositional truths to explain Himself and His mission, including His Gospel. In short, Jesus communicated the truth of the Gospel using propositional statements, so to claim that truth is not propositional is to reject Jesus' chosen method of communication.

Koukl, Greg. "There Is No Truth." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/there-is-no-truth>.

Postmodernism and deconstruction hold that you can't know anything for sure. That claim cannot stand as valid. For someone to hold that there is no truth, then that claim, at least, must be true. Furthermore, for the statement to be made, there must be a person to state the phrase and consider the possibility. Therefore, it is true that at least one individual exists. Also time must exist, in which to ask the question. Furthermore, in order to express the sequence of words, language must exist in truth. To even utter the statement, "there is no truth," there must be at least 17 other things that are necessarily true. The statement itself establishes the truth of many things.

Kruger, Melissa. "The Loving Intolerance of God." The Gospel Coalition.
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-loving-intolerance-of-god/>.

In the Garden of Eden, God didn't tolerate Adam and Eve's sin and as a consequence He banished them from the garden. God did not tolerate the evil of Noah's day, but destroyed humanity with a global flood. Uzzah was killed for touching the ark of the covenant. The Bible is filled with examples of judgment. Sin must be paid for. To tolerate evil is to deny justice. God unleashes his full wrath on evil because He is good. If God tolerated evil, He would cease to be good. But, tolerance is actually unloving. Sin is harmful, and to tolerate our sin and leave us in it would be unloving. God demonstrated His love by pouring out all His wrath and judgment on sin, and through His Son providing a way of escape (2 Cor 5:21). We are called to abhor evil, like God does. We do not tolerate evil. We love people, while passing judgement on sin. Intolerance of sin demonstrates the truest love toward the sinner.

Moreland, J.P. "Truth, Contemporary Philosophy, and the Postmodern Turn." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/truth-contemporary-philosophy-and-the-postmodern-turn>.

Postmodernism represents a form of cultural relativism about things such as reality, truth, reason, value, linguistic meaning, and the self. There is no such thing as objective reality or truth. Rather, these are all social constructs relative to social groups that share a narrative. The postmodern perspective carries much philosophical baggage and confusion. One such issue is the confusion regarding metaphysical and epistemic notions of absolute truth. The metaphysical sense of truth needs no epistemic validation, but postmodernists try to attribute the metaphysical notion to an epistemic need for certainty. Postmodernists also reject the notion that rationality is objective because everyone approaches life with bias. This comes from a confusion regarding objectivity. Postmodernists reject foundationalism as a theory of epistemic justification, but they assume foundationalism represents a quest for epistemic certainty. They are defining foundationalism as a whole and foundationalism as they have narrowly defined it. The postmodern view confuses the identity of the truth bearer and adopt highly contentious models of perception and intentionality. Postmodernism is rooted in pervasive confusion and erodes at the fulfillment of God-given duties and responsibilities to impart and defend truth.

Riccardi, Mike. "The Christian and Tolerance." The Cripplegate.
<https://thecripplegate.com/the-christian-and-tolerance/>.

Postmodernism and deconstruction hold that you can't know anything for sure. But that claim cannot stand as valid. For someone to hold that there is no truth, then that claim, at least, must be true. Furthermore, for the statement to be made, there must be a person to state the phrase and consider the possibility. Therefore, it is true that at least one individual exists. Time must exist, in which to ask the question. In order to express the sequence of words, language must exist in truth and communicate. To even utter the statement, "there is no truth," there must be at least 17 things that are necessarily true. The statement itself establishes the truth of many things.

"What Is the Coherence Theory of Truth?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/coherence-theory-of-truth.html>.

The coherence theory of truth asserts that truth is found in its coherence with a particular set of propositions. In other words, we can know that an idea is true when it fits logically into a larger, more complex system of beliefs without contradicting anything. That is, it coheres with the existing framework. Although the coherence theory can be helpful in describing how we process new information. It cannot truly tell us if something is true or false. A further weakness is that a set of propositions can be internally consistent even though they are false, as long as it coheres with the existing framework. Ultimately, the coherence theory of truth is based on subjectivity.

"What Should a Christian Do When Convictions Violate a Tolerant Society?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/tolerance-vs-convictions.html>.

The Biblically informed Christian can't, in good conscience, approve of all actions or lifestyle choices. The Bible clearly identifies some lifestyles as sinful and displeasing to God. We cannot be tolerant of those choices if tolerance means we do not pass judgment on any action or lifestyle choice. There is a limit to tolerance for the Christian, because there are absolute rights and wrongs. The Christian must be prepared to take a stand on the truth of God's Word. Even in the midst of a conflict between Godly conviction and secular tolerance, the Christian must demonstrate the love and righteousness of Christ.

Session 3: The People v. Truth

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Truth claims can be (choose one)
 - A. Absolute (i.e., true for everyone)
 - B. Only relative (i.e., may be true for one person but untrue for another)
2. Morality is established by (choose one)
 - A. The majority of a culture
 - B. An absolute, universal standard of right and wrong
3. Personal happiness (choose one)
 - A. Is the main goal of this life
 - B. Is impossible to satisfy on your own
4. The ultimate questions about life (i.e., where did we come from or what will happen when we die) can be answered by (choose one)
 - A. God
 - B. Science and reason

SEGMENT 1:

WHAT IS POSTMODERNISM?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 3. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Postmodernism is the belief that truth claims are relative, constructed by society or culture.
- Rationalism is the idea that reason and science are the lenses through which western society views the world, giving rise to modernism—the optimistic belief that we can discover truth through science and reason.
- As a philosophical approach, postmodernism rejects that there is a meta-narrative.
- A meta-narrative is an overarching account or interpretation of events and circumstances that provides a pattern or structure for people's beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

We live in a postmodern culture, which manifests itself on university campuses. Postmodernism is the pessimistic grandchild of rationalism. The celebration of reason and science led to a philosophical system called modernism, which held that we could discover truth through science and reason. As it became apparent that this worldview only leads to mass global destruction, pessimism crept in and postmodernism began to take hold. Postmodernism continues to see science and reason as essential but is no longer optimistic about what it can accomplish. Instead, universal absolute truth claims are not knowable. Rather, our ability to understand truth is tied to our experience and individual perspective. We know that there is absolute truth and it is knowable, not through science and reason, but through the revelation of God: “We impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this . . . these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God” (1 Corinthians 2:7–10).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Do you agree that there are absolute truths in math and science? Are there absolute truths in religion?
2. How have you seen evidence of postmodern or relativistic thinking?

SEGMENT 2:

CONSEQUENCES OF POSTMODERNISM

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 3. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Claiming truth is relative confuses the definitions of truth and belief.
- A postmodern worldview cannot account for absolute realities, like gravity.
- Postmodernism claims that culture determines morality, but there are examples of “cultural morality” that we can all agree were wrong (e.g., Nazi Germany).
- Cultures generally have similar moral ideas because they are all made up of people who have the same moral compass supplied by God.
- When you remove God from the picture, you find that life is empty, meaningless.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Worldviews have consequences. The postmodern worldview claims that everyone gets to choose their own truth, but that confuses the definitions of truth and belief and it ignores reality. If your belief does not correspond to reality, it is not your truth, it is your fantasy. According to postmodernism, morality is nothing more than agreed upon social constructs. However, we can all look at past examples and know that they were wrong. Regardless of culture, there are certain things that we recognize as right and wrong because God has instilled in each of us a moral compass (Romans 2:15). Perhaps the most significant consequence of postmodernism is hopelessness and even nihilism (the rejection of all religious and moral principles, in the belief that life is meaningless).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Can everyone have their own truth? What is the difference between truth and belief?
2. What is the problem with pointing to culture as the determiner of morality?

SEGMENT 3: MORE CONSEQUENCES

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 3. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Naturalism or modernism teaches that science and reason is all we need to understand the natural universe.
- Romanticism teaches that your personal happiness is your purpose in life.
- Today's popular philosophy is some combination of postmodernism, naturalism, and romanticism.
- If life has no transcendent value and this life is all you live for, then when you realize you cannot achieve personal happiness, there is nothing left to live for.
- Not only does postmodernism fail to offer purpose and meaning in this life, it also offers no hope for eternity.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Relativistic thinking leads to hopelessness. If there is no reality, no transcendent value in life, then there is truly no purpose or meaning in life. The result is depression. Popular philosophy today is made up of postmodernism (there is no absolute truth), naturalism (science and reason is all we need to understand the natural universe) and romanticism (your own happiness is the chief end of life). There is no need for God in that philosophy. However, in this worldview, there is nothing beyond this life, so the only thing that matters is making me happy. But when one realizes that one can't do that—at best we can temporarily satisfy our desires—there is nothing left to live for. As Solomon noted, “Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2:11). Apart from God, there is no meaning in this life. Ultimately, though, this isn't just a discussion about philosophical systems; it is a discussion about eternal matters where eternity itself is at stake.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How does a secular worldview result in hopelessness?
2. What do you believe happens when you die? How does that impact the way you think and live?

SEGMENT 4:

THE HOPE OF THE TRUTH

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 3. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- If what the Bible says is true, your personal preference won't matter on the day you die.
- Jesus gives meaning for this life and hope for eternity.
- The answer to the despair and hopelessness is the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- God in His Word answers those ultimate questions and God through His Son provides the soul satisfaction that everyone is longing for.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Truth is that which accords with reality. If you step off a ledge, you will certainly be confronted with the reality of gravity. But you could have avoided the consequences if you had listened to a reliable source who warned you of the reality of gravity. In the same way, God, through His Word, has warned you of the reality of the spiritual realm of eternity. Hebrews 9:27 says, "It is appointed for a man to die once, and after that comes judgment." He has told us that we will be judged by our sins or by Christ's righteousness, spending eternity paying the penalty for our rebellion or living abundantly with God. If what the Bible says is true, your preferences will not matter when that day comes. The answer to the despair and hopelessness in this life is the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. He gives us meaning in this life and He provides hope for eternity. God, in His Word, answers the ultimate questions we all seek answers to, and through His Son, God provides the satisfaction that everyone is longing for.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What does the Bible teach about eternity and truth?
2. How does the Christian worldview offer meaning for this life and hope for eternity?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Alcorn, Randy. "Cultural Relativism, Even in the Face of Human Sacrifice - Blog." Eternal Perspective Ministries.
<https://www.epm.org/blog/2018/Sep/10/cultural-relativism>.

Relativism dominates the thinking of most educated people. What is wrong for one person may be right for another. There is no external standard by which to judge morality. Even those who claim cultural relativism make moral judgments. However, many still promote cultural relativism. For example, an Aztec temple was found along with hundreds of intact skulls, bearing evidence to the Spanish records of human sacrifice rituals. Even in the face of such monstrous evil, the author of a Science Magazine article encouraged readers to see things from the Aztec's point of view. Yet, even as the writer demands that we cannot judge the Aztecs for their sacrificial rites, she

condemns what she sees as colonial oppression and destruction.

Eaton, Doug. "11 Self-Refuting Arguments Against Christian Truth." The Fight of Faith.
<https://fightoffaithblog.com/2020/01/16/11-self-refuting-arguments-against-christian-truth/>.

Arguments are raised against Christianity all the time. Christians must be ready to expose fallacious arguments, including those that are self-defeating. The claim that truth is relative is an absolute truth claim. The claim that language cannot communicate truth is communicated using language. The claim that "there are no meta-narratives" is in itself a meta-narrative. Pointing to the human tendency to err undermines their own trustworthiness. To tell people they ought not tell others how to live is, in fact, telling that person how to live. If everything must be empirically proven, the claim itself cannot be proven. When we identify faulty arguments, it gives us the opportunity to move the conversation toward the saving gospel message.

Franks, Joseph. "Sin Never Satisfies, but Jesus Does." Unfathomable Grace.
<https://unfathomablegrace.com/2015/09/17/sin-never-satisfies-but-jesus-does/>.

Sin does not satisfy. Eve may have enjoyed the taste of the fruit. Amnon may have temporarily sated his lust. King Solomon may have delighted in wealth, fame, learning, and all the trappings of this world. But he claimed all was futile. Nothing ultimately satisfies. Even good things, when they become ultimate things, do not satisfy. There is One who satisfies. The Author of Life has given his life that we might have abundant life. The Good Shepherd leads, waters, feeds, guards, and satisfies in every sense. Jesus is the only one who delivers lasting contentment. Repent of the sin that only ensnares and find rest and satisfaction in Christ.

Koukl, Greg. "Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/relativism-feet-firmly-planted-in-mid-air>.

A relativists fatal weakness is that there is no basis for condemning any behavior, regardless of how evil it seems to be. There is no ultimate right or wrong, good or evil. The relativist will answer that this is a misrepresentation of their position. They claim that every culture has its own framework. Even if there are no universal standards, that doesn't mean it's a free-for-all within a given group. The problem with this justification is that it is still a contrived system of rules and punishment based merely on human convention. There is no transcendent standard. This means that at any point, the group can change the rules. An intellectually honest relativist will have to admit that, given his view of the world, ultimately, anything goes.

Koukl, Greg. "The Trouble with the Elephant." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/the-trouble-with-the-elephant>.

You've probably heard the fable of the blind men who touch various parts of an elephant and try to describe what they are feeling. One thinks the elephant is like a tree, another thinks it like a snake, or a fan, or a rope. The fable is used to illustrate that every faith represents just one part of a larger truth about God or that cultural biases have so seriously blinded us that we can never know the true nature of things. The problem with the fable's application is that it is not an argument, it is just an illustration, an assertion. In the illustration, the elephant doesn't speak. But Christianity claims that man isn't just groping around trying to learn about God; God has spoken. He revealed the truth about Himself. Further, unlike the blind men who only explored a part of the elephant, Christians don't reject pluralism because they lack exposure to other beliefs. Finally, the fable's application is self-refuting. The blind men only knew they were limited to a piece of the whole when someone who could see the whole explained it to them. If everyone is blind, then no one can know if he or anyone else is mistaken, unless the King has spoken and told us the truth. This is the claim of Christianity.

"What Are the Dangers of Postmodernism?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/postmodernism-dangers.html>.

Postmodernism is a philosophy that affirms no objective or absolute truth, especially in matters of religion. Such a mindset is dangerous when it is applied to reality because it confuses matters of opinion with matters of truth. In a postmodern world, all truth is relative. This mindset naturally rejects anything that declares to be absolute truth, like the Bible. The postmodern also loses all basis for discernment. If there is no absolute truth, there is no ability to discern truth. Everything is up for individual interpretation. Such a chaotic situation makes it impossible to make meaningful or lasting distinctions between interpretations because there is no standard that can be used. Finally, if absolute truth does not exist, and there is no way to make right/wrong distinctions, then all religious views must be considered equally valid. Christianity is therefore not compatible with postmodernism.

"What Is a Metanarrative?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/metanarrative.html>.

A meta-narrative is an overarching story or storyline that gives context, meaning, and purpose to all of life. A meta-narrative speaks of absolute, universal truth. In contrast, an individual narrative speaks of what is "true for me" and gives meaning to my life. Postmodern thinking rejects meta-narratives because it rejects universal truths. The problem with postmodernism is that the rejection of meta-narratives quickly becomes another meta-narrative. The Bible clearly teaches the existence of meta-narrative—the overarching story of redemption.

"What Is Cultural Relativism?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/cultural-relativism.html>.

Cultural relativism is the view that all beliefs, customs, and ethics are relative to the individual within his own social context. What is considered moral in one society may be considered immoral in another. Since no universal standard exists, no one has the right to judge another society's customs. In this view, no action is inherently right or wrong; the culture decides what is considered right and wrong. The Bible teaches that there is an absolute standard for what is right.

Session 4: If You're Just Matter, You Don't Matter

Road Trip to Truth

KEY QUESTIONS

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. The theory of evolution is (choose one)
 - A. Based on scientific evidence
 - B. Irrational
2. A consistent evolutionist will (choose one)
 - A. Help others in need
 - B. Exploit the weak
3. The existence of scientific laws (choose one)
 - A. Discredits biblical creation
 - B. Derives from biblical creation
4. What you believe about origins (choose one)
 - A. Is foundationally important
 - B. Doesn't really matter

SEGMENT 1:

IS EVOLUTION REASONABLE?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 4. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The word evolution means change, but it has come to refer to Darwinian evolution—the idea that all life forms on earth have descended from a common ancestor through millions of years of mutations and natural selection.
- We have found nothing in the fossil record to support that one kind has changed into another.
- The Bible addressed the issue of unbelief in Romans 1:18–20, which stated that men suppressed the truth in unrighteousness.
- Evolution is not a rational belief.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Many evolutionists would claim that their belief system is based on science and reason. But the truth is, evolution is an irrational belief with no real scientific evidence. In the fossil record, we see that there have been variations within an animal kind, but there are no fossils that document a transitional form between one kind and another. In the video, we saw how the book of Romans teaches that God's existence and invisible qualities are obvious in creation but wicked people suppress that truth, refusing to accept it. The next verses explain that in rejecting God, in claiming to have greater wisdom, they became foolish. They exchanged worship of the one true God for worship of created things (Romans 1:21–23). Let's take a look at some consequences of such an ardent rejection of truth.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. When you listen to the students explain evolution, does it sound like reasonable science?
2. What do you think about Aldous Huxley's statement? Do you agree that the idea (that the theory is an excuse for moral liberty) applies to evolution?

SEGMENT 2:

CONSEQUENCES OF EVOLUTION

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 4. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- In a Darwinian worldview, we are nothing more than highly evolved animals.
- When evolutionary ideas are applied to our lives, we get aspects of Social Darwinism, like racism, sexism, and other discriminatory perspectives.
- In a biblical perspective, all people were created with an equal value given by the Creator.
- The justification for abortion began with evolutionary ideas.
- A consistent evolutionary worldview does not allow for helping those weaker than oneself.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

There are two questions we need to consider from this section. Where do human rights and value come from? Are we living consistently with our worldview? In a biblical worldview, all people are created by God in His image (Genesis 1:27), and all are one race descended from Adam (Acts 17:26). Thus every human life is equally valuable—fearfully and wonderfully formed by God (Psalm 139:13–14). In an evolutionary worldview, some people or people groups can be viewed as “more evolved” than others, allowing for racism, sexism, euthanasia, abortion, etc. There is no real argument for human value, human rights, or social justice. In fact, a more consistent evolutionist would refuse to help those weaker than himself, appealing to survival of the fittest for the good of humanity. Both worldviews require faith—one is a faith in the testimony of the faithful and true God; the other is a faith in the assumptions of fallible men.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Does it surprise you that the students weren't able to explain why they think people should be treated equally and fairly?
2. One of the students said that she believed a fetus was a human being but said that her stance on abortion depended on the situation. Is this a rational or consistent stance to take?

SEGMENT 3:

ARGUMENTS FOR GOD

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 4. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Irreducible complexity is when you have a machine with multiple parts that must work together for the whole to function.
- Darwin recognized irreducible complexity, if demonstrated, would dismantle evolution.
- DNA is an astonishing confirmation of biblical creation because of the depth of complexity and information coded in a single molecule.
- Genetics and information theory confirm creation because information can never spontaneously generate, but must originate in a mind.
- The ultimate proof of creation is the fact that if creation weren't true, you couldn't prove that anything was true.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Proverbs 20:12 says, "The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both." Both are examples of irreducibly complex systems that confirm the necessity for a Creator. And what of the information required for that system? Such intricate detail must be included in the DNA that codes for a person's eyes. Such intricate complexity demands an intelligent designer, a mind from which the information was generated and encoded into DNA in such a way that provides for variety (e.g. eye-color) while maintaining the functionality required for sight. Ultimately, it is the biblical worldview that allows for truth or any proof of truth. Science, logic, and morality cannot exist apart from the Creator God. Although many evolutionists will claim that science discredits creation, the fact that scientific laws exist at all is an incredible confirmation of biblical creation.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. John asked about a variety of systems in the body that are irreducibly complex. How do these things affect the way you think about evolution?
2. Are you surprised by what Dr. Lisle claims is the ultimate proof of creation? What do you think about the claim that logic and science themselves prove God's existence?

SEGMENT 4:

WHY ORIGINS MATTER

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 4. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- If evolution were true, the Bible would be untrustworthy and we would not be able to trust its message of the Gospel.
- Science confirms the Bible from its beginning, so we can have confidence when it touches on other areas like salvation and morality.
- Although we were made in the image of God, we have fallen into high treason by sinning against God and the whole world suffers because of that.
- The good news is that God Himself has provided a Savior, and because Jesus is God, He can pay the infinite penalty.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

This is why the conversation about origins matters at all. If the Bible isn't trustworthy about the beginning, why should we trust it in other areas? The truth is that the Bible is trustworthy from the beginning. Not only does science and reason align with the Bible, they are derived from the Bible. Because we can trust the Bible about creation, we can also trust what it says about other things. In fact, the gospel message begins with creation, with Adam and Eve created perfectly in the image of God. They rebelled against God's command and fell into sin and death, and the world with them. Only a perfectly righteous and sinless person could pay the infinite punishment required for our sin. God provided a Savior: "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). I hope you have been challenged to consider the rationality of the Christian worldview, and we will continue to work through these ideas as we continue.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Why does the conversation about creation vs. evolution matter?
2. Have you thought about the Gospel in terms of bad and good news? How does this help your understanding of the Gospel?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

"Does God Exist?" GotQuestions.org.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Does-God-exist.html>.

Ultimately, what we see in human experience, science, logic, and history leads to the conclusion that God exists. The truth about God is absolute, but there are virtually no instances of absolute proof outside of logic and mathematics. No matter how sound the logic, one who wishes not to believe maintains that the argument is unconvincing. For this reason, faith is necessary. Perfect knowledge is beyond our ability. But faith occurs when we act despite what we don't know because of what we do know. God does exist, but whether or not one acknowledges God is a matter of faith.

"How Should a Christian View the Relationship of Faith and Reason?" GotQuestions.org.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/faith-reason.html>.

Atheists try to claim a monopoly on reason. They claim that faith and reason cannot coexist. But they use a distorted definition of faith and misunderstand faith's relationship to reason and truth. Faith is trust developed through the acquisition of prior information. Thus, reason is necessary to gather and evaluate information to determine whether or not to accept a truth claim. Faith and reason go hand in hand in Scripture. Faith is trust given in response to acquired knowledge, or a reasoned commitment to the truth.

Koukl, Greg. "God, Evolution, and Morality Part 1." Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/god-evolution-and-morality-part-1>.

The moral argument for the existence of God stated that morality exists, and therefore, so does a moral law-giver—God. But atheists object to this argument, claiming that they can be moral, perform good deeds without believing in God. Objective morality, though, cannot be explained in a neo-Darwinian worldview. To make this argument, we must be clear on the difference between objective morality and subjective morality, or relativism. Objective morality is goodness for its own sake. Relativism is goodness as the subject perceives it. The morality that evolution allegedly accounts for is not objective morality but our sense of morality. Evolution can never make an act wrong in itself.

Koukl, Greg. "God, Evolution, and Morality Part 2." Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/god-evolution-and-morality-part-2>.

The problem of evil may seem daunting, but it actually puts the Christian on very solid footing. It is the atheist that has difficulty with the problem of evil. After assessing that something is evil, the next question is whether the acts themselves are evil, or does evil only describe one's own thoughts and feelings about the actions. If the first, then the evil is objective. If the latter, evil is subjective (i.e., the acts were only wrong for those who object, not those who approve), in which case the problem of evil is not really a problem. Genuine wickedness relies on the existence of good. For the theist, that good is grounded in the character of God. The atheist has no such basis. Furthermore, the biblical explanation predicts evil in the world based on the fallen and sinful nature of humans. In the question of morality, it is not whether one must believe in God to perform moral acts; the true issue is the grounding for morality. Theism alone gives the only reasonable foundation for morality.

Koukl, Greg. "What Are the Most Powerful Arguments for the Existence of God?"
<https://www.str.org/w/what-are-the-most-powerful-arguments-for-the-existence-of-god->.

While many atheist point to evil as an argument against God, it is actually one of the best arguments for God. The complaint against evil requires transcendent, universal laws that govern the world in order for evil to exist as a violation of those laws. Since there is evil in our world, there must be broken laws, so there must be a transcendent law maker. There must be a God. This is the moral argument for God. Another argument for God is the Kalam cosmological argument. Basically, it states that for anything to have come into existence, there must have been something that caused it. The material universe came into existence at some point in the past, therefore the material universe must have had a cause. Notice that anything that comes into existence needs a cause, so our cause must be outside of the cosmos. The cause must be an immaterial, intelligent, powerful, and personal God. A note of caution: these types of arguments do not prove the God of the Bible, but it does prove the need for a transcendent, uncaused cause, which then allows us to move to other arguments and evidence for Christianity.

Lisle, Dr. "Evolution vs. Science." Biblical Science Institute.
<https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com/apologetics/evolution-vs-science/>.

Evolution is incompatible with the scientific method. Neo-Darwinian evolution offers no rational basis for trusting scientific procedures and if we trust science as a reasonable tool, then evolution cannot be true. Science is predicated on the Christian worldview. God created the universe and imposed order on it according to his nature and upholds it by his power. This is why the universe exhibits patterns. Science is the study of the predictable way that God upholds the universe. The evolutionary worldview has no such basis. If the universe is unplanned, why would we expect it to be organized or exhibit patterns? Why should the universe follow laws if there is no law-giver?

"Why Is Biblical Creationism So Important?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-creationism.html>.

Just as a building needs a foundation, a clear view of origins is vital to Christianity. The Christian faith is founded in the first verse of Genesis: "In the beginning God created. . ." This statement alone affirms creationism and opposes any view embracing naturalism. To reject this first statement in Scripture is to call into question the truthfulness of the entire Word of God. If we cannot trust God's Word in Genesis, why can we trust it when it talks about salvation or any other doctrine? Biblical creation is important because it answers the fundamental question of human existence. Biblical creation explains how we got here, our purpose for being here, and what happens to us when we leave here; and it is the only system that answers the basic questions of life and gives us significance greater than ourselves.

Session 5: Everyday Proof Evolution is Impossible

Road Trip to Truth

KEY QUESTIONS

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Before the beginning of the universe (choose one)
 - A. There was something or someone who existed eternally
 - B. There existed absolutely nothing
2. Life (choose one)
 - A. Must come from life
 - B. Can generate from non-life
3. Beauty is (choose one)
 - A. Entirely subjective
 - B. Based on an objective standard
4. Many people reject the existence of God because (choose one)
 - A. There is no evidence that God exists
 - B. They want to rule their own lives

SEGMENT 1:

DOES IT MATTER?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 5. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Either something has existed eternally, or nothing existed until something did.
- Even atheists should agree that something existed, but that was energy or matter, not God.
- If atheism were true, the logical conclusion would be that nothing really matters.
- It is impossible to live consistently with a worldview that holds no meaning.
- The atheistic worldview leads to depression and anxiety.
- How life began truly does matter because it affects how you think about human value and equality, purpose in life, and morality.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

The Bible teaches that “there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist” (1 Corinthians 8:6). God is the uncaused cause, the one thing that has eternally existed and from which all else began. While atheists reject that God is the creator, or that He even exists, they must allow that there was something—whether energy or matter or something else—that existed in order for everything else to exist. In other words, an honest atheist will accept that there must be an uncaused cause . . . it just can’t be God. It turns out that this belief about origins is very important for your worldview and your day-to-day life. The atheistic worldview leads to depression and anxiety. There is no morality and genocide should be considered a good thing. If God created us, then we all have equal value, our life has purpose, and we have a clear standard for what is right and wrong.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Why does it matter how the universe began?
2. What is the logical conclusion of atheism?

SEGMENT 2: EVOLUTION IS IMPOSSIBLE

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 5. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Time does not take into account what randomness brings to the equation; no amount of time makes an impossibility a possibility.
- Even inanimate irreducibly complex systems demonstrate the futility of evolution over time because inanimate matter cannot decide to do something beneficial.
- Abiogenesis, the belief that life can arise from non-life, is necessary for an evolutionary origin.
- Abiogenesis, like the “big bang,” cannot explain why something lifeless would become alive without a decision or catalyst of some kind.
- Theism cannot be discounted until the scientist can be eliminated from the experiments producing proteins from inanimate materials.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

The evolutionary perspective is a belief in the impossible. It is interesting that even atheists have rejected the idea of the “big bang,” stating that the possibility of abiogenesis is like a tornado assembling a fully functional airplane. Evolutionists generally recognize the slim chance required for evolution to occur, so they appeal to vast amounts of time. But no matter how much time you add to the equation, an impossibility is still an impossibility. An inanimate object cannot decide to do anything, but that is precisely what evolution requires. The Bible explains exactly where life comes from: (Genesis 2:7). The evolutionary equation just doesn’t add up. But let’s shift from the math and science side of things for a moment. How do art and beauty fit into the conversation?

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What do you think about the students’ responses to Sir Fred Hoyle’s statement about the chance of evolution occurring in the time suggested? What do you think about the statement?
2. Can scientific experiments in a laboratory be considered evidence for abiogenesis (i.e., life can come from non-life)? Why or why not?

SEGMENT 3: BEAUTY AS PROOF

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 5. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Humanity generally accepts that things like mountain ranges or sunsets are beautiful.
- Because math is consistent, experiments are repeatable, and there is absolute truth, we know there is a God.
- The reality of beauty tells us there is a God because there must be some standard to compare to.
- We can predict what people will consider beautiful, which demonstrates an objectivity to beauty.
- Evolution cannot account for beauty because there are so many things that are beautiful that have nothing to do with survival or evolutionary benefit.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

We've seen how math, science, and truth derive their meaning from the Creator God. But the concept of beauty likewise requires an objective standard and a mindful Creator. Even though we may have different preferences regarding what types of beauty we prefer, there is an objectivity to beauty. We see this in the landscapes found in calendars and where people choose to vacation. When we consider something to be beautiful, we are making an evaluative statement based on comparison. Additionally, so many things that are beautiful have no benefit to the survival or advancement of humanity. A non-thinking universe doesn't care if beauty exists. Only a mindful Creator makes "everything beautiful in its time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is beauty? Is the idea of beauty objective or subjective?
2. What is the connection between math, science, and beauty in the conversation about the existence of God?

SEGMENT 4:

THE TRUTH OF UNBELIEF

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 5. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Many people want to reject God's existence because they want to be in control of their own life.
- The existence of God is evident to anyone who has ever been born.
- God is the uncaused cause, the perfect Creator who demands perfection of His creatures.
- Humanity cannot reach perfection with any amount of effort, concentration, or resolve.
- Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross in order to bear our iniquities and impute righteousness to those who would trust in Him.
- We can have new life and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

It is human nature to want to rule our own lives. Deciding God doesn't exist so we can live the way we want to does not change the reality that there is a perfect Judge. This is the message of the Bible. God is perfect and He demands perfection from His creatures. Because we live in a fallen state, humanity is sinful and we cannot reach perfection on our own. If left to us, we would be doomed to eternal separation from God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we couldn't, to die the death that we deserve but He didn't, to rise from the grave victorious over death, and to impute (or to credit) His righteousness to us. In this way, God can count us as righteous, by no means of our own. It was "for our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). What a great exchange!

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What does God demand of His creation?
2. How can a discussion about beauty or conscience lead to the Gospel?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Kunkle, Brett. "Is Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder?" Stand to Reason. <https://www.str.org/w/is-beauty-in-the-eye-of-the-beholder->.

Although the statement "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" seems to suggest that beauty is subjective, there is an objectivity to beauty as well. Although it is true that the experience of beauty is in the eye of the beholder, beauty itself is not subjective. Things like sunsets and snow-capped mountains are not beautiful because the subject beholds them; they are beautiful in and of themselves. We must not confuse the perceiving subject with the perceived object. Beauty is grounded in an objectively beautiful God. Beauty, in this way, is an apologetic for the existence of God. Beauty points beyond the physical material world (think about music and creativity).

Oliphint, Scott. "An Evolving Foundation." Westminster Theological Seminary. <https://faculty.wts.edu/posts/an-evolving-foundation/>.

Evolution has become the dominant concept in biology and other fields of science. It has become the only respectable position to hold. However, it must be noted that evolutionary theory itself has undergone numerous changes and mutations. In fact, the theory of evolution is actually numerous theories. The success of evolution was not caused by the value of the theory itself, but because it provided a hinge for the Enlightenment. The problem is that the theory is incoherent. It relies on an immaterial belief that all things can be explained by the material. Any theory that is based only on the natural and the material will never be able to make sense of the world. In contrast, Christianity provides a solid foundation.

Pearcey, Nancy. "Why Evolutionary Theory Cannot Survive Itself." Evolution News. https://evolutionnews.org/2015/03/why_evolutionar/.

Internal contradictions are fatal to any worldview because contradictory statements are necessarily false. Self-referential absurdity is a form of contradiction in which a theory sets up a definition of truth that it itself fails to meet, therefore refuting itself. Evolutionary epistemology commits this error. This theory claims that the human mind is a product of natural selection. This means that the ideas in our minds were selected for their survival value, not their truth value. But to apply that to itself, the theory must be selected for survival not truth, which discredits its own claim to truth. Besides, while survival can result in true ideas, it does not guarantee truth. Sometimes believing a lie may be useful for survival. Applied consistently, Darwinism undercuts not only itself but also the entire scientific enterprise. The theory of evolution cannot survive itself.

Hall, Amy. "If Naturalistic Evolution Is True, People Are Not Equal." <https://www.str.org/w/if-naturalistic-evolution-is-true-people-are-not-equal>.

There are serious consequences to naturalistic evolution. One of these consequences is the value of humanity. In a naturalistic worldview, there is no foundation for the value of mankind beyond that of survival. Equality and universal human rights come from Christianity and the belief that all people are descendant from one original couple, created by God in His image. It is this special creation by God that gives humans value, and as such, we all have equal value. There is nothing in atheism that could undergird those ideas. Worldviews have consequences.

Slick, Matt. "Why Is Faith Alone in Christ Alone the Only Way to Be Saved?" CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/why-is-faith-alone-in-christ-alone-the-only-way-to-be-saved>.

Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone because we can do nothing on our own to merit salvation. Even our most righteous acts are marred by sin and are as filthy rags to the Holy One. Salvation is being saved from the righteous judgment of God against sin. Since we have sinned, we deserve that punishment. The only way to be saved is to trust in Christ, who is the only one to have ever met God's holy standard, and he took the punishment that he did not deserve to satisfy God's justice. We must have faith in Jesus Christ and His redeeming work on the cross. Faith alone in Christ alone is the only way to be saved. Logic, when used correctly, can point us toward God because it is the only way to put complete and total trust in the work of God and not our ability to be good enough to achieve or maintain our salvation.

"What Are Some Flaws in the Theory of Evolution?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/flaws-theory-evolution.html>.

Although the theory of evolution is promoted as the only reasonable view of science, it contains many flaws. There are many ways in which evolution can be criticized scientifically: genetic characteristics, ecological systems, enzyme properties, etc. These are often highly specific and technical discussions. Other flaws can be separated into three basic areas. There is a contradiction between "punctuated equilibrium" and "gradualism," possibilities for how naturalistic evolution can occur. Although the ideas are mutually exclusive, there is evidence suggestive of both. Second, there is a problem with extending "microevolution" into "macroevolution." Adaptations (microevolutions) can be observed and demonstrated, but they have never advanced to the point of macroevolution. Nevertheless, evolutionists generalize the concept from adaptation to evolution between kinds. Third, the theory of evolution has been erroneously applied beyond scientific purposes. Many have taken evolution from a biological theory to a metaphysical one, applying the theory beyond its own limits. The theory of evolution is far from settled, even scientifically.

"What Is Irreducible Complexity?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/irreducible-complexity.html>.

Irreducible complexity is a term used to describe a characteristic of certain complex systems whereby they need all of their individual component parts in place in order to function. In other words, it is impossible to reduce the complexity of the system by removing any of its component parts and still maintain functionality. This is an argument for intelligent design because it is unreasonable to believe the parts to have evolved independently when they served no function before the entire system was functional. The classic example is of a spring-loaded mousetrap. It is a design that requires intelligence; it is unreasonable to have come about by chance random processes.

Session 6: Explain This, Atheists!

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Which position is more rational: (choose one)
 - A. Atheism
 - B. Christianity

2. Agnosticism is (choose one)
 - A. Rejecting God
 - B. A neutral stance, neither accepting nor rejecting God

3. Something that is rational (choose one)
 - A. Is something that can be proven using the scientific method
 - B. Is something that acts in accordance with logic and reason

4. The existence of evil in the world is an argument (choose one)
 - A. For the existence of God
 - B. Against the existence of God

SEGMENT 1:

THE IRRATIONALITY OF ATHEISM

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 6. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Atheism is not a lack of belief, it is a belief that there is no God.
- An accident doesn't have a purpose.
- Because we know that God exists (even if we suppress it), we do have a sense of purpose built into us.
- Any purpose that you choose for yourself is arbitrary.
- Materialism is a self-refuting position because it states that everything that exists is made of matter or energy, but must rely on laws of logic to prove the position.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Atheists have tried to convince everyone that atheism is the most rational worldview. If you want to be rational, you must be an atheist. However, the atheistic worldview is irrational. One way we see that is in our purpose. The atheistic worldview cannot account for a person's purpose. If we are all accidents, evolved through random chance, then we have no purpose. And yet, people have a sense of purpose, of desiring to find their purpose. Ironically, many leading atheists see it as their purpose in life to convince others that they have no purpose. In a biblical worldview, however, we know that we do have purpose. Not only do we have purpose and responsibility in this world—to be stewards of the earth (Genesis 1:28), to obey God's commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13), to share the gospel with others (Matthew 28:19–20)—we know that our ultimate and eternal purpose is to praise and glorify God (1 Peter 2:9–12).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Dr. Lisle described atheism as a belief system that denies the existence of God. Do you agree that atheism is a belief system? Why or why not?
2. Atheists claim to hold the most reasonable worldview. What are some ways that atheism is irrational?

SEGMENT 2:

AGNOSTICISM IS IMPOSSIBLE

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 6. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- There is no neutral stance when it comes to the existence of God.
- Claiming to not know if God exists is to claim the Bible is wrong when it claims that God exists and that God has made himself known to everyone (Romans 1:19–20).
- The world is asking us to deny what we know intuitively, yet asking us to be insane.
- Unchanging logic is the signature of an unchanging God.
- We are made in the image of God, which is why we like order and logic and rationality.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

There is no such thing as a neutral position pertaining to God. Jesus said, “Whoever is not with me is against me” (Matthew 12:30). It is easy to see that the atheist has rejected God. But the agnostic, or the one who claims to take no stance, has taken the stance that the Bible is not true or cannot be trusted. In fact, they have rejected God, and thus, the salvation offered through Jesus Christ. Atheism is an irrational view leading to a confusing way to live. The world wants us to reject that truth exists, even though we know intuitively that it does. The world is asking us to be insane, to live in a way that is inconsistent and does not make sense. But we know that certain things exist, and if we are honest, those things lead us to the Creator. Atheism may not be rational, but Christianity is.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Is God rational? Is it rational to believe in God?
2. What do you think about Dr. Lisle’s claim that he can prove the Christian worldview? How is logic a proof of God?

SEGMENT 3:

THE RATIONALITY OF GOD

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 6. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Something is rational when it acts in accordance with reason and logic.
- Something is irrational when it is not logical or reasonable.
- Laws of logic are a reflection of the way God thinks and the way He expects us to think.
- We can only know that laws of logic are universal and unchanging if we know they reflect the immutable (unchanging) and omnipresent (present everywhere and at all times) character of God.
- Moral absolutes only make sense in a Christian worldview, and morality demonstrates that the Bible is true.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Biblical Christianity is rational. In fact, Christianity is the most rational worldview because it is the only worldview that can explain the laws of logic and morality. There are certain truths that we all know intuitively, even though many atheists will claim there are no absolute truth claims. We can make sense of this within a Christian worldview because we know that God's law reflects God's character. It makes sense that the laws of logic are universal and unchanging because God is immutable (unchanging) and omnipresent (ever-present). Similar reasoning is found in morality. How can we agree that certain things are immoral if there is no law and lawgiver? In Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). Logic and morality are only rationally explained by a Christian worldview.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Is morality objective or subjective? What is the basis for determining morality?
2. Why does humanity generally agree about what it looks like to be moral?

SEGMENT 4:

A MESSAGE OF ATHEISTS

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 6 Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Belief in God is rational.
- You can't have evil in an atheistic universe.
- Sinful choices bring evil consequences in the world.
- God can use evil for good.
- In the sacrifice of Jesus, we see both the justice and mercy of God.
- God is the only sane explanation for logic, reason, and objective morality, and the only real solution for our sin problem.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Belief in God is rational. It is the only sane explanation for the world around us. But although atheists love to claim reason and academia, many of their responses are driven by emotion. They don't want to believe in a God who is justly angry at them for their sin. One of these common arguments is the presence of evil in this world. But the Christian worldview explains this as well. Evil in the world is a logical result of sin, which is defined as transgressing the law of God. The Christian worldview also offers hope. God can use evil acts for good, as He did with the crucifixion of Jesus. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28). Evil is not a problem for a biblical worldview, but it does remind us of our need for a Savior who will forgive our sins and restore all things to God's original, perfect design.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Do you agree with the conclusion that many atheists are emotionally driven?
2. How does the existence of evil prove the existence of God? Why can evil not exist in an atheistic worldview?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

"How Should a Christian View Logic?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-logic.html>.

Logic is the science of deriving truth through the analysis of facts. It is a way of identifying the relationship between ideas. Logic appears to be one of the natural laws God put into place at the creation of the universe. When used correctly, logic can point us toward God. It is easy to misuse logic. Like math, logic consists of the facts and the formulae for determining relationships between the propositions or ideas. Although logic is a great tool that reflects the mind of God, people are rarely influenced significantly by logic to believe something contrary to their convictions. Logic can be a powerful tool, but equally convincing is the evidence of a Christian life.

Hall, Amy. "How Christianity Created Science (and Why Atheism Wouldn't Have)."
<https://www.str.org/w/how-christianity-created-science-and-why-atheism-wouldn-t-have-?>

Atheists love to claim a monopoly on science. They juxtapose faith and science. They believe any belief in the supernatural necessarily conjures up a chaotic, unpredictable universe in the minds of believers. But the truth is that a belief in the biblical God is what allows for order and science. In a naturalistic worldview, everything is thought to have come together randomly. There was no design, no purpose to the way the universe developed. In a culture developing under a belief in a meaningless, random universe where something might at any moment come out of nothing, who would have thought to search for rational, predictable natural laws? The scientific pursuit of discovery makes no sense in a naturalistic worldview. Only a culture with a belief in a rational, orderly, sovereign Creator leads to science.

Hodge, Bodie. "Morality-the Secular Response?" Answers in Genesis.
<https://answersingenesis.org/morality/moralitythe-secular-response/>.

True morality cannot exist from a secular perspective. Morality can only be arbitrary and meaningless. Whether or not they realize it, they must borrow from the Christian worldview to account for morality. From a biblical perspective, morality has a basis in the perfectly moral Creator. In a secular perspective, one without God, there is no absolute basis for morality.

Kunkle, Brett. "Is Religion Illogical?" Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/is-religion-illogical->.

A non-sequitur is a common logical fallacy that occurs when a conclusion does not logically follow from a previous argument or statement. This fallacy is common among atheistic arguments against Christianity. One of these fallacious arguments is: "The Bible is completely unreliable, and therefore we should doubt Jesus even existed." This is fallacious because the existence of Jesus is not dependent on the reliability of the Bible. If you read a biography of George Washington that claims he was a Civil War general and the third president of the United States, that makes the book wrong, but it doesn't mean George Washington didn't exist. A second example of a non-sequitur is: "There can't be a Designer when there is so much imperfect design in the natural world." An imperfect design does not mean there was no designer. In fact, the Christian worldview provides a perfectly logical explanation for this in the curse of sin. Christianity is not illogical; the atheist objections are.

Kunkle, Brett. "The Absurdity of Life without God." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/the-absurdity-of-life-without-god>.

Life without God is meaningless. There is no purpose. There is no objective morality. There is nothing immaterial that has intrinsic value. A meaningful life only makes sense in the context of theism, the very worldview that atheists like Christopher Hitchens have devoted their lives to destroying. In the Christian worldview, there is hope and meaning. Redemption is possible because there is a Redeemer. As Christopher Hitchens wrote about facing cancer, the absurdity of life without God becomes apparent.

Slick, Matt. "Atheism, Evolution, and Purpose." CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/atheism/atheism-evolution-and-purpose>.

Purpose is indicative of a purpose giver. Christians recognize that their purpose comes from God. A naturalistic worldview cannot account for purpose, though they acutely feel the effects of purposelessness. In a naturalistic worldview, human existence, thoughts, and feelings are merely the end result of the inherent universal laws and principles of matter, energy flow, chemical reaction, etc. that has resulted in life. In this perspective, mankind has no purpose for existence. At best, the naturalist can account for a feeling or illusion of purpose. Even that illusory purpose is simply a product of the environment and the natural laws. Even the concept of having a purpose becomes meaningless. Atheism and evolution can only lead to purposelessness.

Slick, Matt. "The Christian Worldview, the Atheist Worldview, and Logic." CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/atheism/christian-worldview-atheist-worldview-and-logic>.

The atheist cannot present a logical reason for how his worldview can account for the abstract laws of logic. But the Christian worldview can. The Christian worldview states that God is absolute and the standard of truth. The absolute laws of logic exist because they reflect the nature of an absolute God. Because man was made in the image of God, we are capable of discovering these laws. The atheistic worldview states that laws of logic are conventions, not absolute laws. But the laws cannot be based on human thinking since human thinking is often contradictory. They may state that laws of logic are derived through observing natural principles found in nature, but he is confusing the mind with the universe. If he appeals to the scientific method, his reasoning is circular. If logic is not absolute, then logic cannot be used to prove or disprove anything. In short, the atheistic worldview cannot consistently account for the laws of logic.

"What Is the Gospel?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-gospel.html>.

The gospel is the good news and the key to understanding it is to start with the bad news. The law given to Israel as a measure of God's righteous standard. The law was so strict that no one could perfectly obey it. Failure to meet God's perfect standard is called sin and every person has sinned. That sin requires the just punishment of death. The gospel, or the good news, is that Jesus died on the cross as the sin offering to fulfill the law's righteous requirement. Then Jesus rose on the third day, having conquered sin and death. If we repent of our sin and trust in the redemptive work of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin, we can be redeemed and reconciled to God.

Session 7: Do We Still Need God?

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. It is irrational to believe (choose one)
 - A. In a Creator
 - B. There is no creator

2. The evil we see in the world (choose one)
 - A. Helps us to know God better
 - B. Shouldn't exist if God is all good and all-powerful

3. If God appeared tangibly or did miraculous signs (choose one)
 - A. People would be more likely to believe in God
 - B. People would not be any more likely to believe

4. The Bible shows us (choose one)
 - A. How to be good people
 - B. Our need for God

SEGMENT 1:

IS BELIEVING IN GOD RATIONAL?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 7. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- It is only irrational to believe in God if the standard for rationality is modern man.
- God is uncreated. If there is not an eternal and infinite being at the starting point, then you fall into a logically fallacious infinite regress.
- If God did not exist, there would be no basis for understanding what is right and wrong.
- Wherever the Gospel message has gone, God has seen fit to save people.
- What makes people Christians is the Gospel message, which opens blind eyes and dead hearts.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

People object to God or a belief in God for a variety of reasons. Some even believe that it is no longer necessary to believe in God; for the modern man, it is irrational to believe in God. But it is only irrational to believe in God if the standard for rationality is modern man's understanding. But God is the standard of rationality and it is actually a worldview that rejects God that is irrational. "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). Others ask where God came from, but this is logically fallacious because you would have to continue asking that question to infinity. God is the eternal and infinite starting point, the Uncreated One who created all things. Not only is He the standard of rationality, He is also the standard of morality. Without God, there is no standard for what is right or wrong, but we know there is universal moral truth. Christianity is more than just an upbringing or a cultural norm. What makes people Christian is the Gospel message that opens blinded eyes and dead hearts. None of these objections can remove the necessity for God.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Is belief in God no longer necessary for survival? Is it rational to still believe in God?
2. Why is it not a fallacy to claim that God was not created? Why is it necessary to have an uncaused cause?

SEGMENT 2:

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 7. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Evil presupposes a standard for morality, which does not exist apart from God.
- God is loving and all-powerful, and He has a morally sufficient reason for ordaining evil.
- God is worthy of all praise and worship and humans were created to worship Him; so for Him to demand that we worship Him is actually to call us to the greatest satisfaction and benefit in our own lives.
- God does not send us to hell for rejecting Jesus as the remedy for sin; our sin has already justly condemned us to hell.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

These objections to God are based on misunderstandings of His character and the reality of evil. It can be difficult to reconcile a loving and powerful God with the evil we see in the world. The very existence of evil demands the presence of a moral Lawgiver. Evil is acting against God's holy standard and the world is under the curse of evil because of the sin that mankind committed against God. God is not evil and has never committed evil acts, but He does use evil for His greater purposes. In fact, it is the existence of evil that reveals the justice, grace, and mercy of God. God is worthy of all worship and praise and humans were made for the very purpose of worshipping God. It is when we function according to that purpose for which we were created that we find the greatest satisfaction and benefit in our own lives. So for God to call us to that purpose is loving. God is good, powerful, and loving. So why does He send people to hell? This question presupposes that God sends people to hell for rejecting Jesus as the remedy for sin. The truth is that our sin has already justly condemned us to hell. God is just in punishing us for our sin, but He has graciously and lovingly sent us a remedy for that sentence.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the Christian answer to the problem of evil? Does this answer surprise you? What good does God bring from evil?
2. How can God be good and send people to Hell? What is the problem with this question?

SEGMENT 3: IS GOD HIDING?

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 7. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- God has made himself known through nature, our conscience, His Son, and the New Testament Scriptures.
- All humans are hypocrites, not just Christians.
- Christians do not invite others to follow them, but to follow Christ.
- Christianity is not a crutch, but the truth that helps the Christian to navigate the difficulties and trials of life.
- God is perfect and we cannot as imperfect people stand with God; we need God's help.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Some object to God because they think it is irrational to do so. Some object because of a perceived flaw of God's character. Others object on a more personal basis. They say they would believe it if they could see it. The truth is, God acts to make Himself known. He has undeniably revealed Himself through nature, Scripture, our conscience, His Son, and the transformed lives of His followers. Jesus indicated the sufficiency of God's revelation when He said "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead" (Luke 16:31). Those who do not believe are suppressing the truth, and if they will not believe on account of the evidence already revealed, then even miraculous signs would not convince them. Some reject Christianity because of the hypocrisy of Christians, but that is hypocritical reasoning. All humans are hypocritical; none of us perfectly live up to the standards of morality that we claim to believe. The validity of Christianity is not based on fallible Christians, but on the perfectly righteous Christ. We don't call others to Christianity because of how great we are; we call others to Christ because of who He is and what He has done.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. If God exists, why doesn't He show Himself to us? Why doesn't He reveal Himself to everyone?
2. Have you ever heard someone reject Christianity because of the failure of Christians? How could you respond to these objections?

SEGMENT 4:

YOUR NEED FOR GOD

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 7. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- God is absolutely holy, perfectly just, and He demands perfection from His creatures.
- All have fallen short of God's standard of holiness and all deserve punishment for that.
- God, in His abundant love and grace, sent His own Son to live the perfect life we so epically failed to live, in order that He could heap up righteousness to give us, and then was crucified on a cross, bearing the wrath of God that He didn't deserve but we did.
- After dying on the cross for our sins, He rose from the grave on the third day, conquering sin and death and demonstrating that the atonement on the cross was sufficient to set us free.
- The Gospel of Jesus shows us our need for God, our need for a Savior, and our need for forgiveness, and it gives us that.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

The Bible is true. Jesus is the truth. We have seen how the biblical worldview is the only rational worldview. The Gospel is the answer to hopelessness, purposelessness, and loneliness. It explains the very nature of the universe we live in, a universe that reflects the character of our Creator. It explains the presence of evil and morality, beauty and design. It defines truth and sheds light on the origin of all things. Jesus is the only way to the Father. The Gospel of Jesus shows us our need for God, our need for a Savior, and our need for forgiveness, and it gives us that. How will you respond? Repent of your sins and embrace Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation, (1 John 1:9).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the main story of the Bible? How will you respond to the truth of the Gospel?
2. What objections do you still have? How have your objections been answered? Do you think you can more articulately express the Gospel and respond to common arguments against Christianity?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Barnett, Tim. "Belief in God, Evidence, and the Human Heart."
<https://www.str.org/w/belief-in-god-evidence-and-the-human-heart>.

Some atheists raise the challenge, "If God exists, why isn't there more evidence for His existence?" But there is sufficient evidence for anyone who honestly seeks after God with all their heart. The amount of evidence is not the issue; the issue is with the desires of the human heart. God promised that those who seek after Him will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). Belief in God is not merely an evidence issue. The evidence exists, but sadly, most people desire to suppress the evidence for the God (Romans 1:18–20). There is enough evidence to bring any genuine seeker, who seeks with all his heart, into a belief in the Almighty God.

Bloom, Jon. "The Wrath of God Was Satisfied: Wondrous Love in the Awful Cross." Desiring God.
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-wrath-of-god-was-satisfied>.

The cross was a terrible means of Rome executing its wrath upon its worst offenders. Jesus was executed on a cross, counted among the worst offenders. But the wrath he bore was not just Roman or Jewish; Jesus was primarily the object of His Father's wrath. That is the very purpose for which he came. He had come to draw all people to himself, to take away the sin of the world by becoming the propitiation for the sins of the world. On the cross, the Father made the sinless Son to be sin for our sake that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God. Jesus absorbed the Father's wrath against our sin and satisfied it in full, so that whoever would believe in him should not perish but enjoy the Father's favor forever. A Roman cross, one of the worst, most fearsome devices of torture ever devised, became a symbol of the greatest love ever expressed. In Christ, the wrath of God against sin was satisfied.

Gilcher, Jerod. "How Could a Sovereign, Good God Allow Suffering?" The Masters Seminary Blog.
<https://blog.tms.edu/how-could-a-sovereign-good-god-allow-suffering>.

God is sovereign over all things. So the common objection is if He can stop it, why does He allow suffering? God orders and designs our lives in such a way that makes us most like His Son and brings His name the most glory. Sin and evil work for good because they are designed by God to teach us what is in our own hearts. Sin and suffering exist in the world because mankind chose to violate God's command. Evil exists because of our sin, and evil reminds us of our ultimate failure to meet God's standard. Suffering shows us our need for a Savior. God uses trials in our lives for good by conforming us to Christ. Sin and evil work for good because they loosen our hearts from the world. They point us toward a heavenly country where they no longer exist. God uses even evil and suffering to draw us to Himself, and in this way He demonstrates His sovereignty and goodness through suffering.

Hall, Amy. "Evil and the Cross." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/evil-and-the-cross>.

Why did God allow evil into His perfect world? We experience suffering and sin so that Jesus could die on the cross for us. God had a goal in mind that is greater than suffering, and that goal is the revealing of Himself to His people so that we will be able to fully express our pleasure in Him through worship, enjoying Him for eternity. We experience the goodness of God—His grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, etc.—because of the effects of sin in our world. The greatest act of evil in history was the crucifixion of the only true innocent person. And yet, that action is the revelation of God's love. Our knowledge and appreciation of God could never be as full in a world without the cross.

"I Am an Atheist. Why Should I Consider Becoming a Christian?" GotQuestions.org
<https://www.gotquestions.org/atheist-Christian.html>.

If you are honestly interested in the pursuit of truth, you must be able to explain why you accept or reject a particular view of the world. You can't honestly say you've considered the message of Christianity unless you actually know what that message is. Christianity is not a blind faith. The Bible consistently points to historical events as the basis for our faith. The Christian faith is a reasoned trust. Ultimately, the kind of faith Christians place in their worldview is the same kind of faith an atheist has. The difference is the object of that faith. Christianity accounts for reason, logic, and science. Christianity also has the support of experience. Beliefs have consequences, and Christianity leads to the best results. If you reject Christianity because of any of these common mischaracterizations, then you have no real reason to reject it.

Koukl, Greg. "Evil as Evidence for God." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/evil-as-evidence-for-god>.

Some have considered the presence of evil in the world as solid evidence against the existence of God. But it actually proved the opposite. To say something is evil is to make a moral judgment, which implies a universal standard for morality. Evil cannot exist in moral relativism. The only real answer to objective morality is a personal God whose character provides an absolute standard of goodness. The biblical worldview explains the existence of evil, the beginning of evil effects in the world, and the solution to evil. Only a Christian worldview can answer the question of evil.

Shlemon, Alan. "God Is Good and Just When He Punishes People."
<https://www.str.org/w/god-is-good-and-just-when-he-punishes-people>.

Parents punish their children when they have violated a family rule. This holds the child accountable for his actions, teaches him that the rules are to be followed, and protects the one violated by his act. This is simply the basic concept of loving discipline. But when it comes to God, people object to justice and discipline. They protest: "If God is good, how could He send someone to hell?" But God is good and just when he punishes us. We have violated His law, so we must be punished. In fact, we all deserve the punishment of hell. But God further demonstrates his goodness by mercifully providing a way of salvation and reconciliation. He offers a just pardon. We either accept the terms of His pardon, or we receive the punishment we deserve.

"Why Do So Many People Seek After Signs and Wonders?" GotQuestions.org.
<https://www.gotquestions.org/signs-and-wonders.html>.

Our God is a God of wonders. He has power over all nature and can therefore suspend natural laws to fulfill his purposes. And He has demonstrated this power throughout history. Miracles were important parts of the ministry of Jesus, the prophets, and the apostles. The purpose of these miracles was to confirm their message as being from God. Many today desire to experience the miraculous. Some seek signs and wonders because they want confirmation of the truth. But God has already confirmed His truth. Plus, the Bible commends those who believe without seeing. Some people seek miracles because they don't believe the signs that have already been performed. These will not be convinced by further miracles. Some seek wonders because they want an excuse not to believe. Some seek signs because they want to be entertained. And some seek signs because they hope to benefit from the miraculous. We don't need signs and wonders to trust in the truth God has already given and confirmed in His Word.

Session 8: The Most Reliable Book on Earth

Road Trip to Truth

KEY QUESTIONS

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. When it comes to the Bible, we know (choose one)
 - A. That it has changed over time
 - B. That it has not changed

2. The Bible is (choose one)
 - A. A book of fables, or moral stories
 - B. A book of history

3. We know that the 66 books of the Bible are God's Word because (choose one)
 - A. The early church agreed on these as canon (an authoritative list of Scripture)
 - B. They were affirmed and authorized by Jesus himself

4. Humanity is (choose one)
 - A. Characterized by sinfulness
 - B. Mostly good, though we're not perfect

SEGMENT 1:

IT'S NOT THE SAME TEXT!

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 8. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- God has given us a written standard, which doesn't change over time and can be checked and verified through textual criticism and archeology.
- There may have been minor copyist errors in spelling or grammar, but scholars can definitively pinpoint when those errors took place through the science of textual criticism.
- We have over 6,000 manuscripts of just the New Testament.
- Bible publication versions are actually different translations, but they don't contradict each other.
- The Bible of the first century is the Bible of the 21st century—it is accurate and reliable.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Critics and skeptics often object to the reliability of the Bible by claiming that it has changed over time, we're missing the original manuscripts, or there are too many different versions. But each of these objections is easily refuted. God has given us a written record, which does not change in the same way that an oral tradition might. Furthermore, we have thousands of early manuscripts—6,000 just of the New Testament! We translate things with a high degree of accuracy every day, and the number of English “versions” (or translations) actually support the accuracy and reliability of the Bible because they all teach the same things, with minor wording or vocabulary differences. The science of textual criticism is the process of attempting to determine the original wording of a text. Although it may sound like a bad thing (i.e., criticism of the Bible), it is actually very important in affirming the accuracy and reliability of the Bible. Of course, we know that the Bible is trustworthy because “all Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16) and God's Word is truth (John 17:17).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What objections to the reliability of the Bible have you heard? Have you ever believed any of these?
2. Do you think we can know what the Bible originally said? Why or why not?

SEGMENT 2: IT HAS CONTRADICTIONS!

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 8. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Every apparent contradiction has reasonable, valid explanations.
- There are no true contradictions in Scripture because Scripture is a reflection of God, who cannot contradict Himself.
- The Bible was not meant to be interpreted as a collection of fables.
- The Bible contains history and is factually accurate as well as didactic (i.e., teaches us about life).
- It is important to read Scripture in its context in order to rightly interpret it.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Some critics recognize that the Bible is accurate, but they object to the content. They object based upon apparent contradictions or they dismiss it as a collection of fables or ridiculous rules that even Christians don't follow. Again, the contradictions are easily explained and context clarifies the apparent inconsistencies with interpretation and application. While the Bible does teach us about life, it also contains factually accurate history. Entire chapters of the Bible are dedicated to genealogies and census numbers. Luke begins his Gospel account with a historical setting: "In the days of King Herod, king of Judea" (Luke 1:5). So, the Bible hasn't changed over time, it contains no true contradictions, and it contains factually accurate history. Does that mean it is God's Word? Let's look at two final objections.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the difference between a true contradiction and an apparent contradiction? Which is present in the Bible?
2. What is context and why is it important for reading the Bible and interpreting it correctly?

SEGMENT 3:

IT WAS WRITTEN BY MEN!

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 8. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- God inspired men to write down exactly what He wanted without violating their personalities.
- If God wrote a book, we would expect it to be internally consistent, externally verifiable, ethically lofty, profoundly wise, life-transforming, and supremely influential—and the Bible is all of these things.
- Jesus affirmed the 39 books of the Old Testament, referring to the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings on multiple occasions.
- Jesus authorized the apostles to write the 27 New Testament books.
- An apostle was personally authorized by Jesus, an eyewitness to the resurrection, and able to perform miraculous signs.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Second Peter 1:19–21 tells us that although men wrote the words of Scripture, they were guided by the Holy Spirit. So in a sense, the Bible was written by both men and God. We can also be certain that the 66 books in the Bible are the particular books that make up the Word of God. The 39 books of the Old Testament were affirmed by the testimony of Jesus himself. He referred to and quoted from the Law, the Writings, and the Prophets (the three divisions of the Old Testament canon) on many occasions. And he authorized the apostles to write the 27 books of the New Testament books. Only apostles were authorized to write Scripture and after the last surviving apostle died, there was no possibility anymore for anyone to add to the New Testament set of books. So if the Bible is God's Word, written through men, then what was God trying to tell us?

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Do you believe the Bible is 100% true? Why or why not?
2. How do we know the 66 books we have are truly the Bible?

SEGMENT 4:

THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 8. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The Bible, God's written Word, points to His work of salvation/redemption.
- Mankind rebelled against God, the Creator, Ruler, and Judge of all things.
- Since the rebellion in Genesis 3, mankind is characterized by sinfulness.
- The penalty for violating God's law is death, both physically and spiritually, and there is nothing we can do in and of ourselves to earn God's favor.
- God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross to pay the penalty that we deserve so that if we believe in Him, we can have eternal life with God.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Man is helpless and hopeless, and if anything was going to be done to save mankind, God had to do it. God did just that. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life and to die on a cross to pay the penalty for sin that we had no hope of paying. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, proving He was God and had defeated death, we can also have eternal life with God. We can trust the Bible because it is God's Word. The Bible is consistent, accurate, and reliable, and it offers life and hope. As John testified, "God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11–12). We can trust God and His Word, and so we can trust in Jesus and the hope he offers.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the message of the Bible?
2. Do you think the Bible is right when it says that humanity is characterized by sinfulness? How do you see evidence of this in your life?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Barnett, Tim. "Bible Differences Aren't Contradictions."
<https://www.str.org/w/bible-differences-aren-t-contradictions>.

Critics often claim the Bible is full of contradictions. But what do they mean by contradiction? The Bible does contain differences, but these are not true contradictions. A difference can be reconciled; a contradiction cannot be. There are no contradictions in Scripture. Two accounts of the same event can be different without contradicting each other. If one witness to a car accident claims the vehicle was a silver SUV and another says it was a Ford Expedition, the accounts are different but do not contradict. Even if the second witness said it was a Ford Expedition with a black hood, that still is not a contradiction because it could have been a silver body with a black hood. A true contradiction would be if the first witness said the SUV was silver and the second said it was red. In the same way, many alleged contradictions are easily reconciled. Differences in the Bible are not contradictions.

Busenitz, Nathan. "Why These 66 Books?" The Masters Seminary Blog.
<https://blog.tms.edu/why-these-66-books>.

We believe in the 39 books of the Old Testament because the Lord Jesus Christ affirmed the Old Testament. And we believe in the 27 books of the New Testament because the Lord Jesus Christ authorized His apostles to write the New Testament. The doctrine of canonicity is grounded in the lordship of Jesus Christ. We could study the history of the canonization of Scripture and the biblical and historical evidence for the canon. But ultimately, it was not the canonization process that determined the canon, but the canon of Scripture rests on the authority of Christ Himself. The Bible consists of these 66 books because God inspired them. They are His divine revelation. And based on the authority of Jesus, we can have confidence that the Bible we hold is "all Scripture."

Davis, Nicholas. "10 Reasons Why You Should Trust the Bible." Core Christianity.
<https://corechristianity.com/resource-library/articles/10-reasons-why-you-should-trust-the-bible/>

Can an old book like the Bible really be trusted? There are many good reasons to trust the Bible as God's true and trusted words to us. The Bible is historically accurate, which has been demonstrated time and again through archaeological evidence. The New Testament has been preserved better than any other ancient work. We have an abundance of manuscript evidence for the reliability of the New Testament. The New Testament writers were written by eyewitnesses—real people who saw firsthand the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The Bible cared about what women thought at a time when no one else did. Christianity is the only religion founded by a leader who predicted his resurrection before he died and the New Testament authors attested to this resurrection. The Bible was written by many individuals, but it was authored by God Himself. The Bible was authorized by Jesus and it is without error. The Bible is clear in its primary message, and it is sufficient. We can trust the Bible because the God who wrote it is trustworthy.

Gilbert, Greg. "Debunking Stupid Statements About the Bible: An Exercise in Biblical Transmission." <https://www.9marks.org/article/debunking-stupid-statements-about-the-bible/>.

Many critics of Christianity try to undermine the reliability of the Bible. But the truth is that most of those objections are based on misconceptions about the transmission of Scripture. Transmission refers to how Scripture was handed down through the centuries. It is true that we do not have the original autographs of Scripture (i.e., the original piece of paper on which the apostles wrote). However, that is common for works of antiquity. We don't have originals from Plato or Homer, but we don't doubt the copies of those works. We can be confident that we know what those original pieces of paper said. We have about 5,400 manuscripts that contain original-language text from each book of the Bible. We have manuscripts that date to within a hundred years of the originals. By studying the manuscripts, analyzing textual variants, and studying the transmission of scripture, using the same methods used by secular scholars, we can be confident that what we have today is what the New Testament authors actually wrote.

Hall, Amy. "Why You Can Be Confident We Have the Original New Testament Text." <https://www.str.org/w/why-you-can-be-confident-we-have-the-original-new-testament-text>.

This video explains and illustrates why we can be confident that the books of the New Testament are the same as the original writings.

Slick, Matt. "The Gospel Message." CARM.org. <https://carm.org/questions/about-doctrine/gospel-message>.

The gospel is the central message of the Bible and the most important communication of God to man. All people are sinners and have offended God by violating his law. We are guilty of sin. Because of this we are separated from God and deserving of eternal punishment in hell. There is nothing we can do to please God or to make up for our sin. But God revealed His love by sending His Son Jesus to live a perfect life undeserving of death, and yet to offer himself up to die in our stead. He paid for our sins on the cross, paying the penalty for breaking God's law. It is only through Christ and His sacrifice that we can be pardoned and reconciled to God. We must repent of our sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, believing in faith that He is the only way to salvation. When we call on the name of the Lord, we are saved from sin and death and for eternal life with God.

"What Are the Lost Books of the Bible?" GotQuestions.org. <https://www.gotquestions.org/lost-books-Bible.html>.

There are no "lost books" of the Bible. This question comes from the misconception that the apocryphal writings were removed from the Bible. But they never were truly part of the Bible. Every book that God intended to be in the Bible is included in the 66 books of the Bible. The apocryphal writings were rejected as Scripture because they were not inspired by God. Though some have historical value and some have good moral teachings, they are not God's words. We must treat them as fallible historical works. The Bible is complete, and we can trust that God has preserved His inspired and inerrant Words exactly as he intended for us to have it.

Session 9: Christianity is Logical

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Most arguments used to defend evolution are (choose one)
 - A. Based on reason
 - B. Based on logical fallacies
2. An argument is (choose one)
 - A. Only as valid as the person making the argument is reliable
 - B. Not more or less valid because of the one making the argument
3. Faith and reason (choose one)
 - A. Are mutually exclusive ideas
 - B. Are not contradictory ideas
4. Christianity (choose one)
 - A. Is the only position that explains the world we live in
 - B. Cannot explain many of the scientific ideas we see today

SEGMENT 1:

EVOLUTION AND ITS LOGICAL FALLACIES

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 9. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- A logical fallacy is a flawed line of reasoning.
- One of the most important aspects of being able to reason with someone is spotting errors in their reasoning.
- The fallacy of equivocation is changing the definition of a term in the middle of an argument.
- Reification fallacy is when a personal or concrete characteristic is attributed to an abstraction.
- A complex question fallacy is when a question is asked in a biased way that assumes something that is not necessarily true.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

We have seen that laws of logic are a reflection of God's characteristics, like omnipresence and immutability (i.e., He is unchanging). We should strive to reason rationally because that honors God and reflects His thinking. Paul exemplified this "as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures" (Acts 17:2). If we are to think rationally and honestly, it is important to understand the laws of logic, but it is equally important to recognize errors in reasoning. This helps us to reason rightly, but it also helps us to reason with others. Many people have been led to believe things that are false because they failed to recognize logical fallacies. Equivocation occurs when we fail to define terms precisely or consistently, like using the term evolution as "change" and as "Darwinian evolution" in the same argument. Reification occurs when we attribute concrete characteristics to an abstraction. For example, "mother" nature cannot design something. A complex question assumes something not necessarily true, presenting a bias in the question. These are neither fair nor helpful in an honest discussion.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is a logical fallacy? Why is it important to be able to spot logical fallacies?
2. How have you seen equivocation (changing a definition during an argument) used in defense of evolution or dismissal of Christianity?

SEGMENT 2: MORE FALLACIES

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 9. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- A faulty appeal to authority occurs when the “authority” is commenting on something outside their expertise or where they have a noticeable bias that would cause them to draw a wrong conclusion.
- Affirming the consequent is a formal fallacy that points to the consequent to prove the premise, which does not consider that there could be other causes for the consequent (e.g., wet grass doesn’t prove that it is raining; the sprinklers could be on).
- An ad hominem fallacy is when you refute the person rather than the argument.
- Christianity can account for the unchanging laws of logic, because logic, reason, and truth flow out of God’s character.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Although there is much value in respecting the opinions of experts, it is important to understand that they are just humans and can make mistakes. Proverbs tells us that “the one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him” (Proverbs 18:17). We must remember that an opinion or belief has no bearing on reality; we must examine the arguments to see if they are sound. Further, if we appeal to an authority who is commenting outside their expertise or in an area where they have noticeable bias that would cause them to draw a wrong conclusion, we are making a logical fallacy. Formal fallacies are when the structure of our logic does not follow rationally. If I predict one thing will cause another, finding the consequent does not necessarily prove the cause. Ad hominem fallacies are when the person making the argument is attacked rather than the argument. This usually happens when someone cannot refute the argument, so they try to discredit the source. But this is logically fallacious, because a true argument doesn’t become false just because someone of ill-repute says it.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How important is valid logic to understanding arguments?
2. When is it ok to appeal to authority? When does it become a fallacy? How have you seen evolutionists use this fallacy?

SEGMENT 3: EVEN MORE FALLACIES

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 9. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Bifurcation is a logical fallacy presenting two options as if they are the only two options and are mutually exclusive.
- A straw man argument misrepresents the argument in order to easily dismiss it.
- Begging the question is a fallacy in which you arbitrarily assume the very thing you are trying to prove.
- A syllogism is a format for deductive logical arguments.
- An enthymeme is an argument with a missing premise (that is assumed to be true).

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Faith or reason? This is an example of a bifurcation. The question implies an either/or answer, but these are not mutually exclusive options. In fact, it is because of my faith that I have the ability to be rational. Often, evolutionists will present straw man arguments, which misrepresent the creationist position in order to refute or dismiss it. For example, they may say that creationists believe God created all organisms as we see them today. That is not an accurate portrayal of the creationist position, which believes that there have been changes and mutations since the fall which has allowed variation among created kinds. You may have heard people say, “That begs the question,” when they mean to say, “that raises a question.” Begging the question is actually a logical fallacy where you arbitrarily assume the thing you are trying to prove. Other fallacious approaches are enthymemes, which are arguments with a missing premise, or question-begging epithets, where emotionally-loaded language is used to persuade people rather than good arguments. Not only is this a logical fallacy, it is also contrary to how God would have us to treat people. Rather, even in our debates and disagreements, we should abide by Paul’s instructions in Colossians 4:6.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the worst example of logical fallacies that you have witnessed? How did you respond? Were you able to identify it as fallacious?
2. Which of these fallacies have you been guilty of using? How can you be more careful in your arguments?

SEGMENT 4:

THE GOSPEL IS LOGICAL

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 9. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The Christian worldview is the only rational possibility because it makes sense of laws of logic.
- Any position that argues against Christianity is necessarily illogical because it argues against the very thing that makes logic work.
- The life and death of Jesus demonstrates why God allows bad things to happen.
- Jesus paid the penalty that we deserved for doing evil, satisfying God's justice.
- The right response for us is to repent of our sins, and to believe in Jesus' work on the cross, confessing that He is the Lord.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

The study of logic is a study in the way God thinks and how He expects us to think. Logic flows from His character. In fact, any position that argues against Christianity is arguing against the very thing that makes logic work. Christianity is rational and it is the only position that cogently explains the world we live in. Christianity explains evil and why bad things happen. This is clearly demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life and yet was crucified. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). God used this injustice to offer grace and mercy to mankind, the forgiveness of sins. We have committed evil acts against our Creator and God must punish sin. Jesus paid that penalty for us by dying on the cross, satisfying God's justice. In light of that, the right response for us is to repent of our sins, trust in the work of Jesus on the cross, and confess that He is Lord.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What do you think about Dr. Lisle's claim that studying logic should point you to Christianity as truth?
2. How can a fallacious argument about evil in the world lead to the Gospel?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Lisle, Jason. "Logical Fallacies Series." Answers in Genesis.
<https://answersingenesis.org/logic/logical-fallacies-series/>.

Logic can be a valuable tool for Christians to defend their faith. But mistakes in reasoning can derail even the best argument. This article series introduces logical fallacies, defines several of the most-common fallacies, and gives examples for how they appear in arguments against Christianity.

Penner, Melinda. "Christianity as the Best Explanation."
<https://www.str.org/w/christianity-as-the-best-explanation>.

In one sense, Christianity is an explanatory hypothesis to account for certain phenomena we observe in the world: the origin of the universe, the design of the universe, and the universality of morality. The explanations that Christianity provides to this empirical data provide a cumulative case for the rationality of Christianity and the superiority of Christianity to other belief systems. There are three criteria for evaluating possible religious explanations: logical consistency, empirical adequacy, and existential viability. Christianity offers the most rational satisfaction of all three criteria.

Shlemon, Alan. "When Arguments Aren't Arguments." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/when-arguments-aren-t-arguments>.

Many objections a Christian faces are not actually arguments. An argument contains a claim and a reason for it. Opinions are not arguments. If no reason is offered to support the opinion, it is not worth the effort defending against it. Name-calling is not an argument. Rather than take the bait, ask them to define whatever "bad" label they just applied to you. Phantom arguments offer critique but cannot offer reasons at that moment. This often presents itself as referring to some other source. For example, "There's a website that has answered your objection." If the reason is not present within the present conversation, it is not an argument. Self-refuting statements are not valid arguments because it fails to refute your view, but it also destroys their views. This needs no defense; just allow the "argument" to self-destruct. Engaging unbelievers can become more manageable when you learn to distinguish real arguments from non-arguments.

Shlemon, Alan. "One Bad Argument Against Christian Belief." Stand to Reason.
<https://www.str.org/w/one-bad-argument-against-christian-belief>.

A common challenge to the Christian is a dismissal based on motivation of belief. For example, "You believe in God because you want a father figure." Because you came to believe in this way, your belief isn't true. But this is an example of a genetic fallacy. It does not matter what motivates a person to arrive at his belief; it only matters why he believes it. What I wish to be true has no bearing on what is actually true. I can still have good evidence to believe in God, regardless of what motivated me to believe in Him. If the challenger wants to disprove Christianity, he must show why it is false with reasons or evidence.

Slick, Matt. "Logic and Apologetics." CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/logic-apologetics>.

Logic is an important part of defending the faith, a tool in the arsenal of Christian apologetics. Logic is a system of reasoning, the principle of proper thinking used to arrive at a correct conclusion. The proper use of logic in apologetics is to remove intellectual barriers that hinder a person from accepting Jesus as Savior. It cannot save someone, but it can be a valuable tool in defense of the faith. When someone objects to God's existence, we can use logic to point out their flawed thinking and to demonstrate the reasonableness of the Christian faith. Logic, when applied properly, always vindicates the truths found in the Bible and points to God.

Slick, Matt. "How Does Someone Become Saved?" CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/how-does-someone-become-saved>.

The Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of God's holy standard (Romans 3:23). The punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). The only way out is to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9). Jesus never sinned but died for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2), defeated death, and rose from the grave (1 Corinthians 15:1–4). Trust in what Jesus did on the cross to forgive you of your sins. Turn from your sins, believe in Jesus, and receive him as Lord and Savior (John 1:12; 1 John 1:9).

Slick, Matt. "Logical Fallacies or Fallacies in Argumentation." CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/logical-fallacies-or-fallacies-argumentation>.

There are many different kinds of logical fallacies that hide truth, so it is important to identify them in any debate or discussion. This article briefly explains and provides examples for 20 major fallacies, including ad hominem, begging the question, genetic fallacy, non sequitur, poisoning the well, red herring, and straw man.

Session 10: Getting the Good News Right

Road Trip to Truth

KEY QUESTIONS

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. The core truths of Christianity are (choose one)
 - A. The Ten Commandments
 - B. The Gospel

2. To trust in Jesus means (choose one)
 - A. To turn away from my sins and live according to the Bible
 - B. To embrace Jesus' righteousness and death on the cross alone as means of salvation

3. The Bible promises that when we come to Jesus (choose one)
 - A. He will take away our troubles and give us a better life
 - B. He will help us through hardships and troubles

4. The Christian is given eternal life (choose one)
 - A. When he or she dies
 - B. At the moment of salvation

SEGMENT 1:

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 10. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Cultural Christianity occurs when someone has grown up around the things of Christianity, but they've never digested the actual meat of what Christianity is.
- The Gospel is the core truth of Christianity.
- The Gospel is the good news of God's gracious response to the bad news—that we have all sinned and deserve God's punishment against sin.
- In His mercy and love, God sent Jesus Christ to come into the world, to live a perfect life, and to die on the cross as a substitute for sinners.
- Sin may seem like a small thing to us because we're sinful, but God is perfectly righteous.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Many people think of Christianity as a system of rules and regulations, like the Ten Commandments. While the law did play an important part in revealing the character of God and pointing to the coming Messiah, the core truth of Christianity is the good news of the Gospel. The bad news is that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). The Gospel, the good news, is God's gracious response. As a righteous Judge, He must punish sin. He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ to live the perfect life that God requires but we could never live. Undeserving of death, Jesus died on the cross as a substitute. Sin is a transgression against the infinite God, so it justly deserves an infinite punishment. Only someone infinite and perfect could pay that price. Jesus paid the price so that we could be rescued from our sin and to live a life of gratitude toward the One who saved us. Cultural Christianity is a real danger; Jesus said that not everyone who claims to be a Christian will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21). So what must you do to be saved?

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the Gospel? If you were asked to explain the Gospel to someone, could you do it?
2. Why is sin such a big deal? Is there such a thing as a small sin?

SEGMENT 2:

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 10. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Forgiveness is accessed through repentance and faith.
- Repentance is to turn away from sin and embrace Jesus.
- All people in some way are slaves—to sin or to righteousness; repentance changes our relationship to sin so we no longer love and cherish our sin but fight against it.
- A person is not forgiven by doing good things but by trusting in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross.
- Saving faith is not mere mental assent, agreeing that Jesus lived, died, and rose again, but also trusting in Him as if your life depends on it.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

It is through repentance and faith that we access the forgiveness offered by Jesus Christ. To repent is to turn away from sin and embrace Jesus. We are all either slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness. What forgiveness does is change our relationship to sin; we no longer love and cherish our sin, but fight against it, hating that our sin displeases our God who has been so gracious to us. Sometimes this is misunderstood and people think that doing good works is what earns them forgiveness. But forgiveness does not come by doing good things but by trusting only in Jesus and His work on the cross. To trust in Jesus means to turn away from trusting in myself to earn forgiveness, to turn away from thinking I can do anything to save myself, and embracing Jesus, His righteousness, and what He accomplished in His perfect life and death on the cross. It isn't enough to think about Jesus or to know the truth. Saving faith is not mere mental assent. I must embrace Jesus and trust in Him as if my life depends on it. According to the writer of Hebrews this "repentance from dead works" and "faith toward God" is the foundational doctrine of Christ (Hebrews 6:1).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is cultural Christianity? Can you be a Christian without knowing the Gospel?
2. What role does repentance and faith play in salvation? What do these terms mean?

SEGMENT 3:

WHY DO SO MANY GET THIS WRONG?

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 10. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Getting the Gospel right requires understanding the facts and responding correctly.
- Some believe in false gospels which teach that Jesus came for some other purpose than to satisfy the wrath of God on your behalf.
- It is possible to have a form of repentance without having faith (i.e., cleaning up your lifestyle) or to have a fake faith that does not bring a lifestyle of repentance.
- Some seek the gifts but not the Giver; the Gospel is not the benefits that come from a life with Christ.
- Some turn to Jesus in fear, wanting to avoid hell but not truly embracing Christ.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Many people have turned their back on Christianity because they misunderstood what Christianity is, what the Gospel truly is. They were caught up in cultural Christianity or placed their faith in a false gospel. Some grew up in a Christian home but never embraced the truth of the Gospel for themselves. Others followed false gospels that enticed them with false promises. Many seek the benefits of Christianity without seeking the Giver and without realizing the cost. Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Some people miss the Gospel because they are too busy trying to live the perfect life. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for placing their trust in their own deeds (Matthew 23:27). The Gospel is about dying to self and living for Christ. Have you repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus for forgiveness, or are you just living a cultural Christianity that misunderstands the Gospel?

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What are some reasons that people walk away from the faith? Do you know anyone to whom any of these reasons apply? How can you share the truth with them?
2. What is a false gospel? Have you heard any of these false gospels? What are the dangers of these messages?

SEGMENT 4:

A TRUE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 10. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- We were created by God and we will not live out the purpose of our existence until we embrace Him.
- Jesus offers salvation to everybody, regardless of your past.
- Jesus Christ came to save sinners, so you're exactly the kind of person Jesus came for.
- Today is the day of salvation; tomorrow is not promised.
- Jesus is the only one who can satisfy the longing soul.
- Repent, embrace Jesus, and receive what He has promised.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

We were created by God and for God. That means that we will never live out the purpose of our existence until we embrace Him. Although we have sinned and deserve His judgment, God has been merciful and kind to us by providing His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He offers this salvation to everybody. It does not matter how bad you think your past is; we have all sinned and all deserve the same punishment. But Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient to pay for even the most evil sin. In fact, Jesus came for the express purpose of saving sinners. Today is the day of salvation. We are not promised tomorrow; don't put off making a decision to repent and trust in Christ. Jesus explained, (John 5:24). Turn away from your sin and rebellion and turn away from your perceived righteousness which can never save. Repent, embrace Jesus—His life, His death, and His resurrection—and receive the eternal life that Jesus has promised. Why wouldn't you receive such a great gift?

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Are you a Christian? Why? If someone asked you how to be a Christian, what would you tell them?
2. If you understand the facts of the Gospel and want that salvation, what do you do next? How is someone saved?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Barnett, Tim. "A Gospel without Final Judgment Is Not the Gospel."
<https://www.str.org/w/a-gospel-without-final-judgment-is-not-the-gospel>.

There is a tendency in our presentation of the Gospel to stick with what makes people feel good. But this is not the whole Gospel and leaves out a vital aspect: judgment. While God's love, grace, and mercy are central to the Gospel, there is no need for them if not for God's just judgment of sin. Final judgment is not a peripheral issue; it is fundamental to the Gospel. If we are to remain faithful to Christ and His teaching, then we must include in our message the wrath of God that comes at the final judgment. God's love and justice aren't at odds with each other; they are presented together. The seeker-sensitive gospel is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Duncan, Austin T. "College Bound: Encouragement for Those at the Crossroads."
<https://blog.tms.edu/college-bound-encouragement-for-those-at-the-crossroads>.

Heading to college is a crossroads in life where decisions are made and dangers abound. But you don't have to make decisions you will regret or walk away from your faith. Here are three words to help you learn to handle your newfound freedom and maximize it for your spiritual growth. Too many young adults lack purpose. Redeem the time; walk wisely, making the most of every opportunity to benefit your soul. Second, make observable progress in areas of life and godliness. Live diligently and obediently. Making spiritual progress will encourage you and those around you. Third, make gathering with other believers on the Lord's day to worship Jesus a priority. The body of Christ is there to help you grow. Pursue that accountability. Few intend to leave the church, but when faced with the choices of life, they fall away. Be intentional and choose wisely.

Ellis, John. "4 Dangerous Lies That Are Destroying Christians." Pjmedia.com.

Paul warned Timothy that people will not endure sound teaching, but wish to have their ears tickled. Here are four lies that tickle people's ears today. Universalism is the lie that everyone will someday be reconciled to God. This view contradicts outright the teaching of the Bible, which describes God's justice and judgment as central to the Gospel. The social gospel encourages Christians to focus on repairing the world by engaging in social justice work, at the expense of the Gospel. This heresy denies the Bible's teachings on sin and salvation. Red Letter Christianity holds that Jesus' words take precedence over the rest of the Bible. Picking and choosing what parts of the Bible are authoritative is obviously problematic. Not to mention that Jesus quoted Scripture as having authority. They have constructed a god in their own image. The prosperity gospel teaches that God wants Christians to be materially wealthy and physically well and happy. There are many errors in this heretical view, including the self-centered focus of prayer and the rejection of the core elements of the biblical Gospel.

Grisanti, Michael. "Presenting God as He Defines Himself in His Word."
<https://blog.tms.edu/presenting-god-as-he-defines-himself-in-his-word>.

The postmodern world in which we live needs to hear a biblically-based presentation of God in all His glory, majesty, and power. We must allow the Bible to determine the exclusive truth claims that guide our lives. God Himself defines who He is. God is gracious, generously giving blessings that are undeserved. God is merciful, extending compassion to those who do not deserve it but desperately need it. God is slow to anger, withholding judgment as he gives sinners opportunity to repent. He abounds in steadfast love; He is faithful to His covenant. He relents from bringing disaster, willing to withdraw punishment toward those who genuinely repent. We do not get to define God in any way we choose. He has defined Himself in the Bible, and any other idea is false.

Mathis, Shawn. "A Weak Gospel Creates Weak Families." The Aquila Report.
<https://www.theaquilareport.com/a-weak-gospel-creates-weak-families/>.

When legalism or lawlessness infects and weakens the doctrines of grace, families will begin to crumble. A weak gospel creates weak families. The fundamental problem in Christian families and churches is gross ignorance of the Bible, especially the Gospel. The solution is obvious; we need biblical teaching with a focus on the Gospel of grace. Many families recognize that they need help; young people are leaving the church at an alarming rate. When we weaken the Gospel, religion becomes man-based legalism, which offers no hope to the despairing soul. When we teach the depth of truth of the Law and the Gospel, lives are transformed by the saving power of Christ. Anything less will continue to weaken Christian families.

Slick, Matt. "Law and Gospel." CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/law-and-gospel>.

God gave the Law through Moses in the Old Testament. It is the commands and precept that govern human conduct. It was a covenant of works between God and man and was unable to deliver us into eternal fellowship with God. In fact, it only served to condemn us to death. The Gospel is what saves us from the punishment the Law requires. The Gospel is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins. Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Law and served its punishment on our behalf. The Law helps us to understand that we are not good enough to merit God's favor and we need a Savior. We are saved by grace through faith, not by works, it is a gift from God.

Wax, Trevin. "Don't Settle for the Gospel of Self-Fulfillment." The Gospel Coalition.
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/dont-settle-for-the-gospel-of-self-fulfillment/>.

The "gospel of self-fulfillment" holds that the goal of life is to discover and express your unique sense of self, no matter what others may say or do to challenge your freedom of personality. The counterfeit gospel of self-fulfillment focuses on becoming all that God has created me to be and overcoming any evil barrier in the way of that journey. But the counterfeit redefines key points of the true Christian Gospel. It redefines sin as a failure to reach your potential. Shame is a subjective feeling to be set aside. Guilt is a failure to accept or love yourself. All barriers that stand in the way of pursuing your dreams must come down. But this is not Christianity. The Christian Gospel is not about us being the best we can be, it's about surrendering who we were and letting Jesus transform us into who He wants us to be. My purpose is not my own happiness, but His glory. We cannot settle for the counterfeit gospel of self-fulfillment.

Session 11: Access Denied: Christianity's Exclusivity

Road Trip to Truth

KEY QUESTIONS

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. God is (choose one)
 - A. Accessible to anyone
 - B. Accessible only through specific means
2. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam (choose one)
 - A. Are drastically different religious systems
 - B. Worship the same God
3. Christianity teaches (choose one)
 - A. You must be a good person
 - B. You cannot be a good person
4. Eternal life is (choose one)
 - A. Given to anyone who lives a moral life
 - B. Given only to those who trust in Jesus

SEGMENT 1: HOW DARE YOU!

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 11. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- There is a single right answer to how it is that a sinful man can enter into the presence of a Holy God and dwell with Him in heaven forever.
- We are not the judge, we are in a position to be told what is so by the Judge of the universe.
- God has given us directions to His house (i.e., heaven) and the one road to get there is Jesus.
- Exclusivity is not an arrogant claim because man is not the source of this knowledge; we are repeating what the perfectly righteous, omniscient God has communicated to us through the Bible.
- It is not the sincerity with which you believe something, it is the strength of the object of your faith.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Many people want to believe that there are many ways to God and whatever you believe is true for you. As we've already seen, though, this ignores the definition of truth. Just because you believe something doesn't make it true. Some people get angry that Christianity claims Jesus is the exclusive way to God. This is not an arrogant claim, however, because it is not based on a fallible human's knowledge. Is it arrogant to claim that $2+2=4$ and that 4 is the only correct answer? No, because the statement is true based on reality, based on an authority outside myself. In the same way, it is not arrogant to claim that Jesus is the only way to God because the perfectly righteous, omniscient (all-knowing) God has revealed this reality to us through the Bible. Acts 4:12 clearly states that salvation is found nowhere else but the name of Jesus. Arrogance is not the only objection to the exclusive claims of Christianity.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Do you believe there is one way to God? Are you surprised that students who claimed to be Christians don't believe that?
2. Do you think it is arrogant for Christians to claim their belief is the only truth? How have you heard relative definitions of truth like the ones the students gave?

SEGMENT 2: CHRISTIANS ARE MEAN

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 11. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The admitted failures of imperfect people shouldn't keep you from the perfect Savior.
- A bad Christian doesn't invalidate the message of the Gospel.
- The Abrahamic religions are drastically different—only Christianity teaches that Jesus is God and that mankind is born sinful and in need of a Savior.
- This biggest issue is the person of Jesus, to whom Christians look as God and Savior for salvation.
- Unlike other religions, Christianity does not teach that we must be a good person.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

As Christians, we should strive to call people to Jesus and to live in a way that demonstrates the love and grace of Christ. However, we know that we are imperfect people and we will fail. We don't call people to trust in us; we call them to trust in Jesus, who is perfect and will never fail. Our challenge to those who have been hurt by the church or turned away by individual Christians is to not let the admitted failures of imperfect people keep them from the perfect Savior. A bad messenger does not invalidate the message. Another objection to Christianity's exclusivity is the claim that all religions are basically the same. However, as we saw, even the Abrahamic religions are drastically different in the most important way—the person of Jesus Christ. In John 10:30, Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." Jesus is God and He is the only way to God.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Have you or someone you know had a bad experience with church or Christians that have led to a rejection of Christianity? How might you respond to them based on this video?
2. What makes Christianity different from other religions?

SEGMENT 3: I'M A GOOD PERSON

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 11. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Christianity says you are not a good person and you could never be a good person and you need to put all your trust in the only good person who ever lived—Jesus Christ.
- All world religions, except for Christianity, basically teach that if your good deeds outweigh your bad, you will go to heaven.
- We need someone who never sinned to live the life we should be living, to bear our just punishment, and to credit us their perfect life.
- Unlike other religions, Christianity teaches that God's grace is not a work to be earned but a gift to be given.
- Any sin against an infinitely Holy God is an infinite offense and merits an infinite punishment.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Many people believe that they will go to a better place when they die as long as their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds. Many people also believe that all religions teach some version of this. Christianity, however, is very different. Christianity teaches that we are not good people and we can never be good people. Our righteousness is worthless to justify us before the perfect and righteous Judge. God is just and He must punish sin. Our only hope is the grace of God, given not based on works but on faith in Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life but chose to pay our just penalty. Titus 3:5 says, "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy."

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How good do you have to be to get to heaven?
2. What does it mean that God is just? What does God's justice require of us?

SEGMENT 4:

THE GOSPEL IS FOR BAD PEOPLE

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 11. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- › Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).
- › We are natural born sinners and perfection is impossible for us to attain on our own.
- › Because God is just, He must punish sin.
- › Jesus Christ, God in flesh, lived a perfect life for us and suffered the punishment we deserved on the cross, He died, and rose from the grave as a sign that He truly is God and has paid our sin debt.
- › The great exchange: we get access to God and eternal life with Him through Jesus' perfect life and payment for our lawbreaking.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Jesus boldly claimed, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus is God's only provision for our salvation. No other religious system provides complete forgiveness and reconciliation with God. We can do nothing to justify ourselves before the righteous Judge of the universe. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and to pay the penalty we should have paid, so that mercy could be granted to us through the grace of God. It is through Jesus' perfect life and payment for our lawbreaking that we are given access to God and eternal life with Him.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Have you considered God's role as judge in the Gospel?
2. What is the great exchange? How does this change the conversation about being good enough to get to heaven?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Noyes, Jonathan. "Contradictory Religions Can't All Be True." Stand to Reason. <https://www.str.org/w/religions-can-t-all-be-true>.

Religious pluralism is the belief that all religions are legitimate roads to God with no single correct or true path. While it is true that many religions have some similarities, it is the differences between religions that makes pluralism unreasonable. For example, none of the monotheistic religions teach the same thing about Jesus. According to Christianity, Jesus is the God-man who was crucified for sin and rose from the dead. Salvation is founded on that truth. But Judaism and Islam contradict that message, denying Jesus is God and that he rose from the dead. If these religions deny a central tenet of another, then they cannot all be true. Jesus claimed to be the way and the truth. He can't be the way and not be the way.

"How Can a Loving God Send Someone to Hell?" GotQuestions.org. <https://www.gotquestions.org/loving-God-send-someone-hell.html>.

This question is loaded with loosely defined terms and wrong assumptions. Before we can address the question, we must define our terms biblically and correct our assumptions. First, what does it mean that God is loving? Our culture has tried to frame a loving God as a non-confrontational being who tolerates anything we want to do. But that is not biblical. God is love, so nothing he does is unloving. After defining love biblically, it becomes clear that the idea that God allowing people to go to hell is unloving is actually a faulty assumption. Another faulty assumption is that God sends people to hell. The wording of the question implies that if anyone goes to hell, it is the result of God's unilateral action. However, human beings have the freedom to participate in their life choices and eternal destinations. The real question should be "If God is love, then why do some people go to hell?" This, then, is not an objection but an opportunity to share the gospel. People reject the truth of God, and God is just, as well as loving. Justice requires adequate punishment for crimes committed. God doesn't send people to hell; people's sin earns the sentence to hell. God's love and mercy offers a pardon to anyone who will accept it.

Hall, Amy. "Yes, Christians Are Hypocrites, If by "Hypocrite" You Mean "Sinner"." <https://www.str.org/w/yes-christians-are-hypocrites-if-by-hypocrite-you-mean-sinner->.

Many have rejected Christianity, claiming hypocrisy as their reason for objecting. But our hypocrisy is not a reason to reject Christianity, it is further proof for the need of salvation through Jesus Christ. Christians don't claim to be perfect; we recognize that we fall short of God's glory. Christianity is not merely about being a good person, it is about surrendering to the only one who was ever perfect. That is why we go to church and follow Christ. A Christian's sin doesn't contradict Christianity, it confirms it. Christianity isn't about how good the Christians are; it's about the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross. Being honest about our sin is simply another avenue to point to the need for Jesus.

Noyes, Jonathan. "Contradictory Religions Can't All Be True." Stand to Reason. <https://www.str.org/w/religions-can-t-all-be-true>.

Religious pluralism is the belief that all religions are legitimate roads to God with no single correct or true path. While it is true that many religions have some similarities, it is the differences between religions that makes pluralism unreasonable. For example, none of the monotheistic religions teach the same thing about Jesus. According to Christianity, Jesus is the God-man who was crucified for sin and rose from the dead. Salvation is founded on that truth. But Judaism and Islam contradict that message, denying Jesus is God and that he rose from the dead. If these religions deny a central tenet of another, then they cannot all be true. Jesus claimed to be the way and the truth. He can't be the way and not be the way.

Rumley, Jerrod. "Is It Arrogant For Christians To Say They Know the Truth?" Unlocking the Bible.

<https://unlockingthebible.org/2018/05/is-it-arrogant-for-christians-to-say-they-know-the-truth/>.

In our Western culture, relativism abounds, where everybody believes themselves to be their own determiner of truth. This is arrogant thinking because it makes the subjective feelings of an individual superior to external objective moral laws. But our culture has so embraced relativism that if you don't accept someone else's "truth," you are labeled as arrogant and intolerant. Christians claim to have the truth. Does that make Christians arrogant? It is not arrogant to claim to have the truth if the claim is true and based on an authority higher than oneself.

"Should Christians Be Tolerant of Other People's Religious Beliefs?" GotQuestions.org.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/tolerance-Christian.html>.

Tolerance is touted as the supreme virtue. Every idea has equal merit and is worthy of equal respect and if you reject this relativism, you are narrow-minded and bigoted. Of course, this view cannot stand, especially in the realm of religion. Religious systems make contradictory truth claims, so they cannot all be equally valid. Jesus claimed that no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). The Christian also accepts the truth that Jesus was God, died on the cross for sin, and rose from the dead. To be "open-minded" about any of these doctrines is to deny the clear teaching of God's Word and to betray God Himself. We cannot be "tolerant" of other religions if that means affirming their "truths" as equally valid. But we can and should exercise restraint and show respect as we engage others in conversation. We stand firm in the truth, defending the faith with gentleness and respect, full of grace and truth.

Slick, Matt. "Am I Good Enough to Go to Heaven?" CARM.org.

<https://carm.org/am-i-good-enough-to-go-to-heaven>.

No, you are not good enough to go to heaven. Jesus is the only person to have ever been good enough to earn His own way to heaven. Only a perfectly sinless life is good enough to make the cut. No matter how moral you are, you have violated God's law, just as every human to have ever lived (Romans 3:23). God demands perfection and no one is perfect, except Jesus. No matter how many good things you've done, if you have ever told a lie, cheated, hated someone, or disobeyed an authority in your life, you are unworthy to enter heaven. The only way to be counted worthy of going to heaven is for Jesus to take your sin on himself and to charge his righteousness to your account. This way, when the Father looks at you, he doesn't see your sin, He sees the righteousness of Christ.

"What Did Jesus Mean When He Said, "I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6)?" GotQuestions.org.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/way-truth-life.html>.

By using these words, Jesus was claiming himself to be the great "I Am" (i.e., the Almighty God), the only path to heaven, the only true measure of righteousness, and the source of physical and spiritual life. He was claiming to be the Creator, the God of Abraham, and the Holy One of eternity. He was claiming to be the means for salvation and forgiveness. Through his death would come life. He was assuring the disciples that even though they didn't understand the events that were about to occur, he was the way and if they would follow him, they would be assured of following Him all the way to heaven. The same is true for us.

Session 12: Anxiety and Depression

Road Trip to Truth

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Hope is found in (choose one)
 - A. Thinking positively and working hard to pursue your dreams
 - B. Nothing the world has to offer
2. Purpose is found in (choose one)
 - A. Working hard for what you want
 - B. Serving someone greater than yourself
3. Guilt and shame are (choose one)
 - A. Negative emotions we must overcome
 - B. Warnings we should listen to
4. The church is (choose one)
 - A. A place of judgment and fake people
 - B. A group of believers called to love one another

SEGMENT 1:

HOPELESSNESS

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 12. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Everything the world offers is incapable of sustaining the weight of its own promises.
- God gives us good gifts so we can appreciate Him.
- When we worship the creation rather than the Creator, we turn objects into idols, and idols always break the hearts of their worshippers.
- The root cause of depression and anxiety is hopelessness.
- The world offers no reason to think the future will be better; the things the world offers cannot ultimately satisfy.
- God is eternally a God of hope; because of Jesus, Christians will experience joy, peace, and perfect love in the presence of God.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

God has created us to worship Him and He gives us good gifts so that we will appreciate Him. The world has tried to take God out of the picture, which leaves us nothing but temporal objects to worship. We are told that if we chase material things and success as the world defines it, we will be fulfilled. The problem is that none of those things can sustain the weight of their own promises. They will pass away and we are constantly left chasing after things that can only temporarily satisfy. Ultimately, the world has nothing to offer, having no reason to think the future will be better than it is right now. In fact, King Solomon attempted to achieve the various solutions of the world, and he concluded, “I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after the wind” (Ecclesiastes 1:14). The God of hope provides the solution to our hopelessness. Christians rest in the hope of joy, peace, and perfect love in eternal life with God.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Have you ever felt anxious or depressed? How have you tried to deal with those things? Did it work?
2. What do you think about the claim that we can't live one second without hope? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

SEGMENT 2:

PURPOSELESSNESS

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 12. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- If our life and work is based on non-eternal things, those things are bound to let us down.
- We were created by God for God; our purpose is to glorify Him and to find our joy and satisfaction in Him.
- The reality for Christians we have been called by God to go out into the world and to do things that bring Him glory.
- Even the seemingly mundane things are infused with meaning because of who they are done for.
- God promises that any good we do, working as unto God and not man, will be rewarded.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Another cause for anxiety and depression is purposelessness. We were created by God for God. Until we are on that path, we will continue to feel that purposelessness. Solomon decided that everything under the sun is meaningless. In his final conclusion, he recognized why those pursuits were pointless. The end of the matter, he wrote, is to “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). When God is out of the picture, nothing ultimately fulfills that longing for purpose. When God is at the center of everything we do, then everything is filled with purpose. We have been called by God to go out into the world and do things that glorify Him, “for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). We serve our purpose when we serve our Creator.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What does the Bible teach about the purpose of people? How does this change the way you think about your life and purpose?
2. How can even the mundane tasks of this life have purpose in a biblical sense?

SEGMENT 3:

GUILT AND SHAME

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 12. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The conscience is the internal witness to your morality warning you to be careful as you approach danger and sounding an alarm when you've gone too far.
- The world has no viable long-lasting answer to guilt, but tries to deny or suppress it.
- When we do wrong things, guilt and shame are there to help point us to the solution—Jesus Christ.
- The only solution to shame and guilt is Jesus, who takes our guilt for us, granting us forgiveness.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

We know we are sinful, and therefore we are guilty when we sin. Our conscience is the internal witness to morality that lets us know when we are getting close to danger and guilt is the alarm that sounds when we've gone too far. Guilt and shame serve a purpose; they drive us to the One who can forgive our guilt and ease our shame. The world denies those feelings, telling us that we should ignore them and continue living our lives however we want. They provide temporary escapes to suppress the guilt and shame, but those don't address the root of the problem and are likely to leave you with more guilt and shame. When we allow guilt and shame to serve their purpose and drive us to God, we can be set free from the guilt and shame of sin. Jesus died on the cross for sin, so that He could exchange our sin, and the guilt and shame it brings, for forgiveness and righteousness before God. We see this role of guilt clearly in Hosea 5:15 when God told Israel and Judah He was waiting for them to "acknowledge their guilt and seek my face." God also explained the solution in Jeremiah 33:8 - forgiveness.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What is the purpose of your conscience? In light of this, is guilt a bad thing?
2. How does the world try to solve the problem of guilt and shame? What does the Bible say is the right way to deal with guilt and shame?

SEGMENT 4:

LONELINESS AND THE GOSPEL

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 12. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The answer to loneliness is found in the fellowship of believers, a community you immediately enter into upon trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness.
- The community of believers, both universally and locally, provide friends that are called to love one another.
- The road to recovery starts with recognition of the true solution—Jesus Christ.
- Hope, joy, happiness, purpose, healing, clarity, compassion, and cleansing are available only in Jesus.
- We are told to cast our anxieties on Jesus because He cares for us.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

God has answered the problems of hopelessness, purposelessness, and guilt, and He has also answered the problem of loneliness. Not only is God near the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18) and the Holy Spirit dwelling within believers (2 Timothy 1:14), but God has also provided a community for believers. When you turn from your sin and place your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are immediately embraced into a community of believers. You are part of a universal family, bound together by the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit. There is also a local expression of that in the local church, where believers walk through life together, bearing one another's burdens and loving one another. Turn to Jesus, trust in Him for the forgiveness of your sins, and experience the hope, purpose, forgiveness, and family that is available only in Him. Cast "all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. How does Christianity solve the problem of loneliness?
2. How have you been encouraged by this Gospel message? How can you use what you've learned to share the Gospel with others?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Altrogge, Mark. "The Surprising Truth About Finding Your Life Purpose." The Blazing Center.

<https://theblazingcenter.com/2018/01/27998.html>.

There are countless books, blogs, videos, and inspirational speakers that talk about the importance of purpose and how to find it. It seems that everyone is seeking their purpose in life and feels unfulfilled without it. But while the world talks of pursuing your purpose, the Bible teaches that the Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. My purpose is to let God fulfill His purpose. And we don't have to know God's purpose for us in order for Him to fulfill it. God's purpose for me, as a believer, is to become conformed into the image of Christ. And I can trust that God will fulfill that purpose. Trusting God to fulfill His purpose for me means that I can simply be faithful to serve wherever I am.

Hill, Amy. "How Can God Forgive Me?" Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/how-can-god-forgive-me->.

If God is a just judge and the standard of morality, then how can He not condemn someone who has committed crimes against His laws? The truth is, no matter how many or how few sin we've committed, how egregious or how minor, we have all transgressed the law of God and deserve punishment. But God doesn't just forget about sin and let it go unpunished. Rather, He satisfied justice. He paid the cost for sin by sending His Son to die on the cross. Because the penalty has been paid, He can forgive the debt and count us as righteous. God can forgive me, regardless of the extremity of my sin, because He is both just and gracious.

Jarms, Dan. "The King Who Can Cleanse." The Masters Seminary Blog.

<https://blog.tms.edu/the-king-who-can-cleanse>.

Jesus is the King who can cleanse. He can cleanse and restore without risk of being defiled. He sets captives free. He has authority over all things. Leprosy was a disease of the physically and spiritually unclean. When the leper asked Jesus to heal him, Jesus chose to touch Him. Rather than recoil from the man, Jesus reached out to him. But Jesus didn't just heal his physical ailment; He offered spiritual healing as well. Leprosy was the physical mirror to the spiritual reality of the defiling nature of sin. There is no sin for which Jesus cannot forgive and provide cleansing. No sin is too big, too repulsive, too defiling for Jesus to reach out and cleanse, if you will just humbly bow and repent.

Noyes, Jonathan. "Suicide and the Need for Hope." Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/suicide-and-the-need-for-hope>.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among teens and young adults. As the influence of Christianity wanes and naturalism grows, young people are left with the idea that this physical realm is all that exists. There is no purpose and there is no hope when we fail to achieve the elusive "success" the world touts. Likewise, legalistic religion leaves the bitter taste of hopelessness. It is true the success of the world is fleeting and we can never measure up to the standards of God's laws. That's the reality of our fallenness and the point of the gospel. But there is hope found in Jesus Christ and the forgiveness he offers.

Penner, Melinda. "The Solution for Shame." Stand to Reason.

<https://www.str.org/w/the-solution-for-shame>.

In today's world, the solution for sin is to justify it. But the true solution for shame is forgiveness. We have transgressed God's law, and thus our guilt and shame is deserved. But God loves us and so He sent Jesus to deal with sin in the only way that could ease our shame and guilt. Those who reject God struggle with shame and guilt because they refuse to acknowledge the solution. Jesus forgives. The law reveals our shame, but grace can erase it. Guilty people need to understand the Gospel of grace.

Reeder, Harry. "The Gospel Blessing of Guilt." In Perspective.

<https://harryreeder.wordpress.com/2014/09/15/the-gospel-blessing-of-guilt/>.

The Gospel blessing of guilt results from the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and leads to repentance, forgiveness, and victory over sin. Guilt is not a pleasant feeling and for the believer, it is especially bitter because it reveals that we have sinned against our Creator. But the Gospel promises forgiveness over sin and the power and desire to kill sin and pursue holiness. For the Christian, true guilt leads us to Christ and further along in the process of sanctification. For the lost, true guilt leads to conversion as sin is exposed by the power of the Gospel.

Slick, Matt. "What Is the Meaning and Purpose of Life?" CARM.org.

<https://carm.org/meaning-of-life>.

Our purpose is for God's glory. It is our purpose to praise Him, worship Him, proclaim Him, and accomplish His will. That is the reason for our existence. The particulars of that purpose may look different in the lives of various individuals, but we were created for God's glory. Some try to reject God's glory as the purpose of their lives and decide their own purpose. The problem is they have no right or ability to do so and become self-serving. Ultimately, that pursuit is empty. Moralism does not satisfy our God-given purpose. We were created to glorify God, and ultimately, doing so is the only way we can find true purpose and meaning in life.

Street, John. "Enslaved: A Theology of Addiction." The Masters Seminary Blog.

<https://blog.tms.edu/enslaved-a-theology-of-addiction>.

The world teaches that you cannot be freed from an addiction. It is a hopeless dependence on something that cannot ultimately satisfy. But biblically speaking, addiction is merely an enslavement to sin. And through the power of Christ, we can be set free from that enslavement. God created man to be dependent upon God, for his own good and for God's glory. But as a result of the fall, man strives for autonomy and when he fails to attain it, he finds himself dependent on whatever he set in place of God. That idol entangles him; he becomes addicted, enslaved. The ultimate source of addiction is not the substance, but the person. But there is hope for the enslaved when he dies to himself and looks to Christ, presenting himself as a slave to righteousness.

Session 13: The Practically Secret Meaning of Easter

Road Trip to Truth

KEY QUESTIONS

Have participants write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. When you think of Easter, the first image you think of is (choose one)
 - A. Eggs and/or bunnies
 - B. An empty tomb
2. Proof for the resurrection of Jesus (choose one)
 - A. Does not exist
 - B. Includes various lines of evidence
3. Eyewitness testimony is (choose one)
 - A. A valid authentication of a historical event
 - B. Not very reliable evidence
4. When describing the Gospel (choose one)
 - A. It is more important to talk about Jesus' death on the cross than His resurrection
 - B. It is just as important to talk about Jesus' resurrection as His death on the cross

SEGMENT 1:

WHAT IS EASTER?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 13. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- A holiday is a “holy day” set aside to revere something or someone sacred.
- Easter is a celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, after dying on the cross as a sacrifice for sin.
- The crucifixion of Jesus demonstrates the sinfulness of man, the seriousness of sin, the perfect righteousness of Jesus, and the justice of God.
- On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, proving that He truly is God and that He has defeated death.
- It trivializes the most important event—the resurrection of Jesus Christ—that Jesus would have to compete with the Easter Bunny for our affections on the holiday we celebrate His resurrection.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Easter is the holy day set aside by Christians to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead—the most important event in history. All of human history and all of the Bible points to this momentous occasion. Though He never disobeyed God, Jesus took on the pain and suffering of the crucifixion—the punishment that we deserve for disobeying God—and then willingly gave up His spirit, receiving the wrath of God on behalf of sinners and satisfying God’s justice. “He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wound we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). In the crucifixion of Jesus, we see the sinfulness of man, the seriousness of sin, and the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving He was truly God, He had defeated death, and in Him mankind can be forgiven and restored to their Creator. This is the single most significant event in history, and it trivializes the work of Jesus to make him compete for our affections on the day intended to celebrate His resurrection.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Why do you celebrate Easter? How do you celebrate Easter? Do you think some Easter traditions trivialize the meaning of the holiday?
2. How does creation connect to Easter?

SEGMENT 2:

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

VIDEO

Play the second segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 13. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- The resurrection is essential to Christianity.
- The resurrection of the Messiah was implicitly predicted by Old Testament prophecy and both implicitly and explicitly by Jesus Himself.
- The Gospels were written as eye-witness accounts so there would be written records of the events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- Jesus appeared to over 500 people, both individually and in crowds, ate with them, talked with them, and fellowshiped with them.
- The apostles were persecuted for their belief in the risen Christ and all but one were killed for this belief.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

We have been given many lines of evidence for believing that Jesus rose from the dead. First, the Old Testament prophecies predicted that the Messiah would rise from the dead. Jesus told the disciples that He would rise from the dead after three days (Mark 9:31). The empty tomb also serves as evidence. The Romans were experts at killing people and they verified that Jesus was dead before taking Him off the cross. Jesus was really dead. But on Sunday morning, the tomb was really empty. Even the religious leaders could not deny the tomb was empty but had to pay the guards to lie about what happened (Matthew 28:11–15). As Paul described in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, Jesus appeared alive to many, both individually and in large groups, after His resurrection. Paul went from persecuting the church to suffering for it. Peter went from denying Jesus to dying for Him. These people knew Jesus rose from the dead and were willing to die for that truth.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. What kind of evidence is there for the resurrection of Jesus? What evidence for the resurrection of Jesus do you find most convincing?
2. Do you believe Jesus really rose from the dead? If not, what kind of evidence would you need to believe it happened?

SEGMENT 3:

OBJECTIONS TO BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS

VIDEO

Play the third segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 13. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- Eyewitness testimony has been and continues to be recognized as a valid authentication of historical events.
- The Romans were quite adept at execution, and even the enemies of Jesus didn't try to argue He wasn't dead.
- Over 40 days, Jesus appeared to many people on various occasions and gave many proofs, like eating and speaking to them.
- The fact that the women were the first to see the empty tomb and the first witnesses of the risen Christ underscores the authenticity of the event because if it was made up, they wouldn't have begun with a group that was sidelined by society.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

The Romans were experts at execution and they checked to make sure Jesus was dead before removing Him from the cross. That is why they didn't break His legs like the others—He was already dead. Even Jesus' enemies didn't try to cast doubt on His death; they lied about the resurrection. Furthermore, it is impossible that all the eyewitnesses were duped. As Luke recorded, Jesus "presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). He appeared in various places at various times, to individuals, groups, and as many as 500 at one time. He appeared to women, disciples, and even enemies (i.e., Paul). He ate with them, spoke with them, fellowshiped with them. Even today, and throughout church history, we see tangible evidence for the resurrection in the transformed lives of those who trust in Jesus and experience Christ's resurrection power.

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Are eyewitnesses good evidence valid authentication of historical events?
2. What theories have you heard that try to explain that Jesus didn't really rise from the dead? How do those theories fail?

SEGMENT 4:

THE TRUE MEANING OF EASTER

VIDEO

Play the fourth segment of *Road Trip to Truth* episode 13. Encourage participants to take notes. Main ideas:

- › We know that the events of Easter are historically factual because of the eyewitness accounts, the transformation of the disciples, and the millions of lives transformed by the resurrection.
- › Jesus was raised from the dead so those who trust in Him can be raised to new life with Him.
- › Through the resurrection, Jesus defeated death which gives us the opportunity to have eternal life.
- › It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that we can have His righteousness and stand before God as righteous.

DISCUSSION

Have participants write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

>> Connection Point <<

Easter is sacred because Jesus rose from the dead, proving He was God, defeating the power of sin and death, and offering sinners the hope of eternal life. We can know that the events of Easter are historically factual because we have written records of eyewitness testimonies and because of the millions of lives that have been transformed by the power of the resurrection. We stand before God, the Judge of the universe, as guilty sinners deserving of death. Jesus became our sacrifice, taking on our sin and dying on the cross as our substitute to satisfy the wrath of God. That is not the end of the Gospel message. It is through His resurrection that the power of death has been defeated and if we will turn from our sin and trust in His saving work, we can stand before God clothed in the righteousness of Christ and risen with Him to eternal life. Paul clearly explains this in Romans 6: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

ADDITIONAL GROUP QUESTIONS

As time permits, use these additional questions to help facilitate a group conversation.

1. Is the resurrection a necessary part of the Gospel? Why or why not?
2. How are you (if you are a believer) proof that Jesus rose from the dead?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Altrogge, Stephen. "He Is Risen: 9 Glories Of The Resurrection." The Blazing Center.

<https://theblazingcenter.com/2019/03/he-is-risen.html>.

The resurrection of Jesus means Jesus is alive, which means everything He promised will happen. The resurrection means Jesus is reigning; He is Lord. It means that a man who is able to sympathize with us is on the throne. The resurrection means the penalty for sin has been paid. It means Jesus will make all things new. It means we will receive new, glorified bodies. It means we have a perfect high priest who lives to intercede for us. The resurrection means we have the Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Jesus means that we have hope of a glorious future with God in heaven.

Busenitz, Nathan. "Christ's Resurrection: The Source of Hope." The Masters Seminary Blog.

<https://blog.tms.edu/blog/christs-resurrection-the-source-of-hope>.

The resurrection of Jesus is the center of our hope as Christians. The resurrection of Christ secures the Christian's hope of eternal life in a resurrected body. Christians can face death optimistically, because Jesus has risen from the grave victorious over death. Because the Lord Jesus conquered sin and death through His crucifixion and resurrection, believers can face death without fear. They know they are going home into the presence of the Lord.

Gandi, Herald. "The Resurrection: "According to the Scriptures"?" The Masters Seminary Blog.

<https://blog.tms.edu/resurrection-according-to-scriptures>.

Paul said that without the resurrection, the death and burial of Jesus Christ would be rendered ineffective and incomplete (1 Corinthians 15:13–19). The resurrection is vital to the gospel message, and the Old Testament scriptures testified to the Messiah's resurrection on the third day. Psalm 16:10 expresses David's hope that he would not be left in the realm of the dead. David envisioned resurrection. That hope is placed in the resurrection of the Messianic Holy One. Psalm 22 speaks of death and being forsaken by God, but then moves on to life after death. That is only possible through the resurrection of the Messiah. Isaiah 53:10–11 describes the Messiah who suffers, dies, and is raised. Isaiah clearly claims the death of the suffering Servant, but the Davidic Covenant fails if the Messiah remains dead. But the resurrection will justify many as righteous. These and other passages clearly speak to the resurrection of the Messiah, which occurred "according to the Scriptures."

"Is Easter a Pagan Holiday?" GotQuestions.org.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Easter-pagan-holiday.html>.

Many critics of Christianity claim that Easter is a pagan holiday. But that is simply not true. Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. The argument comes from the idea that the word Easter comes from pagan origins or because Christianity hijacked a pagan holiday. There is very little support for the idea that the name Easter came from pagan origins. While it is true that there are many pagan holidays that occur during the season in which Easter is celebrated, sharing a date on a calendar is no proof that the two holidays are related. There is no real evidence to support this idea. And even if Easter Sunday were a Christianized version of an ancient pagan holiday, it would not mean Easter itself is a pagan holiday. Christians celebrate the central act of redemption and the victorious resurrection of Jesus—a decidedly Christian celebration.

Perman, Matt. "Historical Evidence for the Resurrection." Desiring God.
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/historical-evidence-for-the-resurrection>.

Even critical scholars agree on three truths about the resurrection. (1) The tomb in which Jesus was buried was discovered empty by a group of women on the Sunday following the crucifixion. (2) Jesus' disciples had real experiences with one whom they believed was the risen Christ. And (3) as a result of the preaching of these disciples the Christian church was established and grew. By exploring these facts and their implications, the truth of the resurrection emerges very clearly as the best explanation. The truth of the resurrection is important because it validates what Jesus claimed about himself and provides the basis for eternal life with God.

Slick, Matt. "What Is Easter?" CARM.org.
<https://carm.org/what-is-easter>.

Easter is the celebration of the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Jesus Christ was crucified as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. He died and was buried. But on the third day, He rose from the grave, victorious over sin and death. It is His death and resurrection upon which all of Christianity is built. Jesus rose on the first day of the week, so Easter is always celebrated on Sunday. Jesus was crucified at the time of the Passover, which is the 14th of Nissan. Traditionally, Resurrection Sunday was the Sunday following the first Friday after the first full moon of the month. This generally corresponds to April in our modern calendars.

Townsend, Daniel. "Romans 4:25: The Key To Understanding Easter." The Aquila Report.
<https://www.theaquilareport.com/romans-425-the-key-to-understanding-easter/>.

The resurrection of Christ is not merely a remote historical fact, but the ground upon which we hope that Christ's work on our behalf has succeeded and been ratified by God himself. By raising him from the dead, God vindicated Christ, proving him before all the world to be precisely who and what he claimed to be. Romans 4:25 states that Jesus was raised for our justification. Christ had to die and atoning death for our sins, but that wasn't the end. Because of Christ's resurrection, we can be justified before God.

Zhakevich, Iosif J. "The Promise of Redemption." The Masters Seminary Blog.
<https://blog.tms.edu/the-serpent-of-old>.

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God pronounced a curse on the man and woman, the world, and the serpent. In the curse, he promised a battle between the serpent and the offspring of Eve, who would be victorious after suffering harm. This promise became a beacon of hope for the people of Israel. They knew God would ultimately reign victorious over sin and death. The same promise was used to encourage the persecuted church. Jesus had conquered sin and death, having victory over Satan on the cross and fulfilling the redemptive work necessary for salvation. The church is then called into battle until the final defeat of Satan is described in the book of Revelation. God's plan of redemption will conclude with decisive victory over the evil one and all of creation will find full and final relief from the curse that has plagued the universe since Genesis 3.

APPENDIX A

Session Summary Handouts

HELPFUL TIP: These summaries are intended to be sent home with participants. Hand them out after the participants have watched the video session.

Session 1: What is Truth?

What is truth? We learned that truth is what aligns with reality. Further, we discussed that two competing truths cannot exist. The Law of noncontradiction states that (A) cannot equal (B) and not equal (B) at the same time. We also learned that there is no such thing as atheism because nobody possesses all knowledge of all things in all places to definitively state, "There is absolutely no God." Finally, we reasoned our way to God by considering morality. When we see a traffic sign, we know there is a law giver. When we see absolute morals (like murder and rape), we know there is a moral law giver. Because we have moral absolutes, we must conclude there is a moral law giver, otherwise we would only have moral preferences and could never state that the Holocaust was morally WRONG. The only question is, "Who is that moral Law-Giver?" The Bible gives us every confidence that the only moral law-giver is the God revealed in Scripture.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Religious beliefs are absolutely true or false.
- 2) Christianity is the only way to God.
- 3) The Bible we have today is the same Bible that was written by the original authors.
- 4) The main point of the Bible is to reveal the only truth that leads to eternal life.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- John 14:6

Session 2: Can Everybody Be Right?

There are two different models for truth. The Coherence Model states that truth is whatever a group determines it to be. The Correspondence Model states that truth is whatever corresponds with reality. The former model suggests we should tolerate and affirm one another's truth claims, even if those claims don't correspond with the world around us. We learned that tolerance does not mean all claims are equally valid. When we tolerate another person's claim, we recognize there may be a disagreement, but we treat each other kindly and fairly. For example, someone may claim that $2+2=6$. Regardless of how untrue that statement is, Christians treat that person kindly and respectfully, even as we disagree. We then asked, "Should God be tolerant of false religions and evil actions of humans?" Absolutely not. God is completely justified in his intolerance of other religions because He is the Creator of the universe and all truth rests in Him. It isn't nice to affirm a lie. Finally, God is actually loving for hating sinful behavior.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Truth is decided by what corresponds to reality.
- 2) Postmodernism holds that truth is determined by groups and/or individuals.
- 3) Tolerance is treating someone fairly even when you believe they are wrong.
- 4) God is just in His judgement of sin.

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- John 8:31-32

Session 3: The People v. Truth

Where does morality come from? Who determines what is right and wrong? Postmodernists believe that truth is relative and that culture determines morality. However, we learned that truth can be absolute. For example, murder is always absolutely wrong. It is a universal conclusion that the genocidal actions of Nazi Germany were wrong. The reason we can all agree the actions were wrong is because God has supplied us all with a moral compass called the conscience. God helps us to understand that truth is based on reality and there are absolutes in this world that are true for everyone (i.e. rape, child abuse, murder, theft, etc.). Without God, moral chaos would erupt, life would have no meaning, and we would be hopeless.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Truth claims can be absolute.
- 2) Morality is established by an absolute, universal standard of right and wrong.
- 3) Personal happiness is impossible to satisfy on your own.
- 4) The ultimate questions about life (i.e. where did we come from or what will happen when we die) can be answered by God.

“They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them...”

- Romans 2:15

Session 4: If You're Just Matter, You Don't Matter

What we believe matters. What we believe about creation, who we are, and the laws of the universe all point us to a greater truth. But there are some that suppress the truth that is revealed in creation (Rom 1:18-20). To believe the evolutionists' claims, you would have to deny all science and logic which clearly reveals there must be an uncaused mover and a moral law-giver. For example, the complexity of our DNA could not possibly be the product of random chance. In fact, it is so complex and unique that it demands a designer; that designer is God. Finally, we learned that outside of God, science and logic cannot exist. Science and logic come from information, information comes from a mind, that mind is God.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) The theory of evolution is irrational.
- 2) A consistent evolutionist will exploit the weak.
- 3) The existence of scientific laws derives from biblical creation.
- 4) What you believe about origins is foundationally important.

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him...”

- Genesis 1:27

Session 5: Everyday Proof Evolution is Impossible

How life began should matter to us because it affects how we think about human value, purpose in life, and morality. It doesn't make logical sense to claim, "something can come from nothing" or "life can arise from non-life." Life must come from life. Something that is lifeless cannot produce something that is full of life which has feelings, emotions, observes beauty, uses reason, and understands knowledge. Behind all life is an objective standard and mindful Creator that has eternally existed and is the uncaused cause of all life; that person is God. There are many (i.e. atheists and evolutionists), who suppress the truth of God as creator because they want to maintain rule over their own lives. The problem with this idea is that it ignores the reality of a perfect Judge who will one day hold all men accountable for their sins.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Before the beginning of the universe there was something or someone who existed eternally.
- 2) Life must come from life.
- 3) Beauty is based on an objective standard.
- 4) Many people reject the existence of God because they want to rule their own lives.

"There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist..."

- 1 Corinthians 8:6

Session 6: Explain This, Atheists!

In order for a worldview to be rational, it must act in accordance with logic and reason. Atheists and agnosticism fail to meet the parameters of this definition. Atheists believe that we're all accidentally created by random chance, taking away all purpose in life. Yet, people have a sense of purpose. For example, many atheists believe it is their purpose in life to convince others that they have no purpose. However, Agnosticism adheres to a neutral position on the existence of God; a divine being may or may not exist. The agnostic position is irrational because claiming to not know if God exists is to claim the Bible is wrong. Finally, we come to the conclusion that Christianity is the only rational worldview that can explain the laws of logic and morality. The laws of logic are universal and unchanging just as God is immutable and omnipresent, while moral absolutes only make sense when you have a law-giver. Furthermore, neither good nor evil can exist if God doesn't exist. Therefore, evil is actually an agreement for God.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Christianity is the most rational worldview.
- 2) Agnosticism is a neutral stance, neither accepting nor rejecting God.
- 3) Something that is rational is something that acts in accordance with logic and reason.
- 4) The existence of evil in the world is an argument for the existence of God.

“Whoever is not with me is against me...”

- Matthew 12:30

Session 7: Do We Still Need God?

Christianity is often challenged by unbelievers who suppress the truth, even in the midst of irrefutable evidence, that God does not exist and Christianity is irrational. In reality, it is irrational to believe there is no creator when we have good reason to believe that there is one. Let's consider creation. If there is no eternal being at the start, you find yourself in an infinite regress, which posits that we cannot have an infinite amount of preceding events or causes. Likewise, without God, how do you determine what is morally right and wrong? You can't. Without apology we believe that God exists and the Bible shows us that we need Him. His existence has been made known to us through his creation, our conscience, His Son and the Scriptures.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) It is irrational to believe there is no creator.
- 2) The evil we see in the world helps us to know God better.
- 3) If God appeared tangibly or did miraculous signs, people would not be any more likely to believe.
- 4) The Bible shows us our need for God.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

- Psalm 14:1

Session 8: The Most Reliable Book on Earth

The Christian Bible is the most scrutinized and criticized book in the world. Critics object to the truth of scripture by claiming that it is filled with grammatical errors, contradictions, and that fallible men wrote it. None of these claims make a strong enough case to discredit the reliability of the Bible. The grammatical errors are minor and do not take away from the content of the text, all of the apparent contradictions have valid explanations, and the men who wrote the scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down the message from God. If we were to test the reliability of scripture against a set of criteria, we would say that the scripture would need to be internally consistent, externally verifiable, ethical, influential, and life-transforming. For anyone “checking off the boxes,” the Bible meets every one of these criteria.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) When it comes to the Bible, we know that it has not changed.
- 2) The Bible is a book of history.
- 3) We know that the 66 books of the Bible are God’s Word because they were affirmed and authorized by Jesus himself.
- 4) Humanity is characterized by sinfulness.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Session 9: Christianity is Logical?

Many of the arguments against Christianity and the Bible are based on logical fallacies, which are flawed lines of reasoning. Therefore, it is imperative that Christians are able to identify them when they are used against them (i.e. equivocation, reification, complex questions, etc.). Christians expose them by reasoning rationally in a way that both honors God and reflects His thinking. The Christian worldview is the only rational worldview because it makes sense of the laws of logic in a non-fallacious way. Other worldviews cannot stand logical scrutiny because they argue against the very thing that makes logic work, God. Logic, reason, and truth all flow from God's character.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Most arguments used to defend evolution are based on logical fallacies.
- 2) An argument is only as valid as the person making the argument is reliable.
- 3) Faith and reason are not contradictory ideas.
- 4) Christianity is the only position that explains the world we live in.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- Colossians 4:6

Session 10: Getting the Good News Right

The Gospel is the core truth of Christianity. Yet, it's one of the most misunderstood messages in evangelical circles because many false teachers have distorted its true message. Some have turned it into a prosperity message, "Believe and God will bless you abundantly." Others have professed, "It's good news for all and no one is going to hell." The scripture, however, presents an exclusive message of salvation alone, by grace alone, through Christ alone, through faith alone. We are born into this world as slaves to sin which we inherited from Adam. But God, by His grace and mercy, grants us repentance and faith at which point we become slaves to righteousness. As someone who is forgiven and born again in Christ, we now have a new relationship with sin - we despise it! If you do not have this attitude against sin, you should examine yourself. You are not promised tomorrow. Repent and embrace Jesus. Christ promised that only those who repent and believe shall inherit eternal life.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) The core truths of Christianity are the Gospel.
- 2) To trust in the Lord Jesus Christ means to embrace His righteousness and death on the cross alone as means of salvation.
- 3) The Bible promises that when we come to Jesus He will help us through hardships and troubles.
- 4) The Christian is given eternal life at the moment of salvation.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life."

- John 5:24

Session 11: Access Denied: Christianity's Exclusivity

Many people want to believe that there are many paths to God, but that is simply not true. In reality, there is only one way for sinful man to dwell in heaven, and it's through the divine person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus boldly proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This makes Christianity exclusive when it comes to salvation. Many believe that good deeds will earn their way into heaven. Christianity teaches that we are not good people and outside of Christ none are good. We can do nothing to justify ourselves before God. But Christ lived a perfect life, received the wrath of God that was reserved for us as sinners, and paid our sin debt in full so that we may be acquitted of all charges and made righteous before God.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) God is accessible to anyone.
- 2) Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are drastically different religious systems.
- 3) Christianity teaches you cannot be a good person.
- 4) Eternal life is given only to those who trust in Jesus.

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

- Acts 4:12

Session 12: Anxiety and Depression

Anxiety and depression stem from two major issues: hopelessness and purposelessness. The answer to our hopelessness is the joy, peace, and perfect love that is found in God. Outside of God, you are left chasing things that only satisfy temporarily. The answer to our purposelessness is understanding that we have been made in the image of God, and everything we do is for the King of Kings. When we grasp this truth, then everything in our life is filled with purpose. Finally, we learned that as sinful beings, our conscience uses guilt and shame to point us to the one who can forgive our guilt and ease our shame - the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross for sin so that He could exchange our sin, and the guilt and shame it brings, for the forgiveness and righteousness of God. That is the only truth that exchanges anxiety for joy.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) Hope is found in nothing the world has to offer.
- 2) Purpose is found in serving someone greater than yourself.
- 3) Guilt and shame are warnings we should listen to.
- 4) The church is a group of believers called to love one another.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

- 1 Peter 5:6-7

Session 13: The (Practically) Secret Meaning of Easter

Easter is not about chocolate bunnies and plastic eggs. Easter is the celebration of the single most significant event in history - the resurrection of the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. The resurrection is essential to Christianity because without it the entire Christian faith would be pointless. There is insurmountable evidence that the resurrection of Jesus did occur. For example, the tomb was empty and verified by both Roman guards and religious leaders, Jesus appeared to many eyewitnesses, and previous skeptics became devout followers (i.e. Paul and Peter). Following his crucifixion, Jesus rose from the grave, proved He was God, defeated the power of sin and death, and offered sinners the hope of eternal life.

Four Key Takeaways

- 1) When you think of Easter, the first image you should think of it an empty tomb.
- 2) Proof for the resurrection of Jesus includes various lines of evidence.
- 3) Eyewitness testimony is a valid authentication of a historical event.
- 4) When describing the Gospel it is just as important to talk about Jesus' resurrection as His death on the cross.

He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

- Isaiah 53:5