

Road Trip to **TRUTH**

Study Guide



Season 3

Table of Contents

How to Use This Curriculum	3
Episode 1: “Take Me to Your Leader”	6
Episode 2: Your Brain on Technology	12
Episode 3: Bumper Sticker Philosophy	19
Episode 4: What Does It Mean to Be a Woman?	25
Episode 5: Making Sense of ‘Making Love’	32
Episode 6: What Does It Mean to Be a Man?	38
Episode 7: Why Should We Trust the Bible?	45
Episode 8: And Justice for All	51
Episode 9: Capitalism vs. Socialism	58
Episode 10: The Old and Objectionable Testament	65
Episode 11: The Greatest Community on Earth	71
Episode 12: The True Meaning of Christmas	78
Episode 13: The Importance of Interpretation	84

How to Use This Curriculum

Two-thirds of American young adults leave the church between the ages of 18 and 22, according to a study done by LifeWay Research in 2017. Of those who dropped out, 71 percent did not plan to leave the church. A Pinetops Foundation report in 2019 predicted that about 35 million youths raised in Christian homes will depart from the faith over the next 30 years.

Although there are a variety of factors that lead to this exodus of young people from the Christian faith, the secular ideas encountered on university and college campuses undeniably exacerbate the issue. Campuses are rife with atheistic, evolutionary, and postmodern ideas that are incompatible with a biblical worldview.

The Road Trip to Truth curriculum is intended to prepare churched teenagers for the onslaught of postmodern ideas they will encounter on university campuses. 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, students 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.

Curriculum Components

Road Trip to Truth DVD

This curriculum is based on The Road Trip to Truth, a 13-episode video series. Each approximately 30-minute episode invites experts to deal with a particular topic that students are likely to face on university campuses.

Student Guide

The student guide provides a place for students to engage with their assumptions and presuppositions as they are challenged by the content of this curriculum. This can become a valuable tool as they find themselves being confronted by the worldly claims of their peers. The guide presents four questions for each episode and space to take notes and record how answers may change throughout the study.

Teacher Guide

The teacher guide equips you to facilitate the study in a meaningful way. With detailed instructions, a clear schedule, main ideas, and a scripted Connection Point, you will be prepared to lead each session so that you can focus on engaging your students in the most effective way. The schedule includes pacing guides that are based on 1-hour of class time. If you have more time, you can inflate the discussion time between each video or allow for a deeper discussion following the last segment.

Questions

Each lesson begins with four questions the students should answer before watching the videos. All four questions should be answered at the beginning of the class. Each question corresponds to a segment of the episode. After each segment, pause the video and allow students to revisit the corresponding question. They should decide whether or not they would like to change their answer and record their reasoning. Discuss their answers and explanations as time allows.

Video Segments

Each session covers a full episode, broken into four segments. The episode should be paused after each segment to maximize the teaching content it covers. After each segment, use the main ideas provided to reinforce the concepts from the video. See Discussion Tips.

Connection Point

Provided with each segment is a scripted Connection Point. This section is scripted so it can be read directly, but you are encouraged to be familiar with the material and to make it your own. As the teacher, you know your students best and are uniquely qualified to engage them in a way that will have a lasting impact. The Connection Point is designed to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video segment.

Conclusion

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

Discussion Tips

The strength of this curriculum depends on the engagement of the students with the ideas presented. Many of these ideas may be new and unfamiliar. Many unsuspecting university students are swept up by the philosophies of postmodernism and non-biblical worldviews without ever realizing the implications of those beliefs. Use the discussion time to guide students to think about what they believe, why they believe it, and how it lines up with truth. Use the following discussion tips to help you lead fruitful discussion:

- Discussion is most fruitful when a majority of students are involved. Manage students as necessary to draw out those who are quieter and keep the more vocal from dominating the conversation.
- Create an environment where students feel safe to share their thoughts and experiences without judgment or ridicule.
- While you need to be aware of your time, do not cut short a discussion that seems especially engaging to the students. Invest your time where the students respond best.
- Have a plan, but be flexible enough to allow the students to guide the discussion. In this way you will learn what aspects they are most concerned with.
- Use the students' answers to the questions, especially if they changed their answers, to launch discussion.

- Use the main ideas provided as prompts for discussion. Ask whether students agree with certain statements in the video. Encourage thoughtful explanations.
- Ask questions that require thoughtful answers.
- Avoid leading questions; the goal of discussion is not to receive correct answers, but to lead students to think about their answers
- Be prepared to offer correction to false ideas, especially toward the end of the curriculum, but when possible, guide students to discover for themselves the flaws in their thinking

Sample Schedule

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

6:00-6:01	Open, introduction, and prayer.
6:01-6:03	Have students answer all four questions.
6:03-6:11	Watch video segment one. Pause.
6:11-6:17	Discuss segment one and students' answers to question one.
6:17-6:25	Watch video segment two. Pause.
6:25-6:31	Discuss segment two and students' answers to question two.
6:31-6:39	Watch video segment three. Pause.
6:39-6:45	Discuss segment three and students' answers to question three.
6:45-6:51	Watch video segment four.
6:51-6:57	Discuss segment four and students' answers to question four.
6:57-7:00	Wrap-up, answer questions, make announcements, close in prayer.

Episode 1: Take Me to Your Leader

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. The Bible (choose one)
 - Does give answers about aliens.
 - Does not give answers about aliens.
2. The existence of aliens is (choose one)
 - Supported by UFOs.
 - Unscientific.
3. Angels (choose one)
 - Could be what people think are aliens.
 - Cannot be the same thing as aliens.
4. Alien righteousness is (choose one)
 - The ethical behavior of super-evolved extraterrestrials.
 - Perfect holiness attributed to on who does not deserve it.

Episode 1: Segment 1

Aliens and the Bible

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth episode 1. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The fascination in aliens is driven by the motivation to vindicate the belief in the secular naturalistic worldview
- Science has not proven life to exist elsewhere and, in fact, has demonstrated the universe to be hostile to life
- The Bible says nothing about life on other planets
- The Bible uses *nephesh chayya* to refer to living creatures (plants not included)
- Finding extraterrestrial life would in no way undermine the Bible
- In a secular worldview, we should expect to see life all over the universe, which we don't

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 are fascinated by aliens. They make for great sci-fi stories, but is it possible that there could truly be sentient life on other planets? Although the Bible is silent on the existence of aliens, we can—and should—still look to God's Word to form our worldview and inform our understanding of the universe. Colossians 1:16 makes it clear that "by [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible." That would include aliens, if they existed. However, we also see in Isaiah 45:18 that God "formed [the earth] to be inhabited." There is no such statement about other planets. If we start with a biblical worldview, there is nothing to suggest extraterrestrials exist.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you think it is possible we may discover life on other planets?
- Do you think the discovery of aliens would change the way you think about the universe?

Episode 1: Segment 2

UFOs: Unidentified Flying Objections

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- A UFO is an unidentified flying object (also called Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon)
- If UFOs turned out to be directed by sentient aliens, it would be difficult to reconcile with biblical theology since Jesus came to die for the race of Adam.
- In alleged encounters with aliens, there is never any tangible evidence or additional eye-witnesses.
- Due to the lack of quantifiable data, it is unscientific to reach the conclusion that aliens are likely to exist.
- The Bible's silence on the subject of aliens and UFOs seems to best reflect reality.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Those who want to believe in the existence of aliens often point to UFOs as evidence. However, there are many possible explanations for UFOs (planets, satellites, drones, atmospheric phenomena, etc.), and there has never been any tangible evidence that a UFO has originated from alien intelligence. Because of this lack of data, it is actually unscientific to conclude that aliens are likely to exist. The Bible's silence seems to best reflect reality. It is also worth noting that if we start with biblical theology, it seems unlikely there are other sentient beings in the universe. The Bible says that all creation was subjected to the curse of sin (Romans 8:20-21). Furthermore, Jesus came to be born into the race of Adam to save mankind (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:45). If aliens existed, it would be difficult to reconcile with this theology. However, there is no evidence that aliens are likely to exist.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever seen a UFO or heard about a UFO sighting? How did you respond?
- Do you think it is more scientific to believe in the possibility of aliens or to reject the possibility?

Episode 1: Segment 3

Angels and Demons

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- While the Bible never speaks about sentient, moral, personal, intelligent, physical beings from other planets, it does talk about personal, moral, sentient, intelligent, spiritual beings—angels.
- Angels are described as messengers travelling between Earth and the spiritual realm.
- Angels could not be aliens because they are not biological beings.
- There are many misconceptions in pop-culture about angels and demons.
- Satan doesn't rule over Hell; he is tormented like everyone else in Hell.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 wrong ideas about angels because of the way they have been portrayed through history and in pop culture. The Bible describes angelic beings as messengers and servants of God. They are spiritual beings, though they are sometimes given temporary physical bodies (e.g., Genesis 19:15). They are spoken of in the masculine sense and are created beings. Humans do not turn into angels when they die. Likewise, demons are often misrepresented in pop culture. Most importantly, Satan is not God's equal. God will defeat Satan and if we submit to God, the devil must flee from us (James 4:7). Satan doesn't rule over Hell but suffers torment like all others who rejected and rebelled against God.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What do you think angels are like? What do they do?
- Is it easier to believe in aliens or angels?

Episode 1: Segment 4

Alien Righteousness

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Many view the Bible and its descriptions of the spiritual realm as mythology.
- Some claim that it would be easier to believe the Bible's teachings about the spiritual realm if someone from there came and told us about it.
- Jesus did come from the spiritual realm, put on flesh, and teach us about spiritual things.
- Alien righteousness refers to the righteousness of Christ that is given to us through salvation.
- We are alienated from the holy God by our sin but God offers reconciliation through his Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sin and gives us his righteousness instead.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: When talking about religion, most people would agree that it can be hard to believe something without seeing it. And yet many hold to the possibility that aliens exist despite the lack of evidence. It is easier to believe in aliens because of the hope that evidence may yet be found. But the real reason it is easier is because it doesn't require surrendering oneself to the Creator God. God is holy, completely different from us. We are not holy. We are in rebellion and cannot be near God; his presence would destroy us. God must judge sin and those who set themselves up as little gods (Rom 3:23). We are the aliens, separated from God and needing reconciliation. But God does not leave us in that state. His alien righteousness is available to us through trust in him and his work here on earth (Luke 19:10).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever thought of Jesus as an alien? What does the word "alien" mean?
- What does it mean that we are alienated from God? How can we be reconciled?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 1:

Additional Sources

GotQuestions.org. *“How would it impact the Christian faith if it was discovered that aliens exist?”* GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 9, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/aliens-Christian.html>.

The Bible gives us no reason to believe that there is extraterrestrial life. However, if a discovery were to reveal alien life, there would be no effect on genuine Christianity. The Word of God is our absolute authority in every area of life, and no discovery can change that. The Earth and mankind are unique in God’s creation, and the Bible reveals the history of mankind in relation to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. The presence of extraterrestrial life, however unlikely, in no way undermines the authority of Scripture.

Slick, Matt. *“Does the Bible mention extraterrestrial or alien life?”* CARM.org. September 24, 2013. Accessed September 15, 2022. <https://carm.org/about-the-bible/does-the-bible-mention-extraterrestrial-or-alien-life>.

The Bible makes no mention of extraterrestrial life. It does, however, mention otherworldly forces—namely, angels and demons. Although the Bible is silent on the issue of aliens, many speculate that biblical theology rules out the possibility of such life. Romans 8:22 states that the whole of creation groans because of the effects of Adam’s sin. This suggests that any other life forms would also be fallen and in need of a redeemer. However, Jesus came to live a human life in order to reconcile mankind to God. So if another sentient species exists, they have no redeemer.

Griswold, Alexander. *“Ancient Aliens: I Don’t Want to Believe.”* Juicy Ecumenism. July 26, 2013. Accessed September 15, 2022. <https://juicyecumenism.com/2013/07/26/ancient-aliens-i-dont-want-to-believe>.

There are many off-the-wall theories regarding aliens, UFOs, and conspiracies about alien influence in ancient civilizations. In particular, some people point to biblical accounts with unexplained phenomenon or supernatural occurrences as evidence of alien life. Though some of these proponents claim to be Christian, many are using the possibility of aliens as alternative explanations to the miracles that God told us He performed. We can be certain that speculation has gone too far when it attributes the works of God to extraterrestrials.

Lisle, Dr. Jason. *“Are Aliens Real?”* Chapter 18 in *The New Answers Book 1*. Master Books, 2007. Accessed September 15, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/alien-life/are-aliens-real>.

Many Christians have bought into the idea that extraterrestrial life could exist in other areas of the universe. Although the Bible is silent on the existence of aliens, it is important to note that the idea of extraterrestrial life stems largely from evolutionary ideas. If life evolved here, it is likely that it has evolved somewhere else as well. Another troublesome consideration is that of God’s plan of redemption. All of creation has been subjected to the effects of sin, and yet Jesus came to save the sons of Adam. We should also consider that we have no evidence that there may be life elsewhere. The lack of evidence lines up with a biblical understanding that aliens likely don’t exist. Most of the hype about aliens come from evolutionary speculation or an attempt to explain the world without God. As Christians, we must start with the Bible, and it gives us no reason to expect to find alien life.

Episode 2: Your Brain on Technology

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Our culture today has (choose one)
 - A good relationship with technology.
 - An unhealthy relationship with technology.
2. Smartphones have made us (choose one)
 - Less connected with others.
 - More connected with others.
3. Modern technology (choose one)
 - Helps us think critically.
 - Hinders our critical thinking.
4. Social media (choose one)
 - Strengthens spirituality.
 - Is often a distraction from spiritual things.

Episode 2: Segment 1

Did We Even Think About This?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 2. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Modern technology is not necessarily good or bad in and of itself.
- Technology is something we should have mastery over.
- Depression, anxiety, and even suicide often result from unhealthy use of social media.
- Modern technology has caused inappropriate content to become accessible, anonymous, and affordable.
- Modern technology has many positive effects, such as connecting with loved ones, remote learning opportunities, e-commerce.
- We must be careful that we don't overuse technology so that something positive becomes our downfall.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Former generations seem to view technological innovations with contempt and suspicion. For those of us that grew up in the age of modern technology, it is easy to dismiss the concerns of our parents and grandparents. But maybe we should take a minute to pause and consider their criticisms. While there are many positive effects of technology, there are also some very real dangers. The attitude of Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:12 may be helpful: "All things are permitted for me, but not all things are of benefit. All things are permitted for me, but I will not be mastered by anything." Technology is not necessarily good or bad. But we must be careful that we don't let it master us. Just because something is not forbidden does not mean that it is good for us. We must use biblical discernment to navigate the dangerous waters of modern technology.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think there is such a difference in how generations view technology?
- Do you have mastery over technology, or does it have mastery over you?

Episode 2: Segment 2

Smartphones

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 2. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Not all progress is good; we must be discerning about technological “progress.”
- Although the prevalence of smartphones offers many benefits, it also carries some negative consequences.
- Smartphones can hinder us from being grateful for what we have.
- Smartphones can hinder us from forging genuine, authentic, transparent relationships.
- Devices tend to bring out—and perhaps magnify—who we really are.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 many benefits that come from modern technology, and smartphones in particular. While having phones can help us to stay connected with others, it also seems to make it more difficult to have real inter-personal relationships. Relationships are foundational to the gospel and to Christian living. God sent his only Son to sacrifice himself on the cross so that we might be reconciled to God (Romans 5:10). In our Christian walk, we are called to be recognized by our love for one another (John 13:35). Perhaps one of the most subtle dangers of smartphones and social media is the temptation to be envious and covetous of others. We often compare our worst reality with someone else’s best portrayal and we become discontent. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 tells us that we should be content with what we have, not desiring the riches of this world. Even as we harness the power of technology for benefit, we must be careful not to fall prey to its dangers.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What affect do you think devices like smartphones have on our lives?
- How do you think social media plays into how you think about yourself?

Episode 2: Segment 3

Meme Think

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 2. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Technology has changed the way we think because we expect to get quick answers.
- Modern technology seems to have shortened our attention spans.
- It may be that the ease with which we can get information has made us lazy.
- Technology, though not responsible for misinformation, can contribute to its spread.
- We are no longer trained to think critically about our own thoughts because we are always in consumption mode.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 access to immeasurable amounts of information at the tap of a finger. But this access also tends to make us lazy. We may be smarter in the sense of being able to procure more facts, but we also lose much of the discipline and understanding that came with searching diligently for information. Our attention spans are shorter—we tend to want things in soundbites. The problem is that sometimes you can't say everything that needs to be said in a 30 second video. Proverbs 13:4 says that the "soul of the lazy one craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made prosperous." Perhaps the reason we often feel empty and restless despite our time being spent continuously online is that we are not working diligently toward something that matters.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What are some possible negative effects of having such quick and easy access to information?
- How equipped are you to discern between messages that are true or false?

Episode 2: Segment 4

Anything Can Be an Idol

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 2. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Modern technology can be useful, but it can also contribute to anxiety and depression
- All the time we are spending on social media, video games, porn, etc., is time we could be spending focused on God
- Jesus gave his life to reconcile us to himself—what could be a better use of time than getting to know him?
- We can use technology to aid us in developing a better relationship with God
- We must be careful to consider who our master is: our phone or our Savior

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: We live in a world where technology is commonplace. We use it for school, for work, and for play. We must engage with technology on various levels, but we must also exercise wisdom and discernment as we navigate the dangerous world of technology. If you are lost in the world of technology or struggling with results like anxiety and depression, Jesus can help. He can liberate us from our addictions and give us a purpose more meaningful than anything found online. God promises to give us wisdom if we ask (James 1:5) and we are called to discern what is excellent, pure, and blameless (Philippians 1:9-10). The fact that our world is rampant with technology is no excuse. We must be ever vigilant that we are the master of technology and that it is not our master—our idol. We can use technology to strengthen our relationship with the one who gave his own life to reconcile us to himself. He wants to have a relationship with us. Is our relationship with technology stronger than our relationship with Christ? You will never have a healthy relationship with technology if it is a distraction from the one who truly deserves your focus and devotion.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How does technology help and/or hurt your relationship with God?
- How can you focus your attention more fully on God?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 2:

Additional Sources

Murray, David. *"7 Steps to Using Technology for God's Glory."* Cristianity.com. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-life/7-steps-to-using-technology-for-god-s-glory.html>.

Technology is a necessary part of our lives in today's world. But we should be careful to use it in a way that glorifies God. Especially with the dangers of navigating online. We should put in place boundaries, not just to protect our devices from hackers or viruses, but more importantly, to protect our hearts and minds. We can use software to help us stay away from the darker side of the web, or we can ask others to keep us accountable. Most importantly, we must set our hearts to seek God and honor Him.

Murray, David. *"Digital Doxology: Technology is the Gift of God."* Head Heart Hand. Accessed September 17, 2022. <http://headhearthand.org/blog/2018/02/14/digital-doxology-2-technology-is-the-gift-of-god>.

Just because technology can be used for evil purposes doesn't mean it is evil. God, in His goodness, has given us many benefits through advances in technology. Technology has granted many health benefits in the way of surgeries, treatments, and even research into medicines. We can communicate with family members around the world with ease. Technology can help us organize and store records, access educational opportunities, find online sermons and devotional resources, study the Bible and historical context, etc. Not to mention many of the things we take for granted: air conditioning, vehicles, electricity, power tools, and many others. We can celebrate the good gift of technology while denouncing evil practices employing technology.

Williams, Corey. *"Made for More than Scrolling: Part 1."* The Masters Seminary Blog. August 16, 2022. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://blog.tms.edu/made-for-more-than-scrolling-part-1>.

Time is limited, and we often waste it through our mindless interaction with technology. But it isn't technology that is the problem; the problem is our tendency toward distraction. The answer is not just in self-discipline and routines that minimize the role of technology in your life. What we need is wisdom and a heart that seeks God. God has given us a purpose in this life, and time-wasting technology is one of the most distracting forces. If we are to make the most of the time we have, we must be motivated to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

Hodge, Bodie. *"Is Man Getting 'Smarter'?"* Answers In Genesis. October 6, 2016. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/technology/is-man-getting-smarter>.

We should be careful of the claim that people are getting smarter. It is true that we have discovered more about our universe and invented new and amazing technologies. But it is an evolutionary perspective that people began as dumb brutes. Of course, this is not true. Although we have a greater accumulation of knowledge than generations past, we need only to look at the construction of the ark and the tower of Babel to know that ancient people were just as brilliant as people today. People were created in the beginning in the image of God. The first people were intelligent. We can thank God that He created an orderly universe that we can observe and in which we can conduct repeatable science in order to discover and innovate.

Episode 3: Bumper Sticker Philosophy

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Philosophical systems like empiricism and romanticism (choose one)
 - Have had very little influence in your life.
 - Have greatly influenced your life.
2. "Follow your heart" is generally (choose one)
 - Good advice.
 - Bad advice.
3. Postmodernism is one of the (choose one)
 - Most dangerous philosophical systems.
 - Least dangerous philosophical systems.
4. The philosophical system that has had the greatest influence on Western civilization is (choose one)
 - Christianity.
 - Existentialism.

Episode 3: Segment 1

Bumper Sticker Philosophy 101

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 3. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Bumper sticker slogans can be hiding some toxic ideas.
- Empiricism is the idea that we must have physical scientific evidence before we can confidently believe in something.
- The “see it to believe it” mentality is not true because there are many things we believe in that can’t be seen (e.g., love, beauty, reason, etc.)
- “Trust the science” is problematic because scientific consensus is always changing.
- “Science” has gotten some things very wrong in the past.
- A worldview needs to be rooted in something more permanent and stable than scientific worldview.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Bumper sticker slogans can be catchy and cute, but many of them are rooted in broader philosophical systems. Because these sayings show up everywhere, they have likely influenced you even if you would claim to disagree with the philosophy they are rooted in. Empiricism is a worldview that came from the Age of Reason. Basically, empiricism holds that something cannot be known or believed with any confidence until there is scientific evidence. You’ve probably heard it in phrases like “I have to see it to believe it” or “trust the science.” The problem is that empiricism is baseless. How can you scientifically prove things like love, beauty, and reason? And do people actually think they need science to prove that those things exist. As Christians, we believe in the unseen. In fact, the Bible teaches that faith is the “proof of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Empiricism is also built on the ever-changing scientific understanding. Christianity is built on the unchanging God (Hebrews 13:8). Empiricism cannot offer a stable foundation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What trendy slogans have you adopted? Do you know where it came from?
- When does “trust the science” become dangerous?

Episode 3: Segment 2

Romanticism

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 3. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Bad ideas have consequences.
- Romanticism is the focus on emotions and satisfying one's own need for immediate gratification and pleasure.
- "Follow your heart" is problematic because our hearts are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9).
- Romanticism teaches that you should trust in yourself and how you react to situations.
- The danger is when we believe in ourselves to the exclusion of all other information.
- "You only live once" captures the selfish notion of pursuing passions to the detriment of others.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Romanticism is a dangerous philosophy because it looks to the heart as the arbiter of truth. It focuses on gratifying one's own desires and trusting in one's emotions and feelings on a matter, rather than any absolute truth. These ideas are particularly dangerous because our hearts are wicked and deceitful guides (Jeremiah 17:9). The Bible teaches us the opposite of romanticism. Rather than trust our hearts and seek our own pleasure, Christians are instructed not to "carry out the desire of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16) and to consider others as more important than themselves (Philippians 2:3). Emotions are fickle and changing. Our worldview needs something more substantial to be grounded in.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Were you surprised to find out that some of these common slogans come from Romanticism?
- If everyone was driven by emotion, how do you think that would impact society?

Episode 3: Segment 3

Postmodernism

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 3. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Post-modernism is the worldview that claims that the individual defines truth.
- “Live your truth” is dangerous because a society where everyone decides their own truth has no structure or safety.
- If you say “you can’t tell me how to live my life,” you are actually telling someone how to live their life.
- Not all truths are valid truths, as evidenced by history.
- Postmodernism is so prevalent because people want to believe that they are their own authority.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Postmodernism is prevalent in today’s culture. Everyone wants to be their own authority—their own god. The problem is that in a postmodern world, there is no absolute truth. The claim that “all truth is valid truth” is an impossibility. If everyone lives their own truth and no one can tell anyone else how to live their life, there is no stability or safety in society. Postmodernism is in direct contradiction with Scripture, which teaches that God and His Word are truth (John 17:17). How can a philosophy that denies reality and emphasizes that there is no truth be a firm foundation for a worldview? This is a philosophy, though, that has infiltrated much of our culture with catchy slogans and ideas that appeal to our arrogant and sinful natures. These ideas are extremely dangerous.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever told anyone, “You can’t tell me how to live my life!”?
- Why do you think postmodernism is so popular in our culture?

Episode 3: Segment 4

Christianity

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 3. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Christianity is not just a religion, but also a philosophical system because it seeks to explain how the universe operates it, how you should live, and what will happen to you when you die.
- The danger of “Love your neighbor as yourself” arises when it is applied outside of its biblical context to elevate everyone’s thoughts or feelings on a topic even if it’s wrong.
- Christianity is the only worldview that actually proposes that there is a purpose.
- God loves everyone, but the scriptures clarify that he loves holiness and justice as well
- We should reject the snit-supernatural logic of empiricism, the self-love of romanticism, and the amoral landscape of postmodernism.
- We deserve punishment but if we repent of our rebellious beliefs and trust in Christ, we can have peace with God.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: There are many bumper-sticker philosophies that actually come from the Bible. Most of them are, however, generally applied in a way that is contrary to God’s original intent. For instance, God instructed his followers to love others as themselves (Matthew 22:39), referring to a sacrificial love that reflects the love of Christ. Many people use the idea to promote the romantic idea that everyone’s ideas and feelings are of superior value and because we love them, we can’t make judgements. This is not the biblical definition. Similarly, people often claim God is love in order to assert that he doesn’t judge. It is true that God is love (1 John 4:7-12), but the Bible gives a very different picture of love. God demonstrated his love by sending His Son to die on the cross to pay for the sin of those who were hostile to Him (Romans 5:8, John 3:16). He loves us so much that he refuses to leave us in our condemnation with no hope of salvation. Judgment against sin is based in God’s love. His mercy comes from His love. The fact that we can live in peace with God in eternity if we repent of our sin and trust in Christ is a beautiful picture of true, sacrificial love.

Episode 3: Segment 4 cont. Christianity

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Does it surprise you to hear that Christianity is the philosophical system that has had the greatest influence on Western civilization?
- Why do you think these phrases (like love your neighbor and everyone has a purpose) have such a hold on society, even among those who reject the Bible?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 3:

Additional Sources

***"What Are the Dangers of Postmodernism?"* GotQuestions.org. March 13, 2010. Accessed July 05, 2020. <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.

Ellis, John. *"4 Dangerous Lies That Are Destroying Christians."* Pjmedia.com. December 05, 2016. Accessed July 05, 2020. <https://pjmedia.com/faith/john-ellis/2016/12/05/4-dangerous-lies-that-are-destroying-christians-n96212>.

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 contradict 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.

***"What is Romanticism"* GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Romanticism.html>.**

Romanticism was a cultural movement beginning in the late 18th century. The philosophy emphasized emotion, originality, and nature. Romanticism was an anti-intellectual reaction to the Enlightenment's rationalism. Romanticism's impact on Christianity was subtle, but it did influence the way that concepts were perceived. The biggest and most dangerous result of Romanticism was the shift from God's reality to personal experience as the focal point. Although Romanticism was not overtly opposed to Christianity, many of the lasting philosophies can be problematic.

Patterson, Roger. *"What Is Science?"* Chapter 1 in *Evolution Exposed: Biology*. Master Books, 2007. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/what-is-science/what-is-science>.

The word science comes from the word meaning "knowledge." At its root, science is simply the pursuit of knowledge about how the universe works. However, to truly understand science, we must consider two different types of science. Observational science is a systematic approach to understanding that uses observable, testable, repeatable, and falsifiable experimentation to understand how nature commonly behaves. Historical science is interpreting evidence from past events based on presuppositions. Science itself does not rule out the supernatural, but the philosophical systems of empiricism or naturalism do.

Episode 4: What Does It Mean to Be a Woman?

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Men and women (choose one)

- Have significantly different physical make-ups.
- Do not differ greatly in physical make-up.

2. Modern feminism fights (choose one)

- For women to have greater value and worth in society.
- Against the “limited” roles of the traditional model of femininity.

3. The idea of women being submissive (choose one)

- Is a social construct by the patriarchy to suppress women.
- Is a biblical idea that demonstrates the woman has great value.

4. Accepting that women and men are different (choose one)

- Provides hope and purpose.
- Is giving into bias that harms women.

Episode 4: Segment 1

Traditional Femininity

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 4. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Traditional and Modern models of femininity differ in how they answer the physical, emotional and performative questions about women.
- Traditional femininity can be summed up by 1950s sitcoms, like *Leave it to Beaver*.
- Women were seen as mothers and homemakers, while the men went to work to provide for the family.
- Women were thought to be more emotional than men.
- Complementarianism is the idea that men and women have differing functions, based on physical make-up, that complement each other.
- The weakness of traditional femininity is that it often saw women as only fulfilling the role of mother.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: In the traditional model of femininity, women were seen as different from men in physical make-up—and not just reproductive anatomy. Traditionally, women were seen as more emotional than men. And when it came to their functions, there were very clear boundaries to gender roles. The man was seen as protector and provider while women were primarily mothers and homemakers. The problem with the traditional model is that it was truly limiting for the woman. Until the pushes of modern feminism, women had little voice in society, little choice in what roles they wanted to play, and few opportunities to progress in arenas outside the home. The Bible clearly teaches that women, as well as men, are precious image-bearers of the Creator (Genesis 1:27). While not all who hold to the traditional model would intentionally devalue women, the complaint of many is that the model itself causes that “oppression.” So modern feminism emerged to “liberate” women from this “patriarchy.”

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What makes someone a woman?
- What aspects of traditional femininity do you find good? Bad? Explain.

Episode 4: Segment 2

Modern Femininity

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 4. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Modern feminists stand against what they see as the limited role of women promoted by the traditional model of femininity.
- First Wave Feminists fought to give women the right to vote, to receive equal pay for equal work, and to decide for themselves what role they serve in society.
- Third Wave Feminism is content with nothing less than equal and uniform—there is no difference between men and women.
- Modern femininity sees no difference physically, emotionally, or performative.
- The danger is that in some ways it is too free, and it actually devalues women by denying the unique contributions women can make to society.
- Modern femininity offers too much freedom and lacks meaningful definition.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: If traditional femininity offers too little freedom to women, the modern model of femininity offers too much. In the modern model, there is no standard definition for what make someone a woman. Third Wave Feminism is so interested in liberating women that it has enslaved women in its own extremes. To expect women to be able to do everything that men can do devalues women by ignoring the contributions to society that women are uniquely equipped to bring. Galatians 5:16 tells believers that we are called to freedom, but “do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” The Bible promotes freedom from sin and fleshly desires, but it suggests that we can misuse our freedom. True freedom is not found in rejecting God’s created order, but in embracing it in its fullness.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you agree more with complementarianism or egalitarianism? Why?
- What aspects of modern femininity do you find good? Bad? Explain.

Episode 4: Segment 3

Objections to Biblical Femininity

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 4. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- According to the Bible, there are only 2 genders: male and female.
- Humans are sexually dimorphic, meaning men and women exhibit physical differences beyond those of their reproductive systems.
- On average, men are taller, broader, denser, and heavier than women.
- The Bible makes clear that men and women are of equal value, equally reflecting the glory of their perfect and holy Creator.
- God's design for women is to fulfill the role of submissive supporter.
- God's design for men and women points to His character, His relationship within the Trinity.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: God's design for men and women is radically different than our modern culture's model. God delights in humility and service. The Bible is full of submissive relationships: children to parents, people to government, people to God, and wives to their husbands. To see women as a submissive supporter should not be seen as a slight against women, but rather as a beautiful reflection of God's nature. Furthermore, God's design offers a transcendent purpose, to fulfill a uniquely designed role to the glory of the Creator. The best picture of biblical womanhood is found in Proverbs 31. This woman takes care of her family, works hard inside and outside the home, participates in industry, teaches, helps the poor, speaks wisely, and brings honor to her family. This is not the limited model of tradition nor the limitless model of modern feminists. The biblical view celebrates the unique design of women and provides freedom to use her gifts and talents to fulfill her transcendent purpose.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think so many people object to the idea that women should submit to their husbands?
- What aspects of biblical femininity do you find good? What parts do you object to?

Episode 4: Segment 4

Applying Biblical Femininity

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 4. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- If you aren't satisfied with either of the world's models, you are feeling how you should feel.
- If we refuse our God-given role, then we're not going to live out how God has intended for us to live.
- The biblical model gives hope for girls, widows, single women, etc. because our femininity is defined by the Creator and doesn't shift.
- The model designed by God gives clear and satisfying definitions for men and women, all the while highlighting our greater purpose on Earth -- to glorify God.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: The world has failed to present a satisfactory definition of women and femininity. The traditional view was often extended too far, limiting the value and voice of women and ignoring their potential contributions to society outside the home. But the modern view carried the fight to the opposite extreme, denying there are differences between men and women. While they claim this liberates women, it actually diminishes the value of women because it discounts the unique nature and design of women. The biblical model is the one that makes the most sense in reality and the only one that offers hope and purpose. When women fulfill their unique role, they are glorifying God and his perfect design for creation. As the Bible states, after God created everything, including designing the perfect helper for Adam and establishing the design for gender and marriage, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How does the biblical model of Christianity offer transcendent purpose?
- How does biblical femininity fit with the gospel?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 4:

Additional Sources

Smothers, Colin. "Why I Am a Complementarian" CBMW. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://cbmw.org/2020/08/10/why-i-am-a-complementarian>.

In our modern world, egalitarianism is popular. The culture teaches that there is no difference between men and women, in function as well as value. However, a biblical understanding of womanhood will lead to a complementarian view. Scripture clearly teaches male-female complementarity and the principle of male headship. Scripture's teaching on the principle of male headship is grounded in the pre-fall creation order and in nature.

Turpin, Simon. "Is God Male or Female" February 2, 2021. Answers In Genesis. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/who-is-god/god-male-female>.

The modern culture has put much emphasis on the elevation of women in society. This feminism, though, has gone so far as to object to the use of masculine pronouns to refer to God. Although there are some instances in the Bible that uses feminine imagery to describe God, He is never referred to using feminine pronouns or the term "mother." And there are many more descriptions of God using masculine imagery. There are significant issues regarding theology and the created order to reject the idea that God is female. But the most important argument is that He has chosen to reveal Himself in His Word using predominately masculine language and as a male in the incarnation of Jesus.

"What is biblical womanhood?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-womanhood.html>

God created two genders: male and female. He also instituted different roles for each. God gives different instructions to women and wives than He does to men and husbands. Women are called to seek the inner beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. They are to submit to their husbands as a picture of our relationship with Christ. Biblical womanhood is not simply about a career path or the ability to reproduce and raise children. Women reveal God's glory in ways that are unique to the gender.

Stoddard, Eowyn. "Biblical Theology of Womanhood and Feminist Chaos." The Aquila Report. February 6, 2018. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://theaquilareport.com/biblical-theology-womanhood-feminist-chaos>.

Feminism is a woman-centered view that contradicts the scriptural understanding of womanhood. Feminism champions woman's autonomy. However, the Bible calls women to submit and serve, honoring God through reflecting Him. Woman was given the role of mother—bringing life into the world. God used the imagery of woman to describe the church and how Christ pursues His bride. Womanhood was part of God's original plan and is used in the beautiful picture of God's redemption and restoration of His people.

Episode 5: Making Sense of 'Making Love'

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Sex began as (choose one)

- The evolutionary need for precreation.
- A transcendent gift from God.

2. Christians should view talking about sex as (choose one)

- An open and casual conversation.
- Taboo in public conversation.

3. The normalization of sex wrought by the Sexual Revolution is (choose one)

- Helpful and healthy.
- Unhealthy.

4. If you have committed sexual sin, God seeks to (choose one)

- Forgive and heal.
- Condemn and punish.

Episode 5: Segment 1

The Reason for Sex (Evolution vs. God)

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 5. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Our modern culture wants us to think sex is always a good thing, but there are a lot of negative emotions that come from sex.
- Sex is a transcendent gift from God.
- The purpose of sex is pleasure, partnership, and procreation.
- Sex is a beautiful picture of our intimate relationship with God.
- God's design for sex is monogamy—one man and one woman.
- Negative consequences occur when sex is taken outside of God's design.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Our modern culture claims that sex is only positive. It is a dominating fixture in the media and entertainment. And the hook-up culture is rampant. But if we're honest, we can see that there are also many negative consequences of this sex-driven culture. Although the church has not always done a perfect job of dealing with the topic, the Bible presents sex in a very positive light. Sex is, after all, a gift from the Creator Himself. Its purpose is for pleasure, to increase intimate partnership between two spouses, and for procreation. Sex is also a picture of our relationship with God. When we stand before him in eternity and see him face to face, the close intimacy and pleasure we experience will far exceed the pleasure we can experience with our spouse here on earth. God's design for sex is within a monogamous relationship—one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24)—which points to Christ's commitment to his bride, the church.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you think most Christians have a thoroughly biblical understanding of sex?
- What is the purpose of sex?

Episode 5: Segment 2

How We Talk About Sex

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 5. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- All throughout its historical narrative, laws, poetry, and wisdom literature, the Bible recognizes that humans are sexual beings.
- God presided over the first marriage—that of Adam and Eve—and gave them a command to be fruitful and multiply.
- God’s design for sex is safe, stable, and purposeful.
- Almost all the negative consequences of sex come from ignoring God’s design and substituting it with our own selfish desires.
- Christians aren’t afraid of sex, but we should have a higher view and respect for it as a transcendent and purposeful gift from God.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: When God presided over the first marriage and told Adam and Eve to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28), He presented them with a transcendent gift. When we look at God’s purposes for sex and the beautiful picture it gives us of His very nature, we should recognize that sex is a good gift. Sex is rightly viewed as a private and intimate act between one man and one woman within the committed union called marriage. Unfortunately, many Christians’ respect for sex has translated into a shyness or even an embarrassment to talk about it. The truth is that sex, practiced according to God’s design, is not a dirty thing to be ashamed of. That doesn’t mean that it should be reduced to course jokes and rude innuendos. Just as everything God created has value and purpose, so does sex. And when we use His creation according to His design, it is better for us and for society as a whole.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Did you learn most of what you know about sex from your parents or the culture?
- What do you think is the best way to encourage a young person to wait until marriage for sex?

Episode 5: Segment 3

Contemporary Challenges to God's Old Design

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 5. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Sex is excellent when it is used for the purposes for which it was designed.
- The Sexual Revolution has attempted to rewrite the owner's manual on sex.
- The modern culture says that you should do sex your way (not God's).
- Since the time of the Sexual Revolution, statistics show drastically increased negative consequences: STDs, unintended pregnancies, abortions, and negative emotions that even lead to suicide.
- As a Christian we should warn others of the consequences of sex outside of God's design.
- The free love movement is really just a rebellion against God's design and rules for sex.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Since God designed sex, it is good when practiced within His design and His plan. But God's design and His plan is exactly what the free love movement rebels against. They hate the idea of submitting to someone else; they want to be their own god, make their own rules. And they have largely done that with sex. The problem is that practicing sex outside of God's design brings negative consequences that far outweigh the temporary benefits. The Sexual Revolution has been a sweeping tide of lies, and many young people have been caught in the aftermath of practicing sex in a way other than it was designed. The Bible tells us to "Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). It's not a casual matter. There are real consequences for abusing God's gift of sex. But thankfully, God still offers hope.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How did the imagery of the violin help you to think differently about the topic of sex?
- Which of the propaganda mentioned in this segment have you heard, said, or believed? Has your mind changed?

Episode 5: Segment 4

Restoration Over Revolution

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 5. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Virtually every person on the planet is sexual in nature.
- The Sexual Revolution and the “freedom” it promised has been a catastrophe that has led to physical and spiritual consequences.
- God stands ready to offer forgiveness to any repentant heart.
- When you repent and trust in Jesus, he takes away your shame and guilt and gives you his righteousness.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: Sex is a big deal. It is a big part of our nature. It serves as a reminder of who God is and Christ’s commitment to His church. Any misuse of sex is likewise a big deal. This is why so many struggle with negative emotions and consequences. And God will judge the sexually immoral (Hebrews 13:4). But just like with every other sin, God stands ready to forgive. God will never turn away a heart that is truly repentant. He loved us so much that He sent His only Son to earth to die on a cross to pay the penalty that we could never pay. Jesus Christ took our sin, including lust and sexual impurity, upon Himself. And on the third day, He rose from the death, conquering sin and death. And when we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, recognizing our need for his atoning work, our sins are forgiven and He gives us His righteousness. When God looks at His children, He doesn’t see our past sins and failures; He sees the righteousness of Jesus. There is hope in this life and in eternity when we turn to the One who created all things.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How has this episode impacted the way you think about sex?
- How can you help someone who is dealing with negative consequences of sexual sin?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 5:

Additional Sources

Slick, Matt. *"What is the biblical purpose of sex?"* CARM. December 11, 2008. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://carm.org/about-sexuality/what-is-the-biblical-purpose-of-sex>.

God has given sex to us as a means to glorify Him. Since the beginning of time, God commanded men and women to multiply and fill the earth. Procreation is the most obvious purpose for sex. But God also gave sex as an expression of intimacy and companionship, as well as a physical pleasure to be enjoyed with one's spouse. Sex, then, is only properly expressed within the union of a husband and wife. The purpose of sex, ultimately, is to bring glory to God.

"What does the Bible say about sex?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/sex-in-the-Bible.html>.

The Bible teaches that sex is God's good gift to a husband and wife. God's design for sex between a married man and woman is good and honorable. However, the Bible has much to say against the misuse of sex. Sex outside of marriage is condemned as detestable abominations. This includes sexual relations before an individual gets married, or intimate relations with someone other than your spouse once you are married. The Bible says that sexual sin is unique in that it is a sin against one's own body. Sex was designed by God as a part of marriage, and marriage is a picture of God's union with the bride of Christ.

"Why is sexual purity so important?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/sexual-purity.html>.

As Christians, we are sanctified. That means that we are set apart as holy and pure, consecrated to God. And we are called to the life-long process of sanctification, meaning that we seek to be holy as God is holy. For this reason, we are to avoid every sin, including sexual impurity. We are also called to control our bodies, to put off fleshly desires and walk in the Spirit. Controlling our lusts and living sexually pure lives is essential to honoring God with our bodies.

Hall, Amy. *"On Sexual Purity and Advancing a Biblical Sexual Ethic."* August 22, 2019. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.str.org/w/on-sexual-purity-and-advancing-a-biblical-sexual-ethic>.

Although there has been criticism over the "purity culture" of the 1990s, God's design for marriage and purity has not changed. Our sexuality can glorify God by demonstrating the beauty of flourishing and forgiveness. Even in sexual failure, God can grant forgiveness and receive the glory from a repentant heart. In obedience to God's design, there is a beautiful picture of holiness. We are called to live above reproach for the purpose of pointing others to God. Remaining sexually pure is not so much about what is forbidden, but what we seek instead.

Episode 6: What Does It Mean to Be a Man?

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. The role of the man in a family should be (choose one)
 - That of provider and protector.
 - No different than women.
2. The modern model of masculinity (choose one)
 - Frees men from cultural pressures to fulfill certain roles.
 - Enslaves men to unnatural cultural standards.
3. The biblical model for masculinity (choose one)
 - Encourages powerful emotions.
 - Is emotionally stoic.
4. Men will be most fulfilled when they (choose one)
 - Are defining their own roles in society.
 - Are fulfilling a transcendent purpose.

Episode 6: Segment 1

Traditional Masculinity

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 6. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The differences between traditional and modern masculinity can be seen in three categories: the physical, the emotional, and the performative.
- In the traditional model, men were seen as physically distinct from women, usually bigger, broader, stronger.
- Men were seen as those responsible for providing for and protecting one's family.
- Men were seen as less outwardly emotional than women.
- Men were taught to be stoic.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: In the beginning, "God created man in His own image . . . male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27). God made two distinct genders. But what makes them different and what is expected of each? In today's culture, the discussion about masculinity can cause tension. This is because the two main models are in direct conflict with each other. The traditional model of masculinity is rooted in much of history. Because men tend to be larger and stronger, they are tasked with providing for and protecting the smaller and weaker women and children. But many see this traditional model as limiting to men, forcing them into unfair roles with unrealistic expectations. In particular, the difficulty with the traditional model comes in the emotional aspect. The traditional man tends to be stoic, reserved, and unemotional.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What makes a person a man?
- What aspects of traditional masculinity do you find good? Bad? Explain.

Episode 6: Segment 2

Modern Masculinity

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 6. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The modern model of masculinity denies that there are physical distinctions between men and women.
- The modern model revolts against the emotionally reserved and self-controlled man of the traditional model.
- The modern model talks as if anything remotely masculine is toxic.
- Rightly defined, toxic masculinity is the extremity of leveraging male advantage against those less advantaged (especially women and children).
- In the modern model, there is no defined role for men in the family or in society.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: The modern model of masculinity stands in stark contrast to the traditional model. Where the traditional model says men are physically bigger and stronger, emotionally reserved, and responsible for protecting and providing, the modern model claims that men are no different than women physically or emotionally and there is no prescribed role for men. The problem is that this flies in the face of reality. There are differences between men and women. In 1 Corinthians 16:13, Paul encourages the men to “act like men.” If there is no performative difference between men and women, what does this even mean? Paul uses the phrase in the context of standing strong in defense of the faith, almost as if the men are to be protectors.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is toxic masculinity?
- What aspects of modern masculinity do you find good? Bad? Explain.

Episode 6: Segment 3

Biblical Masculinity

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 6. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The biblical model of masculinity aligns with the traditional model in recognizing physical distinctions between men and women and in performative complementarianism.
- The Bible sees the man as the head of the home, responsible for its protection and provision.
- The biblical model of masculinity upholds that men have powerful emotions that should be channeled toward righteous uses (rather than stifled).
- Jesus Christ is the ideal man, the perfect role model.
- Jesus was authoritative, compassionate, emotional, and powerful, all without sin.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 that the traditional model of masculinity is the biblical model. And it is true that many of the ideas of the traditional model overlap with the biblical ideal. However, the two models differ in the portrayal of men's emotions. Where the traditional model suggests men should be stoic and reserved, the Bible celebrates powerful emotions when used toward righteous ends. Jesus himself displayed anger when he saw the temple being misused by livestock dealers and money changers. He made a whip to drive out the animals, overturned the tables, and poured out the money changers' coins (John 2:13-22). It must be noted though, that Jesus never sinned. His emotions were perfectly righteous and led him to righteous acts. Jesus was defending His Father's glory when He cleansed the temple. Jesus also was compassionate and loving. He wept for Lazarus, showed care and comfort for the sick and hurting, and sternly offered rebuke and correction. Jesus is the perfect role model when it comes to masculinity (or anything else).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How does looking to Jesus as a role model help you to understand biblical masculinity?
- What aspects of biblical masculinity do you find good? What parts do you object to?

Episode 6: Segment 4

Applying Biblical Masculinity

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 6. Encourage students to take notes. Main ideas:

- Both the traditional and modern models of masculinity fall short of being able to guide men in objectively meaningful and moral ways.
- The Bible-based model of masculinity uniquely gives men transcendent purpose and meaning.
- Jesus is the ideal man, and biblical masculinity is a pursuit of emulating Him.
- The only way to become more like Jesus is to spend more time with Jesus.
- Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins so we can become more like Him.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: The biblical model of masculinity can be summed up in the statement, “Be like Jesus.” This is the pursuit of godly, righteous men. Ephesians 5:1 says, “Therefore be imitators of God.” Philippians 2:5 tells us to “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” And in Ephesians 4:24, Paul tells the believers to “put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.” The Bible is clear that Jesus is the perfect man, without sin and perfectly fulfilling His God-given purpose. Men are called to follow this example. But this is not an example that can be emulated simply by effort of will. We must submit to the Lordship of Christ, trusting in his atoning work on the cross to satisfy the penalty for sin and receiving the righteousness He offers in exchange. And then the man of God must reject the foolish wisdom of the world to pursue the righteousness of Christ.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How does submission play a role in masculinity?
- Do you think it is easier to accept biblical femininity if men followed biblical masculinity, and vice versa?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 6:

Additional Sources

***“What is biblical manhood?”* GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-manhood.html>.**

Biblical manhood is characterized by humility before God, self-discipline, protection and provision for family, and leading his family. Man was created by God in his image distinct from animals and different than woman. Biblical manhood must begin with a biblical view of womanhood as well, meaning that the biblical man does not abuse women or domineer over them. But the biblical man embraces the role of leadership God has entrusted him with, using his skills and talents to protect his wife and children, provide for them, and lead them in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord.

***“What is toxic masculinity?”* GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/toxic-masculinity.html>.**

Toxic masculinity originally referred to unhealthy attitudes that put undue pressure on men. The stereotype that men were supposed to live up to was unfair and unreasonable. Toxic masculinity referred to the resulting lack of emotional expression and vulnerability. Over time, the term has expanded from referring to character flaws to attack almost anything associated with maleness. The term has been used against men who desire to be protectors and providers, or who exhibit traits such as bravery, athleticism, or loud. Contrary to the modern idea that all masculinity is bad, the Bible celebrates the distinct roles of each gender and promotes a true masculinity.

Lankford, Kendall. *“Act Like Men (Part 1 of Biblical Manhood Series).”* The Shepherds Church. February 23, 2022. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.theshepherds.church/blog/act-like-men>.

The test of biblical manhood is how selfless you have become. Men are to be on alert, ready to defend their families against the attacks of the enemy. A man is to stand firm in his faith, leading his family to grow in wisdom and holiness. Men are to be strong, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He is to be the anchor for his family. And men are to do everything in love—love the way God commands it, selfless and sacrificial. The biblical man’s goal in life is to love and serve Jesus by loving and serving those around him.

Mohler, Jr., Dr. Albert. *“Material Signs of Maturity.”* June 21, 2009. Answers Magazine vol.4 No. 3. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/train-up-a-child/christian-parenting/material-signs-of-maturity>.

The Christian man sees his work as an assignment from God and a gospel issue. A real man knows how to hold a job, handles money responsibly, and takes care of the needs of his family. If we want boys to become men, they must learn how to work, how to save, how to invest. The dignity of work is grounded in creation itself. Biblical manhood, in part, requires an economic responsibility as a leader and provider.

Episode 7: Why Should We Trust the Bible?

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. The text we have in the Bible (choose one)
 - Is the same text that was originally written.
 - Has been changed over the years.
2. Saying that the Bible proves itself to be the Word of God is (choose one)
 - Circular reasoning.
 - Demonstrable.
3. Textual criticism is the science of (choose one)
 - Determining the content of a text.
 - Discrediting the authenticity of a text.
4. People have a hard time accepting the message of the Gospel because (choose one)
 - They don't recognize anything wrong with the world.
 - They don't want to believe they can't fix it.

Episode 7: Segment 1

The Bible Is Accurate

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 7. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The Bible we have today is the same as the original text.
- Transmission of Scripture refers to the passing on (or copying) of texts—has it been done faithfully?
- The cultures of the Ancient Near East had a high regard for copying text faithfully.
- The Bible gives very clear warnings against adding to or changing the message of the Bible, so anyone who believed it to be true would have been very careful with its transmission.
- We have an enormous number of manuscripts, spanning chronology and geography, that indicate a faithfulness to accurate transmission.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 that object to the Bible claim that it has changed as it has been passed down and copied over time. And it is true that we don't actually have any of the original manuscripts (autographs). However, we can be confident that the Bible we have today is an accurate copy of the original text. Proverbs 30:5-6 says that "Every word of God is tested," or proves true. If the Bible is God's Word, then it is true. It goes on to warn, "Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar." Anyone who believes the Bible to be God's Word would be very careful to transmit the text accurately. And even if something were changed (perhaps by accident or by a skeptic), God declares that he will discipline the one who changed the message and demonstrate the false additions. In other words, we can be confident that God will preserve His Word.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you ever feel like the Bible isn't relevant to modern topics?
- Do you believe the Bible hasn't changed? Why or why not?

Episode 7: Segment 2

Circular vs. Axiomatic

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 7. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Many claim that the Bible claiming to be the Word of God is circular reasoning.
- The Bible is axiomatic, meaning that it is self-proving.
- The Bible is internally consistent—even though it was written by many human authors over thousands of years, it holds no contradictions or inconsistencies.
- The Bible perfectly corresponds to reality.
- There are many prophecies in the Bible, all of which were fulfilled with remarkable accuracy.
- The Bible shows thematic consistency—there are a number of motifs that receive constant and consistent attention throughout Scripture.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 tells us that it is the Word of God, literally God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). It also tells us that it was written by human authors who were “moved by the Holy Spirit” but “spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:21). The Bible claims to be the Word of God, and it proves itself to be the Word of God by its internal and thematic consistency, its fulfillment of prophecy, and its ability to explain and predict reality. It is entirely reasonable to believe that God could write and preserve the Bible for us. In fact, it is more reasonable to believe that it is true than to believe that a bunch of individuals across millennia could accomplish such an intricate piece of literature.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Can you think of anything in the Bible that doesn’t correspond to reality?
- Are you convinced by Dr. Twiss’s arguments for the Bible being axiomatic?

Episode 7: Segment 3

Is This Claim Redundant?

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 7. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- You can look into the pages of the Bible to see if it is true.
- A tautology is a redundant phrase that uses different words to describe the same thing.
- “The Bible says it’s the Word of God, and it proves it” is not a tautology because the two halves of the statement are not making the same point.
- The axiomatic nature of the Bible is seen in the trajectory of sonship/kingship that starts with Adam and ends with Jesus the Messiah (1 Corinthians 15:45-49).
- The theme of salvation through suffering traces throughout Scripture, from Genesis 3 to the suffering of Jesus on the Cross in order to win victory over sin and death.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Textual Criticism demonstrates that we can be confident that the text we have today in our Bibles is an accurate copy of the original texts. But just because it is accurate does not necessarily mean it is true. To find out if it’s true, we have to ask different questions. But when we examine the pages of Scripture, we find that it is true and it corresponds to reality. One of the ways we can know it is the true Word of God is to trace the thematic motifs throughout Scripture—and throughout history—to display God’s plan. The most important motif in the Bible is the theme of salvation through suffering. IN the first chapters of the Bible (Genesis 3), God introduces the concept that offspring of Eve will win the victory over Satan and sin, but not without suffering. This truth is demonstrated throughout Scripture in the sacrificial system, pointing forward to Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God who would through His suffering offer us His righteousness (Isaiah 53; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Have you ever thought of the Bible in terms of thematic threads? What are some other examples?
- Why do you think people still refuse to believe the Bible is the Word of God after all these evidences?

Episode 7: Segment 4

The Bible Has to Be True...or Else

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 7. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The message of the Bible exhorts us to humble ourselves.
- We all need Jesus.
- Most people believe that if they work hard enough, they can fix their own problems.
- The wonderful news of the Gospel is that God's grace is greater than your sin.
- Jesus' perfect life, death on the Cross, and resurrection from the grave is able to make a payment for your sin.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: Most of us can look around at the world and recognize that something's not right. We can see sin and brokenness in the world. The difficult thing is to accept that we can't fix our own problems. The difficult thing is to humble ourselves and submit to Jesus Christ. But the Bible is clear that we "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and that "by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight" (Romans 3:20). We cannot solve our sin problem by our own righteous efforts. We need Jesus, who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). We must humble ourselves, cry out to God in repentance, confess Jesus as Lord, and receive His gift of forgiveness (Romans 10:9-13).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- If you are still resistant to accepting the Bible as God's Word, which of these reasons apply to you?
- If you believe the Bible is the Word of God, do you treat it like it is?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 7:

Additional Sources

Kunkle, Brett. *"Can We Trust the Bible?" Stand to Reason.* February 26, 2013. Accessed September 17, 2022. <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 filled 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. And 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.

"Is the Bible truly God's Word?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-God-Word.html>.

This question is vital, because it determines how we live in this world and has a direct impact on where we will spend eternity. The Bible claims to be the Word of God, and there are internal and external evidences that the claim is true. The unity of the Bible, despite being written by more than 40 authors, is evidence that it is God's Word. We also find that the Bible is historically accurate and consistent with what we see in the universe. Time and again, discoveries have confirmed what the Bible says is true. The Bible is a unique book that has transformed countless lives, because it is truly the Word of God.

Wilhelmsson, Miska. *"How Can We Know That the Bible is from God?"* The Master's Seminary Blog. March 13, 2018. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://blog.tms.edu/how-can-we-know-that-the-bible-is-from-god>.

We can know the Bible is from God by the very words it contains. Many refuse to believe in Jesus even when they see miraculous proofs. But the Bible itself is sufficient proof for all who desire to know if it is from God. This sounds like circular reasoning, and in a way it is because the only way to affirm a supreme authority is to appeal to that very same supreme authority. The problem is that sinful humans do not want to do God's will, and so they don't accept the axiomatic proof of the Bible. But we can be rescued from spiritual blindness by repenting of our sins and trusting in Jesus for salvation. The Bible itself holds the key—the gospel.

Lisle, Dr. Jason. *"A Question of Authorship."* Answers In Genesis. February 13, 2009. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/a-question-of-authorship>.

Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God does require faith, but it is not a blind faith. If the Bible weren't true, we wouldn't be able to know anything at all! The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God. Most other works are accepted as the work of the one who it claims as author. The Bible is self-attesting. We must either accept or reject its claim to be the Word of God, and the consequences of that choice is evidence that the claim is true. The reality that we can know things and that seasons are consistent and that we can reason logically across time and place are all evidence that the Bible is God's Word.

Episode 8: And Justice for All

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Justice comes from (choose one)
 - Written legal codes in a society.
 - The character of God.
2. The human race is basically (choose one)
 - Good.
 - Evil.
3. If you were to die and God were to look at your deeds, you would go to (choose one)
 - Heaven.
 - Hell.
4. Justification is (choose one)
 - Rationalization for an action.
 - Being absolved of guilt.

Episode 8: Segment 1

Universal Day in Court

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 8. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Justice comes from the mind and character of God.
- We have an innate sense of justice because God created us in His image and put something of Himself in our souls.
- The conscience is somewhat universal because there are similar ideas of what is right and wrong in various cultures across history.
- Morality is a standard of right and wrong; it cannot be truly subjective.
- The best judge is all-knowing, all wise, all good, and all-powerful.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 just and upright (Deuteronomy 32:4). Justice is an expression of His very character. He is holy and He must punish sin or cease to be holy. God created people in His image (Genesis 1:26-27) and He put something of Himself in our souls. We all long for justice and have a sense of what is right and wrong. God is the best Judge because He is the only one who is all-knowing, all wise, all good, and all-powerful to rightly administer and uphold justice. God is also the law-giver. He has written the laws and He perfectly and righteously judges against that standard. So what does that mean for us?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What would the world be like if there was no system of justice?
- Have you ever felt guilty about something? What did you do about it?

Episode 8: Segment 2

The Criminal Human Race

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 8. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- We have judges and courtrooms because God sits on a throne of judgment.
- We have prisons and penal systems because God has a penal system for breaking His laws.
- We have a conscience that inwardly directs us toward right and wrong, but the true standard is external and objective.
- God's standard is so much higher than our own and we can never achieve it.
- God sees everything, down to the thoughts, and judges all.
- God's judgement is pervasive and will apply to every single person.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10) and those who are found guilty will "go away into eternal punishment" (Matthew 25:46). Tragically, all of us are guilty. God's standard is perfection and we have all fallen short of his glory (Romans 3:23). We all deserve His righteous punishment against sin. God is the perfect Judge. He sentences fairly and perfectly according to His law. He is all-knowing and even judges our hearts and thoughts. Our internal compass may get misaligned sometimes, but it is God's standard against which right and wrong is ultimately measured. And by His measurement, we have all sinned and justly deserve His judgment.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Are people basically good or basically bad?
- Is it just to let a criminal go free?

Episode 8: Segment 3

Your Sentence

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 8. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- God will sentence lawbreakers to the lake of fire.
- God punishes sin in order to uphold His own character of righteousness.
- There is no such thing as a small sin; if we are guilty of breaking one part of the law we are guilty of breaking it all.
- Our hearts are continually sinful and our “good” deeds cannot wipe away the wrong we’ve committed.
- Our best deeds are like filthy rags to God, offered from a place of unworthiness.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 all broken God’s law (Romans 3:23). As law-breakers, we deserve God’s just judgment against sin. Lawbreakers will be sentenced to judgment in the lake of fire. Hell will not be a massive rave; it will be eternal conscious torment (Revelation 21:8; Mark 9:47-49). There is no small sin; it isn’t about the action as much as it is about whom you sinned against. God is infinitely holy and righteous. So sin against Him deserves an infinite punishment. God doesn’t punish frivolously. He judges to uphold his holiness. Some people think that God will weigh their good deeds with the bad and that maybe they’ll come out ok. But our best works are like filthy rags to God (Isaiah 64:6) because we are offering them with hearts tainted by sin from a position of unworthiness. God is right to judge our sin.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you think good deeds should factor in if God sentences us for our bad deeds?
- How do love and justice work together?

Episode 8: Segment 4

Your Only Hope

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 8. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The doctrine of justification teaches that God declares us righteous and forgiven because of the work of Jesus on the Cross.
- Just as God is just and holy, He is also merciful and loving.
- God sent Jesus to live a perfect life so that he could offer it as a ransom for our sin.
- Imputed righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus credited to our account so that God sees us as holy and righteous.
- We don't have to become righteous people; we have to receive His righteousness.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: The doctrine of justification is the best news for the sinner. We all stand condemned before God, guilty of breaking His law and incapable of paying our debt. But God sent His only Son to live a perfect life and then offer it as a ransom for us. He took our sin upon himself on the Cross and when we repent of our sins and trust in Him for salvation, His righteousness is imputed to us. Now, when we stand before God, He doesn't see our sinful thoughts and actions. He sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. The wrath of God is turned away from us and poured out on Christ in the Cross (propitiation) so that we may be adopted by grace into God's family with all the rights of heirs to His kingdom. We can't become righteous by doing good deed (Ephesians 2:8-9), but we do good deeds because he has declared us to be righteous (Ephesians 2:10). If you want to receive this gift of salvation and be seen as righteous before the judgement seat of God, you must repent of your sins, confess Jesus as Lord, and trust in Jesus for justification (Romans 10:9-10).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is biblical justification?
- Are you trying to offer your own justification, or will you accept the justification given by the Judge Himself?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 8:

Additional Sources

***"What is justification?"* GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/justification.html>.**

Justification is the act of God whereby He pronounces the sinner to be righteous. It is the perfect righteousness of Christ, who lived a sinless life, that is imputed on the believer who trusts in Jesus. Justification comes apart from the law. We cannot earn justification and it is given based on no works of our own. Justification is only possible because of the atoning work of Jesus on the cross. When a person is justified, he is declared righteous before God the Judge. This happens at the moment of salvation.

Pickowicz, Nate. *"Practical Applications of the Doctrine of Justification."* TableTalk. October 27. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/practical-applications-of-the-doctrine-of-justification>.

Justification is a legal act by God based on the imputation of the righteousness of Christ by means of our faith. Justification provides assurance of salvation. Christ has completed the work and God has made the legal declaration. Justification protects the believer against any accusation of the enemy. Justification, when properly understood, fosters humility. Justification produces overwhelming thanksgiving in the believer.

***"How do God's mercy and justice work together in salvation?"* GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/mercy-justice.html>.**

Justice and mercy work together in salvation at the point of justification. God is holy and just, which means he must punish sin. But He is also merciful, meaning that he withholds deserved punishment. These two attributes of God may seem incompatible, but they in fact form a unity within His character. At the point of justification, God shows mercy to the sinner by declaring him righteous and withholding the punishment that he clearly deserved due to sin. The reason God can do this without being an unjust Judge is that Jesus has already paid the penalty for the sinner. The wrath of God (His justice) was satisfied by the blood of Jesus on the Cross. His mercy is satisfied in justifying the sinner who trusts in Jesus.

Slick, Matt. *"Justification and Sanctification: What is the Difference?"* CARM. November 23, 2008. Accessed September 1, 2022. <https://carm.org/doctrine-and-theology/justification-and-sanctification-what-is-the-difference>.

Justification is the work of God where the righteousness of Jesus is credited to the sinner. This happens instantaneously at the moment of salvation by no work of the individual. Sanctification is the process of being set apart for the service of God and being conformed to the image of Christ. This work is a life-long process whereby the believer works to become more like Christ while the God works in the believer to produce more of a godly character. Understanding the difference between the two doctrines ensures a correct understanding of salvation and the role (or lack thereof) that our own works play in salvation.

Episode 9: Capitalism vs. Socialism

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Capitalism is (choose one)

- Biblical
- Not biblical.

2. Socialism is (choose one)

- Biblical.
- Not biblical.

3. If we could ensure that people were moral, Capitalism (choose one)

- Would be the best political-economic system on Earth.
- Would still be a deficient political-economic system.

4. Christians (choose one)

- Should not try to push their morality on the government.
- Should try to influence the government toward Christian morality.

Episode 9: Segment 1

Representative Republic and Capitalism

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 9. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Capitalism is an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit.
- Every legitimate government is established by God to (1) promote righteousness and (2) punish the evil-doer.
- While the Bible does not explicitly condemn or support Capitalism, but there are biblical assumptions that undergird capitalism.
- The Bible doesn't condemn the system of Capitalism but the vices it can produce.
- The Capitalistic system can actually curb the vices that arise because one's self-interest is served in considering the self-interest of others.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Governments are very necessary in our world. Even though there are no perfect governments, anarchy would not work any better. In fact, God—as the ultimate authority—establishes governments. Paul teaches in Romans 13:1 that “there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” But which system is the best? Capitalism has some obvious faults, like the fact that it encourages greed and exploitation. But there are certain principles in the Bible that actually align with the system of Capitalism. To begin with, Capitalism is based on the assumption that people are driven by self-interest. This is consistent with the sinful state of mankind described in the Bible. The idea of private property and ownership comes from the idea of stewardship in Scripture. And the system itself includes some checks and balances to keep vices from getting out of control. Of course, capitalism isn't a perfect system. So let's see if socialism fares any better.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What does the Bible have to do with governments?
- Do you think America's current system is the best system? Why or why not?

Episode 9: Segment 2

Socialism

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 9. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Socialism is a political and economic theory of social government which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.
- Although the Bible does teach love of neighbor, those commands are directed toward individuals, not governments.
- There are verses in Scripture that seem to go against socialist principles, like the man who doesn't work shouldn't eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10).
- God has a heart for the poor, but He has chosen His church as the means to address the problem.
- Socialism assumes that mankind is basically good, which contradicts the teaching of Scripture.
- Socialism puts the government in the place of God—responsible for distributing wealth and where the people turn in their time of need.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: While Capitalism has some problems because there are fallen people within the system, Socialism is a flawed system. First, socialistic views insist that people are primarily good. The system itself ignores principles of private property (2 Thessalonians 3:10) and the responsibility of a man to provide for his own house (1 Timothy 5:8). Many people point to Jesus as the model of socialism and argue that the commands to care for the poor and needy are evidence that socialism is biblical. However, these arguments miss the context in which those commands are given. Jesus met the needs of the poor and sick on his own terms, from his own motivation. And the Christian is called to do the same. By establishing a government that forces the redistribution of wealth and goods, Socialism is actually robbing the Christian of the opportunity to obey God's commands to love his neighbor and to reflect the character of God in doing so. Finally, socialism elevates government into the place of God, encouraging people to look to the government to meet their needs instead of God.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Is socialism a more biblical approach than capitalism?
- If Jesus wanted his followers to care for the poor and needy, why do you think that shouldn't apply to governments?

Episode 9: Segment 3

Capitalism Restored

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 9. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The Bible account for why governments aren't perfect—because they're run by men who are fallen.
- Capitalism's deficiencies come from putting sinful people in a system that rewards their sinfulness, whereas socialism's deficiencies are built-in and structurally anti-biblical.
- If we could ensure people remained moral while they worked in a capitalistic system, capitalism would no longer be at odds with the Bible.
- What makes the American system of government so successful is that it accounts for our sin nature with its checks and balances.
- The only way we have truly moral people is through submission to Christ as king.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 fallen world. Ever since Genesis 3, this world has been broken with the effects of sin. And that includes us. Because our representative steward, Adam, disobeyed God, we are all born with a sin nature. We all sin and fall short of God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23). So it's no surprise that our earthly systems of government fall short. There is no utopia this side of heaven. But while socialism has structural problems that are at odds with the Bible, capitalism itself is perfectly biblical. The problem with capitalism is that the people in it are fallen. But the Bible gives an answer to that. When we repent of our sins and submit to Jesus as Lord, not only are our sins forgiven, but we are given a new nature no longer bound to sin. We are given the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth and holiness. The capitalist system would work better, and be more biblical, if it were filled with Christians.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you agree that more Christians in capitalism would result in a better system?
- Why should we (or should not) advocate for Christian capitalism?

Episode 9: Segment 4

Theocracy

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 9. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- A theocracy is the government of a state by immediate divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided.
- The Bible teaches that Christians should attempt to influence government toward what God reveals as good and righteous.
- Christianity is about telling people the Gospel and eliciting a response in the heart—not forcing conversion and the edge of a sword.
- The most ideal kingdom is one ruled by God, as it was at the beginning and will be at the end.
- Kingdoms on Earth are temporal and run by fallen people; God’s kingdom is eternal and run by the righteous and benevolent Creator.
- To be a part of God’s kingdom, you must be born again—that is to have faith in the King of the Kingdom.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: The separation of church and state is often used as a weapon against Christians. But the idea was never to protect government from religion, it was to protect religion from government. America’s government cannot establish a religion and it cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion. That doesn’t mean that Christians shouldn’t seek to influence government. In fact, we should. God has revealed what is moral and true and righteous. And a government that is more guided by those ideals will be better for everyone. The perfect government is one that is ruled by the all-powerful, benevolent Creator. But we will not experience that Kingdom on Earth. Until Jesus returns to set all things right, capitalism is the best we have. And we can make the best better by filling the system with more Christians. And ultimately, we hope in the one who will set all things right (Revelation 21:1-5).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is the problem with looking to a governmental system for the solution to the world’s problems?
- How can a conversation about governments point you to the gospel?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 9:

Additional Sources

Slick, Matt. *“What is socialism? Is socialism biblical? Can a Christian be a socialist?”* CARM. April 28, 2020. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://carm.org/government/what-is-socialism-is-socialism-biblical-can-a-christian-be-a-socialist>.

Socialism is a political and social system in which private property and the distribution of goods are subject to centralized governmental control. Socialism aspires to some lofty goals, including fairness in obtaining goods and services, reduction of poverty, and restriction on the power of the rich. However, socialism has never succeeded in reaching these goals. There are many more weaknesses than potential benefits. Furthermore, socialism stands in opposition to several biblical principles such as the right to private property.

Slick, Matt. *“What does Acts 2:44-45 mean when it says that Christians ‘held all things in common’?”* CARM. April 21, 2016. Accessed September 12, 2022. <https://carm.org/about-bible-verses/what-does-acts-244-45-mean-when-it-says-that-christians-held-all-things-in-common>.

Some have pointed to the actions of the early church as an argument for socialism or a renunciation of the concept of personal property. However, a more accurate reading of the text points to radical generosity, self-sacrifice, and concern for others. These Christian characteristics require personal property and means out of which one can be generous. These were free and willing actions that demonstrated the love of Christ, not a government-commanded redistribution of goods.

“What does the Bible say about capitalism?” GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/capitalism-Bible.html>.

Capitalism is an economic system characterized by the private ownership of goods. The distribution of goods are determined by competition in a free market. In the beginning God created man and gave him dominion over the earth. This implies that individuals can own property in which to exercise dominion. While there are many aspects of capitalism that are consistent with biblical principles, we must be careful to consider each principle according to the Word. There is a difference between self-interest and selfishness. Most of the negative aspects of capitalism are caused not by the system itself but by the sinful nature of the people acting within it.

“What is the gospel of the kingdom?” GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/gospel-of-the-kingdom.html>.

The gospel is the good news message of repentance, redemption, and restoration offered by God to all who will receive Christ. When we accept this offer, we become part of His eternal kingdom. This kingdom is in heaven and is ruled by God perfectly and righteously. Until we are called home, we are ambassadors of Christ in this foreign land. WE recognize that we will not find a perfect kingdom this side of heaven, but we can live in a way that furthers the kingdom of God.

Episode 10: The Old and Objectionable Testament

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Societies today (choose one)

- Would benefit by shaping their rules and morality around those taught in the Old Testament.
- Would not benefit by shaping their rules and morality around those taught in the Old Testament.

2. Imprecatory Psalms (choose one)

- Are immoral because they call for others to be harmed.
- Are moral because God's name must be upheld by His people.

3. The practice of slavery is (choose one)

- Always immoral.
- Morally neutral.

4. God's character is (choose one)

- Consistent throughout both testaments.
- Harsher in the Old Testament and more gracious in the New Testament.

Episode 10: Segment 1

The Old and Questionable Testament

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 10. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- While there are examples of polygamy in the Bible, God never condones polygamy.
- God clearly demonstrates His ideal for marriage is one man and one woman within an exclusive relationship.
- The dietary laws and laws about wearing mixed fabrics are part of the Mosaic Covenant which is no longer regulatory since the advent of Jesus.
- Evolution is only a theory with very little data, and the data we do have is subject to interpretation.
- Darwinian evolution only attempts to answer where we came from, not what our purpose is or why we do the things we do.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 many people today who object to the Bible, and especially the Old Testament. The objections come from many directions. But when we look closely at these objections, we find that they can be resolved pretty simply. God clearly describes his ideal design for marriage in Genesis 2 (one man and one woman in an exclusive relationship), but there are many examples throughout Scripture of polygamy. This is not a contradiction, however, because God never once condones the practice, and in fact when we see examples of it, chaos ensues. Every alleged inconsistency can be answered. God is perfect and His Word is true (Psalm 18:30). It proves true internally and externally.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What doubts do you have about the reliability of the Old Testament?
- Why do we obey some of the laws in the Bible but not all of the Old Testament laws?

Episode 10: Segment 2

Moral Objections to the O.T.

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 10. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- When it comes to reading and interpreting the Bible, narrative is not normative.
- God never commends tyrannical rule over women.
- God created both male and female in His image.
- Context is key in interpreting many biblical passages.
- Psalms are the poetic expression of Israel's theology.
- God's name must be upheld by his people.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: One of the objections often lobbied against the Bible is that of its attitude toward women. But the claim that God or the Old Testament is misogynistic is unfounded. God created both male and female in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). The character and nature of God is reflected in both male and female equally, but in different ways. It is true that God designed the family unit so that the man is the head of the household, but it was never meant to be a tyrannical rule over women. God values women and we see many examples throughout Scripture where women are highly valued or shown great care and grace (Hagar, Hannah, Deborah, Jael, etc.).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Are there accounts in the Old Testament that you find questionable or objectionable?
- What do you think about the explanations given for these objections?

Episode 10: Segment 3

Moral Objections Continued

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 10. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The slavery in the Bible is not the same type of slavery we think of in the West today.
- In the Bible, slavery is morally neutral and there are examples of it being used in both good and bad ways.
- Theologically, all people deserve to die.
- When God ordered the conquest of the land of Canaan, it was just judgment of sin (Genesis 15:16; Leviticus 18:25).
- The emphasis of the Flood account is on God's grace in saving Noah and his family.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 true that there is slavery in the Bible. But just because something is in the Bible doesn't mean it is condoned or commanded by the Bible. Besides, if we are to correctly interpret the Bible, we must understand it in the context it was written, not in our own modern context. Slavery in the Bible is not the slavery of the Atlantic slave trade or the systems that resulted from it. Slavery in the Bible is presented as a morally neutral system that can be used in a good way. God liberated his people from slavery in Egypt in order that they could become slaves of God (Exodus 12:40-42). God also used slavery to uphold the dignity and rights of foreign women captured in times of war (Deuteronomy 21:10-14). As Christians, we are called to be slaves of God (Romans 6:22). The same type of contextual understanding is necessary when dealing with the question of genocide in the Bible as well. Ultimately, we all deserve God's punishment—including death—and God has every right to mete our justice. We don't always understand God's ways or His thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9), but He is loving, gracious, and just, and everything He does is perfectly righteous. As in the account of the Flood, God is just to pour out his wrath on sinners, and yet he chooses to offer grace by offering a way of salvation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is the difference between our understanding of slavery and the biblical idea of slavery?
- How can you explain to a skeptic that the flood was not an example of genocide?

Episode 10: Segment 4

Not the Same God

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 10. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- God's character does not change from Old Testament to New Testament.
- The Old Testament shows great love and grace; the New Testament includes enormous amounts of judgment.
- God is rightfully angry with us and we deserve His eternal punishment.
- The New Testament contains the greatest demonstration of God's wrath—placing our sins on Jesus Christ.
- Through Christ, we can be reunited with God in a relationship marked by peace, love, hope, joy, and eternal life.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: Many critics of the Bible claim that the God of the Old Testament is harsh and judgmental while the God of the New Testament is loving and gracious. However, this is not a valid critique because it is based on a superficial reading of the text. God does not change (Malachi 3:6); He is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). When we read the Bible more deeply, we see that the Old Testament is full of grace and love as God protected and provided for individuals and nations. And in the New Testament, we clearly see condemnation and judgment. God doesn't change and His message doesn't change. For the beginning, the Bible teaches that we are fallen sinners deserving an eternal punishment. But God, in his love and grace, has provided a means of salvation for any who repent of their sins and call upon the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Have you ever heard someone say that God's character in the Old Testament isn't the same as his character in the New Testament?
- How is God both a God of love and of judgment?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 10:

Additional Sources

Davis, Nicholas. *"10 Reasons Why You Should Trust the Bible."* Core Christianity. May 14, 2018. Accessed July 05, 2020. <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.

Barnett, Tim. *"Does the Bible Depict Two Different Gods?"* Stand To Reason. October 18, 2018. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.str.org/w/does-the-bible-depict-two-different-gods->.

Many people think that the God of the Old Testament is a "moral monster" and the New Testament shows a gracious God. The truth is that there is only one God and both Testaments show the only God. The Bible is clear that God does not change; He is immutable. The Old Testament does show God's judgment against sin, but it also shows amazing displays of God's love and mercy. He is gracious toward His people. And in the New Testament, even the gentle Jesus demonstrated the authority to rebuke and judge sin. God is both just and loving; He does not change, and when we read the Bible in its entirety, we see both attributes clearly on display in both testaments.

Hall, Amy. *"If we Condemn Modern-day Genocide, Why Don't We Condemn God for Destroying the Canaanites?"* Stand to Reason. November 25, 2019. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.str.org/w/if-we-condemn-modern-day-genocide-why-don-t-we-condemn-god-for-destroying-the-canaanites->.

Individuals do not have the right to lock someone up for a crime, but the government does. In fact, that is part of their God-given duty to protect their citizens and to perform justice. There is a difference in the government and the individual. Just because the individual would be condemned for that act does not mean the government should be automatically condemned for the same act. In the same way, it is not fair to condemn God (who has every right to judge sinners) for an act that would be condemned if a person committed it for their own illegitimate purposes.

"Has the Bible been corrupted, altered, edited, revised, or tampered with?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-corrupted.html>.

The holy Scriptures are God-breathed and inerrant. The original manuscripts were copied with meticulous care. Although minor errors or variants crept into some of those copies, the vast majority are spelling variants, inverted words, or an easily identified missing word. Less than 1% of the text is in question, and in that text there is no doctrinal teaching or command that is jeopardized. The copies we have are pure and we can be confident that what we have today has not been corrupted, altered, edited, revised, or tampered with.

Episode 11: The Greatest Community on Earth

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Having relationships and being part of a community (choose one)
 - Makes life messy.
 - Is fundamental to human flourishing.
2. The church is (choose one)
 - The best community in the world.
 - A judgmental and hypocritical community.
3. To have someone point out our faults is (choose one)
 - A drawback of being a member of the church.
 - A benefit of being a member of the church.
4. To become a member of the church you must (choose one)
 - Talk to the pastor and add your name to the roll.
 - Repent and place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Episode 11: Segment 1

Church Does This Best

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 11. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- God is communal in being, as demonstrated in His triune nature.
- Human beings long for relationships because we are made in the image of God.
- The church uniquely provides a community in which we serve one another and give worship; to God.
- Humans long to be part of something bigger than themselves.
- God gives Christians special gifts that can be used to serve the church.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 triune in nature. He is three persons in one being: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Just as God is communal, He has made us in His image to be communal. This is why we long for relationships and community. And God, in His infinite wisdom and grace, has given us the ideal place to satisfy that longing. Apart from our relationship with God Himself, our relationship with other believers is paramount. And the church is uniquely designed to be a place where we serve each other and grow together in our knowledge and understanding of God. We don't go to church to receive, but to give and to serve. God has joined together "many members in one body" and given different functions so that "we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:4-5) and we use the gifts He gives to serve one another.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why do you attend church?
- Why do people long to be connected to a bigger community?

Episode 11: Segment 2

The Case for Church

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 11. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The best community in the world is found in the local church.
- Although other communities may offer shadows of the benefits of church, these benefits are not ideally found anywhere else.
- God doesn't change, so there is nothing more relevant than gathering together to worship Him.
- Church is only confusing when we misunderstand its purpose, which is to worship God.
- The church is full of people who struggle against sin.
- Being a part of the church community helps us to grow, as we also provide opportunities for others to grow.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: One of the most-used objections to joining or attending church is that it is full of hypocrites. And it is true that there are sinful people in the church. But you are going to find sinful people and hypocrites everywhere you go. This isn't a reason to reject the church. In fact, joining with these brothers and sisters in community helps us to grow to love the unlovable and to have patience and grace toward others. As we grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23), we help them to grow as well, and we are all better individuals and a better community for it. This is just one of the benefits of belonging to the church. We grow together and in doing so reflect more glory to God.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- If you have ever not wanted to come to church, what made you feel that way?
- What is the purpose of church?

Episode 11: Segment 3

The Safest Place on Earth

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 11. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Church discipline is the act of pointing out and correcting sinful behavior for the purpose of restoration.
- It is loving to point out sin and encourage growth, just as a doctor points out sickness in order to cure it.
- People rarely have an accurate perception of themselves; we need someone else to point out our faults.
- In a family of believers, we are to carry each other's burdens.
- Benefits of belonging to the church can be summed up in having people to love and be loved by.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: In Galatians 6, Paul instructs the believers in how they should function as a body of believers. First, he tells them that "if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one" (Galatians 6:1). It is part of our responsibility to each other and a demonstration of our love for one another to point out sin with the intent of restoration. This is not a judgmental condemnation, it is a loving rebuke that leads the offender to repent. He tells them to "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). The body of Christ, though made of many parts, is one body. We weep together, rejoice together, and grow together. We serve each other, instruct each other, and spur each other on to good deeds (Hebrew 10:24).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What are the benefits of belonging to a church body?
- Have you ever experienced accountability from other believers? How was it helpful?

Episode 11: Segment 4

The Greatest Reason

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 11. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- God promised He would build His church and no one would prevail against it.
- The church is so precious to Jesus that He gave His life for her.
- Jesus came on a mission, not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom.
- To become a member of a church is not to join a local club, but to become a member of God's family.
- You must repent and place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the grave so you could be reconciled into His family.
- All of God's children join together in glorious, peaceful, and soul-satisfying service.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: The church is an exclusive membership that grants incredible benefits. It is a family that joins together in worship and service to God. The church is the best community on earth because it is uniquely designed by God to meet the needs of His people and to satisfy the deepest desires of our souls. But the price to join this exclusive family is steep. In fact, you are entirely incapable of purchasing your own membership. But the church is precious to Jesus, and He laid down His life for those who believe in Him, purchasing for each membership into His church. God promised He would build His church and no one would prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). He is steadily adding members to His church, and we all work together to know God more, to grow in our relationship with Him and with His children, and to serve His body and His kingdom. The church is the greatest community on Earth, only to be exceeded when we join in perfect fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in heaven.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How does Jesus feel about the church?
- How does thinking about Jesus' view of the church change your perspective?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 11:

Additional Sources

“Church.” Answers In Genesis. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/church>.

The church is a group of believers founded on the confession that Jesus is the Messiah. The church exists to glorify God, serve one another, and spread the gospel. Though church attendance has been in decline in modern days, the church will ultimately prevail. The church is the body of Christ, a family united in Christ and in the purpose He gives. Church is a great place to meet like-minded people, but it is also a training ground for life. The Christian needs the fellowship with other believers for purposes of equipping, exhorting, disciplining, and accountability.

“What is the importance of Christian fellowship?” GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-fellowship.html>.

It is important to fellowship with other believers. The New Testament understanding of fellowship means a partnership to the mutual benefit of those involved. This means, first, that fellowship can only occur between two believers, who are united in Christ. As children of God, Christians are united in mind and purpose—to serve God and His kingdom. True Christian community reinforces this heaven-mindedness in us and helps us to focus on Christ and His desires for us. We need Christian fellowship to help us to grow and to stay focused on what matters.

Hall, Amy. “Real Community.” Stand to Reason. June 26, 2012. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.str.org/w/real-community>.

It can be difficult to love real people in real churches. People sin. We all sin. The only way we can have true fellowship with other believers is to understand the role of sin in our lives. We are completely dependent on the forgiveness of Christ, and so we should be quick to offer forgiveness to others. If we are looking for an ideal community where we get along with everyone and there are no struggles, we will never find it. We need a real community, it which we can acknowledge our sin, learn from others, give and receive forgiveness and mercy, and walk through this dark world with other light-bearing Christians. In truth, it is the struggle of a real community in which His power can be revealed as he shapes our character more into the likeness of Him.

“Why is church membership important?” GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 17, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/church-membership.html>.

We don’t have to belong to a church to be Christian. But because we are Christian, we attend church. We are saved by faith in Christ’s work, not by any work of our own, including church attendance. But we should belong to a local congregation if we are a Christian. It is in our commitment to a local church that we can give of our resources, serve others, and be accountable. As a member of a church, we submit to the teaching and spiritual leadership of a pastor.

Episode 12: The Meaning of Christmas

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. A holiday is (choose one)

- A day where most schools and workplaces are closed.
- A day set apart in recognition of something sacred.

2. The first prophecy about the birth of Christ was given (choose one)

- 4,000 years before His birth.
- 700 years before His birth.

3. The term “incarnation” refers to (choose one)

- A flower representing admiration.
- A spiritual being taking on flesh.

4. The purpose of Jesus’ birth was (choose one)

- To die.
- To show us how to live.

Episode 12: Segment 1

What is Christmas?

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 12. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Christmas is the day we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus.
- Jesus, the infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing sustainer of life, became a finite man.
- Jesus became 100% man while still being 100% God.
- The incarnation was planned before creation so that we could be reconciled to God.
- It is only in the presence of sin that God's mercy, grace, and loving kindness are clearly seen.
- We can't earn our way to heaven, but Jesus did and offers it to us freely as a gift.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Christmas is one of the most celebrated days in the world. But what exactly is being celebrated? Contrary to the modern commercialization of the season, Christmas is really about only one gift, the gift of Jesus. Christmas is the day we celebrate Jesus stepping into His creation to take on the form of a man. Existing in the very nature of God, He humbled Himself, setting aside the privileges of divinity to assume the weak and limited form of a human baby (Philippians 2:5-11). He didn't lose his divinity, but He did willingly submit Himself to a life of a man, living it perfectly so that He could pay our penalty for sin—100% God and 100% man. The incarnation is the greatest miracle ever, and that is what Christmas is all about.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why is Christmas such a popular holiday?
- How do you celebrate Christmas?

Episode 12: Segment 2

The Proof is in the Prophecy

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 12. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The best evidence of the incarnation is prophecy.
- Prophecy is when God uses a human being to speak about a future event.
- The first prophecy of Jesus was given about 4,000 years before his birth.
- 700 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah prophesied of a child who would be God (Isaiah 6:9).
- Jesus perfectly fulfilled many prophecies, including that he would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- The Bible also prophesied the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
- Another proof of the incarnation is the testimony of people whose lives were changed in response to Jesus.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 predicted the birth of Jesus hundreds and even thousands of years before He was born. There are many details that were foretold and many were things that an individual would have no way to influence, like where He was born or who He was born to. Magi came to find him by following a star described in the Old Testament book of Numbers. While he was still a young child, his father took the family to Egypt to escape King Herod. All of these details were ones that a baby could not have accidentally fulfilled. But Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies in His time on Earth. Not only did Jesus fulfill prophecies, but He changed lives. Even today we find evidence of the incarnation as people trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and become "new creations" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why is the incarnation such a big deal?
- Why do you think some people still reject that Jesus was God, even though He fulfilled over 300 prophecies?

Episode 12: Segment 3

Objections to the Incarnation

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 12. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Other religions offer incarnation stories, but none bear more than a superficial resemblance to the biblical account.
- When Jesus was born, he was 100% God and 100% man.
- An infinite God can do whatever he wants, even maintain a nature that is entirely divine and entirely human.
- Jesus was 100% God but sometimes chose to limit himself from accessing or using that power while he was living a human life.
- The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is God (Hebrews 1:8).

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: The incarnation is an incredible miracle. It is the moment in which the Creator of the universe took on flesh (literally “in-fleshment”) to live the life of a human. But even as Jesus became a human, He did not cease to be God. We call this the hypostatic union—the unique nature of Jesus which is the union of deity and humanity into a single nature. Jesus wasn’t 50% God and 50% man, and He didn’t change from God into man. He is wholly God, with all the divine attributes of God, and He is wholly man, with all the attributes of mankind, except without sin. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus is God. God calls the Son God (Hebrews 1:8). Jesus says He is one with the Father (John 10:30). And the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Him because they recognized He was claiming to be God (John 10:33). But the Bible is also clear that Jesus was a man (Hebrews 2:14-17). Jesus took on this unique nature because of His unique purpose.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you find it hard to believe that Jesus can be both 100% God and 100% man?
- How would you respond if someone said Jesus was just a man?

Episode 12: Segment 4

Born to Die

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 12. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Jesus—God Himself—came to Earth to live a perfect life and to die.
- Jesus' purpose in being born was to die, so that he could offer salvation to his enemies.
- Jesus lived a perfect life with no sin, so He did not deserve to die and bear the wrath of God against sin.
- Jesus willingly offered Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.
- Jesus came to offer us the greatest gift, a great exchange, where He takes the punishment we deserve and gives us what He deserves—eternal life and fellowship with God in heaven.
- We can receive this amazing gift by repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus Christ—the God-man—and His work on the cross.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: Everyone has a sense of purpose, or at least longs to find their purpose in life. Jesus' purpose was to die. From before He took on flesh, from the beginning of time, His purpose was to live a perfect human life and to die a death He didn't deserve in order to pay the penalty for our sins. "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10). It is only through Jesus' perfect life and sacrificial death that we can be forgiven, reconciled to God, and given eternal life. Jesus offers a great exchange—He takes our sin and bears God's wrath, and He gives us His righteousness so that we might live forever in heaven as a child of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). And to receive this gift of new and eternal life, all we must do is repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9). And that amazing gift is why we celebrate Christmas.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Does it shock you to think about the fact that Jesus was born to die?
- Is Jesus at the center of your Christmas celebration? How might you change your traditions to reflect the true meaning of Christmas?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 12:

Additional Sources

Ham, Ken. "What Is Christmas?" Answers In Genesis. November 27, 2013. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/christmas/what-is-christmas>.

Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth. In many ways, the secular culture has tried to downplay the role of Jesus in Christmas, but without the incarnation, there is no holiday to celebrate. The significance of Christmas begins at the very beginning of time, when God created Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because of this action, sin and death entered the world and mankind was separated from God. But God already had a plan to redeem His people by sending His only Son to be born as a man, to live a perfect life, and to die on the cross for sins.

"What is the meaning of the Incarnation of Christ?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/incarnation-of-Christ.html>.

The incarnation is the term used to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh. Biblical support for Jesus' humanity is extensive: He grew tired, thirsty, and weary. He expressed emotions and he bled. He lived as a man so that he could be the Savior of mankind. He had to be a man, under the Law, to redeem those under the Law. He had to be man so that he could shed his blood for the sins of the people. Without the incarnation, the cross is meaningless.

Slick, Matt. "Jesus' Two Natures: God and Man." CARM. November 24, 2008. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://carm.org/doctrine-and-theology/jesus-two-natures-god-and-man>.

Jesus did not cease to be God when he became man. He is not half God and half man. He is not a new blend of divinity and humanity. He is fully divine and fully human. He has two natures. He is wholly God and wholly man. This is called the hypostatic union. This is a difficult concept to understand, but it is a truth that is vital to the Gospel. Only Jesus—fully God and fully man—could satisfy the wrath of God against the sins of mankind.

Williams, Nathan. "Creation, the Incarnation, and Christmas." The Master's Seminary Blog. December 24, 2020. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://blog.tms.edu/creation-the-incarnation-and-christmas>.

The one who created the world out of nothing came to earth and dwelt among us. God spoke the whole of creation into existence out of nothing but His Word. The rebellion of mankind against God held tragic consequences. Adam and Eve rejected the life-giver and turned to corruption and non-existence. In His judgment, God could not overlook this rebellion, but in His love He could not leave His prize creation to descend into death, disarray, and disorder. But Jesus, the very life-giver Himself, stepped into His own creation in order to bring true life to those sitting in the shadow of death. This is why we celebrate Christmas. We celebrate the gift of life brought to us by the life-giver.

Episode 13: The Importance of Interpretation

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. When it comes to interpreting the Bible (choose one)
 - There are many ways to come to an understanding.
 - There is only one correct way to interpret it.
2. When we approach the Bible, it is best to (choose one)
 - Start with an intellectual understanding.
 - Lead with what we feel about a text.
3. We know the Bible is the Word of God because (choose one)
 - We have faith that it is.
 - It is self-verifying.
4. The message of the Bible can be plainly understood by (choose one)
 - Only those who received it at the time.
 - Anyone who reads and studies it.

Episode 13: Segment 1

Authorial Intent

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 13. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- There is only one right way to interpret the Bible.
- Hermeneutics is the art and science of interpreting the Bible.
- A literal interpretation says what a text says is what it means.
- The historical-grammatical hermeneutic attempts to approach the meaning intended by the author.
- Reader-response theory asks, “What does the text mean to me?”
- Inserting ourselves into the text is a disservice to the true meaning of the text.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. 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 a complex book made of 66 individual books written by 40 different authors over a span of thousands of years. It was written in a different time and in a different culture and with a different language. And yet, it was written to be understood by people for the rest of time. But we can’t just interpret the texts to mean anything we want it to mean. It is the Word of God and we must take care to understand it in the way He intended. The key to correct interpretation is a correct hermeneutic. Basically, a hermeneutic is a set of rules for how to approach the text. The historical-grammatical hermeneutic allows us to approach the meaning of the text as intended by the original author. This is the only way to ensure that we arrive at the correct understanding. As the psalmist cried out to God, “give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies” (Psalm 119:125), so should we seek to correctly understand the very words our Creator has preserved for us.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Have you ever found it difficult to read and/or understand the Bible?
- Why do you think it is so important to focus on authorial intent?

Episode 13: Segment 2

A Survey of Hermeneutics

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 13. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- A Christological hermeneutic attempts to see Jesus in every verse.
- An allegorical hermeneutic misappropriates the text by seeing it as an allegory for some other teaching.
- A trajectory hermeneutic adds to the words of God by presuming to add meaning beyond that explicit in the text.
- An anagogical hermeneutic applies hidden or mystical meaning to the a text.
- Only the historical-grammatical hermeneutic is faithful to authorial intent.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Paul instructed Timothy to be diligent in present himself to God as one “accurately handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). This charge can also be applied to us. Paul was telling Timothy that hermeneutics is important. There is a right and wrong way to handle the Word of God. We must be diligent to correctly interpret and apply God’s Word. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17), which implies that there is a specific way it must be understood. Any hermeneutic other than the historical-grammatical approach opens interpretation up to subjective inference, opinion, and emotion. If there is an absolute truth to God’s words, then there is an absolutely correct way to interpret it. And because God’s thoughts and ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9), we must rely on the meaning He has written for us, rather than adding our own fallible ideas to the mix.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Does it surprise you that we should not try to find Jesus in every verse?
- How do you need to change your approach to Biblical understanding?

Episode 13: Segment 3

Five Rules

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 13. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The historical-grammatical approach follows 5 rules.
- We must consider a given verse or passage in the broader context of the biblical message.
- We must start by asking, “Who wrote it, to whom, and why?”
- We must consider the historical setting in which it was written.
- We must consider the purpose of the book.
- We must consider the genre used by the author.

DISCUSSION

Have students 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: The psalms are poems. The books of Moses are historical narrative. The Bible also includes prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and apocalyptic writings. To understand a verse or a passage, we must go back and understand what the author was trying to say to his audience at the time. When we understand a passage to be poetic, we understand it may employ literary devices such as metaphors or personification. But we don’t need to look for hidden meaning when reading a narrative. God is not a God of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). He wants us to understand His message. So we can trust that what the text says is what it means. Despite its complexity, the Word of God supernaturally corresponds to reality and it plainly says what God means for it to say.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you think the Bible’s claim that it is the Word of God is a good enough reason for us to believe it is? Why or why not?
- How does the Bible correspond to reality?

Episode 13: Segment 4

God's Word for You

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 13. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- The message of the Bible is the biography of God.
- God created a perfect world but the sin of man plunged it into darkness.
- God sent His only Son, Jesus, to come to Earth and live a perfect, righteous life.
- Jesus gave up His life on the cross to pay the penalty for sinners.
- Those who repent and believe in Him can be reconciled to God, their relationship restored.
- Jesus will return to restore all things to God's perfect design.

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth 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. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: It is vital that we correctly interpret the Bible because all of eternity rides on the message. The message of the Bible is that Jesus "came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The Bible isn't just a moral book or a history of the Jewish people. The Bible is God's message of redemption that is available to all who would repent and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. God calls "all people everywhere" to repent (Acts 17:30), to confess and forsake their sins. God promises that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). There is only one way to interpret the Word faithfully, and one message that God desires for all to hear and accept. "Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- If the meaning of the Bible is fixed by its author, can it have anything to say to us personally today?
- Why is it important to approach the Bible with a good hermeneutic?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 13:

Additional Sources

Edwards, Brian. *"Unlocking the Truth of Scripture."* Answers Magazine. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://answersingenesis.org/hermeneutics/unlocking-the-truth-of-scripture>.

The Bible is a treasure box. To open the fullness of the treasure within, Christians must use the key of hermeneutics. Our goal should be to understand the text as God and the human writers of Scripture intended. We must consider the context, both biblical and historical. We should begin with the plain meaning of the text. Then we ask how it compares with other Scriptures. The Bible can't contradict itself, so if we take a meaning that is not consistent with other Scriptures, then our interpretation is faulty. Finally, we draw application to our lives.

Shlemon, Alan. *"Reading the Bible Requires Rules We Already Know."* Stand To Reason. December 16, 2020. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://www.str.org/w/reading-the-bible-requires-rules-we-already-know>.

To correctly interpret the Bible, we should follow a few basic rules. First, we must ask what the author is talking about in the surrounding text. Then we ask what is the historical context for why the author wrote. And we ask what literary style is the passage written in. These are basic principles that every person already knows. These three questions are applied subconsciously to any document or person we interact with. These are common-sense rules when trying to grasp the meaning of a text. So why are we likely to ignore them when reading the Bible?

"Can/should we interpret the Bible literally?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-literal.html>.

We can and must take the Bible literally. This is the only way to determine what God is really trying to communicate to us. Jesus took the Bible literally. The disciples too the commands of Christ literally. This doesn't mean that there are no figures of speech. Obviously there are idioms and metaphors that are not to be taken woodenly, but we are to take the meaning literally. IN other words, we must take the plain meaning of the text.

Klassen, Brad. *"What Does This Verse Mean to You? Finding Meaning in Scripture."* The Master's Seminary Blog. August 27, 2019. Accessed September 18, 2022. <https://blog.tms.edu/finding-meaning-in-scripture>.

Abiding by the intent of the communicator is what makes life work. So why do we treat the Bible differently? We must ask: What is meaning, and who has the authority to determine it. Meaning is the content of a communication that is conveyed by the words and grammar used by the writer or speaker. Meaning is not simply what a reader or listener feels or supposes. The reader does not contribute to the meaning; he receives the meaning. When we interpret the Bible, our aim is to understand the meaning, or the authorial intent. Each text of Scripture has a singular, fixed, and objective meaning. Meaning is not dependent on the response of the reader. The meaning is the same from reader to reader. Significance may be flexible as the meaning is applied to various applications, but the meaning is defined by the author (God and the human writer), not by the reader.

Road Trip *to* **TRUTH**

Study Guide



Season 3