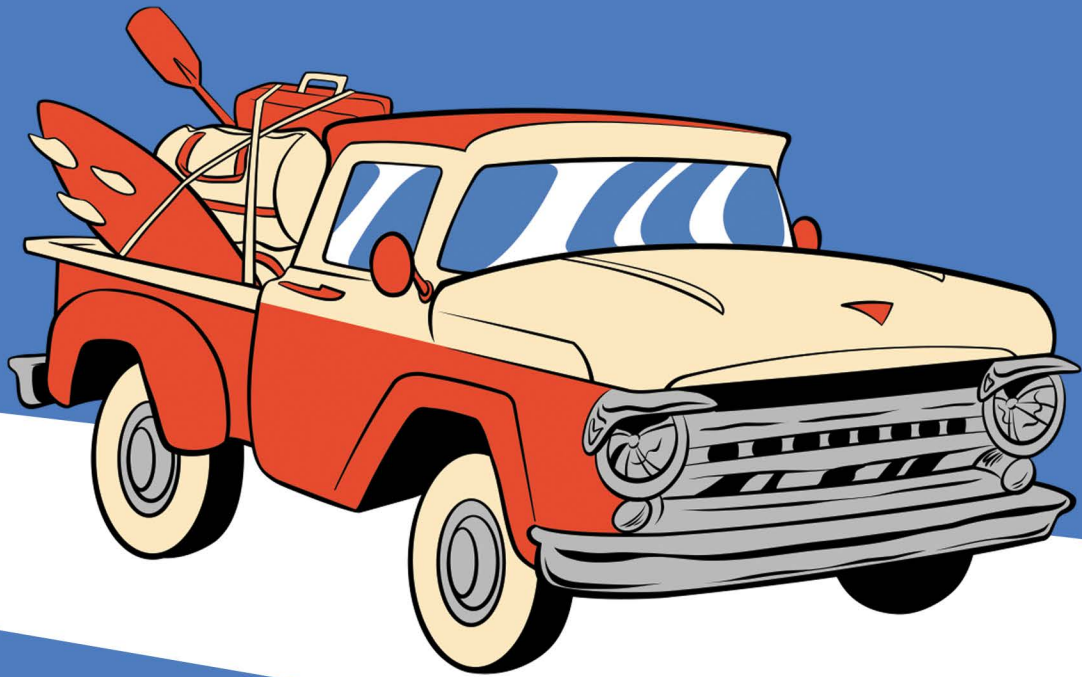


Road Trip to **TRUTH**

Study Guide



Season 4

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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 25-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: The Real Solution to Racism

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Racism (choose one)
 - Is a major problem.
 - Doesn't really exist.
2. The root cause of racism is (choose one)
 - Natural biases.
 - Sinful hearts.
3. Laws and cultural pressures (choose one)
 - Can cure racism.
 - Cannot cure racism.
4. Racism can be solved (choose one)
 - By carefully crafted laws and regulation.
 - Only through salvation.

Episode 1: Segment 1

Wrong Terms

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Racism is the result of an individual or group viewing their “race” as superior.
- Race is a man-made social construct.
- All people are descended from Adam and Eve, but there are many ethnicities.
- A key to having a conversation about racism is defining terms.
- Racism is a highly emotional issue.

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: Racism is a hot-button topic in many arenas and discourse can be especially challenging. It is important to understand that emotions run deep on all sides of the issue. But the Bible makes it clear that there are not distinct races of people. As Paul explained in Acts 17:26, God “made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth.” In the beginning, God created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, in his own image (Genesis 1:27). Every person is descended from these two. There are many nations, or ethnicities, but the differences are simply genetic diversity and culture. All people are created in God’s image and are part of one common race. That truth must inform any Christian who engages with this topic.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What is racism? What is race?
- What significance would you give skin shade when it comes to judging another person?

Episode 1: Segment 2

The Root Issue

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Darwin came up with the idea that there are distinct races that evolved differently, with some more evolved than others.
- Every person is an image-bearer of the Creator.
- The Christian's speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6).
- An evolutionary worldview justifies racism, but the Bible helps us understand that evolution is just a mechanism that wicked people use to wound and subjugate others.
- Because we live in a broken world (because of sin), we all have natural biases, prejudices, and stereotypes; but the Christian, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit, can overcome these types of differences.

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: God created man in his image, from one man and one woman—one race of people. But when they disobeyed God, their sin had drastic consequences. Not only were they condemned to die and their relationship with God interrupted, but all of creation suffered from the curse of sin and death. Every person born since that time is sinful. This is why we struggle with things like biases and prejudices. But Christians have been freed from their enslavement to sin through the work of Jesus on the cross, and the Holy Spirit dwells in them. It is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit that Christians can overcome the sinful tendencies and instead speak graciously (Colossians 4:6).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Where does racism come from? What is the fundamental issue behind racism?
- Do you think there is systemic racism?

Episode 1: Segment 3

The Gospel and Racism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The world's approach to racism hasn't worked because it focuses on external control mechanisms, like laws and regulations.
- The Biblical solution recognizes that racism is a heart issue and thus the solution can only come through a spiritual heart transplant.
- The gospel of Christ changes our hearts and affections so we become so enraptured with Christ that we are not enticed by the dangerous sin of racism.
- Jesus died for every tribe, tongue, and nation of people, regardless of skin shade.
- Christians strive to love like Jesus, who loved to the point of sacrificial death, and this pursuit enables us to not hate or despise others because of something as trivial as skin shade.

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: Most people today agree that racism is bad and the issue needs to be fixed. The conversation becomes contentious when it goes beyond that. Different experiences, motivations, and ideas for moving forward cause heated exchanges. What is clear, though, is that the world's approach has not been altogether successful. This is because, ultimately, a heart issue can only be resolved in the heart. You can't legislate someone's heart. But the message of the Bible is about changing people's hearts. The gospel of Jesus Christ changes the hearts of those who trust him. The Bible says "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The new heart is no longer enslaved by sin and its effects, but is enraptured with Christ. We learn to love as he loves—a genuine and sacrificial love for every tribe, tongue, and nation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What is the solution to racial animosity?
- Why have laws and cultural pressure have not cured racism?

Episode 1: Segment 4

The Cure

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- For all of human history, people have hated other people because of differences like skin color, language, or culture.
- Man's response has been to force a behavioral change, an approach that has not succeeded in curing racism.
- The only true cure for racism is the gospel of Jesus Christ, a changed heart and an acceptance of a new identity in Christ.
- Jesus willingly chose to die on the cross for sinners, regardless of what they looked like or the culture they were from.
- Knowing the gospel is the cure for racism and for all sin; Christians can help by sharing the gospel more.

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: God doesn't see people as we do—externally; he looks at people's hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). He created each person in his image (Genesis 1:27) and wants a relationship with them. But we have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and thus deserve death and separation from God (Romans 6:23). But God showed how much he loved us by sending his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay our penalty so that whoever would call on his name for salvation would be saved (Romans 5:8, 10:9-10; John 3:16). When we are saved, we are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17) and adopted as children of God (John 1:12). This new identity is the ultimate cure for racism. With a new heart unshackled by sin (Romans 6:6), we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus did—genuinely and sacrificially. We accept a new identity and begin to see others through that lens. We are all image-bearers of God, and those who are saved are family, fellow children of God. With this truth, we recognize that the true cure for racism is to share the gospel with others so that hearts and lives might be transformed.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What can you do to stop racism?
- How does the gospel change the way you think about racism?

Episode 1:

Additional Sources

Ham, Ken. "Are There Really Different Races?" Chapter 17 in The New Answers Book 1. Answers in Genesis. November 29, 2007. Accessed September 23, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/racism/are-there-really-different-races>.

When we start with the Bible, it is clear that there is only one race—the human race. God created man in His image, male and female, and from that first couple descend every human being. In fact, the idea of races of people was popularized by evolutionary ideas like those of Charles Darwin. If people have evolved, then it is possible that some races are more evolved than others. The truth is, though, that all people belong to the same race, created by God. The differences we see are due to the beauty of genetic and cultural diversity, distinctions that are explained by the dispersion of family groups from the tower of Babel.

Smith, Calvin. "Systemic Racism Is Real—But Not What Most People Think." Answers in Genesis. August 10, 2020. Accessed September 23, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/calvin-smith/2020/08/10/systemic-racism-is-real-but-not-what-most-people-think>.

As racial tensions abound, so have cries of systemic racism. Many claim that our very systems and structures are racist and exacerbate racial oppression. Perhaps the truly racist system is an unexpected one. The system that teaches racism at a foundational level is humanistic naturalism. The story of evolution allows for various races to have evolved separately and at differing rates, resulting in some races being superior to others. It is secular humanism and biological evolution that is inherently and systemically racist at its foundation.

"What does the Bible say about systemic racism?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/systemic-racism.html>.

Though the Bible doesn't use the term "systemic racism," the Word of God does speak to the value and sanctity of life and how people ought to be treated. In fact, it is the biblical perspective alone that provides a basis for casting moral judgment against the evils of racism. The Christian is thus obligated by the biblical worldview to fight against systemic racism. However, discernment is required in evaluating the veracity and validity of each claim, as well as determining how to address the valid claims. And the Christian must not embrace anti-biblical philosophies in the quest to counter legitimate evil.

Long, Blake. "The Imago Dei Under Attack." Theology & Life. January 3, 2022. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://theology-and-life.com/2022/01/03/the-imago-dei-under-attack>.

Humanity is sacred because of the imago Dei—the image of God. We alone were created in God's likeness. But that foundational doctrine is under attack through racism. Racism leads to treating people less than human. But nobody is less human than anyone else—we are all created in God's image. To be racist is to ignore or reject that God created all things very good. Racism is not compatible with biblical Christianity.

Episode 2: Money, Money, Money!

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Accumulating debt (choose one)
 - Is normal and necessary to live in this world
 - Should be avoided or limited
2. The Bible speaks
 - Positively about money.
 - Negatively about money.
3. The Bible (choose one)
 - Doesn't have a lot to say about modern money issues.
 - Does apply to modern issues about money.
4. More money is given away by (choose one)
 - Christians.
 - Non-Christians.

Episode 2: Segment 1

Debt

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- In the modern world, dealing with money is unavoidable.
- A secured debt is when you have something to put up as collateral against the loan; unsecured debt is borrowing money without anything to put up against the debt.
- The question of debt may be less a moral issue (should vs. should not) and more an issue of wisdom.
- The Bible clearly states that borrowing and not repaying is a sin (Proverbs 22:26-27).
- Appreciating assets grow in value over time; depreciable assets lose value over time.

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: Money is an issue that affects everyone. Our modern world runs on the exchange of currency. This raises many concerns for the Christian, though, because while we must live in this world, we are called not to love and live like the world (1 John 2:15). Many people view debt as an unavoidable part of life. But what does the Bible suggest about debt? The Bible doesn't explicitly talk about mortgages or student loans, or explain the difference between secured and unsecured loans or appreciating and depreciating assets. But the Bible clearly gives principles that must guide our thinking about money. First, we must recognize that a debt is meant to be paid, and God calls it a sin to not repay a debt (Proverbs 22:26-27). A Christian must be discerning about how to interact with money in a way that will be pleasing to God.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you think it is wise to take on student debt? Why or why not?
- How necessary is money? To what extent should we strive to earn money?

Episode 2: Segment 2

The Root of ALL Evil?

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The Bible says “the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10).
- Christians should relate to money as stewards, not owners.
- The Bible says our identity should be found in Christ.
- Greed is a form of idolatry.
- When money is not your identity and it does not captivate your heart, you are free to steward it well.

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: For some people, money is an idol. They captivated, defined, and driven by it. Others claim that money is evil and that the Bible speaks very negatively about money. But the truth is that money is simply a tool. The Bible never condemns money; it condemns the love of money. When we read 1 Timothy 6:10 carefully, we see that “the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil.” An idolatrous pursuit of money will inevitably lead to various sins. But a love of God and others (Matthew 22:37-40) will lead us to use money to bring glory to God and to serve his kingdom well.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean that the “love of money is a root of all kinds of evils” (1 Timothy 6:10)?
- Does the Bible speak positively or negatively about money? Give examples to explain your reasoning.

Episode 2: Segment 3

How Important is Money?

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The Bible does offer practical and helpful advice when it comes to guiding our decisions about money.
- The stock market (at its best) is not a get-rich-quick scheme, but an opportunity to invest money and see a gradual increase over time.
- Playing the lottery and gambling comes from a desire to be rich without having to work for it.
- It is biblically wise to save money to support oneself through emergencies or times of need, but the Bible does not condone storing up riches for one's own satisfaction or sense of security.
- The Bible makes it clear that the Christian should provide for relatives who are in need.

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: Currency and the exchange of goods have undergone significant changes throughout history and across cultures. This leads some to wonder if the Bible can really help guide us through the modern marketplace. While the Bible doesn't directly speak to many of the specific issues we may have questions about, it absolutely contains guiding principles that should direct our thinking. Biblical thinking contrasts with the natural human desire to get rich quick. The Bible teaches that we should work hard to provide for ourselves and so that we can be generous to others (Acts 20:34-35). This means that the motivation to get money without working or to get rich for the sake of having money is contrary to biblical teaching. The Bible also speaks to providing for family members (1 Timothy 5:8). The Bible does give practical and helpful guidance for thinking about money in a way that honors God.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Is there a difference (and if so, what is it) between investing in the stock market and playing the lottery or gambling?
- When might saving money actually be unbiblical?

Episode 2: Segment 4

Giving

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Christians tend to be generous because they have received God's grace and lived by His Grace, and now it is a joy to live generously.
- The Bible does not command how much we should give, but it lays out the expectation for generous and cheerful giving.
- Receiving Jesus Christ is better than receiving money or riches.
- Money is neither insignificant nor should it be our idol, but we should hold money loosely as we keep the balance of stewarding money wisely.

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: A faithful Christian is going to live generously. The Bible doesn't command how much we should give, but it does say that we should give joyfully and generously (2 Corinthians 9:7; Psalm 37:21). Paul quoted Jesus as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Money is important to our survival in today's world, and it can be a great tool for the advancement of the gospel. But even the giving of money is not the goal; it is a means to the goal. Solomon accumulated great riches and yet it did not satisfy him. He concluded that none of the successes of this world held any value apart from fearing and following God (Ecclesiastes 12:13). The greatest gift anyone can receive is the forgiveness of sins given by God's grace through faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross (Ephesians 2:8-9).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How much money should we give away?
- What has been your attitude toward money? Are you thinking any differently now?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 2:

Additional Sources

Rose, Reagan. *"The Deceitfulness of Riches: 3 Lies Money Tells."* The Master's Seminary Blog. November 6, 2018. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/3-lies-money-tells>.

In the Parable of the Sower, the seeds on thorny soil are choked out by the cares of the world and the "deceitfulness of riches." It is easy to fall into the trap of believing the three big lies that money tells. While we may protest the claim that money is the goal of life, we can easily be consumed with its pursuit. Money is also often seen as the key to security, but as Christians our security must be in Christ. Money is not secure and to hold it as such is idolatry. The third lie is that money is an easy master. Not only should money not be our master, but it is actually a very poor one. It is inconsistent, never satisfied, and ultimately leaves you exhausted and unfulfilled. Serve the Lord, not money.

"What does the Bible say about going into debt?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/money-debt.html>.

The Bible does not explicitly command against all forms of debt, but it does clearly warn against owing people money or failing to repay what is owed. The Bible also clearly exhorts Christians to generosity and giving, which is thwarted by debilitating debt. While the question of debt requires discernment and wisdom applied to specific cases. However, we can be sure that God wants us to treat each other fairly, be good stewards of what He has entrusted us, and be faithful to repay what we have borrowed.

"What does the Bible say about playing the lottery?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-lottery.html>.

Playing the lottery is a form of gambling—risking something of value on an outcome depending on chance. Lottery is not mentioned in the Bible, but Christians are warned against the love of money, greed, and covetousness—typical motivations for gambling. Furthermore, God expresses the desire for people to earn their money honestly by hard work. He condemns laziness and idleness. And hoping to win the lottery as a way to deal with problems is an empty hope. God wants us to work hard, steward out money wisely, and find our hope and rest in Him.

Van Bruchem, Simon. *"Fleeing the Love of Money."* Written For Our Instruction. November 23, 2022. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://writtenforourinstruction.com/fleeing-the-love-of-money>.

Our world today disguises greed in euphemisms like "ambition" and "aspirational," but the truth is the desire for more is dangerous. The Bible doesn't condemn having money or make any judgment regarding the amount of money one has. But it does warn against the love of money, greed, and discontentment. Paul advised Timothy to flee such danger. We must be diligent to guard against the dangers of greed in a society where it is commonplace.

Episode 3: Beliefs Matter

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. What you believe (choose one)
 - Doesn't really matter.
 - Matters a great deal.
2. Most of the smartest people have been (choose one)
 - Theists (believe there is a God).
 - Atheists (believe there is no God).
3. The Bible (choose one)
 - Doesn't have a lot to say about modern issues of money.
 - Does apply to modern issues about money.
4. More money is given away by (choose one)
 - Christians.
 - Non-Christians.

Episode 3: Segment 1

The Dangers of Atheism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Many seemingly benign modern catch phrases are actually very dangerous.
- Belief does matter because it informs actions that have real consequences.
- Personal belief can be powerful, even to impact the course of nations.
- Atheism is a faith-based belief system.
- An atheistic worldview can lead to extremely dangerous consequences, like suicidal thoughts or even the events of Nazi Germany.

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: Beliefs matter. What we believe informs our actions, and our actions have consequences in reality. It is often argued that atheism is not a belief system. But in truth, it is a faith-based belief system because its central principle (that God doesn't exist) is not provable (without making oneself God, which is self-defeating). The atheistic worldview has caused the most bloodshed in human history. "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). Beliefs absolutely do matter, both in this present reality and for eternity.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you agree that atheism is a faith-based belief system? Why or why not?
- Are you surprised by the claim that atheism often leads people to anxiety, depression, and even suicide?

Episode 3: Segment 2

Debunking Atheism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Atheism does not have a monopoly on highly intelligent people.
- Cosmological arguments for the Creator come from observing the universe and recognizing that there must be a designer.
- The Unmoved Mover argument recognizes that in our cause-and-effect universe, there must be a first cause that was uncaused but caused everything else.
- The Fine-Tuning argument looks at the delicate balance of certain systems in our universe and concludes that there must be a designer and sustainer to accomplish such a finely tuned cosmos.

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: Atheism is often presented as the worldview of the intellectuals. Many claim that it is the most objective, scientific worldview, and if you are intellectually honest, you will recognize its superiority. However, there have been many highly intelligent figures throughout history who have made brilliant advances in areas of math, science, and technology. In fact, theism can be supported with a variety of logical arguments that are incredibly compelling. It's no surprise that many of these arguments are cosmological, meaning they come from observing the universe, because Paul explained that creation clearly shows evidence of the Creator God (Romans 1:19-20).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- If we can't prove that God exists, why can we be confident He does?
- Which of the arguments for God's existence do you find most compelling? Why?

Episode 3: Segment 3

Still Debunking Atheism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Humans can use reason and logic to confidently conclude there is a God, but an atheist cannot disprove the existence of God.
- To know there is no God, you would have to have all knowledge of all moments from the beginning of time and even outside our universe
- Transcendental arguments are a family of arguments that look at concepts that exist in reality but cannot be defined or explained by natural means
- Intrinsic beauty, innate morality, and laws of logic require a transcendental Creator to explain how these global, undeniable truths exist
- Experiential arguments depend on the integrity of the individual, but collective testimony across time and space do lend credence to the truth of God's existence

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: One of the loudest criticisms of theism by atheists is that you can't prove the existence of God scientifically. But this criticism applies even more significantly to the atheists themselves. Atheists cannot prove that God doesn't exist. In fact, the logical and rational arguments of the theists are myriad. In fact, in a naturalistic, materialistic worldview, you cannot account for abstract truths like beauty, morality, and the historical tendency to worship divine beings. But even if they reject these as subjective or evolutionary, they cannot escape the truth of logic. They must admit the existence of logic in order to think, communicate, and conduct scientific experimentation. And yet, there is no basis or explanation for logic in their worldview. For all the intellectual assertions made by atheists, it is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 9:10).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you think beauty can prove the existence of God?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of using personal experiences in discussing the existence of God?

Episode 3: Segment 4

Intellect v. Conscience

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Theists have offered many compelling arguments for the existence of God, and yet many atheists still reject the Creator.
- The real reason many continue to reject God's existence is because they suppress what their conscience tells them about God and themselves.
- We have all sinned and fallen short of God's perfect holy standard, and our consciences make that clear to us.
- Jesus stands ready to forgive anyone who will humbly turn to him in repentance.

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: Belief in God is a spiritual issue, not an intellectual one. No matter how convincing the argument, the matter comes down to the choice to believe or reject. Many atheists suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). The truth is that we have all sinned against the Creator and fallen short of his perfect standard (Romans 3:23), and our consciences make that clear to us. There is nothing we can do, in and of ourselves, to cleanse our conscience. But God, in his great loving-kindness, sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take on the wrath of God due to us for our sin (1 John 4:10). He calls us to repent and trust in Jesus, and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:9 & 13).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Why do so many atheists reject the arguments for God's existence?
- Do you believe God exists? Do you live like you believe God exists?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 3:

Additional Sources

Turpin, Simon. "Seven Ways Atheists Are Religious." Answers in Genesis. January 14, 2020. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/world-religions/seven-ways-atheists-are-religious>.

Atheism is a religious belief. An atheist will deny they are religious, but there several characteristics identify atheists as religious. Religion is a system of beliefs, a person's worldview or standard for reality. Using Ninian Smart's seven dimensions to detect if something is religious—narrative, experiential, social, doctrinal, ethical, ritual, material—naturalistic atheism is clearly religious. Atheism is a false religion that worships self.

"What are the cosmological arguments for the existence of God?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/cosmological-argument.html>.

Cosmological arguments attempt to prove God's existence through observation of the cosmos—the universe around us. Because things exist, there must be a cause. There must be a beginning, an unmoved mover, a first uncaused cause. There must also be a sustainer who exists by very nature and causes other things to exist. Various cosmological arguments offer the logical expectation that God must exist because of the world we see around us.

Slick, Matt. "Atheists err when asking for material evidence to prove God's existence." CARM.org. August 29, 2012. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://carm.org/atheism/atheists-err-when-asking-for-material-evidence-to-prove-gods-existence>.

Atheists often demand that if God exists, there should be some material evidence that can be verified by the scientific method. But this is a category mistake. If God indeed exists, He is a transcendental being. Thus, to demand material evidence is to assign God to the wrong category. The scientific method is a system for learning within a material universe. It necessarily excludes transcendence. Therefore, it cannot detect what is outside the material realm, and therefore cannot detect a transcendent God. This does not imply that God doesn't exist; rather, it means that the atheist is left with no way to falsify Christian theism and no means to validate atheism.

"Why should I care if God exists?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 26, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/care-God-exists.html>.

Many atheists are hostile to Christianity and the claim that God exists. But those who are less aggressive or those who allow for some uncertainty may wonder why they should even care. The truth is that if God does exist, there is a very important reason to care. If God exists, then the Bible is His Word and must be true. This means that God created mankind but each of us is spoiled by sin and deserving of the wrath of the just Judge. But in His mercy, God also provided a means for forgiveness and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. But it is only through God's way—through repentance and faith in Jesus—that one can be spared the judgment against sin. God does exist, and eternity is at stake.

Episode 4: Maybe...Maybe Not

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Someone who claims to be religious but doesn't fully follow their religion is (choose one)

- A hypocrite.
- Typical.

2. High School students who grow up in Christian households abandon the faith in college (choose one)

- Less than 50% of the time.
- More than 50% of the time.

3. Sanctification is best defined as (choose one)

- A trajectory.
- A scale.

4. Struggling with recurring sin (choose one)

- Is a sign of false conversion.
- Is a common experience for believers.

Episode 4: Segment 1

True and False Conversions

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- It is important to clarify the gospel message so that people understand its true saving power.
- There are people sitting in Bible-believing churches who don't understand what the gospel really is because of popular false gospels.
- Jesus often taught in a way to clarify the gospel, using parables like the Pharisee and the tax collector.
- The parable of the sower talks about four types of soil, two of which appear to receive God's word, but only one that truly does.
- There are those who associate with Christianity but aren't really Christians.

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: Misunderstanding the gospel is nothing new. During the time of Christ, the Pharisees missed the point of the gospel, believing that the Messiah would be a warrior king who would deliver them from Roman rule. Since then, many false gospels have arisen. Jesus warned that the way of salvation is narrow but "the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction" (Matthew 7:13). There are those who appear religious, like the Pharisees, who are missing the point of the gospel. Just as Jesus spent time correcting these false beliefs, we must also take the time to clarify the gospel and understand what true salvation looks like.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think so many people claim to be religious but don't live according to its tenets?
- Do you think there is a difference between being a hypocrite and being self-deceived?

Episode 4: Segment 2

Signs of a False Convert

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- 60-80% of teenagers who grow up in church abandon their faith in college.
- Those who abandon the faith were never truly Christians.
- The gospel is powerful to save 100% of the time, but the instructions are not always correctly understood.
- We need good Bible teaching, gospel preaching, and evangelism that defines terms.
- The difference between true and false converts should be evident in their works and their affections.

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: People often think of religion in terms of what it means to them on an individual level. While Christianity is a deeply personal issue, it is not defined by individuals. You can't make God who you want Him to be or read the Bible to say what you want to hear. Jesus explained that there is only one way to salvation—through faith in Him (John 14:6). One of the reasons that so many young people have deserted Christianity is because they never truly understood the call and the commitment required to follow Christ. This is why defining terms is so important in evangelism. Believing in God is not accepting the gospel. Becoming a Christian isn't about behavior conformity or a desire for eternal safety or even believing Jesus died on a cross. Becoming a Christian is about understanding sin and its consequences, having a correct and full view of God and Jesus, recognizing the price Jesus paid on the cross for sin and its necessity, and repenting of sin in favor of full submission to Jesus, placing one's trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord. True Christianity is about a converted heart, not external conformity, and it will be evidenced by works.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What causes high schoolers who claim to be Christian to lose their faith in college?
- Why is defining terms so important in sharing the gospel?

Episode 4: Segment 3

The Genuine Christian

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Though the Bible gives standards to measure the validity of our faith, none of us meet those standards perfectly.
- A core question to help understand if a conversion is legitimate is whether it is about self-benefit or self-denial.
- Salvation is not about how sanctified (or holy) you are, but are you moving away from who you were and changing toward holiness.
- Everyone who is justified has started the trajectory of sanctification.

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: True salvation is not solely about what benefits can be obtained through Christ, though God does give great gifts to his children. But Jesus taught his disciples that following him was about sacrifice of self. Jesus said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). The Christian life is about crucifying self and living for God (Galatians 2:20). Paul describes sanctification with a command to “lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:22-24). Sanctification is not measured in perfection, though. It is a life-long process, a direction or trajectory as you change to be more like Jesus. But every true convert has been changed and set upon this new trajectory. A Christian will be characterized by change toward holiness.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How can you know whether you are a true or false convert?
- If conversion is evident in your fruit, does that mean that if you still sin you’re not saved? Why or why not?

Episode 4: Segment 4

“Backsliding”

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Christian “backsliding” is not a biblical concept when used as an excuse or explanation for long periods of sinful behavior.
- When a Christian falls into temptation, there should be a short time period in which he is convicted of his sin, confesses and repents, and returns to Christian living.
- When someone “rededicates” their life, it is often the case that they were not truly converted and the rededication is the true conversion.
- Christians do struggle with sin, but it is a true struggle as we fight to mortify sin.
- A lack of conviction is strong support for false conversion.

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: False conversions can be a complicated and scary topic. But the good news for believers is that salvation is not based on your feelings or on your ability to live up to God’s holy standard. The Christian life is not about perfection, but about a new direction. The Bible makes it clear that “whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). It requires no works or a certain amount of faith. It just requires repentance and faith—no bigger than a mustard seed. The good news for the false convert is that salvation is still available. It only requires turning to Jesus Christ in repentance and trusting in Him for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:28).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How is the conviction of sin a good thing?
- What is the gospel and how must you respond to be truly converted?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 4:

Additional Sources

MacArthur, John. *"Conversion: The Experience of Salvation."* The Master's Seminary Blog. May 24, 2022. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/conversion-the-experience-of-salvation>.

Conversion is the experiential element of salvation. It is God's work on man and involves a critical change. A true convert has come to a knowledge of the truth—and belief in it. Conversion also delivers a person from the bondage of sin to freedom in Christ. The true convert turns from sin and toward righteousness, and their life will bear fruit. The true convert no longer loves this world but lives for the heavenly kingdom. The true convert no longer has need to fear God's wrath against sin, but can live in the promise of God's blessing.

Lawson, Steve. *"What Is True Conversion?"* Ligonier. July 29, 2022. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-true-conversion>.

In a biblical sense, conversion means a spiritual turning away from sin (repentance) and toward Christ. A true conversion is a complete change, an about-face in direction. True conversion is not straddling the fence with one foot in the world and the other in God's kingdom. True conversion is a complete and profound change in mind, affections, and will. A truly converted person has been brought into a right relationship with God, which is necessarily evident by the convert's life.

"Why are there so many fake Christians?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/fake-Christians.html>.

There are Christians, and there are those who are not Christians. There are only two categories. A Christian is someone who has fully placed their faith in Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin. "Fake" Christians are those who claim to be Christians but have never truly trusted in Christ. Some have been taught a false "gospel." Some have been led to believe (falsely) that some ritual or religious experience equated conversion. The Bible is clear that a Christian is a new creation. Thus any profession or decision that does not result in a changed life was a false profession—and the professor is not a Christian.

Twiss, Paul. *"How Can I Know if I'm Saved?"* The Master's Seminary Blog. July 24, 2020. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/how-can-i-know-im-saved>.

The first epistle of John was written by the Apostle to instill a confidence in troubled Christians that they were indeed secure in Christ. As such, the book now serves that purpose for us. John began his letter by exalting Christ. This is because our assurance is in Christ—not in our own obedience or feelings. Our confidence comes from a nurtured faith. This is done by feasting on the gospel, focusing on Christ and His work. Our experience in this broken world—our temptations, sins, and hardships—do not affect our standing with God. If we want to be sure of our salvation, we should delight ourselves in Christ.

Episode 5: A Clear & Present Danger

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Freedom of religion means (choose one)
 - You are entitled to your personal beliefs about religion.
 - You have permission to live out your faith in public.
2. Christians in the West today (choose one)
 - Are persecuted for their faith.
 - Are protected from persecution.
3. Christians should (choose one)
 - Hide or flee from persecution.
 - Bravely accept persecution.
4. Most young people today want to (choose one)
 - Achieve the American Dream.
 - Make a difference.

Episode 5: Segment 1

The First Amendment

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Freedom of religion is foundational to freedom of conscience.
- The first amendment protects the right not only to worship whoever you want, but also to live out your faith in the public square.
- One of the most persecuted groups in history is protestants.
- Jesus told his disciples to expect persecution from a world that hated and rejected him.
- Stephen's account in Scripture served as an inspiration to many persecuted Christians to remain faithful no matter the cost.

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 people of the United States are blessed to be protected by the constitution and its amendments. The first amendment to the constitution established the protection for citizens to worship whom they wanted and to live their public lives in a way that is consistent with their faith. This freedom has come under attack as secularists seek to limit its meaning or undermine the right altogether. This is nothing new, as Protestants have been persecuted for their faith from the beginning. Jesus warned his disciples that they would have persecution in this world because they persecuted the one whom they served (John 15:18-20). But he also encouraged them because the one they served has overcome the world (John 16:33).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Do you think freedom of religion is important? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Christians have suffered so much persecution throughout history?

Episode 5: Segment 2

A Present Danger

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Christians are the most persecuted group in the world today.
- Though it takes a different form that is most common through history, Christians in the West do face persecution.
- Persecution in the West may include being “cancelled,” losing a job, being vilified on social media, or otherwise encountering opposition when standing for Christ and certain aspects of Christianity.
- Secularism is entirely intolerant and is attacking religious freedom.
- Though the constitution has offered a level of protection, we can expect the pressures against Christianity to continue 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: Though it often hides behind a call to “tolerance,” secularism is actually an intolerant worldview. Secularists have been working hard to limit religious freedom in the West. More and more we can expect to face a great deal of opposition when standing for Christ and principles of Christianity. But Jesus said, “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12). Notice the “when,” not “if.” The prophets spoke for God, and they were rejected and persecuted. Jesus himself brought the greatest news to all men, and yet he was beaten and crucified. We can be grateful for the protection and the relative ease we have had as Christians thus far, but we should not be surprised nor defeated when persecution comes.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What does persecution look like today?
- What would you do if you were told you would go to prison if you don’t deny your personal beliefs?

Episode 5: Segment 3

Our Response

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- There are many examples throughout church history of those who stood firm in their faith unto the point of death.
- The Bible gives examples of Christians fleeing from persecution, attempting to resolve the issue, and submitting to persecution.
- Christians and churches must obey the government as far as possible, but cannot go against biblical doctrine.
- Christians must be willing to speak, to declare where we stand, and then bear the consequences graciously.
- If we seek the praise of men, we will be afraid to speak up, but if we aim to please God, we will be bold in standing for him regardless of the consequences.

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: Persecution can be a scary thing, and it's hard to think about how we might act if we were faced with the threat to denounce Christ or be killed. We can find encouragement and inspiration in the stories of those who may have struggled in the face of persecution but ultimately stood strong in their conviction that the gospel of Jesus Christ is true. In the Bible, we see the apostle Paul take several different approaches to persecution. Sometimes he fled to safety (Acts 14:5-6). Sometimes he tried to speak and reason with the opposition in hopes that they would turn to Christ (Acts 21:39-22:21). One time, he appealed to his citizenship, which kept him from being unfairly tried by the Jews (Acts 25:11). And sometimes, he simply submitted to the consequences graciously, seeing every opportunity as meant for the spread of the gospel (Philippians 1:12-13). We must apply wisdom in dealing with persecution, but in all cases we can ask ourselves, "Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God?" (Galatians 1:10).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How should we respond to persecution?
- Do you think it is right for the government to silence Christians because they don't adhere to contemporary cultural morals? Has your mind changed?

Episode 5: Segment 4

Ending Persecution

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Most young people want to make a difference in the world or to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
- One of the most profound ways a Christian can make a difference in the world is by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.
- We must remember that we are representatives of Jesus and live for the “next world.”
- There are compliant churches (that go along with the culture), complacent churches (that do nothing about the culture around them), and courageous churches (that instruct and equip its members to engage the culture biblically).
- Jesus calls us to return to our first love, to repent and do the works we did at first.

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: People naturally want to be significant, to make a difference, to be part of something bigger than self. Young people, especially, long for purpose and meaning in their lives. The truth is, every one of us is part of something bigger. This world is temporary, and as Christians, we ought to keep that in perspective. We are to be seeking the things above (Colossians 3:1), pressing on in the “upward call of God” (Philippians 3:14), for “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20). The greatest thing we can do to make a difference in this world and the next is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we stand firm on the Word of God, standing against the flow of culture, we will likely face persecution. But we are not living for this world. We are living for eternity. And the only hope for eternity is through Jesus Christ, who offers forgiveness for sins to all who will repent and turn to him as Lord and Savior.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How can you make a difference in this world?
- What does it mean to be in the world as Jesus was in the world?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 5:

Additional Sources

"How should a Christian respond to persecution?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-persecution.html>.

The Christian is to expect persecution. But how should we respond when it arrives? The Christian must recognize the value of persecution and rejoice in it. Suffering for our faith allows us a unique fellowship with our Savior. Persecution helps our faith to grow in endurance and maturity. Persecution also forges Christians together in the bond of brotherly love. We may not wish for persecution, but we should be ready to endure with joy.

Ascol, Tom. "What Is Christian Persecution?" Founders Ministries. TableTalk Magazine, 2015. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://founders.org/articles/what-is-christian-persecution>.

Christian persecution can come in many forms. And when we intentionally live for Christ, we can expect opposition from a world that hates our Lord. But we mustn't be quick to apply the label of persecution just because we suffer. Not all suffering is persecution. If there is any reason for opposition other than identity with and devotion to Christ, it is not Christian persecution. Suffering for what God forbids is not persecution. Christian persecution is when we face opposition, whether brutal assaults or derisive speech, because of our devotion to Christ. And when it comes, we should rejoice and be glad, joining with our Lord in suffering.

Sey, Samuel. "The Coming Persecution." Slow to Write. August 4, 2023. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://slowtowrite.com/the-coming-persecution>.

Persecution is coming. Though we often feel protected in the West, the truth is that persecution is heating up. In other areas of the world, people are already being arrested for quoting the Bible on social media. A long-time member of parliament in Finland was arrested in April 2021 for charges of hate speech for standing on biblical authority for issues of sexuality—even though the constitution of Finland protects freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Landis, Don. "Response to Persecution." Answers in Genesis. August 2, 2013. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/christianity/christian-life/response-to-persecution>.

At its core, persecution against Christians is the rejection of God. Throughout history, those who hate God have persecuted His followers, using a variety of attacks. But through God's sovereignty and provision, the church grew despite the antagonism. Today, persecution is increasing in America as our culture moves farther away from biblical principles. People want to be their own Lord, so they reject the One they must submit to. The Christian must respond by giving an answer in gentleness and love. We don't stop sharing the truth, but continue to preach the gospel in hopes that our opponents will come to faith in Christ. This does not mean we should get entangled in a debate, but we should use every opportunity to preach the gospel.

Episode 6: Good Mourning!

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Mourning a loss (choose one)
 - Shows a lack of trust in God.
 - Is the right response to tragedy.
2. It is better to (choose one)
 - Mourn.
 - Rejoice.
3. God (choose one)
 - Is the author of even the bad things.
 - Is not the author of bad things.
4. The greatest tragedy we will face is (choose one)
 - The loss of a loved one.
 - Our sin.

Episode 6: Segment 1

The Greatest Loss

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Loss is an inevitable part of our lives on this earth.
- Grief is the right response to the losses we experience.
- It is possible to grieve sinfully, but grief itself is a right and natural response to loss.
- Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died (John 11).

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 has made us to be relational. So when a relationship is interrupted by death, it is natural to have strong emotions of sadness. The Bible is full of examples of those who mourned the loss of loved ones. The people of Israel mourned for Moses for 30 days (Deuteronomy 33:8). Solomon concluded that mourning and weeping are natural seasons of life (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Jesus himself wept over the death of his friend (John 11:35). Though there are right and wrong ways to mourn, grief itself is not wrong.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is the greatest loss you've ever experienced?
- What might be a sinful way to grieve?

Episode 6: Segment 2

Questioning God

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- A biblical proverb says that it is better to mourn than to rejoice.
- We don't have the right to question God (in an accusatory sense), but we can ask God honest questions about what we are experiencing and why.
- The occurrence of tragedy does not mean God doesn't love the person involved.
- Our feelings are not reliable, especially within times of great grief.
- God doesn't abandon us in our trials; He is present through His Word and His Spirit.

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: Ever since Adam and Eve committed the first sin against God, the world has been ravaged by the curse of death. Death is a result of sin (Romans 6:23). While it is appropriate for us to feel sad and to experience grief, there are right and wrong responses to tragedy. Many people rail at God when bad things happen. This is an example of grieving sinfully. We are merely humans, creatures designed by the omnipotent Creator. We have no right to call in to question God's actions or what he allows to happen. We can seek to understand more about his will and plan, but we must never accuse God of being wrong. In fact, when we are grieving we should do the opposite. We should focus on God's character. When we remind ourselves that He is a good, sovereign, wise, and loving father (Psalm 136:1, James 1:17), we can find stability and joy in the midst of our turmoil.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why does God let bad things happen?
- What does it mean to apply truth to our feelings?

Episode 6: Segment 3

Sovereignty and Evil

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- God is sovereign, meaning that He works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.
- God is in control of everything, even the bad things.
- God makes use of the bad things, and even ordains them, but without being responsible for evil.
- God is working all things together for his glory and for the good of those who are called according to His purpose.
- A great example of God sovereignly using evil is at the cross of Jesus, where evil men tortured and crucified the sinless Savior, which was God's plan for bringing salvation.

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: Sovereignty can be a very difficult doctrine to wrestle with, but it can also be one of the most comforting. God is in control of all things—good and bad. He permits evil and even ordains it, but He is sinless in His dealings. Nothing is allowed if it is not in accordance with His perfect plan. If God were a harsh despot with wicked intentions, this sovereignty would be terrifying, indeed. But God is a merciful and loving God who is faithful to keep His promises. We know that “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). God is working out His plan of salvation and restoration, and we can trust Him to accomplish His purpose.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What does it mean that God is sovereign?
- How does God make use of bad things?

Episode 6: Segment 4

The Ultimate Mourning

VIDEO

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

- While we don't have to enjoy suffering, a Christian can see the good in suffering and gain a bigger perspective on life.
- A Christian can heal after tragedy and even find joy after loss, but only a Christian can have the peace that passes understanding.
- The greatest tragedy in the world is that we have rebelled against God.
- Our days are limited, and no one knows when the last will come, so don't delay in trusting Christ for salvation.

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: Our world is characterized by death, sorrow, and suffering because of sin. But the greatest tragedy is not the loss that happens around us, but the sin that is within us. We should mourn over our sin because it is an affront against God (Psalm 51). And Paul explained that godly sorrow "produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10). We should be broken over our sin and cry out to the only one who can save. God, in His goodness and through His sovereignty, has provided a hope, a way of salvation. Jesus Christ came to live a perfect life and die an undeserved death so that He could purchase our justification. When we repent of our sin and place our trust in Jesus, there is a great exchange that takes place. Jesus takes our sin and pays its penalty, and we are given the righteousness of Jesus. We are forgiven and adopted by our good Father, who works all things for good and for His glory.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What good can come from mourning?
- How do you mourn sin?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 6:

Additional Sources

Gilcher, Jerod. *"How Could a Sovereign, Good God Allow Suffering?"* The Master's Seminary Blog. May 19, 2020. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/how-could-a-sovereign-good-god-allow-suffering>.

If God is sovereign—in control of all things—and good, how can He allow suffering? Evil is thoroughly evil. And yet, God is sovereignly working so that even the most evil acts must ultimately serve to advance His plan for redemption and restoration. Sin and evil work for good because they show us our need for the Savior. God uses bad circumstances to conform us to Christ. Sin and evil loosen our hearts from this world, a good outcome. God is good and God is sovereign. And He does allow sin and evil, but He works them for our good and His glory. (See also *Suffering Well: A Guide to Trusting God in Trying Times*— <https://info.tms.edu/suffer-well-trusting-god>).

Ham, Steve. *"How Should I Mourn Sin?"* Answers in Genesis. July 7, 2011. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/answers/biblical-authority-devotional/how-should-i-mourn-sin>.

Mourning over sin is more than being sorry. Godly sorrow leads to repentance. Even Judas felt regret and sorrow over his sin. But his worldly grief led to death rather than repentance. The Apostle Peter, after denying Jesus three times, wept over his sin. He grieved with a godly sorrow that led him to repent and live the rest of his life as a faithful witness of the gospel. True mourning over sin places Jesus at the center of focus. We mourn because sin is an offense against God and required the sacrifice of Christ to pay for it. It is only because of His work that we can repent and receive forgiveness. True mourning of sin drives us to Christ.

Endjala, Thomas. *"Christian Hope Doesn't Exclude Mourning, It Encourages It."* The Gospel Coalition. November 29, 2022. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://africa.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christian-hope-doesnt-exclude-mourning-it-encourages-it>.

Death is an inevitable part of life. We are all going to die. And it isn't something we prepare for. When we experience loss, it is usually shocking, tragic, and painful. Christians are instructed not to mourn. Rather, we are called to mourn with hope. We can mourn rightly because we know who is in control. Mourning also gives us opportunity to seek God. It is a reminder that God cares us and wants us to cast our burdens on Him. And we can trust that God is at work. Death is painful, but the Christian mourns not as the world does, but with hope.

Berghuis, Taylor. *"Come to the House of Mourning."* The Master's Seminary Blog. August 9, 2022. Accessed September 28, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/come-to-the-house-of-mourning>.

Ecclesiastes 7:2 summarizes one of the main arguments of the book. Death awaits all men; we must accept it. This proverb reminds us how fragile life is. We don't often like to think about death, but there is wisdom in mourning. This world is cursed by sin and death through sin. Death is unnatural; it didn't belong in God's very good creation. But it is here, reminding us of our need for Christ and the reconciliation He brings. Mourning reminds us to focus on the eternal rather than the temporal. To dwell in the house of mourning is a blessing if we take its wisdom to heart.

Episode 7: Two Equals One

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. It is better to be (choose one)
 - Single.
 - Married.
2. The “gift of singleness” is (choose one)
 - The freedom to do what you want without worrying about another person.
 - The unique ability to remain single.
3. A Christian marrying a non-Christian is (choose one)
 - Sinful.
 - No big deal, as long as the non-Christian respects the Christian’s beliefs.
4. A wedding is (choose one)
 - A stately ceremony validating the union of a bride and groom.
 - A great celebration of a husband taking full possession of his bride.

Episode 7: Segment 1

Marriage

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- There has been a drastic shift in western culture regarding the sanctity of marriage.
- God created marriage at the beginning and established it as a bedrock for civilization.
- God established marriage because it was not good for man to be alone and for the purposes of procreation.
- God created male and female distinct and complementary.
- Biblical marriage is a picture of the gospel, as wives (the church) submit to their husbands (Jesus) and husbands love, pursue, provide for, and protect their wives.

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: Marriage is not some outdated social construct. Marriage is an institution created by God for both practical and transcendent purposes. We see the first marriage in Genesis 2. This institution was important enough that Jesus talked about marriage as a sacred union and quoted the passage from Genesis (Mark 10:6-9; Genesis 2:23-24). Later, Paul also quoted Genesis 2:24 when he was explaining the roles of husbands and wives. He explained how the marriage relationship is a picture of Christ's relationship with the church when he taught, "The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church" and "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:22-33).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Which is better: being married or being single?
- Does marriage have any transcendent meaning or purpose?

Episode 7: Segment 2

Singleness

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- 90% of people in the West get married.
- The Bible teaches that we should be content in whatever state we find ourselves in.
- The gift of singleness refers to the ability to remain single without being distracted with sexual desire.
- Advantages to being single include having fewer obstacles to following God's call, having more time to devote to serving God, and living a testimony of purity in a sexualized world.
- Difficulties that come with being single can include loneliness, the struggle against sexual desire, financial disadvantage, and lack of support or complementary companionship.

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 established marriage as a God-given institution that is foundational to the propagation of the human race and necessary for the stability of civilizations. It is a holy union that points to the gospel message. Marriage is a great thing. But Paul also talks about being single as a great benefit for the Christian (1 Corinthians 7:7). Those who are single are free to devote their time to God in a way that the married person cannot. It may be easier for a single person to make sacrifices that come with serving God. But being single can be hard. And Paul recognizes that. But ultimately, it isn't that being single or married is better or worse. The Christian ought to be content in whatever state he finds himself, ready to serve God in whichever way he is called (1 Corinthians 7:8).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What are some advantages and disadvantages of being single?
- What does it mean to be content in whatever situation you're in? How can you do that?

Episode 7: Segment 3

Dating

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- More people are waiting later in life to get married or have no intention of getting married.
- Dating is a recreational approach to relationships.
- Courting is an intentional pursuit of a relationship that is looking toward marriage.
- Recreational dating can be emotionally dangerous as you are continually knitting your heart together with someone you are not intending to marry, leading to broken hearts and emotional baggage.
- Recreational dating is risky because it increases the temptation of sexual desire and the likelihood of falling into that sin.
- The Bible is clear that Christians should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, which applies to marriage.

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 Bible doesn't use terms like "dating" or "courting." But it does offer some insight for making wise choices when it comes to relationships. In today's culture, the dating relationships tend to be recreational. People date just for fun. But there are problems with that model. Not only does it lead to emotional issues as hearts are intertwined and then ripped apart over and over, but it also presents a strong temptation toward impure behaviors. In the Song of Solomon, it warns that we should not awaken love before the appropriate time (Song of Solomon 8:4). Love can be of great benefit, but if we are not wise, we can end up with unpleasant consequences. The Bible also commands, "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). We must not date as the world dates. A biblical perspective will lead us to seek a Christian with whom we can spend time in God-honoring ways as we look toward the possibility of marriage.

Episode 7: Segment 3

Dating con.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What's the difference between dating and courting? Do you think one approach is better than the other?
- Why is it important to consider what religious beliefs a potential spouse holds?

Episode 7: Segment 4

The Greatest Wedding

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The greatest wedding of all time is the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- The body of Christ is awaiting the day that Jesus will take full possession of her.
- The custom of the groom choosing his wife and then going away to prepare a place in his father's house is used as the picture of Jesus (the groom) with the church (his bride).
- God has made it simple to attend this wedding and the invitation is sent to everyone.
- We accept the invitation by repenting of our sin and placing our faith in Jesus.

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 Bible describes the marriage relationship as a picture of Christ and the church. In fact, this is going to be the greatest wedding that has ever occurred. When Jesus returns, there will be great joy and celebration as Jesus takes full possession of his chosen bride. Revelation describes the scene in heaven as a great multitude cries out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:6-7). But not everyone will attend this wedding. In fact, Jesus told a parable about five wise virgins and five foolish virgins in Matthew 25. The wise five were ready and went to the feast, but the foolish were unprepared and were excluded. In the same way, the invitation is before you. Will you repent and place your faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and thus be prepared for the return of the bridegroom?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is the most extravagant wedding you've ever seen?
- How did God use the picture of marriage to describe the gospel?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 7:

Additional Sources

"Why should I get married?" GotQuestion.org. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/why-get-married.html>.

Marriage is an institution designed by God as a part of the creation order. It was an unbreakable, exclusive bond between one man and one woman meant to last a lifetime. The marriage relationship is a picture of God's character, unity, and fellowship. God created man and woman to complement each other—to be perfectly suited. Eve was Adam's helpmate. God designed marriage as a part of his design for family and He gave it as a picture of Christ and His Church. Marriage can be hard, but it comes with many benefits—relationally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, practically.

Wright, David and Tim Chaffey. "How Should I View Being Single?" Answers in Genesis. January 11, 2011. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/answers/biblical-authority-devotional/how-should-i-view-being-single>.

God designed marriage as a part of creation to be an exclusive union between one man and one woman bound for life. Marriage can be a tremendous blessing from God. But those who are single must exercise patience, trust, and contentment. If it is God's will for you to marry, He will bring it about. But even if it is not, the single Christian should be content, knowing that God is in control, and God is enough. Whether single for life or for a season, the single Christian can honor God by serving Him with a freedom that married people don't have.

Altrogge, Stephen. "Four Rules to Simplify Christian Dating." The Blazing Center. August 26, 2014. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://theblazingcenter.com/2014/08/four-rules-to-simplify-christian-dating.html>.

There has been much said about Christian dating, and the topic has become confusing for many and sometimes legalistic. Many of those practices have wise application, but there are relatively few principles spelled out in Scripture. The Bible does teach that Christians should pursue Jesus above all else, that we should pursue God's wisdom, that Christians must pursue absolute purity, and Christians must pursue community. Though the practice may look different, every Christian relationship must follow these biblical principles.

"Should a Christian use a dating service to find a spouse?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-dating-service.html>.

The Bible does not give specific instructions for how to find a spouse. In fact, the biblical culture surrounding the arrangement of marriages is very different to our practices today. What is true in either circumstance is that God is sovereign and we can trust Him to direct our paths as we seek Him. God does not forbid online dating or matchmaking services. But we must apply wisdom in any approach we take to looking for a potential spouse. As in any decision, our first priority must be to honor God, and we must remember that it is God who will bring us together with our spouse.

Episode 8: How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?

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 someone wrongs you, you should (choose one)
 - Let it go.
 - Confront them.
2. Granting forgiveness (choose one)
 - Undermines justice.
 - Does not forfeit justice.
3. Forgiving someone is (choose one)
 - Forgetting—or continuing the relationship as if it never happened.
 - Not the same as restoring a relationship.
4. It is harder to forgive (choose one)
 - Others.
 - Self.

Episode 8: Segment 1

How the World Forgives

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- We live in a fallen world where people hurt people.
- The Greek word transliterated “aphiemi” means to release.
- Sin is always wrong and needs correcting, but there is also room for compassion.
- As a Christian, we can always find meaning in our suffering.
- Many of the saying about forgiveness are incomplete, lacking a mechanism through which to truly forgive.

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: People wrong people. No doubt you’ve been hurt by someone or felt offended or assaulted. Because of sin, this world is full of self-centered people who (intentionally or not) harm others. And you likely have learned through experience that some of these hurts can leave lasting scars and intense emotions. The Bible clearly teaches that we “shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge” and shall “love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). But how do we do that? And how does that make us feel better? It is not good enough to say “release it” or “see it from their perspective.” There is truth there, but we must search deeper for the whole truth.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How many of John’s list of painful experiences have you personally experienced?
- How did Dr. Fabarez help you to understand common advice about forgiveness in a more biblical light?

Episode 8: Segment 2

How Christianity Heals

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness.
- The key to learning to forgive is to recognize that we have been forgiven.
- Our sins against God are so much worse than anyone's sin against us because God is the holy, sovereign, Lord of the universe.
- Forgiveness does not nullify justice; justice will be done.
- It is not our responsibility to ensure justice is done.
- God works out good through suffering.

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 commands us to forgive, but it also gives us the key to forgiveness. We can learn to forgive because we have been forgiven. Jesus told a parable about two men whose debts were forgiven. When he asked which will love the lender more, the Pharisee rightly acknowledged that the one who was forgiven more would love more (Luke 7:41-43). The one who has been forgiven their sins against the holy and righteous God will be inclined to love and serve in a similar way. The one who is forgiven much loves much. On the other hand, Jesus told a parable of a man who dealt harshly with the one who owed him money even after his own master offered to forgive his debt completely. As a result, the man's debt was not forgiven and he was thrown into prison (Matthew 18:21-35). Christians forgive because they have been forgiven.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How do we find a balance between justice and forgiveness?
- How does focusing on Christ help you to forgive?

Episode 8: Segment 3

How to Forgive

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- A heart of unforgiveness will soon become bitter (Hebrews 12:15).
- Bitterness is the state of the person who has allowed a painful experience to result in a seething determination to live in the wound that has been inflicted.
- The key to uprooting bitterness and finding joy is forgiveness.
- We must give vengeance over to God and be willing to serve that person.
- There is a distinction between forgiveness and restoration, but a lack of restoration does not justify a lack of forgiveness.

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 can be hard to forgive someone who has harmed us. But as Christians, we are called to show mercy as we have received it. When we fail to forgive, we are not only disobeying the command of Christ, we allow our hearts to become bitter and to defile us (Hebrews 12:15). Harboring unforgiveness is also failing to trust God. We must give up our desire to deliver justice or vengeance, trusting that God will bring about discipline as needed. Then we must let the offense go, no longer keeping account of wrongs one against us. When we give up the attitude of being owed or entitled, we can serve the one who offended, as Paul taught in Romans 12:20-21. Restoring a relationship is different than forgiveness. There may be times when a wrong makes it necessary for the relationship to change, but even in those most difficult scenarios, we are called to forgive. Jesus died for us while we were sinners (Romans 5:8); how can we refuse to show forgiveness to those who wrong us.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Have you ever seen evidence of unforgiveness turning to bitterness?
- How is the Christian's approach to forgiveness different than the world's?

Episode 8: Segment 4

How God Forgives

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Ultimately, we have sinned against God and need His forgiveness.
- If God has forgiven me, I must not hold on to feelings of regret.
- We don't even have the clarity to see how much we sin against God.
- We deserve to be cast out of His presence and given retribution for our sins.
- But Christ has come to bear the penalty for us, to absorb all the payment for our sins and to forgive us.
- When we think about the forgiveness God gives us, we are empowered to forgive others.

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: A popular claim is that we need to forgive ourselves. Though there is some truth to that, it is often applied in an unhelpful way. What we ultimately need is not our own forgiveness, but forgiveness from God. Against God only have we sinned (Psalm 51:4) and our evil actions rightfully deserve the penalty of death and separation from God (Romans 6:23). But the good news is that Jesus has absorbed that penalty when he gave himself up to die on the cross, paying the full penalty for sin so that God's justice would be satisfied and forgiveness could be extended to us. If we will repent of our sin and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, we will be saved. At that point, God looks on us and sees the righteousness of Christ, not our guilt. If God has forgiven you, you should live in light of that, no longer punishing yourself for something Jesus already paid for. If you haven't accepted the forgiveness Jesus offers, then forgiving yourself is nothing more than denial. You have offended the almighty King of the universe and only He can wipe your debt clean. Submit to God and be forgiven, and live in the joy of salvation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Have you ever heard or believed the phrase "you need to forgive yourself"? Has your thinking changed in light of Dr. Fabarez's comments?
- How has God modeled forgiveness for us through the gospel?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 8:

Additional Sources

"What does the Bible say about forgiveness?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-forgiveness.html>.

Though the Bible never outright defines forgiveness, it gives many examples. The greatest example is the forgiveness of God. Forgiveness occurs when there is sin—an offense that requires the grace of the offended. We all have sinned against God and justly deserve His wrath, but He demonstrated His love and grace toward us by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness, then, is a legal transaction where one's debt of sin is erased. Once a person has experienced this forgiveness from God, he or she is then able to forgive others.

Raymond, Erik. "Common Questions Christians Ask About Forgiveness." The Gospel Coalition. August 6, 2018. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/erik-raymond/common-questions-christians-ask-forgiveness>.

Am I obligated to forgive a person who doesn't ask for forgiveness? Is there a difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? How do I forgive someone who has hurt me deeply? What are the dangers of unforgiveness? How can I grow to be more forgiving? The answer to all of these questions require a careful aligning of our perspective to biblical principles. Ultimately, granting forgiveness is a privilege because it is an opportunity to magnify the gospel.

"What does the Bible say about forgiveness?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/unforgiveness.html>.

The Bible's teaching on unforgiveness is clearly seen in the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21-35). The Christian is called to forgive because he or she has been forgiven. Our forgiveness is not based on our works, but our actions demonstrate our faith. When we truly grasp the reality of God's grace toward us, we will be inclined to pass that gift along. Unforgiveness robs us of the full life God intends. It robs our joy and festers into bitterness. Forgiveness is not always easy, but unforgiveness is a sin against God.

Slick, Matt. "Is it biblical to forgive ourselves?" CARM. August 9, 2009. Accessed August 29, 2023. <https://carm.org/questions/is-it-biblical-to-forgive-ourselves>.

The concept of forgiving oneself is unbiblical. Forgiveness is an erasing of debt—granted by the offended toward the offender. Ultimately, our sin is against God and we all need His forgiveness. We also sin against other people and need to seek forgiveness from them. It is not our own forgiveness we need to seek, but that of the One (or ones) we have offended. Our feeling of guilt does not require self-forgiveness; it should lead us to the cross to seek God's forgiveness. And once forgiven, we can release the feeling of guilt, knowing that God has declared us not guilty.

Episode 9: This is Critical

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Oppressed people (choose one)
 - Can be racist.
 - Cannot be racist.
2. Marxism is a system that (choose one)
 - Empowers the oppressed.
 - Cultivates conflict.
3. Today in America, there is (choose one)
 - Less racism than there was 50 years ago.
 - More racism than there was 50 years ago?
4. God (choose one)
 - Doesn't see racial differences.
 - Delights in ethnic diversity.

Episode 9: Segment 1

Racism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Racism is evil because it negates the fact that all people are created in the image of God and are of equal value.
- The seeds of racism exist in all of us because of sin, but not all people are racist.
- The world says that the way to get rid of racism is through conflict.
- Critical Race Theory (CRT) is Marxism applied to race.
- The intention of CRT is not to heal the divide but to keep the races separate.

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 is no doubt that there have been some shameful attitudes and actions in our history. But we no longer have segregation or chattel slavery. So why is racism still an issue and is there a solution? When we start with the Bible, we recognize that racism is evil. Racism stems from a rejection of the truth that God created all people in his image (Genesis 1:27) and that we all have the same value as God's creation. The world would say that the answer to racism is through conflict. Critical Race Theory is really just Marxism applied to race. It is not intended to heal the divide but to keep the races separate. So can conflict and division really solve the divisive problem of racism?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What would you think or do if you saw formal segregation?
- What percentage of people do you think is racist?

Episode 9: Segment 2

What is CRT?

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Carl Marx decided that all of history was divided between two groups: the oppressed and the oppressors.
- Marxist ideology is not meant to solve problems but to use problems to bring about revolution.
- Critical Race Theory keeps the races at odds and encourages groups to see one another in oppositional terms.
- CRT is everywhere in our culture, as evidenced by the number of headlines tagging stories by racial identity.

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: Critical Race Theory is prevalent in our culture, sometimes subtle, sometimes overt. There are few issues that can be discussed without diving into issues of race. CRT is particularly dangerous because of its Marxist ideology. Rather than healing the divide, CRT seeks to exploit the problem. The Bible emphasizes a different approach to our problems. Instead of stirring up conflict, we are to live at peace with one another and seek each other's good (Romans 14:19). A biblical perspective is unifying: we are all made in the image of God, we have equal value before our Creator, and Jesus loved each of us to the point of sacrificial death on the cross. CRT would rather see us think and act divisively.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How significant do you think race is or should be in defining identity and circumstances?
- How is Critical Race Theory harmful rather than helpful?

Episode 9: Segment 3

CRT Nitty Gritty

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- There has been major progress since the Civil War, but CRT has stopped the progress.
- Systemic racism is the idea that racism is embedded in the systems themselves.
- Individual reparations is a biblical concept—we are called to make right our wrongs.
- We should work toward equal opportunity for all, but that is not the same as equal outcomes.
- There is no such thing as having freedom and equal outcomes.
- Marxism is the only way to (attempt to) bring about equal outcomes and it has proven time and again to be a disaster.

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: America is not the same today as it was before the Civil War. Neither is it the same as during the Civil Rights Movement. In the decades since, we have made many incredible strides. We have abolished discriminating laws and passed new legislation that protects civil liberties. But our progress toward healing the divide has been interrupted by Critical Race Theory. CRT wants to perpetuate the division because it is through such conflict that revolution occurs. The biblical solution comes not from strengthening our division, but by bringing us together. In fact, the gospel is a unifying message. When we are saved, we receive a transcendent identity, one that supersedes any other. As Paul wrote, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13). Our identity is in Christ, and we are now part of one body, a unifying bond that is stronger than the most distinct differences.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How has CRT or its influence affected you?
- Do you think our nation is more or less racist than 50 years ago? What are some examples?

Episode 9: Segment 4

God's Reason for Racism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The seeds of racism have existed within human beings since the Fall in Genesis 3 when sin entered the world.
- God hates racism and calls it sinful.
- God calls us to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for others, as Jesus Christ did for us.
- God will succeed in honoring every ethnicity.

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: CRT is not an answer for racism. All it does is exploit the problem and dig a deeper divide between groups of people. The Bible, on the other hand, offers the only true solution to racism—the same solution it offers to any sin. Repent and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. All people are created by God in His image. And Jesus came to die for all people. In fact, Jesus “purchased for God with [His] blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9). The only way to defeat racism is to unite in an identity that is superior to the ones that divide us. Jesus died for people of all ethnicities.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is the difference between equal opportunity and equal outcomes?
- If God hates racism, why does it exist?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 9:

Additional Sources

Noyes, Jonathan. *"Thinking Critically about Critical Race Theory."* Stand to Reason. September 8, 2020. Accessed September 23, 2023. <https://www.str.org/w/thinking-critically-about-critical-race-theory>.

Critical Race Theory is a worldview that is deeply involved with issues racial tensions. Critical Race Theory (CRT) is Critical Theory applied to the topic of race. The theory divides the world into two groups: the oppressors and the oppressed. Applied to race in America, this means that the problem is "whiteness." Ultimately, this approach is rooted in Marxism and secular humanism. However, this causes a problem because without God, there is no basis for CRT to define oppression as moral or ethical wrong. Its foundation becomes relative, nothing more than personal preference. Furthermore, CRT only causes more division. Christianity, not CRT, is the answer to racism.

"What is the critical race theory?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/critical-race-theory.html>.

Critical race theory is a modern approach to social change, specifically regarding racism. It is a specific application of the broader critical theory which came out of Marxism. It presupposes that everyone and everything about society is inherently racist. If its applications were carried out, it would accomplish nothing more than inverting the system so the oppressed group becomes oppressor. CRT is entirely incompatible with a biblical worldview. While the goal of addressing prejudice is noble, the issues should be addressed according to sound doctrine, not an inherently unbiblical approach like CRT.

Slick, Matt. *"What is Critical Race Theory and a biblical response."* CARM.org. December 29, 2020. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://carm.org/social-justice/what-is-critical-race-theory-biblical-response>.

Critical Race Theory is a mechanism for examining racism throughout society. The claim is that exposing these instances will bring awareness and hopefully change. However, Critical Race Theory is dangerous because of its Marxist backbone. It groups people by oppressed and oppressor, vilifies the oppressors (in this case the "whites"), and rejects that a free society is good. CRT sees groups, not individuals. Ultimately, CRT encourages the racism it claims to prevent. Biblically, there is only one race, and treating people unjustly is wrong. The propensity toward racism comes from sin, but only the gospel can solve this problem at its root. CRT, even at its most noble, cannot produce genuine repentance and regenerated souls.

Lindsay, James. *"Eight Big Reasons Critical Race Theory Is Terrible for Dealing with Racism."* New Discourses. June 12, 2020. Accessed September 25 2023. <https://newdiscourses.com/2020/06/reasons-critical-race-theory-terrible-dealing-racism>.

Critical Race Theory has become mainstream in society. It has the noble goal of pointing out problems of racism, but it turns out to be a terrible way to go about it. CRT presupposes that racism is present in every aspect of life. It doesn't trust attempts to make racism better because it believes those attempts are only in the interest of the group in power. It is against free societies. It only deals in groups, never with individuals. It rejects all alternatives as forms of racism, making it

Additional Sources

the only acceptable solution (though it offers no solution). It requires that anyone who disagrees must be racist, and it cannot be satisfied. It relies on division and conflict. CRT offers no hope for racism and in fact perpetuates it.

Ham, Ken. "Racism, Riots, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Answers in Genesis. June 3, 2020. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2020/06/03/racism-riots-and-the-gospel-of-jesus-christ>.

The root of racism is sin. God created all humans in his image and all humans are descended from the same original ancestors, Adam and Eve. We are all one race and equally precious in the eyes of our Creator whose likeness we share. But genetic and cultural diversity has been used to discriminate against those who are different. Prejudice and discrimination is a sin problem, so it must be solved by the only solution to sin—the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus forgives our sin and gives us a new heart, with a new love of others. And as we are adopted into the family of Christ, that identity supersedes any differences and unites us together as one body.

Episode 10: Oh, That Word

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. By defining as sin things that bring us pleasure, God is being (choose one)
 - Loving.
 - A tyrant.
2. To be punished for a single lie is (choose one)
 - Harsh.
 - Just.
3. Pornography is a sin that is (choose one)
 - Seriously dangerous.
 - Victimless.
4. Guilt is a (choose one)
 - Bad emotion.
 - Good response.

Episode 10: Segment 1

The Nature of Sin

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Sin means to miss the mark of God's ideal standard of righteousness.
- Sin is insatiable; the enemy wants to drag you further and further into sin.
- God gets to decide what is sin because He is the creator, owner, and ruler of this world.
- God is showing love by restricting us from doing evil because He is protecting us.
- Sin is an offense against God and using pseudonyms is an attempt to downplay the seriousness of our sin.

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 is none righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). If we are honest, we know we're sinful. We may think of ourselves as "good" people, but according to God's standard, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin is missing God's perfect ideal standard of righteousness. As Isaiah wrote, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). Turning to our own way, rejecting God's way, that is sin. God is the Creator of the universe and He has every right to make the laws. And when we fail to live up to His perfect righteousness (in word, thought, or deed), we have committed sin, a grievous offense against our Creator and Lord.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How do you know what is sinful?
- What is the danger of using euphemisms for sin?

Episode 10: Segment 2

Punishment

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- God is just and loves justice.
- We understand justice because we are God's image bearers.
- Everyone who commits a crime deserves to pay for that crime in some way.
- For our sin against God, we deserve eternal separation from God.
- God is just to punish every sin, even those that seem small to us, because it is an offense against Him.

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 have all sinned (Romans 3:23), and sin is a crime against God (Psalm 51:4). God is very clear that the punishment for sin is death (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23). That is the just punishment for sin. God is just and loves justice. As image bearers of God, we also understand and love justice. If someone committed a crime against us, we would want them to be brought to justice. That same standard of justice must be applied to us. We deserve eternal separation from God. And that is what everyone will receive, if not for the mercy found in Jesus Christ.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What do you think about the phrase "one lie is worthy of damnation"? Is it true? Is it fair?
- How does Alan's analogy of sins that look like stones and sand help you to think about your sanctification?

Episode 10: Segment 3

Internet Sins

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The internet is prevalent and easily accessed, leading to some common temptations to sin.
- Pornography is a rampant sin with serious consequences.
- Men who watch porn while married are twice as likely to get divorced.
- A surprising internet sin is that of boasting and envy.
- The danger with social media is that we compare our behind-the-scenes with someone else's highlight reel.
- Envy causes us to take our eyes off God and what He has gifted us with.

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 internet is probably one of the farthest-reaching inventions of the 20th and 21st centuries. We use the internet for everything. It has become integral to life for many. There are many good things that come with the internet, like finding needed information quickly, the convenience of online banking and paying bills, and staying connected to family and friends. But along with those great opportunities, the internet also brings some very dark and dangerous opportunities. It is easier than ever to access pornography. Depression and anxiety rise due to the pressures of living in a social-media world. It's easy to boast, envy, lie, cheat, and find idols. Proverbs 8:17 says that "those who diligently seek me will find me." The internet makes it easier than ever to become less diligent in seeking the Lord.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What surprising sins might we find on the internet? Is this a new way of thinking about your time online?
- How do the subtle sins of social media affect the way you think about your sin problem?

Episode 10: Segment 4

The Sin Solution

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Feeling guilty over sin can be a good thing because it opens the door for repentance.
- Penal substitutionary atonement refers to Jesus dying on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sin.
- God's solution to our sin problem is the only solution to sin—to place our trust in Jesus Christ.
- We continue to struggle with sin because although we are given a new nature through salvation, we are still tempted by the world, our flesh, and the devil.
- God disciplines His children when they sin, but He doesn't punish them since Jesus already paid the penalty for their 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: No one likes to feel guilty. But guilt can be a good thing when it drives us to repentance and faith. We all have a sin problem. We've all sinned and all sin deserves death and separation from God. But "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). God has given us the one and only solution to our sin problem. He sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay the punishment we deserved. When we confess our sins and repent of them, placing our trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of our sins, we will be saved. God gives us a new nature and the Spirit to live within us, helping us to resist the temptation to sin as we grow in holiness.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How is guilt a good thing?
- How is salvation the solution for sin, both in justification and sanctification?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 10:

Additional Sources

Hodge, Bodie. *"The Seriousness of Sin—Breaking God's Law."* **Answers in Genesis. November 26, 2022. Accessed September 29, 2023.** <https://answersingenesis.org/sin/the-seriousness-of-sin-breaking-gods-law>.

God defines sin through the law. God is the one who defines sin because He is the ultimate standard of what is good. Sin is any thought, word, or deed that breaks God's law. Every person has sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard. The punishment for sin is God's wrath—separation from God and eternal punishment in Hell. The salvation from sin and its consequence comes only through the atoning work of Christ on the cross.

Challies, Tim. *"The Sins Forbidden by the Ninth Commandment in a Social Media World."* **September 28, 2018. Accessed September 29, 2023.** <https://www.challies.com/articles/the-sins-forbidden-by-the-ninth-commandment-in-a-social-media-world>.

It is easy to recognize many of the sins that lay in wait online. But perhaps even more dangerous are the surprising sins that are found on the internet. Social media offers a lot of advantages, but it also camouflages opportunities for sin. Specifically looking at the ninth commandment, we must be careful not to deal with prejudicing information, perpetuating false teaching or false evidence, passing unjust sentences, forgery, concealing the truth, rewarding the wicked with our attention, speaking the truth wrongly, speaking untruth, misconstruing intentions, flattery, boasting, focus on small faults, hiding sins, searching for faults, envy, etc.

"How can I know if something is a sin?" **GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 29, 2023.** <https://www.gotquestions.org/know-sin.html>.

The key to understanding sin is knowing the Word of God. There are things that the Bible clearly and directly count as sin. These can be found throughout Scripture in law, proverbs, doctrinal instruction, and even historical narrative. More difficult to assess are the things that are not specifically addressed in the Bible. Obviously the Bible is not a directory of every possible action or thought with a classification of sin or righteous. But God does give us principles that guide us in evaluating whether something is a sin, as well as the indwelling Holy Spirit to convict and instruct. The more we know God and His Word, the more readily we will recognize sinful actions as such.

Slick, Matt. *"I am too big of a sinner."* **CARM. October 18, 2009. Accessed September 29, 2023.** <https://carm.org/answers-for-seekers/i-am-too-big-of-a-sinner>.

No sin is too severe to be covered by Jesus' blood and no sinner too big for God to forgive. Jesus died on the sin as the perfect sacrifice for sin, once for all. His death and resurrection was sufficient to pay for any sin. Sin has no power over God. He will forgive all sins of anyone who trusts in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. The Bible gives examples of murderers, adulterers, and enemies of God who were forgiven and chosen by God. God loves you, and He will forgive you, no matter how many sins you've committed or how severe, if you will only repent and trust in Him.

Episode 11: Turn or Burn

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Repentance is (choose one)
 - Feeling sorry for something.
 - Changing your mind about something.
2. Faith is (choose one)
 - Believing in something that can't be proven.
 - Knowing something is true even though it can't be seen.
3. Using phrases like "accept Jesus" is (choose one)
Helpful for communicating the gospel.
 - An inaccurate way to present the gospel.
4. The greatest gift of salvation is (choose one)
 - Being relieved of the judgment against sin.
 - Getting to know God.

Episode 11: Segment 1

Repentance

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Repentance is necessary for salvation.
- Two Hebrew words are used throughout the Old Testament for the idea of repentance—**שׁוּב** (shub) and **נָחַם** (nacham).
- In the New Testament, the word **μετάνοια** (metanoia) is used for repentance, meaning “a changing of one’s mind.”
- A true change in mind will lead to a change of will, affections, and desires.
- We can never repent of every sin perfectly, but the Christian should have the desire to repent of all sins.
- We don’t repent enough to earn salvation, but repentance should be evident by a change in one’s life.

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: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by “preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4) and Jesus began his ministry with the proclamation, “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). The concept of repentance is woven throughout the Bible. Repentance is a change of mind toward sin, a contrition, a turning away from sin and toward God. It should be the desire of every Christian to repent of every sin, though we know we cannot repent enough to earn forgiveness. Repentance is a vital part of salvation, but it is not our repentance that saves us.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What exactly is repentance?
- How important is repentance in the life of the believer?

Episode 11: Segment 2

Faith

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Salvation comes through faith.
- Faith is a confident hope, the assurance in God's promises.
- We will never have enough faith to earn salvation on our own.
- The strength of one's faith is not in how much one believes or trusts, but the in the strength of the object in which the faith is placed.
- In heaven, we will no longer need faith in the same way we do now, because our faith will become sight.

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 clearly points to repentance and faith as pillars of salvation. We must turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible defines faith as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). In other words, having faith in God means being confident that He will fulfill his promises. Because He is faithful and immutable (unchanging), we can be absolutely sure that He will accomplish what He has said He would do. The strength of our faith is not how confidently we believe, but in the faithfulness of the object of our faith. Even a mustard-seed-sized faith can lead to salvation because it is Jesus who does the saving and securing (John 10:28-29).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What would you say if a friend asked you, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"
- What is the difference between faith and belief? Why is that difference important?

Episode 11: Segment 3

Unclear Messages

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- “Accept Jesus” is unhelpful because it fails to define what it means to accept Jesus
- “Make a decision for Jesus” can be dangerous if we start to think that the decision is what saves us.
- “Make Jesus Lord and Savior” is problematic because we don’t make Jesus Lord, He is Lord and we must submit to His Lordship
- “Turn and burn” and similar phrases carry a connotation of judgment and hate, which often turns people off rather than inviting them to repentance and faith

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: Christians have developed many different phrases as they’ve tried to find ways to communicate the gospel to unbelievers. Unfortunately, many of these phrases are less than helpful. Some are downright confusing for those who have not grown up with the Christian jargon. Ultimately, the best way to talk about the gospel is to use the terms that the Bible uses. There are two elements necessary for salvation: repentance and faith. Any simplification that does not clearly include those elements is not a good presentation of the gospel. As the Apostle Paul did, we can testify of “repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been confused by “Christian lingo”?
- How can you be more clear when talking about the gospel?

Episode 11: Segment 4

The Wrath to Come

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The danger in putting off a conversion experience is that we are not promised tomorrow and there is no guarantee you'll have an opportunity later.
- The idea of putting off salvation robs you of the joy of knowing God and the great blessings of being a child of God.
- When we are saved we are rescued from the punishment of Hell, but we also receive the great blessings of a relationship with God.
- A gospel presentation or decision that focuses solely on being spared from judgment is missing out of the incredible joy that comes from knowing 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: Often we think about the gospel in terms of sin, judgment against sin, and the forgiveness that is granted through Jesus Christ and His work on the cross. While that is an accurate representation, that is not the whole. Salvation is not just about relief from judgment; it is also about gaining a relationship with God. In fact, Jesus says that “this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). The Christian life is not just about rules and restrictions. The one who follows Christ finds joy, peace, purpose, and an imperishable inheritance (1 Peter 1:4). Those who want to put off their salvation do not have an accurate view of the full gospel.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Thinking of the parachute analogy, is there anything valuable enough to make it reasonable to put off trusting in Jesus? So why do people wait?
- How is salvation about more than an escape from Hell?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 11:

Additional Sources

Peters, Jeremy. *"The Sweet Summons of Repentance."* The Master's Seminary Blog. June 30, 2020. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/the-sweet-summons-of-repentance>.

Often we hear the word "repent" and we think of a harsh or unkind judgment. But biblical repentance is not callously confrontational or harshly judgmental. The message of repentance does come with warnings of wrath against sin and firm rebukes against religious hypocrites. But the command to repent is an invitation made by a kind and tender Savior. The call to repent is a call to enjoy the glory of God for all eternity. It is a confrontation in love, the warning of a caring and concerned friend. Repentance is not just a warning against sin; it is also a call to holiness. Repentance is fueled by grace. "Repent" must be a word of benevolence, not malice.

"What is repentance and is it necessary for salvation?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/repentance.html>.

Repentance is a change in mind that results in turning from sin and pursuing God. Repentance involves acknowledging sin, recognizing that sin is an affront against the holy and righteous Creator God, determining to leave sin behind and replace it with righteousness. Godly sorrow over sin produces repentance that leads to salvation. Repentance is not a work that earns salvation, but repentance will result in a changed life filled with good works. Biblical repentance is necessary for salvation.

Kunkle, Brett. *"Belief as Saving Faith."* Stand to Reason. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.str.org/w/belief-as-saving-faith>.

There is a difference in believing that something is true and believing in that truth. An examination of the Greek construction for belief or faith reveals that saving faith requires both a belief-that and a belief-in. It is not enough to believe the truth of who Jesus is or even that He died on the cross for sins and rose again. Believing the propositions does not save. Saving faith is belief in those truths, or more particularly belief in Jesus. Saving faith is a knowledge of (belief-that) coupled with a trust in (belief-in) Jesus our Savior.

Ham, Ken. *"Learning the Culture's Language."* Answers in Genesis. April 14, 2018. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/culture/learning-cultures-language>.

Communication is important. Without it, the truth of the gospel we preach may not be understood. We often fall into the habit of using Christian jargon without realizing that the post-Christian culture no longer understands those terms. This is why when we share the gospel, we should be very careful to understand the language of the culture with which we are speaking. If we are sharing with the unchurched, our well-used and well-meaning Christian phrases will not communicate the gospel accurately and fully. Communicating the gospel is of the utmost importance, so we must take care to communicate.

Episode 12: Our Common Stalker

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. I am (choose one)
 - Afraid of death.
 - Not afraid to die.
2. Death is (choose one)
 - Natural.
 - Unnatural.
3. Christians who commit suicide will go to (choose one)
 - Heaven.
 - Hell.
4. My life has (choose one)
 - Had purpose and meaning.
 - Not had any significant purpose.

Episode 12: Segment 1

The Inevitability of Death

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Everyone will die.
- Everything dies because this world is affected by sin.
- Death is appointed for every person.
- People tend to fear death because eternity is written on our hearts and everyone knows intuitively that the moment we die we will meet our Maker.
- Death should be scary for those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation because death for them will mean judgment and wrath from God against sin.

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: Death is a common experience among all mankind. Ever since Adam sinned in the garden, death has been a part of this world. Death entered the world as a result of his sin, and has spread to every person since (Romans 5:12). Everyone dies, and we all dread death to some extent. Some even fear it. The Bible says that “it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). So it is no wonder that people fear death, knowing that God’s judgment against sin is what we will face. After all, “it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you fear death or does it make you uncomfortable? Why do you think it has that effect?
- Is it appropriate to fear death? Why or why not?

Episode 12: Segment 2

An Un-Fun Topic

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Death is a reminder of our mortality.
- Death is a natural part of our current reality, but it is unnatural in the sense that it was not part of God's original perfect creation.
- It can be healthy to think about death because it helps us focus our values.
- For the Christian, death is not a scary reality, but a beautiful reality as we will be reunited with God in Heaven.
- When we build habits of optimism and praise to God, focusing on living for the next world, we can avoid become crabby old people who are consumed with thoughts of age and death.

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: In the beginning, there was no death. It was only after Adam and Eve sinned that death became a natural reality for the world we live in. Death can be scary for the unbeliever, and most of us don't enjoy thinking about it because it reminds us of our own mortality. But for the Christian, death doesn't have to be scary. In fact, we can be encouraged, as Paul wrote, "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). We will spend eternity with God where there is no more mourning, crying, pain, or death (Revelation 21:4). If we live with this perspective now, living as citizens of the city "whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10), we can live out our days with joy in humble service to our Lord.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How often do you think about death?
- Are you prepared for death? How can we prepare for death?

Episode 12: Segment 3

Deadly Questions

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- People do not die and go to Heaven and come back with new information from God.
- When you die, your eternal destiny is forever fixed—either in Heaven or Hades.
- Suicide is always a sin and never an answer, but Christians who commit suicide will still go to Heaven.
- When Christians die, the body goes to the grave, but there will be a resurrection at the return of Jesus and we will have new, glorified bodies.
- Reincarnation is an evil false teaching based on works-righteousness, no hope, and no assurance.

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: As much as we dislike talking about death, there are certain questions that fascinate us. We must be discerning, however, when people talk about dying and spending a few minutes in Heaven. The Bible teaches that the judgment comes after death (Hebrews 9:27). Also, nothing seen or heard in Heaven will contradict the Word of God. Paul warned the Galatians, “Even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). This also dismisses the possibility of reincarnation, since it is a works-based system offering no hope of forgiveness and no assurance of salvation. The true gospel teaches that at death our eternity is fixed, not based on what we’ve done or how we’ve lived (or died), but based on whether or not we have trusted in Jesus for forgiveness of our sins.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- How should we think about claims of people who went to heaven and returned?
- What makes reincarnation such an evil teaching?

Episode 12: Segment 4

A Meaningful Life

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The best way to make this life count is to live for the world to come.
- As soon as the unbeliever dies, he will experience darkness, isolation, and the wrath of God against sin.
- As soon as the believer dies, he will be welcomed into Heaven where everything will be good and glorious.
- When Jesus died on the Cross, He took the Hell of everyone who believes on him, and as a result we are saved on the basis of His righteousness and are shielded from the wrath to come.
- Christianity is different than all other religions because God is the one who provided the sacrifice.

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 people want to believe that there is nothing after death or that all people will go to Heaven. But that is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible clearly teaches that there are two paths, the narrow path that leads to life and the broad path that leads to destruction. When we die, we will be judged. The believer is judged according to the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and the unbeliever according to his own unrighteousness. “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36). If you are a Christian, you don’t have to fear death. And by living in light of eternity, you can make this life matter. If you are not a Christian, death is scary. But it doesn’t have to be. Repent of your sin and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What does it mean that “it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31)?
- What kind of purpose or meaning has your life had? What is the best way to make your life count?

Episode 12:

Additional Sources

Slyman, Patrick. *"A Theology of Fear and Death: Why the Grave Need Not Terrify the Believer."* The Master's Seminary Blog. April 27, 2021. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://blog.tms.edu/a-theology-of-fear-and-death-why-the-grave-need-not-terrify-the-believer>.

Everyone will die. It is the inevitable end to life. Death is enough to conjure dread and fear in the most confident of men. But the Christian need not live in fear of death. God is in control of life and death. We will not die before our appointed time. We can be certain we will die at the appointed time, and not until then. So rather than live in fear of death, we are free to live faithfully and boldly in the days we've been granted.

"What happens after death?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-happens-after-death.html>.

After we die, the believer's soul is taken to heaven. To be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord for those who have been forgiven. At some future point, the bodies of believers will be resurrected and glorified and reunited with the believer's soul for existence in the new heavens and new earth. For those who have not received Jesus Christ as Savior, death means eternal punishment. At death, the individual's destiny is fixed and he will dwell forever with God or apart from Him. There are two destinations, and where one goes depends entirely on whether they have trusted Jesus Christ for salvation.

Clay, Brandon. *"Near-Death Experiences and the Christian."* Answers in Genesis. October 24, 2020. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/suffering/near-death-experiences-and-christian>.

There is much interest in near-death experiences or stories of those who claim to have journeyed to the afterlife and back. This fascination is due to the great unknown of death and the innate understanding that we will face it someday. But how are Christians to understand such stories? The Bible includes several instances of individuals who were raised from the dead, but interestingly, none of them provide information about their experience. Though it is possible to see glimpses of heaven (Acts 7:55-60), the Christian must be discerning when evaluating modern claims of near-death experiences. Ultimately, the Bible is the authoritative and sufficient source for information on this life and the one to come, and we must be careful to look to His Word rather than claims of individual experience to determine truth.

"How can I be prepared to die?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/prepared-to-die.html>.

Death has a way of causing us to take stock of our life and consider our mortality. Death is the destiny of everyone, so how can we be prepared to face death? Ultimately, the only way to be prepared for death is to be in right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is only through the forgiveness of sins that we can be justified and spared the judgment of a good and just God against sin. The sting of death is removed for the Christian. As a result of this eternal pardon and the promised inheritance for believers, we can live with an eternal perspective, investing our time and efforts in things of transcendent value. For the Christian, death is not the end of life, but the gateway to everlasting life.

Episode 13: The Two H-Words

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Heaven will be like (choose one)
 - An eternal choir.
 - A garden of Eden.
2. To get to Heaven (choose one)
 - There is one road.
 - There are many roads.
3. In Heaven, we (choose one)
 - Will have no memory of our sins.
 - Remember our sins but without sorrow.
4. Hell will be an eternal (choose one)
 - Punishment.
 - Party.

Episode 13: Segment 1

A Trip to Heaven

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Heaven is real and it will be as tangibly real to us as our world today.
- Heaven will be filled with work and play, except without the difficulties and consequences brought by sin.
- God is the giver of all good gifts, and everyone will desire to be in his presence.
- God has prescribed the way to get to Heaven, and it is only through trusting in Jesus.
- We must recognize and repent of our sin and trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

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 a lot of interesting ideas out there about Heaven. For many, Heaven is an ethereal pseudo-reality that may exist but seems intangible. It's a picture of chubby cherubs playing harps, sitting on clouds, and singing praise to God for all eternity. Not a few Christians have struggled with the desire to go to Heaven because that picture seems boring. There are several reasons this is an inaccurate picture of Heaven. Psalm 16:11 says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever." Heaven will be a place of great joy and pleasure, as we dwell in the glorious presence of God, benefitting from His great blessings, and living the way God originally intended.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What do you think heaven will be like? What do you think will be the best part?
- How have you heard people claim you can get to heaven apart from the biblical gospel?

Episode 13: Segment 2

Harps Only?

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- There is only one road to Heaven—through Jesus Christ.
- Broad is the way that leads to destruction and narrow the way that leads to life.
- There are many opinions, but only One has knowledge outside of this life, and we should trust what He says.
- You cannot sin your way out of Heaven; there are many passages that say we will be there forever.
- Satan pridefully rebelled against God and Adam disobeyed God's clear command, but many theologians conclude that there is something different about a post-fall conversion.

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: Many people in our world, especially in today's culture of "tolerance", want to believe that there are many ways to Heaven. The truth is, though, that their opinion doesn't mean anything. The reality is as prescribed by the Creator Himself. Jesus very clearly said that He is the way and "no one comes to the Father but through Me: (John 14:6). Peter said it another way: "There is salvation in no one else" (Acts 4:12). And Paul reprimanded those who tried to distort the gospel and change what God had said was the only way to salvation (Galatians 1:7-8). God, as Creator, gets to make the rules and to tell us how it is. We must listen to the Creator rather than the creature.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is your biggest question about Heaven?
- Can you earn your way into Heaven? Can you sin yourself out of Heaven? Why or why not?

Episode 13: Segment 3

Your Eternity

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- In Heaven we will get to do all the things we enjoy on earth, but perfectly.
- We will work, but our work will always be enjoyable.
- We will have the same blessings we experience in this life, only sweeter and more full.
- We will remember our sins and grow in our love and gratitude toward our Savior.
- The sweetest part of Heaven will be diving into the bottomless depth of knowing God.

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 Bible doesn't give us a lot of details about what Heaven will be like. But we can draw some conclusions based on the truth that is explained in Scripture. We know that it will be paradise (Luke 23:43). We know that eternal life is knowing God (John 17:3). God also gives us a glimpse into Heaven as He describes the new Heaven and new earth in Revelation. These details, along with the character of God lead us to expect that Heaven is not going to be an ethereal cloud-based harp band and chorus. Rather, it will be a real, tangible place where we get to live our lives as God intended for us in the beginning. God gives good gifts to His children, and in Heaven, there will be no obstacles to His good gifts. We will enjoy Him forever in the paradise He has created for us.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What do we experience on earth that you hope we will experience in Heaven? How would the experience in Heaven differ from that experience in this life?
- How has your thinking on Heaven and Hell changed because of this discussion?

Episode 13: Segment 4

Don't Go to Hell

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- A common false idea by those who reject God is that Hell will be an eternal party.
- God is the giver of all good gifts.
- Since Hell is separation from God, it is also separated from all the good things that bring joy and pleasure.
- Hell is also a place of active punishment where sinners receive the just penalty for their sin.
- God is just and sends people to Hell because it is what they rightly deserve for their crimes.

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: If Heaven is paradise in the presence of the good and loving God, Hell is everything opposite. God is the giver of every good gift, all the things that provide joy and pleasure (James 1:17). So those who reject God also lose the source of everything good. Hell will not be a party, it will be a deprivation of all that is good. But more than that, it is a place of active punishment. The Bible describes it as outer darkness where “there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (e.g., Matthew 22:13). It is entirely just for sinners to spend eternity there (Romans 6:23), but in His mercy, God has provided the only way to be delivered from the wrath due against sin. Repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). Turn from your sin and submit to Jesus Christ as Lord, placing your trust in Him as Savior, who alone took on our punishment against sin so we could be forgiven and credited His perfect righteousness. Confess Him as Lord, believe that He died for sin and rose again, and you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What is wrong with the idea that Hell will be an eternal party?
- How can a kind and loving God send people to Hell?

CONCLUSION

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

Episode 13:

Additional Sources

Mason, Dale. *"Let's Talk About Heaven."* Answers in Genesis. July 1, 2019. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/bible/lets-talk-about-heaven>.

The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about the specifics of Heaven, but it does give us a glimpse of our glorious future. First, the Bible clearly teaches that the only way to get to Heaven is through the gospel of Jesus Christ. We also know that Heaven will be more amazing than God's original creation. He will restore all things to Himself and there will be no more sorrow, sin, or death. Heaven will be a place of worship, of feasting, of plenty, and of joy-filled work. We will commune directly with God, basking in the glory of His presence. And ultimately, that perfect relationship with God is what will make Heaven the joyous paradise we are promised.

"Can a Christian lose salvation?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-lose-salvation.html>.

A true Christian is one who has repented of sin and trusted in Jesus for salvation. This person is a new creation, redeemed, justified, and sealed for eternal life. The Christian is guaranteed glorification. Thus, a Christian cannot lose their salvation or sin their way out of Heaven. We did not earn our salvation by works, and we cannot lose it by works. However, a true Christian will live a life that is mortifying sin and growing in holiness. Our eternal security is not an excuse to sin freely. The truly converted Christian can rest assured that nothing can separate him or her from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Wilson, Jared. *"Jesus and the Reality of Hell."* June 28, 2021. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/jesus-and-the-reality-of-hell>.

Our culture today doesn't like to talk about Hell. It's so negative and judgmental. But Jesus preached about Hell boldly. Hell is real and it is a serious matter. Jesus taught that everyone will be judged. The forgiven will be received into eternal life and those who rejected Christ will be cast into eternal torment. Sheep receive the inheritance prepared for them; the goats receive their due penalty for sin. He describes Hell as a place of outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is an eternal place of unquenchable fiery torment. Hell is real. And Jesus came to deliver us from it, if we will repent and trust in Him.

Kelley, Michael. *"3 Reasons Why It's Actually Good News that Hell is Real."* Thinker. Accessed September 30, 2023. <https://thinker.org/blog/3-reasons-why-its-actually-good-news-that-hell-is-real>.

Hell is real. And though we don't like to spend much time thinking about it, that is actually good news. First, the reality of Hell underscores the fact that Jesus is trustworthy. Jesus taught that Hell was a real place where sinners would spend eternity in judgment. Second, the reality of Hell means that justice is real. We all desire justice, and God is a just God. But justice requires an eternal penalty for sin. Third, the reality of Hell means that God is good. It's hard to think about people being "sent" to Hell, but the truth of the matter is that Hell is so bad because it is absent of God's goodness. The reality of Hell is good news because it means that all Jesus taught about sin, forgiveness, and eternal life is true.