

WORLDVIEW

WHAT WE BELIEVE, WHAT THEY BELIEVE, AND WHY THEY ARE WRONG

STUDY GUIDE

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BY KEVIN SWANSON



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE INTRODUCTION	7
LESSON SCHEDULE	10
WORKSHEETS	17
FINAL EXAM	168
VOCABULARY LIST	174
ANSWER KEY	177

COURSE INTRODUCTION

A BASIC INTRODUCTION TO A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, COUNTER WORLDVIEWS, AND CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

This study guide and text are intended to constitute a basic introductory course to the biblical faith, counter worldviews, and Christian apologetics for any new believer or young person raised in the Christian home and Christian church.

Every believer needs equipping. Every believer must be prepared to “be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). Every believer is called to “cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). The world impinges upon us. Bad worldviews in the form of “philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Colossians 2:8) press in.

Prayerfully, this course will root and ground the student such that he will not be caught up with “every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting” (Ephesians 2:14). This course gets down to the basics concerning the nature of truth, the nature of God, the nature of man, origins, ethics, sin, salvation, sociology, and teleology. This is philosophy 101, or better put, theology 101 for the young believer.

The major objective of this course is to help the students to know three things:

1. The Essentials of a Christian Worldview
2. The Rudiments of Competing Worldviews
3. How to Give an Answer for the Hope that is in Them

WHAT THIS COURSE IS NOT INTENDED FOR

While there are a hundred or more sects of orthodox Christianity in which true believers in Jesus are fellowshiping, worshipping, and growing in the Word, our primary interest in this course is not to flesh out all the differences and arrive at the “final decision” on who is right and who is wrong.

This course is an introduction to the basics of the faith. We want to lay out a hard and fast line between the worldly religions and worldviews and that of the Christian faith. Instead of marking out the faith by how one Christian denomination differs from another, it would be better to mark out the faith by the line of antithesis between man-centered religions and the core Christian faith as described by divine

WORLDVIEW: Study Guide

revelation. Yet, too many sectarians within the Christian faith are unable to retain the “trunk faith” or the “core doctrines” of the Scriptures, and this becomes the means of losing the faith itself. The incapability of distinguishing between the “camels” and “gnats” is often fatal to those committed to this “conservative” denomination or that. Hopefully, this basic course on the faith will provide something of an antidote to this tragedy. The answer key addressing some of these intrumural differences are prefaced with the phrase “Answers may vary.”

This full-year, high school level course uses this text:

Kevin Swanson, *Worldview: What We Believe, What They Believe, and Why They are Wrong*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

It is the sincere hope of this author that students who study this course will:

- Be more rooted and grounded in biblical truth
- Better worship and serve God, and love Him with heart, soul, mind, and strength
- Be prepared to testify to the faith, with confidence and hope
- Believe in Jesus Christ and recognize Him as preeminent in all things and sovereign Ruler over all things to the church.
- Better appreciate the Church of Christ for which He died.
- Improve in a knowledge of Scripture
- Give glory to God and praise for the wonderful works He has done.

VOCABULARY AND TERMS

Building one’s vocabulary is one of the most worthwhile pursuits a student undertakes. Those persons who gain a strong vocabulary are typically better communicators, thinkers, and readers. Vocabulary study must not be limited to English grammar courses. Having a good vocabulary is important to reading material in any discipline. For these reasons, one of the activities in this course is vocabulary study. Students will be learning new words and terms, many of which may be difficult, in every chapter. A list of words and terms, and a second list of worldviews and “isms” are made available at the end of this study guide. These lists are provided to aid the student in completing the vocabulary and worldview sections in each lesson.

READING STRATEGIES

For students who are having difficulties keeping up, remember that comprehending the content is more important than strictly following the schedule. The students may wish to break up the reading assignments into more manageable chunks. Taking notes on the reading, marking up the books in the margins, and asking questions along the way are all helpful methods. Teacher/parents may ask the students to summarize the main points of the passage in their own words. To better understand the material, the student may also refer back to previous material and always pay attention to the headings in the text. And the reader does best when curiosity is piqued, when he/she agrees or disagrees with the text, or when the text bears special relevance to current issues.

DEVOTIONAL INTENT

There are many traps when one approaches the subject of theology or apologetics. An over-academic

approach can easily yield a foolish pride or some hardening of the heart. To speak of God in an impersonal, detached, or academic way denies His personality. Or to consider His holiness, wrath, justice, love, or power, without the response of love, faith, fear, and worship would be likewise inappropriate and even soul-hardening.

Throughout the text, this author has attempted to include devotional content. This material cannot be glossed over. Much of the content is meant for deep meditation, thoughtful consideration, and a worshipful response. Moreover, the life integration questions at the end of each chapter lesson are intended for prayer, testimony, and worship. May it be used in this manner.

APOLOGETICS

The apologetics section of the study guide most likely will be the most difficult part of the course. The student is encouraged to take his or her “best shot” at it, before consulting the answer key. To the extent that students find the answer to the challenge in the text, they should receive credit. Any creative addition to the response should receive extra credit. The student should have access to the answer key, especially when reviewing the sections on Apologetics, Major Lessons, and Scripture Responses in this Study Guide.

GRADING OPTIONS FOR THE COURSE

1. Study lessons for each chapter may be graded according to the following scale:

- Vocabulary — 1 point per question
- Major Lessons — 2 points per question
- Worldviews — 1 point per question
- Apologetics — 5 points per question
- Scripture — 2 points per question
- Short Answers — 1 point per question
- Life Application — No points recommended

The student should receive credit for any attempt to rightly apply Scripture in these two sections: “Major Lessons” and “Scripture.” The Answer Key supplies general examples for these sections.

2. The course may be graded according to the following scale:

Lessons 1-25 — 75%

Final Exam — 25%

Total — 100%

May the Holy Spirit of God employ this teaching as another means of “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 2:12-13).

COURSE LESSON SCHEDULE

First Semester Suggested Daily Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
First Semester—First Quarter					
Week 1	1	Read Introduction			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Begin Reading Chapter 1			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 1			
Week 2	1	Complete Chapter 1 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 1 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 1 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 3	1	Begin Reading Chapter 2			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 2			
	3	Complete Chapter 2 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 2 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 4	1	Begin Reading Chapter 3			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 3			
	3	Complete Chapter 3 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 3 Worksheet D, E, F, G			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 5	1	Begin Reading Chapter 4			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 4			
	3	Complete Chapter 4 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 4 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 6	1	Begin Reading Chapter 5			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 5			
	3	Complete Chapter 5 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 5 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 7	1	Begin Reading Chapter 6			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 6			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 6			
Week 8	1	Complete Chapter 6 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 6 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 6 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 9	1	Begin Reading Chapter 7			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 7			
	3	Complete Chapter 7 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 7 Worksheet D, E, F, G			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
First Semester—Second Quarter					
Week 10	1	Begin Reading Chapter 8			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 8			
	3	Complete Chapter 8 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 8 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 11	1	Begin Reading Chapter 9			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 9			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 9			
Week 12	1	Complete Chapter 9 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 9 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 9 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 13	1	Begin Reading Chapter 10			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 10			
	3	Complete Chapter 10 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 10 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 14	1	Begin Reading Chapter 11			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 11			
	3	Complete Chapter 11 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 11 Worksheet D, E, F, G			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 15	1	Begin Reading Chapter 12			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 12			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 12			
Week 16	1	Complete Chapter 12 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 12 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 12 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 17	1	Begin Reading Chapter 13			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 13			
	3	Complete Chapter 13 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 13 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 18	1	Begin Reading Chapter 14			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 14			
	3	Complete Chapter 14 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 14 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Mid-Term Grade					

Second Semester Suggested Daily Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Second Semester—Third Quarter					
Week 19	1	Begin Reading Chapter 15			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 15			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 15			
Week 20	1	Complete Chapter 15 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 15 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 15 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 21	1	Begin Reading Chapter 16			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 16			
	3	Complete Chapter 16 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 16 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 22	1	Begin Reading Chapter 17			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 17			
	3	Complete Chapter 17 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 17 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 23	1	Begin Reading Chapter 18			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 18			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 18			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 24	1	Complete Chapter 18 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 18 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 18 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 25	1	Begin Reading Chapter 19			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 19			
	3	Complete Chapter 19 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 19 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 26	1	Begin Reading Chapter 20			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 20			
	3	Complete Chapter 20 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 20 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 27	1	Begin Reading Chapter 21			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 21			
	3	Complete Chapter 21 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 21 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Second Semester—Fourth Quarter					
Week 28	1	Begin Reading Chapter 22			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 22			
	3	Complete Chapter 22 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 22 Worksheet D, E, F, G			

WORLDVIEW: Study Guide

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 29	1	Begin Reading Chapter 23			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 23			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 23			
Week 30	1	Complete Chapter 23 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 23 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 23 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 31	1	Begin Reading Chapter 24			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Continue Reading Chapter 24			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Finish Reading Chapter 24			
Week 32	1	Complete Chapter 24 Worksheet A and B			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Complete Chapter 24 Worksheet C and D			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 24 Worksheet E, F, G			
Week 33	1	Begin Reading Chapter 25			
	2	Finish Reading Chapter 25			
	3	Complete Chapter 25 Worksheet A, B, C			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Complete Chapter 25 Worksheet D, E, F, G			
Week 34	1	Complete Final Exam			
	2	Flex Day			
	3	Flex Day			
	4	Flex Day			
	5	Flex Day			
Final Grade					

WHAT IS TRUTH?

A. VOCABULARY AND TERMINOLOGY — WHAT WORD OR TERM IS BEST USED FOR EACH DESCRIPTION LISTED?

1. _____ Revelation of God to man. Knowledge that comes through Jesus Christ
2. _____ Untruth, Deception
3. _____ Network or web of presuppositions by which we interpret data, organize facts, and assess all other propositions
4. _____ All-knowing, comprehensive knowledge of all things
5. _____ The communication of divine truth to man
6. _____ Fully trustworthy as according to fact
7. _____ Present everywhere at the same time
8. _____ The study of the field of knowledge

B. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT ARE THE MAJOR LESSONS TAUGHT BY THESE VERSES?

1. Isaiah 5:20, John 12:35, John 3:19-21, 1 John 1:6-8, 1 John 1:7, 2 Corinthians 6:14

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 36:9-10, John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 2:9-13, John 16:13, Amos 3:6-7, John 8:31-32

WORLDVIEW: *Study Guide*

3. Proverbs 19:9, Psalm 116:9-11, Psalm 5:6, Romans 3:3-4, Numbers 23:19, Isaiah 59:4, Revelation 21:7-8

4. Jeremiah 10:7, Isaiah 55:8-9, Isaiah 40:13-14, Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 40:28, Jeremiah 23:24, Romans 11:33

C. NAME THAT WORLDVIEW OR IDEA

1. _____: "Human reason is the chief means of knowing, and that reason is capable of obtaining clear and ultimate knowledge of the world." Rene Descartes popularized this position."
2. _____: "This is the only certain knowledge available to man, the only certain way to know that something is true."
3. _____: "The world is chaos and not understandable, ultimate truths are unknowable and there can be no ultimate meaning or purpose for life." Friedrich Nietzsche advocated this view.
4. _____: "Human reason is insufficient to explain the world. The self-conscious surrender of the possibility of knowing anything for certain."
5. _____: "We can rely on our own senses of sight, touch, taste, etc. to determine some true knowledge."

D. PRESENT AN APOLOGETICAL ANSWER FOR THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

1. "Truth is up to the individual. I determine what is true for myself."

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2. “We cannot possibly know that anything is true. It’s impossible to know anything for sure.”

E. WHAT SCRIPTURE VERSES WOULD YOU USE TO INTERACT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, EITHER TO AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH IT?

1. “We cannot know for sure the authenticity of the inspired Scriptures.”

-
-
2. “It is impossible to have fellowship with God and still love the world’s system and its lies.”

-
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3. “There is no way to discern between truth and lies.”

-
-
4. “People are born truthful and trustworthy.”
-
-

WORLDVIEW: Study Guide

5. "I know all things that there is to know about."

6. "Doubt and uncertainty is the position of the unbeliever whereas assurance and certainty are the positions of the believer."

F. SHORT ANSWERS

1. What are the two reasons given in Hebrews 6 that we should believe God?

2. What is the basis most modern people in Western countries use to determine truth?

3. Name at least one thing science cannot do.

4. Where did John Locke's empiricism end up?

5. What is the source of Buddhist and Hindu belief?

G. LIFE APPLICATION — CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FOR YOURSELF.

1. Take a look around the current world you are living in. Is truth dominant in this world? Or do you see lies prevailing? How will you keep your eyes on the Truth in this world of lies? Are you held captive by the truth of God's Word and the ultimate Truth, the final revelation of God in His Son Jesus Christ? How will you avoid "conforming to this world, and be transformed by the renewing of your mind?" (Romans 12:2)
2. How does your view of yourself, your view of God, and your prayer life change upon considering God's omniscience and His infinite knowledge? How does the omniscience (all-knowing) of God lead you to humility (Job 38:1-7, 42:1-6), worship (Romans 11:33-35), and repentance (Psalm 90:8, Hebrews 4:13)?
3. Read John 3:21. Those who come to the light "does the truth" or "live by the truth." How are you applying the truth of God's Word every day? How can you better apply truth in your walk with Christ?
