

Parent's Guide

Journey Parents

Dear Parents,

Our goal in Awana® is to work alongside parents to train children and youth to grow into adults who know, love and serve the Lord. We recognize that parents are the primary spiritual nurturers of their children and we want to do all we can to help. Our desire is to provide you with the tools that enable you to be involved with the curriculum your child is studying.

Your children are now in high school. They are on the brink of adulthood, yet you occasionally still see glimpses of the little kid they once were. At other times, you gasp in amazement as they respond with astounding maturity.

We want our teens to face the world strong in their faith, no matter what's ahead on their life's journey. We want them to understand that life can be difficult, but also to rest in the life-supporting perspective that God is sovereign.

The Journey™ curriculum focuses on teaching teens to make life choices with that Christ-centered perspective. They can trust in Him. To help you, the parent, familiarize yourself with what your teen is learning at Journey, we provide these Parent's Guides which offer a summary of the lessons and discussion questions to get a conversation going with your teen.

We hope you find these guides helpful. We are thankful for the privilege of working alongside you in discipling your teens to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can think of no task more worthwhile.

If you have any questions, please talk to your teen's leader.

Praying for you,

The Awana Youth Ministries™ Team

Parent's Guide is a production of Awana Youth Ministries and Awana at Home®



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Parent's Guide

God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – What It Is
 Lesson 1: **What Are You?**

Memory Verse: **Isaiah 45:18**

IN A NUTSHELL

My worldview
 determines how
 I live my life.

SUMMARY

A lot of people are talking about worldviews. A worldview is like looking through a window with glass of a particular color. Except, instead of colors, your worldview is tinted by your understanding of how the world works. Your understanding of the world determines the way you live your life.

One way of thinking about the idea of worldview is to look at the way you answer important questions:

- Where did you come from?
- Why are you here?
- Where are you going?
- Do you live according to absolutes?
- What can you know and how do you discover knowledge?
- How do you explain human nature?
- What is right and what is wrong?
- What is important in your life?

The way you answer these questions is going to determine most of the decisions you make.

A worldview is important and everybody has a worldview. Some people may not be aware of their worldview, but they have one.

Your teenager will look at different worldviews in a section called **Fast Fact**. We will give you a summary of each **Fast Fact**.

THE NEXT STEP

- Ask the Lord to use this study to give you the wisdom and help that is necessary for your teenager to gain a biblical worldview. Also ask God to make the discussions the two of you have about this study encouraging and engaging for both of you.
- Ask your teenager to talk to you about this question from the **On the Street** section of this lesson: What is important in your life? Listen carefully.



FAST FACT

- Ask the Lord to use this study to give you the wisdom and help that is necessary for your teenager to gain a biblical worldview. Also ask God to make the discussions the two of you have about this study encouraging and engaging for both of you.
- Ask your teenager to talk to you about this question from the **On the Street** section of this lesson: What is important in your life? Listen carefully.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. In your own words, define "absolutes."
2. Fill in the blanks of these worldview questions:
_____ did you come from?
_____ are you here?
_____ are you going?
(The answers are found under Answering Questions.)
3. True or False. Everybody has a worldview.
(The answer is found under Why Is Worldview Important?)
4. Where do people get their worldviews?
(The answer is found under Why Is Worldview Important?)
5. How many different worldviews are there?
*(The answer is found under the **Fast Fact**.)*
6. What are two ways people categorize worldviews?
*(The answer is found under the **Fast Fact**.)*
7. Do you think there are right and wrong worldviews? Why?
8. How have you developed your own worldview?
9. How is your worldview similar to or different from your parents' worldview?
10. In your own words, how would you explain your worldview to a friend?

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God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – What It Is
 Lesson 2: **The First Worldview**

Memory Verses: **Genesis 1:27, 31a**

IN A NUTSHELL

God created the world specifically for humans.

SUMMARY

God didn't create the universe we live in by accident. And because He is God, that world was perfect. God wanted to create humans because:

- God is love. God IS love. He created us to love us and to be loved by us.
- God is the creator. Creators create things. Real artists have a desire to be creative.

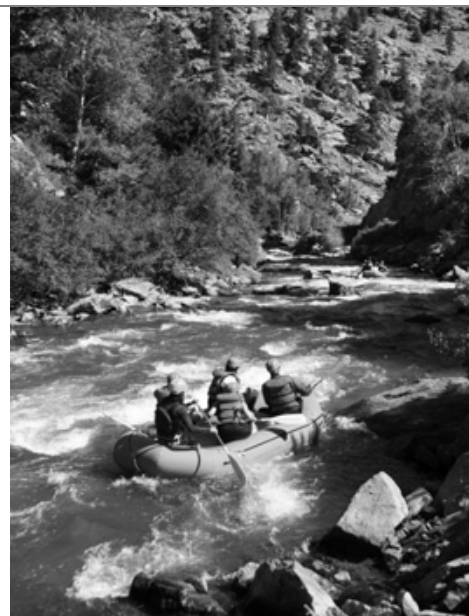
Sin was our choice. What was God's intention for us?

1. God intended humans to rule the world (under His authority).
2. God intended humans to multiply (have children).
3. God wanted us to eat our vegetables.
4. God wanted us to enjoy creation.
5. God wanted us to get married. He created Eve so Adam wouldn't be alone.
6. God wanted us to have a relationship with Him.
7. God wanted us to willingly choose to obey Him.

God hasn't abandoned us. He has a plan for how we should live in a sinful world.

THE NEXT STEP

- Go white-water rafting, horseback riding, hiking, or something you both like, with your teenager. If you can, go on a special vacation together to somewhere like the Grand Canyon! Enjoy something outside together and thank God for His Creation.
- In this lesson, your student will look up verses that tell her she was a part of God's plan from the beginning. Talk with her about how you and your spouse looked forward to her birth. Reinforce what the Bible says about God's love for her. Let her know that even though your love for her as a parent is huge, God's love for her is far greater.



FAST FACT – DEISM

Deism believes in a non-biblical god. Most deists believe that God created the world, lost interest and went on to other things, leaving the world to spin through space on its own. There aren't many deists around today.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. What verse shows us that God's original creation was without sin or imperfection?
(The answer is found at the end of the introductory story.)
2. What is the word used to describe God that means that He knows everything?
(The answer is found under Why Did God Bother?)
3. True or False. God wouldn't have created Adam and Eve if He knew they were going to eat the forbidden fruit.
(The answer is found under Why Did God Bother?)
4. In your own words, what does it mean that God is self-contained and self-sufficient?
5. What are the two reasons listed in this lesson why God created humans?
(The answer is found under Why Did God Bother?)
6. What does the word *dominion* mean?
(The answer is found under God's Worldview.)
7. How do we know that God intended us to enjoy looking at His creation?
(The answer is found under God's Worldview.)
8. Describe the relationship God wanted to have with humans.
(The answer is found under God's Worldview.)
9. Why did God give Adam and Eve the choice to disobey?
(The answer is found under God's Worldview.)
10. The view that God created the world and then left it to run on its own is called what?
*(The answer is found under the **Fast Fact**.)*

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God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – What It Is
 Lesson 3: **So How Did We Get Where We Are?**

Memory Verse: **1 John 2:16**

IN A NUTSHELL

Worldviews
 (except for a
 biblical one)
 are the result
 of focusing on
 self instead of
 on God.

SUMMARY

We are surrounded by unhappiness, poverty, crime, pain, sickness and death. What happened?

Before God created the world, He created angels. One of the highest angels, Lucifer, sinned against God by wanting to be worshiped like God. Lucifer, now called Satan, entered the garden of Eden as a serpent, which is a Hebrew word that means "enchanter." He convinced Eve that eating from the forbidden tree would make her be like God.

At that moment, sin entered the world. Adam ate the fruit too. Every one of us is a descendent of Adam and Eve and therefore a sinner at birth. Every one of us makes the choice to sin on our own.

In 1 John 2:16, sin comes in three categories:

- The lust of the flesh – things that are pleasant to the senses
- The lust of the eyes – things that look good
- The pride of life – the desire to feel superior to God or others in any way

THE NEXT STEP

- In the **On the Street** section of your teenager's lesson, he thinks about the sins that he struggles with and the categories they fall into. He needs to figure out if he has trouble with one particular kind of sin and why. He's supposed to think of some steps to avoid it and talk to his leader about what he's doing to avoid that sin. It was written that way because some teenagers have parents who aren't supportive spiritually. But we know you are, so feel free to have the conversation with your teenager. It would be fantastic if you are, or could become, the confidante of your own teenager.
- Ask God to help you see your teenager as he is (the good, the great and the pathetic parts) so you can pray for him. Ask God for the grace that you need to give to your teenager. Most parents of teenagers need loads of grace.



FAST FACT – NATURALISM

Naturalists believe that there is no God. Naturalists say that matter, what the universe is made of, exists eternally on its own without a creator. Naturalism is closely tied to evolution. Death brings decay. There is no afterlife. There is no purpose and no system of right and wrong except that which humans have created for themselves. Many naturalists try to give life purpose by claiming that humanity is the highest form of evolution.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Before God created the world we know, He created _____.
(The answer is found under *The First Sin*.)
2. In your own words, what was Lucifer's sin?
3. Other worldviews develop when created beings take their eyes off their Creator and _____.
(The answer is found under *The First Sin*.)
4. The word for serpent comes from a Hebrew word meaning _____.
(The answer is found under *Adam and Eve*.)
5. Lucifer convinced Eve that eating the forbidden fruit would make her _____.
(The answer is found under *Adam and Eve*.)
6. True or False. The forbidden fruit tasted bitter and unpleasant.
(The answer is found under *Adam and Eve*.)
7. Why do we sin?
(The answer is found under *What About Now?*)
8. What are the three categories of sin in 1 John 2:16?
(The answer is found under *What About Now?*)
9. Do naturalists believe in life after death?
(The answer is found under the **Fast Fact**.)
10. What example of naturalism have you seen in school, on TV, or in a magazine or book?

Parent's Guide

God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – What It Is
 Lesson 4: **God's Answers**

Memory Verses: **Colossians 3:1-2**

IN A NUTSHELL

I can still view
 the world
 God's way in
 spite of sin.

SUMMARY

We discover God's worldview in a sinful world by listening to what God is telling us in the Bible. The first lesson is that God made you by His Word – Jesus Christ (John 1:3).

Next, we are here to do the following:

- To know God
- To love God (1 John 4:19)
- To glorify God (Romans 15:6)
- To serve others as a service to God (1 Peter 4:9-10)

We need to get to where God wants us to be, and that is with Him in heaven. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you'll be in heaven (1 Peter 1:4). If you haven't, you'll be cast ... *into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15)*. Every person will spend eternity in one of these two places.

God is the Creator of the universe and everything in it, so He is the best source of knowledge about it. God has also given us minds and the ability to seek out information about the universe we live in. You can know and discover knowledge because God has revealed Himself to us in a number of ways:

- Creation (Romans 1:20)
- Our consciences (Romans 2:15)
- The Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)
- The person of God's Son, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:16)

Human nature is sinful because Adam and Eve made a choice to disobey God. They brought sin into God's once-perfect world, and their sin is passed from Adam to every man – except for Jesus, who did not have a human father.

Everything that agrees with God's character is right. Everything that is opposed to God's character is wrong (James 1:17). Everything you do and every choice you make needs to be made with the Lord as part of the equation (Colossians 3:1-2, 3:23).



THE NEXT STEP

- Does your teenager have a good study Bible that has plenty of space where she can take notes? If not, get one for her.
- Christian teenagers can sometimes go into a mild state of shock when someone in the world treats them poorly. Remind them that this is a natural outcome of sin. It is so rare for people to be kind or good that its opposite can help to identify Christians (Matthew 5:16). Encourage your teenager to pray for love toward others, and that they will be an example – especially when that other driver takes your parking space.

FAST FACT – NIHILISM

Nihilism is the next logical step of naturalism. Nihilists realize that if we're here by accident, there can be no purpose. Everything in the world is a series of mistakes that amount to nothing. The ultimate end of this thinking is that nothing and nobody has any meaning. The result is that nihilists are filled with cynicism and despair, viewing the world without hope or joy.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. The way to discover God's worldview is by _____, and the way to do that is to _____.
(The answer is found under How Do We Discover God's Worldview in a Sinful World?)
2. The only way God is giving us information today is _____.
(The answer is found under How Do We Discover God's Worldview in a Sinful World?)
3. Fill in the blanks. So God created man in His own _____, in the _____ of God created He him; male and female created He them (Genesis 1:27).
(The answer is found under Where Did You Come From?)
4. True or False. If you deny that absolutes exist, you can live without them.
(The answer is found under Do You Live According to Absolutes?)
5. What are four ways we discover knowledge about God?
(The answer is found under What Can You Know and How Do You Discover Knowledge?)
6. God has given us minds and the ability to seek out information about the universe we live in, but we must be sure that _____.
(The answer is found under What Can You Know and How Do You Discover Knowledge?)
7. How does Adam and Eve's sin affect you?
(The answer is found under How Do You Explain Human Nature?)
8. Everything that agrees with God's character is _____. Everything that is opposed to God's character is _____.
(The answer is found under What Is Right and What Is Wrong?)
9. Nihilism is the next logical step after _____.
*(The answer is found under the **Fast Fact**.)*
10. Why is nihilism a sad philosophy?
*(The answer is found under the **Fast Fact**.)*

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God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – How to Get One
 Lesson 5: **The Bible and Prayer**

Memory Verse: **Hebrews 4:12**

IN A NUTSHELL

Prayer keeps
 me focused
 on God.



SUMMARY

Prayer is like a conversation because our relationship with God is supposed to be alive, growing and real. But prayer is only half of the conversation. You need to listen to His Word – the Bible.

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Here are some thoughts on Hebrews 4:12:

- Quick means “alive.” God’s Word is alive.
- The Word is as powerful as the one who speaks it. The Bible is the Word of God, the one who created the world. It couldn’t be more powerful.
- The sword talked about here was short, had sharp edges on both sides and was used to stab up into an opponent’s belly. It went in fast and deep. That’s how God’s Word works.

Prayer can include:

- Praise – worshipping God for who He is
- Thanksgiving – thanking God for what He has done
- Supplication – asking God for what you and others need

Prayer should include a desire for God’s will.

God is with you all the time, and this should have a big impact on your worldview. He will affect how you believe, behave and make your decisions. He loves you, so:

- Talk to Him. Always. About anything.
- Lean on Him.
- Rely on Him (Hebrews 13:5b).

THE NEXT STEP

- You know you can’t be with your Christian teenager always, but God is. Pray that your teenager will have a thriving prayer life. Pray that she’ll spend time reading, thinking about and memorizing Scripture so she can pray well when she doesn’t have a Bible handy.
- Pray with your teenager. Pray about anything. Ask him what he wants and needs prayer for. Go through everyday life praying out loud in his presence. Tell your teenager that you are praying for him as he walks out the door for school or leave him a note as you are going to work. He might not want a hug, or for you to walk by him in the mall, but he can’t stop a prayer.

FAST FACT – EXISTENTIALISM

Existentialism is a reaction to the logical result of nihilism. To create meaning, people developed this philosophy that says that knowledge has somehow taken on meaning of its own. A person's purpose, his meaning in life, is whatever he thinks it is. Existentialists have left themselves free to believe anything they want to – and you can't tell them they are wrong.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Prayer is only half of our conversation with God. What is the other half?
(The answer is found in *Conversations with God*.)
2. The first thing we learn in Hebrews 4:12 is that God's Word is _____.
(The answer is found in *Thoughts on Hebrews 4:12*.)
3. Describe the sword probably referred to in Hebrews 4:12.
(The answer is found in *Thoughts on Hebrews 4:12*.)
4. What are some of the things included in prayer?
(The answer is found in *Thoughts on Hebrews 4:12*.)

Are there others you can think of that weren't mentioned in the lesson?

5. When you pray, you should always begin and be filled with _____.
(The answer is found in *Thoughts on Hebrews 4:12*.)
6. Fill in the blanks. ... *If I ascend up into heaven, _____; if I make my bed in hell, behold, _____* ... (Psalm 139:8).
(The answer is found in *How Does This All Work With Worldview?*)
7. True or False. God wants to hear from you only about the really important areas of life.
(The answer is found in *How Does This All Work With Worldview?*)
8. As you talk to the Lord and lean on Him, you will find that _____.
(The answer is found in *How Does This All Work With Worldview?*)
9. Existentialism is a reaction to the logical result of _____.
(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)
10. Existentialists are free to believe _____.
(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)

Parent's Guide

God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – How to Get One
 Lesson 6: **Love is ...**

Memory Verse: **John 15:17**

IN A NUTSHELL

Christ's
 example of
 love gives
 me a model
 to follow.



SUMMARY

1 Corinthians 13 goes into detail about what love is. God is love and this is how He loves us:

- Love suffers long – God is patient with you.
- Love is kind – His warm, gentle love will receive you any time and every time you reach for it. He is actively seeking the best for you.
- Love does not envy – God always wants the best for us.
- Love does not boast – God is totally focused on us, to the point of dying for us.
- Love is not puffed up – God isn't proud. He's made us the centerpiece of His love. He never looks down on us.
- Love does not behave unseemly – God never acts in a way that is inconsiderate.
- Love does not seek its own – Again, God, in the person of Jesus Christ, lowered Himself out of love.
- Love is not provoked – God does not get angry with us. His anger with sin was poured out on Jesus Christ.
- Love does not think evil – God's love doesn't think poorly of us, even when we are sinners.
- Love does not rejoice in evil – God doesn't get joy from evil, nor does He rejoice when someone suffers because of their evil.
- Love rejoices in the truth – God is the source of truth, and God's love rejoices when we tap into His truth.
- Love bears all things – Nothing we can do can separate us from God's love.
- Love believes all things – God believes the best of you.
- Love hopes all things – God's love wants and expects the best from us and for us now and for all eternity.
- Love endures all things – God's love endured shame, pain, death, hell. For you.
- Love never fails – God never fails in His love.

As you look at the world and at other people, you can relax in God's love and let it overflow to those around you. Love becomes part of your worldview.

THE NEXT STEP

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. What characteristics of God's love have you experienced in your life?
- What characteristics of love do you want to better express to your teenager? Ask God to help you.
- Is there any person that you could encourage your teenager to reach out to in love – perhaps a grandparent, aunt, uncle or a sibling? One rule: Do it without putting a guilt trip on your teenager or don't do it.

FAST FACT – PANTHEISM

Pantheism developed in India and other parts of Asia. There are many forms of Pantheism, but the one we are looking at here is monistic. This type of Pantheist believes in one non-biblical god. Everything, including humans, is considered part of god. The goal is to become “one” with everything else.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager’s Journey manual, anyway; you didn’t expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Does God want you to have 1 Corinthians love for everyone on earth?
(The answer is found at the end of the lesson.)
2. Is that possible? How should you go about accomplishing that?
(The answer is found at the end of the lesson.)
3. How has God suffered long for you?
(The answer is found in the explanation of God’s love for you as it is found in 1 Corinthians 13.)
4. Boasting is focusing on _____.
(The answer is found in the explanation of God’s love for you as it is found in 1 Corinthians 13.)
5. What does it mean to be puffed up?
(The answer is found in the explanation of God’s love for you as it is found in 1 Corinthians 13.)
6. True or False. God thinks poorly of us when we sin.
(The answer is found in the explanation of God’s love for you as it is found in 1 Corinthians 13.)
7. What does the Bible mean when it says *love believes all things*?
(The answer is found in the explanation of God’s love for you as it is found in 1 Corinthians 13.)
8. God knows _____ and He still _____.
(The answer is found in the explanation of God’s love for you as it is found in 1 Corinthians 13.)
9. Pantheists believe that everything is _____.
*(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)*
10. What is the first step in loving everyone in the world?
(The answer is found at the end of the introduction.)

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God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – How to Get One
 Lesson 7: **Church**

Memory Verse: **Hebrews 10:25**

IN A NUTSHELL

Fellowship
 with other
 Christians
 supplies me
 with spiritual
 support.



SUMMARY

Your eyes function better with your body and your body functions better with your eyes.

This is the point the apostle Paul is making to the members of the church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 12:14-17.

Every person who has ever trusted in Jesus Christ is part of the Church (capital C) that is also called the Body of Christ. Locally, when members of the Church get together for worship and teaching, they form a local church (small c).

God's plan for us is that we work as an important part of both the Church and our local church. In the New Testament, we find a lot of information on how the Church and the church are supposed to function.

- In Ephesians 4:12 we see that a variety of spiritual gifts are given to Christians *for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*
- Paul also says we should be taking care of each other's physical needs so that no member of the Body of Christ goes without (Romans 12:13).
- Older Christians should teach younger Christians (Titus 2:4-5).
- We are supposed to support one another emotionally (Romans 12:15).
- We should do whatever it takes to help other Christians exhibit Christlike love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).
- We should never tire of encouraging one another in all aspects of life (Hebrews 10:25).

As you are involved as a member of a Bible-believing church and the Church, you will grow spiritually. No Christian can live a Christ-centered spiritual life by himself or herself.

What does all this have to do with worldview? If you are regularly meeting with and talking with other Christians about spiritual matters, you focus on God.

THE NEXT STEP

- Talk with your teenager about how your local church has helped her grow spiritually. How does youth group help? What about hearing God's Word preached? Does singing with other Christians encourage her? Ask anything like that to get and keep the conversation going.
- Has your teenager been serving at your church? This lesson encourages him to become involved. You can help him do that. What does he like to do? What are his spiritual gifts? Talk to him about it and help him think it through. One more idea is to suggest that the two of you do something together, such as serving on a short-term mission project.

FAST FACT – NEW AGE

- The New Age movement is a combination of naturalism and Pantheism. Its followers believe that humans are evolving to a new level. The result of New Age thinking is that each person becomes his or her own god and creates his or her own reality.
- Scientology, often in the headlines because several famous entertainers follow it, shares many likenesses with the New Age movement. Scientologists believe that man is good and can reach a godlike state.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. When we make the decision to trust Jesus Christ for our salvation, God puts us in a group called _____.
(The answer is found after the introduction and in 1 Corinthians 12:14-17.)
2. The Church is also called _____.
(The answer is found after the explanation of the Church [capital C].)
3. A local church is formed when _____.
(The answer is found after the explanation of the Church [capital C].)
4. True or False. You can't be a Christian if you aren't involved in a local church.
(The answer is found after the explanation of the Church [capital C].)
5. According to Ephesians 4:12, spiritual gifts are given to Christians for _____.
(The answer is found in the verse and explanation for Ephesians 4:12 in the lesson.)
6. Older Christians should teach younger Christians how ... to be _____, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be _____, chaste, keepers at _____, good, obedient to their own husbands ... (Titus 2:4-5).
7. What verse tells us we should never forsake assembling together with other Christians?
8. How will being involved in your local church help give you a biblical worldview?
(The answer is found at the end of the lesson.)
9. The New Age movement is a combination of _____ and _____.
(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)
10. The end result of New Age thinking is that every person becomes his or her own _____.
(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)

Parent's Guide

God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – How to Get One
 Lesson 8: **Wisdom**

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-7**

IN A NUTSHELL

The Lord gives me wisdom to help me make right choices.

SUMMARY

Wisdom is taking the facts that you know, putting them together in a way that makes sense and then using that understanding to improve the lives of those around you.

Biblical wisdom is taking the lessons that God teaches you in the Bible and using them to live according to His will. It's deciding with the help of the Holy Spirit and with the purpose of glorifying God. Wisdom is having a biblical worldview – answering the important questions in life from the Bible. There are steps to having biblical wisdom.

- Step One – Read the Bible (Proverbs 2:6-7).
- Step Two – Fear the Lord (Proverbs 1:7). This means to understand who He is and to live your life because of that understanding.
- Step Three – Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-7). Focus on God and listen to what He says.
- Step Four – Be patient. You can't know everything (Romans 11:33). But God knows exactly what you need to know.
- Step Five – Ask for wisdom from God (James 1:5).
- Step Six – Don't rely on the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 3:19).
- Step Seven – Read the Bible (Psalm 119:11).
- Step Eight – Read the Bible (1 Timothy 4:13, 15).
- Step Nine – Read the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

To have a biblical worldview, you have to rely on God's wisdom as revealed by His Spirit through His Word – not on philosophies and religions developed by humans who thought their own intellect and wisdom could explain the world and save them, like the ones you've been reading about in the **Fast Facts**.

THE NEXT STEP

- Ask your teenager if she knows a verse that applies to something that your family is dealing with. For example, college tuition is high, but your teenager wants to go. You and your spouse have been saving. You want her to get a good education. Now it's time figure out how the family can make this happen. Give her a chance to put biblical wisdom to the test.
- Do you have any church acquaintances, family members or close friends that have a mature relationship with the Lord? Ask them to pray for your teenager. A parent of a teenager needs all the godly help he or she can get.



FAST FACT – POSTMODERNISM

Postmodernists believe that nobody can know anything because to know something, you must know it 100 percent. There are no rules, because rules are the result of values, and values are up to each person to decide for himself or herself. Each culture, and even each person, is free to build its own morals and its own reality.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Define wisdom. Give an example of someone you've seen using wisdom.
(The first part of the answer is in the introduction.)
2. Define biblical wisdom. Give an example of someone you've seen using biblical wisdom.
(The first part of the answer is in the introduction.)
3. Where do we find God's wisdom?
(The answer is at the end of the introduction and in Steps One, Seven, Eight and Nine.)
4. The beginning of knowledge is _____.
(The answer is found in Step Two and Proverbs 1:7.)
5. *Trust in the LORD with _____; and lean not unto thine own _____ ... (Proverbs 3:5).*
6. True or False. Even if we study the Bible all day, every day, we can never understand everything about God.
(The answer is found in Step Four and Romans 11:33.)
7. The wisdom of this world is _____.
(The answer is found in Step Five and James 1:5.)
8. What one thing is true about every worldview except a biblical worldview?
(The answer is found at the end of the lesson.)
9. How has modernism influenced people in your town, your school or your country? (Look for people who live by, teach or talk about ideas that result from the philosophy.)
10. How has postmodernism influenced people in your town, your school or your country?

Parent's Guide

God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – How it Plays Out in Life
 Lesson 9: **Tolerance for Religions**

Memory Verse: **John 14:6**

IN A NUTSHELL

I should love others but resist their nonbiblical worldviews.



SUMMARY

All religions are the result of humans trying to find God, and they have all left humans separated from God. The Christianity the Bible proclaims isn't a result of humans trying to find God – it is God revealing Himself to humans. That makes all the difference.

Many people don't want to hear what the God of the Bible has to say because they don't want to hear that they are sinners responsible to a God of justice. It doesn't fit in with their worldview.

So how should you respond when someone says it doesn't matter what you believe? Or that we should be tolerant of others' views because we're all trying to find the same thing? Or since all religions preach love and goodwill, they're all equally valid?

The biblical response is that these speakers are wrong. There is just one way to God, and that is Jesus (John 14:6).

Your view won't be popular. People will tell you that you have no right to say your view is the only right one. But those people need to understand some things:

- This view is first and foremost God's view.
- God (the one and only true God) is a God of justice.
- Sin has a penalty – death. God can't be unjust, so everyone who has sinned (which is everyone who has lived) has to pay the penalty.
- There are only two ways to do this: eternal separation from God or faith that Christ's death paid the penalty.

People may not like the absolutes you insist on, but an absolute is an absolute and every one of us will have to deal with them.

You can't be tolerant of nonbiblical views because nonbiblical views send people to hell. The way of the Bible is God's way, and God's way is the only way. When you disagree with someone, do it in a kind way, with love and understanding (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

THE NEXT STEP

- Role play with your teenager. Act like someone who holds to any one of the worldviews already mentioned in your teenager's book. She needs to tell you respectfully why her biblical worldview is right and your view is wrong.
- Islam is growing in the West. Pray with your teenager for any Muslims that you two may personally know. If you know a missionary who works with Muslims, pray for them – they need it.

FAST FACT – ISLAM

Islam is a religion founded by Muhammad about 600 years after Christ. Muhammad claimed that Jesus is not God, that He is only a prophet and that the Koran supersedes the Bible.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Why is it not surprising that most people have a sense of God?
(The answer is found near the end of the introduction.)
2. Define religion.
*(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)*
3. How is Christianity different from religions?
(The answer is found in the paragraph that discusses people lumping Christianity in with other religions.)
4. Why do many people not want to hear what the Bible has to say?
(The answer is found in the paragraph that says, "Many people don't want to hear what the God of the Bible has to say.")
5. True or False. It doesn't matter what you believe about God, as long as you believe something.
(The answer is found toward the end of the lesson.)
6. What is the one way to God?
(The answer is found in John 14:6.)
7. Why can't God let people into heaven without taking their sins into account?
(The answer is under the section that discusses what people need to understand.)
8. Why shouldn't you be tolerant of nonbiblical worldviews?
(The answer is found at the end of the lesson.)
9. Who did Muhammad claim that Jesus was?
*(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)*
10. What are the five pillars of Islam?
*(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)*

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God-Colored Glasses
Developing a Biblical Worldview

A Biblical Worldview – How It Plays Out in Life
 Lesson 10: **All You Need Is Love**

Memory Verse: **John 15:13**

IN A NUTSHELL

Christ's love determines my choices on moral issues.

SUMMARY

Love is a deliberate decision to care about and care for another person. The ultimate expression of unselfish love has to be when a person loves so much that he or she would be willing to die if dying was in the best interest of the loved one.

The Bible talks about this kind of love: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).*

God's love is so far above our love because Jesus died for us when we were sinners (Romans 5:8).

Here are some other aspects of God's love.

- As you learned in Lesson 2, God IS love.
- God created us in His image.
- Also from Lesson 2, you learned that God created a perfect world for us to live in.
- Because of love, Jesus suffered death and pain and humiliation for us.

When you hear Christians (and others) talk about what is wrong with abortion, you frequently hear the term "sanctity of human life." Taking a life by abortion is a violation of God's purpose and a lessening of the importance of human life.

The highest form of love is sacrificial love, where a person is willing to die for the best interest of another. Abortion is the result of a person focusing all her (and his, when fathers are involved in the decision) attention on her own needs instead of focusing on God's design for life.



THE NEXT STEP

- Talk with your teenager about the miracle of life. If you can, take her to the maternity ward where she was born or visit a nearby hospital maternity ward. (Call first to make sure this is allowed.) Volunteer with her in your church nursery for one Sunday. If she isn't up for nursery duty, try the toddler room (this holds true if your son isn't ready for nursery duty yet either). Then take her out to eat and have a discussion about abortion. Ask open-ended questions. You don't have to lay out your opinion. Your groundwork at the maternity ward, the nursery or toddler room will be huge hints about your viewpoint that she is not going to miss.
- Talk about this analogy with your teenager. A man's son dies to save his two friends from certain death in a blazing car crash. One friend honors the man's son every chance he gets, and he thanks the man's father often for raising such a brave, compassionate son. The other friend goes on and lives his life as if the man's son did nothing for him. How is that similar to how people treat God and Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross?

FAST FACT – MORMONISM

Mormonism was created by an American named Joseph Smith. He claimed he was visited by an angel named Moroni who told him where a set of golden tablets were hidden. Smith translated them into The Book of Mormon.

Mormons base their religion on their scriptures, which include the Bible, The Book of Mormon and two other books. The most important is The Book of Mormon.

Mormons believe that God was once a man and that He has a wife. They believe that Jesus is a separate God, a child of God the Father and His wife. His death and resurrection don't provide salvation. Salvation is achieved solely through good works. Mormonism contradicts the Bible in many ways. It bases its truth on the word of a man, Joseph Smith, instead of focusing on God.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Love is a deliberate decision to _____.
(The answer is in the introduction.)
2. Love is finding out what will be the _____ for that other person, then doing everything in your power to give that person that _____.
(The answer is in the introduction.)
3. What is the ultimate expression of unselfish love?
(The answer is in the introduction.)
4. Why is God's love so much greater than our love?
(The answer is in the introduction and Romans 5:8.)
5. God created us to love us and _____.
(The answer is under the section about other aspects of God's love.)
6. What does it mean to be created in God's image?
(The answer is under the paragraph that begins, "God created us in His image.")
7. What does "sanctity of human life" mean?
(The answer is under A Startling Contrast.)
8. Abortion violates God's character of love because _____.

(The answer is under A Startling Contrast.)
9. Mormonism was created and founded by _____.
(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)
10. How does Mormon teaching on God and Jesus Christ differ from what the Bible teaches.
(The answer is found in the **Fast Fact**.)

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A Biblical Worldview – How It Plays Out in Life
 Lesson 11: **Holiness and Purity**

Memory Verses: **1 Peter 1:15, 18-19**

IN A NUTSHELL

God's holiness
 is my model
 for purity.



SUMMARY

True purity, 100 percent without defect or blemish, only exists in the person of God. God is the standard measurement of holiness. Because of sin, none of us measures up. None of us are holy. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*

When holy is used of God, it means:

- Sinless
- Righteous
- Majestic and powerful
- Worthy of worship and praise

So why does God say: ... *"Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16)?*

When used of us, it means:

Set apart from sin and to a special use by God
 Meeting all of God's requirements

God doesn't expect sinless purity from us. But He does expect us to be obedient and put aside behaviors and thoughts that are sinful. He wants us to take the focus off ourselves and put it on Him.

What does purity look like on this earth? Colossians 3:5 gives us a list: *Mortify* [put to death] *therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication* [sex outside of marriage], *uncleanness* [physical or moral impurity], *inordinate affection* [uncontrolled passion], *evil concupiscence* [desire for what is forbidden], *and covetousness* [greediness], *which is idolatry.*

Satan, with the full cooperation of our own old, sinful natures, makes impurity look very exciting. But there will always be consequences because impurity is a violation of God's character.

How does this play out in real life? You can examine one thing almost all of you come in contact with every day – television. Television is filled with shows about people that you would cross the street to avoid in real life, but who come into your family room when you watch TV without exercising discretion.

You need to view TV, movies and music with a Christian worldview. The world has an agenda, and it isn't a biblical worldview.

THE NEXT STEP

- As a parent who has a teenager living in a technology-saturated culture, you might feel like you don't have much control over what your teenager does with all of that technology, but that's not true. You have the parental right to set up good, safe boundaries for your teenager. Help him. Buy an Internet filter for all your computers. Don't let him be tempted by websites he shouldn't be seeing.
- Know who your teenager is chatting with and instant messaging. Does she have a Web page or a blog? Read it regularly and tell her you are doing so. What is she viewing on her video iPod®? Make sure she gets her music, TV shows and movies legally.
- Learn about the gadgets that your teenager loves. Let him teach you – that will give him a thrill!

FAST FACT – CATHOLICISM

Catholics believe many things Christians believe. But the Catholic church also has many beliefs that are contrary to Bible teaching:

- The church and its leaders determine what the Bible says, and Catholics must agree and obey the leaders.
- They believe Jesus' mother Mary did not sin, and that she's in heaven operating as the Mother of the Church. Catholics pray to Mary for help and guidance.
- The Catholic church has seven sacraments, or ways of receiving God's grace: baptism for salvation (including infant baptism), confirmation, communion, penance (doing good deeds to make up for sins), holy orders (priests), marriage and extreme unction (anointing of sick).
- Salvation doesn't happen all at once; it is worked toward and can be lost if a person commits certain mortal sins.

Catholics can be Christians if they put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation. But if they believe all that the Catholic church teaches, they will not understand their eternal security or God's grace.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. One hundred percent purity only exists _____.
(The answer is in the introduction.)
2. Holiness and purity are what they are because _____.
(The answer is in the introduction.)
3. None of us measures up to God's standard of holiness because of _____.
(The answer is in Romans 3:23.)
4. What does the word *holy* mean when we are speaking of God?
(The answer is in the bulleted section of the lesson that discusses God's holiness.)
5. What does *holy* mean when we are speaking of ourselves?
(The answer is in the bulleted section of the lesson that discusses our holiness.)
6. True or False. God expects sinless purity from us.
(The answer is after the bulleted section of the lesson that discusses our holiness.)
7. What does God expect from us?
(The answer is after the bulleted section of the lesson that discusses our holiness.)
8. Peter says that a Christian returning to sin is like _____.

(The answer is in 2 Peter 2:22.)
9. Catholics believe that the _____ and _____ are as important as the Bible.
(The answer is in the **Fast Fact**.)
10. What do Catholics believe about salvation?
(The answer is in the **Fast Fact**.)

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A Biblical Worldview – How It Plays Out in Life
 Lesson 12: **Honesty**

Memory Verses: **Leviticus 19:11-13**

IN A NUTSHELL

Integrity is important in every area of my life.

SUMMARY

Why is integrity important? Why is it wrong to be a little dishonest once in a while if the situation seems to call for it?

Because God IS truth. Truth is what He is. Titus 1:2 tells us that God cannot lie. If He promises something, He will do it. Because integrity is part of God's nature, He wrote it into His law (Leviticus 19:11-13).

There are reasons honesty is so important. Eight points about honesty come from Josh McDowell's book *Right from Wrong* (1994, Word Publishing) in a chapter titled "What's the Truth About Honesty?"

- God's standards of honesty protect from guilt.
- God's standards of honesty provide a clear conscience and an unbroken relationship with God.
- God's standards of honesty protect from shame.
- God's standards of honesty provide a sense of accomplishment that the dishonest heart will never enjoy.
- God's standards of honesty protect from entrapment in a cycle of deceit.
- God's standards of honesty provide a reputation for integrity.
- God's standards of honesty protect from ruined relationships.
- God's standards of honesty provide for trust in relationships.

THE NEXT STEP

- Take your teenager out for a meal (breakfast is always a fun choice). Who can resist waffles or an omelet? What has your teenager learned about God in this study? What has he learned about himself? Does he feel ready to look at the world through God-colored glasses?
- As you see your teenager applying a biblical worldview to life, praise him. He'll be glad to hear that you are pleased that he is trying to live a godly life.



FAST FACT

Three excellent Christian books on worldviews are:

- *The Universe Next Door*, by James W. Sire (fourth edition, 2004, InterVarsity Press). Sire explains the basics of Christian theism, deism, naturalism and other philosophies in detail.
- *The Truth About Worldviews*, by James P. Eckman (2004, Crossway Books). Eckman gives concise overviews of major worldviews and religions.
- *Right from Wrong*, by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler (1994, Word Publishing). McDowell covers worldview from a more practical standpoint and focuses on teenagers and the choices they make.

REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. In your own words, how would an average day for you be different if everyone could be trusted all the time?
2. Why is integrity important?
(The answer is found in the section about Leviticus 19:11-13.)
3. Because integrity is part of God's nature, He wrote it into _____.
(The answer is found in the section about Leviticus 19:11-13.)
4. True or False. Christians don't cheat or lie anywhere near as often as unsaved teenagers.
(The answer is found after the section about Leviticus 19:11-13.)
5. List four things that God's standards of honesty protect you from.
(The answer is found in the eight bold points from Josh McDowell's book Right From Wrong.)
6. List four things that God's standards of honesty provide you with.
(The answer is found in the eight bold points from Josh McDowell's book Right From Wrong.)
7. What one thing you've learned about a biblical worldview made the largest impact on you?
8. What is one thing you plan on doing differently by looking at it with a biblical worldview?
9. What person in your life do you understand better now that you've considered various worldviews?
10. Look back at Lesson 1. You listed several things that you associate yourself with. Have any of your answers changed now that you've completed these lessons? How and why?