

re:View Worldview Study **Topic 06x – Theism Extended Session**

(To teach this session you will need: student handouts, this leader's guide, some items for the "Discussion" and "Activity," and The Passion of the Christ DVD. You may also wish to use "reView_06x_VerseSlides.ppt" for the verses.)

*NOTE: If you're teaching the abbreviated 7-session series, you will skip this session.
If you're teaching the extended 13-session series, this is Session 11.*

Extended Session Overview

This week we will go into detail into a specific sub-category of Theism: Christianity. This can be defined as *Christus Nexus* (Christ is the center, and Christianity is following the person of Christ). The main point is to describe the person of Christ and then begin to fill in some of the gaps of how Theism (and specifically Christianity) answers the ultimate questions.

Suggested Session Layout

Introduction [3:00]

Discussion [15:00]

Activity [15:00]

Challenge [5:00]

Total session time [35-40 mins.]

Introduction [3:00]

Quickly review the three worldviews learned – Naturalism, Transcendentalism, and Theism. Review the four ultimate questions – Origins, Meaning, Morality, and Destiny. You may choose to skip over these if you feel your students have completely grasped the concepts.

Discussion [15:00]

For this discussion you will need a couple different elements.

- 1) Raid the Sunday school closet and find a flannel graph of Jesus.
- 2) Go online and download some "funny" pictures of Jesus. A Google image search is usually pretty successful, and www.jesusofoftheweek.com tends to have good material as well (some rather humorous, but please use discretion). You're looking for pictures of Jesus that don't necessarily portray Him as much as the following example.
- 3) *The Passion of the Christ* DVD (be prepared to show the trailer)

Start off by showing the flannel graph (or pictures of a flannel graph) to your students. Ask "Remember these pictures of Jesus?" If they were aliens from space and just encountered these for the first time, what would they think of Jesus?

Next, show them some of the pictures you've downloaded from online. Ask the students the same thing. "What do these pictures teach you about Jesus?" (You can show several here, as long as they are interesting or funny and keep their interest.)

Discussion (cont.)

Play the trailer for *The Passion of the Christ*. Ask, “How does this clip teach us about Jesus?”

Discuss the three elements you’ve just shown them (flannel graph, online pictures, and trailer). Ask, “Which of these portrayals of Jesus would the disciples most likely recognize as the ‘correct’ one?”

There aren’t right or wrong answers here. Point out that the key distinction of the Christian worldview from all other worldviews is the person of Jesus Christ. To know and fully understand Christianity, we must first understand Jesus.

Activity [15:00]

Before you talk any more specifically about Christ, explain that we’ve been building onto the chart that we have used throughout the study (using the four ultimate questions to describe Naturalism, Transcendentalism and now Theism).

You have two options for activities with your students:

- 1) You can have your students review how each of the worldviews answers the ultimate questions. (*reView_06x_Handout_TheismQuestions.pdf*). Most of this activity will be a review for your students, but the last section that deals with *Christus Nexus* will be new material. Have them fill in as much as they can, and then contrast Christian Theism with the other worldviews.
- 2) Depending upon time or interest you can make this review an activity game between the whole group (guys vs. girls, or freshmen/sophomore vs. junior/senior).

The small group with handout is probably the best learning activity but will take the most time. Both the “small” and “whole” group activities are described below.

SMALL GROUP:

As an extra motivation to help make the activity more fun, place some prizes (assorted candies will always do the trick) in paper bags at the front of class and offer them for first done, the best answers for Christianity, etc.

WHOLE GROUP:

You will split the group into two teams and keep a tally on the whiteboard. Each side functions as a team, with one spokesperson who answers for the team. If one team misses the question, the other team can steal the point by answering correctly. As the game progresses, alternate questions between the teams. Scoring can be done like this: one point for a right answer and two points for a steal. You can make the questions be the red text on the chart, or you can review some of the past discussion questions (depending on time and interest). Use the prizes for motivation and interest if you feel that will help your group. Remember to end with Theism and more specifically Christianity (since that is the point of the activity).

Activity (cont.)

Ultimate Questions	Origins	Meaning	Morality	Destiny
Naturalism	Natural means	Accidental None	We decide right and wrong	None No judgment
Transcendentalism	Universe has always existed	Recognizing our own divinity and acknowledging the divinity of everything else	Finding peace and oneness	Numerous incarnations towards a path of total enlightenment.
Theism	God created everything.	Comes from living in relationship to God.	God decides what is right and what is wrong.	God will judge the world.
Christianity (Christus Nexus)	Jesus spoke the world into existence. (John 1:1-3)	Jesus is how we have a relationship with God. (Col. 2:6-10)	Jesus is our pattern for living. (1 John 2:6)	Jesus will judge believers and the rest of the world. (2 Cor. 5:10)

Note: Below is a short exposition for each passage in the chart above.

- **Origins:** John 1:1-3. In Genesis 1 we learn that God created the world in six days; in John 1:1-3 we learn that it was specifically Jesus who spoke the world into existence, saying, “Let there be light,” for example! Imagine that when He said, “I am the light of the world,” it was true on so many levels (John 8:12). Other references (Colossians 1:16) also teach the same thing.
- **Meaning:** Colossians 2:6-10 warns those who would look for meaning in anything except Christ. It speaks about not being taken captive by false philosophies and empty deceit (alternative worldviews easily come to mind here) but to learn from Christ, in whom wisdom and meaning is found. John 14:6 (Jesus is only way to have a relationship with God) may also be useful here.
- **Morality:** 1 John 2:6 is a clear statement that Jesus not only redeems us from sin, but also provides a model for how we ought to live. The passage can easily be expanded by following the context of the verse to the call to love one’s brothers and sisters as a specific example of the morality of those who would follow Jesus.
- **Destiny:** 2 Corinthians 5:10. This is a specific reference to Jesus’ evaluation of the lives of Christians, but he will also judge the entire world. References are numerous (Acts 17:31; John 5:22; Revelation 19:15).

Challenge [5:00]

Review the silly pictures of Jesus and say, “Some of these pictures are silly and downright wrong in their portrayal of Jesus.” Mention that unsaved friends probably don’t see these pictures, and most have definitely not seen *The Passion of the Christ*. Stress that the only Jesus they may ever see is them. (1 John 2:6).

Say, “So the challenge is this: Is your portrayal of Jesus silly, wrong, or would the disciples recognize your life as the correct one?”

Pray and then dismiss everyone.

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