

VIEW • POINTS



**Looking at How You
Look at the World**

Why This Study?

“The book of Daniel tells us that Nebuchadnezzar failed in his attempt to turn Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, but we can assume that many other Israelite youths were turned into idol worshippers. That’s the way it always is... a battle for worldviews with the next generation as the prize.”



“A Biblical worldview gives us a clear look at reality. When we move away from that clear view, we are like children increasingly smudging a window with dirty fingerprints and then looking outside. First the colors become duller. Then the shapes begin to alter. As the dirt gets thicker, the light is progressively shut out. It becomes harder to say with accuracy what is happening out there. If this process takes place gradually, we might hardly notice what is happening but increasingly we are cut off from reality... To the extent that our worldview departs from God’s message to us, our perceptions are distorted.”

Herbert Schlossberg
Marvin Olasky

**Turning Point:
A Christian Worldview Declaration**



© 1992 Tobey Brockman, Linda Davis, Travis Stewart, Bob Walz · Edited by: Bob Walz
Revision: © 1996 Tobey Brockman, Bob Walz

How This Study Is Organized:

Each study will be organized in four sections:



GodViews

- What does God say about this topic in the Word?
- What in the character of God relates to this topic?



CrossViews

- What did Jesus do and say about this topic?
- What does Jesus command us to do as His followers in this area?



LifeViews

- How do the viewpoints of God in Scripture (GodViews) and as seen through the life of Christ (CrossViews) affect how I live my life?
- What everyday things will be different if I choose to live with these viewpoints?



InterViews

- What do others think who haven't chosen to live with a Christ-centered worldview?
(This information will be obtained by interviewing a friend each week. Pick one or a few of the questions listed in this section. You can interview the same person each week or you can interview different people. You could approach the person with a question like this, "I'm involved in a discussion group that is looking at various philosophies of life and part of our assignment is to get other's opinions on different subjects. I was wondering if I could get your opinion?" Make sure you are a good listener.)

Table of Contents

Page Number

4 **What is a World view?**
..... **Eternal Points**

5 **1. Creation**
 • Where did the universe come from? Do the Bible and science contradict?

6 **2. God**
 • Is there a God? If so, what is He like? How do we understand Him?

7 **3. Truth**
 • Is it possible to know the truth about ourselves and the universe? Is there anything more than the physical world?

8 **4. The Bible**
 • Why should I look to the Bible as a source of truth to answer life's ultimate questions?

9 **5. Eternity**
 • Is this life all there is? What happens after I die? Is there life after death?

..... **Personal Points**

10 **6. Individuality**
 • Who or what am I?

11 **7. Meaning**
 • What's the point of it all?

12 **8. Pain**
 • Why is there suffering? Is there any reason to fight injustice?

13 **9. Hope**
 • What hope is there for the human race?

14 **10. Values**
 • How am I to make moral choices?

..... **Relational Points**

15 **11. Relationships**
 • What is love and where can it be found?

16 **12. Forgiveness**
 • How can I deal with those who have hurt me?

17 **13. Vision**
 • What should I be giving my life to?

What is a Worldview?



“A world-view is a conceptual scheme by which we consciously or unconsciously place or fit everything we believe and by which we interpret and judge reality.”

Ronald H. Nash
Faith & Reason

“It can be argued on the basis of facts concerning the nature of man and conditions of human life that human beings have a deep-seated need to form some general picture of the total universe in which they live, in order to be able to relate their own fragmentary activities to the universe as a whole in a way meaningful to them; and that a life in which this is not carried through is a life impoverished in a most significant respect.”

W.P. Alston
*Problems of Philosophy
of Religion,
Encyclopedia of Philosophy*



Naturalism

This worldview is the predominant worldview in the Western world today and Christianity’s main competition. Its basic presupposition is: “Nothing exists outside the material, non-purposeful, natural order.”

Christian Theism

This is the Christian or biblical worldview and is formed from an analysis of the Scriptures and their validity in explaining reality. Its basic presupposition is: “Human beings and the universe in which they reside are the creation of the God who has revealed Himself in Scripture.”



Five Areas a Worldview Must Address:

- **Theology:** *the study of God*
Does God exist? What is God’s nature or character? Is there more than one God?
- **Metaphysics:** *beliefs about ultimate reality*
Where did the universe come from? Why is there something rather than nothing? Is there a purpose in the universe? Is the universe eternal?
- **Epistemology:** *a theory of knowledge*
Can I know anything? How do I know what I know? What do I know? Is truth relative or must truth be the same for all rational beings?
- **Ethics:** *moral judgments*
Why is an action right or wrong? Do objective moral values exist?
- **Anthropology:** *the study of humankind*
What does it mean to be human? Do humans make free choices or are they determined? Does physical death end human existence?

An Application:

- Consider Naturalism and Christian Theism as stated above, what does each of them as a worldview say about the five areas a worldview must address?

Creation

“A sound explanation may exist for the explosive birth of our Universe, but if it does, science cannot find out what the explanation is. The scientist’s pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation. This is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible. In the beginning, God created heaven and earth...At this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of creation. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Robert Jastrow
founder and director
NASA’s Goddard Institute
for Space Studies



GodViews

- Why does something exist instead of nothing? Ever ponder that question? Either the universe is eternal or it came from an eternal source (assuming it’s not an illusion)! No other options are available. The Bible presents a clear and definite answer to this question.
- Define the following:

eternal	material	creation
infinite	immaterial	creature
finite	universe	chance
- Record insights about God and the universe from the following passages.

Genesis 1	Psalms 33:6-9	Acts 17:24-28
II Timothy 1:9	Titus 1:2	
- In Genesis 1 the Hebrew words *BARA* (create- in verses 1,21 & 27) and *ASAH* (make or made- in verses 7, 16, 26 & 31). *BARA* means: bring forth something that is radically new; produce that which is new, extraordinary, and/or epochal; produce through supernatural activity
ASAH means: produce, manufacture, fabricate
What do you think is significant about these words?



CrossViews

- What role did Jesus have in the creation?

John 1:1-3	Colossians 1:15-17	Hebrews 1:1-3
------------	--------------------	---------------
- What did Jesus say in regard to creation?

Mark 13:19	Mark 10:6	Mark 13:31
------------	-----------	------------



LifeViews

- What should be our response to the Creator?

Revelation 4:11	Revelation 5:9-14	I Corinthians 8:6
Colossians 3:9,10		



InterViews

- In your opinion where did the universe come from? What do you base your opinion on?
- Do you believe that science and the Bible contradict each other? Based on your answer, how does that affect your view of the Bible?
- If God created the universe and human beings how would you describe your responsibility and relationship to God?

God

“...I hold the view that all philosophizing on life’s purpose is ultimately founded upon two fundamental assumptions and conclusions. The first is, ‘Does God exist?’ and the second, ‘If God exists what is His character and nature?’ The questions are impossible to ignore, and even if they are not dealt with formally, their implications filter down into everyday life. It is out of one’s belief or disbelief about God that all other convictions are formed.”

Ravi Zacharias
Can Man Live Without God?

“History is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy. The reason why it can never succeed is this. God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about Him. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself. There is no such thing.”

-C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity



GodViews

- Many people claim that God is some kind of impersonal energy or force. From the following passages record your observations that distinguish God as having a personality.
Genesis 1:1 Genesis 6:5-6 Isaiah 40:10-11
John 3:16 Romans 8:28-29 Ephesians 1:4;4:30
- Several world religions claim that there are many gods (even millions of different ones). Record your observations about what the Bible teaches about God.
Deuteronomy 6:4 Isaiah 44:6 I Corinthians 8:4-6
James 2:19 Genesis 1:26 Genesis 11:5-7
Isaiah 6:8 Matthew 3:16-17 Matthew 28:19
I Corinthians 2:12
- Read Romans 1:18-23 & Psalm 19:1-4. Can anyone ever stand before God and claim that they never had enough information about Him? Why or why not?
- Record observations on the character or nature of God.
Genesis 1:1 Exodus 15:11 Malachi 3:6
I Timothy 6:16 Isaiah 6:3 Psalm 90:8
Psalm 147:5 I Chron 29:11-13 II Chron 20:6
Psalm 145:15-16 Deuteronomy 7:9 Lam 3:22,23



CrossViews

- What claims did Jesus make concerning Himself?
Mark 2:4-12 John 4:25-26 John 5:19-27
John 10:30 John 14:6 John 17:5,24
- What claims were made by Jesus’ contemporaries?
Matthew 14:32-33 Matthew 16:13-17 John 1:1-3
John 1:14-18 John 20:28 Colossians 1:15-19



LifeViews

- Read Proverbs 3:5-7. How do you do these things as you live out daily life?
 - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart”
 - “Lean not on your own understanding”
 - “In all your ways acknowledge Him”
 - “Do not be wise in your own eyes”
 - “Fear the Lord ”
 - “Shun evil.”



InterViews

- In your opinion does God exist? Why or why not?
- Do you believe that all world religions are valid paths to God? Why or why not?
- Who do you believe Jesus Christ is? Does Jesus have any relevance to life?

Truth

“In all my contacts with the nonChristian world, I have noticed again and again their amazement at the face-to-face fact that for us the truth is not an idea, a theory, or a dogma, but the truth is a Person.... We don't often see the importance of this, but nonChristians see this as the remarkable, unique thing about Christianity.”

-Jacques Ellul



GodViews

- What observations can you make concerning the relationship between someone's character and truth?
Joshua 21:43-45 Numbers 23:19
- Does God present to His people any source of absolute truth? What is it?
Isaiah 45:18-25
What is your reaction to this?
- Through what different avenues does God present this truth?
Psalm 19 Psalm 119:30-32 John 14:6, 17
John 15:26



CrossViews

- How did Jesus view Himself concerning the truth?
John 1:14 John 14:6
- How did Jesus confront people who were being untruthful?
Matthew 23:23-32
Does this fit your idea of how Jesus acted? Why or why not? Why do you believe he acted in this way?
- If you have a concordance, how many times does Jesus use the phrase, “Truly, truly” or “I tell you the truth”. What does this tell you about Jesus?



LifeViews

- In John 8:32 Jesus says, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” How can the truth set you free? Have you ever experienced this? If so, how?
- Complete the following “If...then” statements in your own words.
 - 1.) If God is creator, then...
 - 2.) If God is knowable, then...
 - 3.) If Jesus is God, then...
 - 4.) If sin separates me from God, then...
 - 5.) If absolute truth exists, then...
- From your study, write other “If...then” statements.



InterViews

- Does absolute truth exist in any arena of life? If so, who or what defines it? Can something, such as a belief system or religion, be true for one person and not another? If so, is this actually truth?
- How do you define truth?
- What percentage of what you are taught by your textbooks and professors do you believe is actually true? What about the media?
- Do you govern your life by any set of truths?

The Bible

“The fate of the Bible is the fate of Christianity and even of civilization itself. If the world neglects or evangelicals forsake this Book, the end result is society’s inevitable theological, spiritual and moral suicide. No text in the history of thought has so transformed human life as has this inspired book... Apart from the Bible no firm reply exists against the rampant unbelief and strident skepticism of our age, no sure way around the contorted detours of modern culture, no lasting alternative to the extraordinary evils that plague our generation.”

-Carl F.H. Henry



GodViews

- How has God made Himself known?
Amos 3:7 Hebrews 1:1,2 I Corinthians 2:9,10
- What has God done to communicate His word to us?
II Timothy 3:16 II Peter 1:20,21
- If we did not have the Bible what would we know about God?
Psalm 19:1 Romans 1:20



CrossViews

- What accounts in the Old Testament does Jesus confirm?
Luke 11:51 Matthew 19:4-5 Matthew 24:37-39
Luke 10:12 Matthew 12:39-41
- Look at the following passages. What did Jesus believe about the Scriptures?
Matthew 4:4 Matthew 5:17-20 Matthew 22:29
Luke 16:17 John 10:35 John 17:17
- How does Jesus confirm the New Testament before it was written?
John 14:25,26 John 16:13
- If Jesus believed that the Scriptures were true and it could be proven that they were not what would that say about Jesus?



LifeViews

- What is the relationship between the Word of God and Jesus?

Word of God	Jesus
Psalm 119:89	John 1:1
II Timothy 3:16	Luke 1:35
John 17:17	Hebrews 4:15
Luke 24:27	Matthew 5:17,18
- Read Psalm 119
Choose five characteristics of God’s Word and five benefits that are meaningful to you. How are we to respond to the Word?
- If the Bible is God’s word then we should respond to the authority of the Bible in the same way we respond to the authority of God Himself. Do you agree or disagree? Why?



InterViews

- Have you ever read any of the Bible?
- When was the last time you read the Bible?
- What do you remember most about what you’ve read?
- Do you believe that God speaks in a unique way through the Bible as opposed to other religious writings? Why or why not?
- Do you believe the Bible represents absolute truth? Why or why not?

Eternity

“If individuals live only seventy years, then a state, or a nation, or a civilization, which may last for a thousand years, is more important than any individual. But if Christianity is true, then the individual is not only more important but incomparably more important, for he is everlasting and the life of a state or a civilization, compared with his, is only a moment.”

-C.S. Lewis



GodViews

- How is God described in these verses?
Genesis 21:33 Deuteronomy 33:27 Isaiah 40:28
Habakkuk 1:12
- Look at Psalm 41:13 & Psalm 90:2. What does it mean that God is from “everlasting to everlasting”?
- What kind of promises does God make?
Genesis 17:7,9 II Samuel 23:5
-If someone makes an everlasting promise what does that imply about the giver and receiver of the promise?
- Look at Ecclesiastes 3:11. What has God done for man? What do you think this means?



CrossViews

- Look at Luke 20:27-40.
What did Jesus say to those who did not believe in the resurrection? (verse 27)
How is what Moses said proof that there is a resurrection?
- What does Jesus say will happen after we die? (See Matthew 25:31-46)
- What kind of promises does Jesus make about life after death?
John 14:1-3 John 11:25



LifeViews

- Look at I Corinthians 15:12-28.
What does it mean if there is no life after death? (verses 12-19)
What does Paul assert about life after death? (verses 20-28)
- Look at I Corinthians 15:35-57
What does Paul say will happen to us in eternity?
What assurance can we have because we know where we will spend eternity? (I Corinthians 15:58) What should be our application from this verse?



InterViews

- Do you believe there is life after death? Why or why not?
- Do you think how you live life here on earth affects how you will spend eternity?
- What do you think happens to a person after they die?

Individuality

“Every time you meet another human being you have the opportunity. It’s a chance at holiness. For you will do one of two things, then. Either you will build him up, or tear him down...you will create, or you will destroy...There are no useless, minor meetings. There are no dead-end jobs. There are no pointless lives. Swallow your sorrows, forget your grievances and all the hurt your poor life has sustained. Turn your face to the human before you and let her, for one pure moment, shine. Think her important, then she will suspect that she is fashioned of God.”

-Walter Wangerin, Jr.



GodViews

- The following passages are divide into four areas in which God cares for us as individuals. What do they reveal about God’s heart toward you?

Creation

Genesis 1:26, 27
Jeremiah 1:5
Psalms 139:13,14

Significance

I Samuel 16:7
Isaiah 43:4
Zephaniah 3:17

Security

Isaiah 46:4
Jeremiah 29:11

Love

John 3:16
Isaiah 54:10
Romans 8:32



CrossViews

- How does Jesus reveal His concern for you in these passages?
Matthew 6:25-34 I John 4:10
I Peter 1:18,19
- Look at Luke 19:1-10. Jesus could have enjoyed popularity with the crowd instead he chose to spend time with an individual. Why do you think he did this?
- Read Luke 15. How does Jesus in these three parables show us the importance he places on individuals?



LifeViews

- How do the viewpoints of God in Scripture and as seen through the life of Christ affect how I view myself and others as individuals?
- What everyday things will be different if I choose to live according to these views?
I Corinthians 6:19, 20 Matthew 22:37-39
Matthew 28:19, 20
- One of the common problems for most people is a poor self-image from looking at the wrong sources to discover our worth and value. Read Psalm 139. How important do you think you are to God? What will help you look to Him as the source of your worthiness and belongingness?



InterViews

- Do you view yourself as significant? Why or why not?
- Do you believe that you were created for a purpose?
- How would you describe yourself without referring to your name, address, appearance, job or major?

Meaning

“But the human restlessness present in every heart drives us to seek out a reason for our existence. Austrian psychiatrist Viktor Frankl survived the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz. During the terror of his imprisonment, he was struck by the fact that many who endured the death camp were not the most hardy in physical make-up but those who had an internal reason to live. Finding a purpose of life is not an act of faith, Frankl concludes, but a fact of human existence. He goes on further, “I think the meaning of our existence is not invented by ourselves, but rather detected.”

**-W. Gary Phillips •
William E. Brown
Making Sense
of Your World**



GodViews

- Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:11. What were the earthly avenues Solomon explored as he attempted to search out and set in order the meaning of things? What did he say about them? Which of these have you tried? What have been your conclusions?
- A key phrase in understanding the book of Ecclesiastes is “under the sun”- that is, life lived from the perspective of this world only. What does Solomon say about living life with only this world in view? Ecclesiastes 1:14; 2:11; 2:18; 4:1; 5:13; 8:15,17
- Where does Solomon conclude that meaning in life comes from? Ecclesiastes 12:13,14



CrossViews

- Read Luke 12:13-15. Someone has said “He who dies with the most toys wins!”. Would Jesus agree with that philosophy? Why or why not?
- Look at Luke 12:16-21. From this story why shouldn’t we seek meaning in our possessions?
- From the following passages what are the reasons Jesus sees for his own existence? John 3:16,17; 8:29; 10:10; 15:13; 17:4-7
- Read Mark 8:31-38. From this passage what does Jesus say we must do for our lives to have meaning and purpose?



LifeViews

- Look at the following passages to discover what the Bible says about God’s purpose for your life. Try focusing on verses that could be a statement of your life purpose. Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 3:5,6; Proverbs 30:7-9; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 28:19-20; John 4:34; John 15:1-9,15; John 17:4; Acts 20:24; I Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 3:10
- Can you think of any other verses that would be good as a life purpose?
- After you’ve found a verse that you believe states what your life purpose should be, rewrite it in your own words as your own Life Purpose Statement.



InterViews

- What do you believe is the ultimate purpose and meaning of life?
- Why do you exist?
- If you looked at your life like it was a company, what would be the name of your company? What would you do as a company and what would be your mission statement?

Pain

“Pain, God’s megaphone, can drive me away from Him. I can hate God for allowing such misery. Or, on the other hand, it can drive me to Him. I can believe Him when He says this world is not all there is, and take the chance that He is making a perfect place for those who follow Him on pain-wracked earth.”

-Phillip Yancey



GodViews

- Read Job 1,2. What kind of tests was Job put under and why? From Job 3-37 Job and his friends try to discover why Job has experienced such pain. Read Job 38-41, what reasons does God give Job for allowing his pain? Read Job 42. What happened to Job? What do we learn from the life of Job?
- Many believe that the reason there is pain, suffering and evil in the world is because God is not strong enough to prevent it or good enough to stop it or both. Look at the life of Joseph to discover what he learned about the goodness and greatness of God. Read the following passages to learn what happened to Joseph. Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-23; 41:1-43; 45:25-28. Looking back on his misfortune (a dysfunctional family) what does Joseph conclude about God’s care and control in his life? Genesis 50:15-21.



CrossViews

- John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible. It says “Jesus wept.” Look at John 11, although Jesus knew he would raise Lazarus from the dead, he still wept. Why did the Jews think he wept? (verse 36) Why did He weep? Was it for Lazarus, himself or someone else? (verses 32,33)
- From Jesus’ response to the pain of another what do you think is his response to your pain?



LifeViews

- Study the following verses, what are some of the reasons and purposes when God allows suffering?
 - Psalm 51:1-9
 - Romans 5:1-5
 - II Corinthians 1:3-7
 - Romans 8:28,29
 - I Peter 4:12-19
 - II Corinthians 12:7-10
 - Philippians 1:29
 - James 1:2-4
 - I Peter 1:6,7



InterViews

- Why is there so much evil in the world?
- Do you think it is right to blame God when tragedy strikes? Why or why not?
- What should a person do who is a victim of injustice?

Hope

“...hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion of fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is willingness to let him do it his way and in his time.”

-Eugene Peterson



GodViews

• How do you define hope?

- Using the verses below answer these questions in your own words? How does God define hope? How does God view the future?

Jeremiah 29:11

2 Peter 3:8-9

- List the aspects of God's character which allow us to put our hope in Him?

Psalm 33

Psalm 130

Compare/contrast these characteristics with the opposites characteristics.

Example: love/neglect unfaithful/failing



CrossViews

The night before Jesus died He spoke one last time to His disciples. Keep in mind that His last words would most likely be what He thought His disciples needed to hear most. He knew that within the next 15 hours he would go through a trial, be tortured and crucified.

- What reason could He give his disciples to hope?

John 14:1-14 14:25-27

15:1-17 16:12-15, 33



LifeViews

- List your five greatest hopes for the future.
- List your five greatest fears and anxieties concerning the future? Read Romans 8:28-39 2 Peter 3:1-15
- How do these passages address your fears and hopes?
- How should we respond to the promises in these passages?
- Are your hopes based on truth or only wishful thinking for the future?



InterViews

- How do you define hope?
- What do you hope in for the future?
- Are your hopes based upon established events which will take place in the future or on events which you only wish will happen?
- How do your hopes affect your outlook on life?
- Is there any real hope for the human race, and the future of the world?

Values

“The most dangerous people are those who have knowledge but no moral framework.”

“...the crisis that threatens us, the force that could topple our monuments and destroy our very foundations, is within ourselves. The crisis in the character of our culture, where the values that restrain inner vices and develop inner virtues are eroding. Unprincipled men and women, disdainful of their moral heritage and skeptical of truth itself, are destroying our civilization by weakening the very pillars upon which it rests.”

-Chuck Colson



GodViews

- From God’s point of view how are we to make choices involving morals and values? Upon what standard do we make these choices? Deuteronomy 5:6-22 Psalm 119:1-11
- *In the book of Deuteronomy Moses reminds the people of Israel of God’s commands and decrees. As you read various passages from this book answer the following questions.*
- In giving commands to His people what is God’s greatest concern for His people, and for you today?
Deuteronomy 4:40; 6:1-8; 6:24,25; 5:29,33; 10:13
- From these same passages what do you find as God’s reasoning and motives for giving laws and commands which sometimes seem so limiting?



CrossViews

- To what standard of morality does Jesus call us? Read Matthew 5:21-48. Choose a key verse from this passage. What is the theme of this passage?
- From the above passage and from the following verses, what is the heart of Jesus’ teaching concerning moral choices?
Matthew 7:12 Matthew 22: 34-40



LifeViews

- What moral issues do you deal with most often; lying, cheating, gossip, sexual immorality, etc.?
- Case study #1: Someone on your floor hears you playing a cassette of Christian music and stops in your room to talk. Because of your music you have an opportunity to have a spiritual discussion. At the end of your time your friend asks if he can make a copy of your tape. You know that the message of the tape would be a positive testimony to the person. What do you do? Defend your answer, use scripture if possible.
- Read Acts 5:1-11. Discuss this event in your Bible study.
- From your observations in this study (GodViews, CrossViews and LifeViews) construct five “If...then” statements.
Example: “If Jesus was moral in all His actions, then I should seek morality in all of my actions.”



InterViews

- Do you believe there is life after death? Why or why not?
- Who defines what is moral or immoral in your life?
- How do you decide between what is right and wrong?
- What are your morals in the arena of lying, (white lies, etc.)?
- What are your morals and values in your dating relationships?
- Can some action be moral for one person and immoral for another? If so, what constitutes values and morality? Is there such a thing as morality?

Relationships

“Because God is in His very nature a relational being (there are three persons in the Godhead, capable of enjoying interrelationships), man, created to be like God, is also a relational being. We have been built for relationship with God and with other people. It follows that in the most central part of our being, we long to enjoy what we were designed to experience. We long for relationship.”

-Larry Crabb



GodViews

- In what ways do you see God reaching out to show you His love?
- What do these passages reveal to you concerning God’s heart toward you?

Deuteronomy 33:12

Jeremiah 31:3

Hosea 2:19, 20

Isaiah 40:11

Psalms 40:5

Psalms 56:9

Isaiah 46:4

Psalms 116:1, 2



CrossViews

- How did God reveal His love to you through Jesus Christ?
- Look at the seven last things Jesus said from the cross. What do they reveal about the quality of the relationships Jesus had with others?

John 3:16

I John 3:16-24

I John 4:7-21

Matthew 27:46

John 19:26,27

Luke 23:43

John 19:30

John 19:28

Luke 23:46



LifeViews

- How should God’s pure love toward you affect your relationships with Him, with your family, friends, enemies and in your dating relationships? (see I John 4:11)
- Is love a feeling or an action or both? Use Scripture from this study to explain your answer. (See also I Corinthians 13.)



InterViews

- When you hear that God is a God of love, what do you think that means?
- Do you have a sense of being loved by God? Why or why not?
- Does your spiritual life affect your dating relationships?
- Is love a feeling or an action or both? Please explain.

Forgiveness



“Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person’s sin. Forgiveness is costly; we pay the price of the evil we forgive. Yet you’re going to live with these consequences whether you want to or not; your only choice is whether you will do so in the bitterness of unforgiveness or the freedom of forgiveness.”

-R.C. Sproul



GodViews

- Read Isaiah 59. Compare and contrast God’s character with man’s character.
- Look at Psalm 103:1-14. Even though we fall far short of God’s character what does God do for us?

CrossViews

- Read the following verses and answer the questions below:
Hebrews 9:11-14, 23 Romans 3:21-26
Hebrews 2:14-17 Romans 5:8, 9
Hebrews 10: 22,23
What does Jesus have to do with forgiveness?
Can God forgive you apart from Christ?
- What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?
Matthew 6:12,14,15 Luke 17:4 Matthew 18:21,22
- Look at Matthew 18:23-35. Why did the servant fall under the master’s judgment? Why is it necessary to forgive in order to be forgiven?



LifeViews

- Think of some way that another person has offended you.
 - In your opinion, what does that person “owe” you? What would have to be done to make things right?
 - What decisions do you need to make about that offense in order to forgive?
 - Have you agreed to pay the debt, or are you still waiting for the other to pay it?
 - What character quality could God be trying to build in your life through this offense?
- Read Ephesians 4:30-5:2. What are the enemies of forgiveness? What is the motivation for forgiveness? (4:32; 5:2) How do we forgive?



InterViews

- How would you describe/define forgiveness?
- Are there times when a person who wrongs you shouldn’t be forgiven?
- Please comment on this statement: “We may talk as much as we like about forgiveness, but it will never make any difference to us unless we realize that we need it.”
- Do you believe that God is willing to completely forgive people no matter what they have done?
- Would you like to know how I know that God has forgiven me?

Vision

“If a man has a soul- and he has, and that soul can be won or lost for eternity- and it can. Then the most important thing in the world is to bring that man to Jesus Christ.”

-Author Unknown



GodViews

- From these passages in Genesis what is it that God is desiring to do? Genesis 1:27,28; 8:17;9:7; 17:2,20; 26:4; 35:11
- Why is it that man has this sense that his life must count for something?
- Look at Psalm 90. As Moses considers his life and the person of God, what does he pray that God will do?



CrossViews

- When God became man how did he invest his life? John 17:4 (See John 17:6-18)
- From Luke 4:18,19 (See Isaiah 61:1,2) What was the mission of Jesus?
- What did Jesus call others to give their lives to? Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 6:19-21
- What did Jesus ask others to pray for? Matthew 9:35-38
- What were Christ's last words to His disciples? Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
- What do you think Jesus gave his life to?



LifeViews

- At the present time what are you giving your life to? (A good way to discover this is by looking at your calendar and your schedule at how you spend your money and your time.)
- Read I Corinthians 3:14,15 and II Peter 3:9,10. In the final judgment what will be the end result of all that you give your life to?
- What do you think God wants you to give your life to? Write out a vision statement of how you believe God wants you to invest your life while you are in college. How about after college? How about your whole life?



InterViews

- When you reach old age and look back on your life how will you want to have invested your life?
- What do you think that most people on this campus are giving their lives to?
- Is there anything in your life that makes it worth living? Is there anything worth dying for?

VIEW • POINTS



**Looking at How You
Look at the World**