

WEEK 1

Engaging With People on the Topic of Gods Truth

We are called to live **IN this world**, even though we are no longer **OF this world** (John 17).

God's ultimate plan is that through Jesus' sacrifice for sin, God is rescuing people from this **fallen world** and making them citizens of His **glorious Kingdom** (Galatians 1:4).

WORLDVIEWS

Traditional Christian Worldview

God-Centric where God alone is the source of truth and reality as revealed in God's Word.

It is **Transcendent** (outside creation) and **Absolute** (free from restrictions, exceptions, or qualifications).

Modern Worldview (Enlightenment period of 1700's)

Science-Centric where science alone is the source of truth and reality, **not God**.

It is **Material** (based on creation) and **Subjective** (subject to the findings of science).

- Science is Unreliable, Untrustworthy
- Science Doesn't Inform on Spiritual & Deeper Aspects of Life

Modernists are left with a **false sense of certainty**, a **false sense of what is true**, because **truth is always a moving target**.

Post-Modern Worldview (New Age Movement of the 1970's)

Man-Centric where man alone is the source of truth and reality, **not science, not God**.

It is **Sensory** (based on our 5 senses) and **Relative**.

- Problem with our 5 Senses
- Absolute Lack of Objectivity and Certainty

Post-modernists have systematically **deconstructed** the word "**truth**" to mean **belief and values**.

Postmodernists are **paralyzed by uncertainty**.

Other outcomes include **depression, social disorder, anarchy, and fatalism**.

Blended Worldview

People who are **influenced** by all worldview and **construct** a blended worldview from the Bible, **and** science, **and** personal beliefs.

STYLES & APPROACHES

Declarative – Articulating the **content** of the Gospel with **clarity**.

Lifestyle - Demonstrating the **potency of the Gospel** in our lives with **credibility**.

Approach 1: Belonging-Before-Believing

Enfolding the unchurched into Christian community enables them to **witness the power of God** at work in the life of the community.

Approach 2: Evangelism-as-a-Process

The evangelistic **process** of **hearing, discovering, and responding** is not only essential, but formative.

It is how people generally come to saving faith.

Approach 3: Exploring-Then-Explaining

Getting to know the other person provides a **context** for sharing the Gospel and our **story of faith**.

BASED ON PAPER: "leomodica.com" → Publications → How to Engage with People on Matters of God's Truth (Download PDF)

Exercise 1

Identify two people who are not believers

- A close friend, family member
- A colleague, acquaintance

Questions:

- Do they have a traditional background?
- What is their understanding of God?
- What worldviews do they adhere to?
- What are the things are value in life?
- Where do they find purpose/meaning?

WEEK 2

Engaging With People on the Topic of Gods Truth

Holy Spirit

- Illumination (John 15:16 NLT, 1 John 5:6 NLT)
- Conviction (John 16:8 NLT)
- Drawing (John 6:44 NLT)

Building Trust in God

- Stage 1: People learn to trust in the **GENUINENESS** of a believer's personal witness.
- Stage 2: People learn to trust in the **AUTHENTICITY** of a Christian community's experience.
- Stage 3: People learn to trust in the **INSPIRATION** and **AUTHORITY** of God's Word.
- Stage 4: People learn to trust in the **SUPREMACY** of the triune God.

Paul's Principles

The Apostle Paul's ministry was **purposeful** and **relevant** (1 Corinthians 9:26 NLT, 9:22B NIV). Paul's ministry was **not aimless** or random, but rather had an **overarching plan**, a **strategy**. He **immersed** himself in cultures in order to **identify** with his audience's **frame of reference**.

Knowing the Gospel

- The Human Problem (Romans 3:10, 3:23, 6:23a)
- Humanity's Hope in Christ (Romans 5:8, 6:23b)
- The Sinner's Response (Romans 10:9-10, 10:13)
- The Results of Salvation (Romans 5:1-2, 8:1)

Art of Engaging

- LEAD WITH LOVE AND RESPECT
- LOOK FOR THE GOOD IN OTHERS
- MODEL PEACE AND POSITIVITY
- SEEK TO IDENTIFY WITH THEM
- FIND COMMON GROUND
- MENTION THE "CHURCH" WORD
- MAKE GOD'S WORD YOUR REFERENCE
- WAIT FOR OPEN DOORS
- EXTEND AN INVITATION TO RECONNECT
- PRAY FOR THE RELATIONSHIP

Art of Listening

- ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS
- OBSERVE NONVERBAL CUES
- AVOID ONE-UPMANSHIP
- LISTEN LOUDY
- SEEK CLARITY
- GAIN PERSPECTIVE

Art of Asking Questions

- ACQUINTANCES - WHAT/WHERE Questions
- CASUAL FRIENDS - HOW Questions, Storifying
- CLOSE FRIENDS - WHY/THEN Questions

Exercise 2: Articulating the Gospel

- What is your personal testimony?
- Write your 60-second elevator speech.
- How would you tailor your testimony for the two people you identified in Week 1?

Exercise 3: Engagement Skills

- What are two skills you do well at?
- What are two skills you can improve?
- How would you characterize your level of engagement with the two people you identified in Week 1?

Exercise 4: Listening Skills

- What are two skills you do well at?
- What are two skills you can improve?
- How will these listening skills help you interact with the two people you identified in Week 1?

Exercise 5: Questioning Skills

- Based on the level of friendship with the two people you identified in Week 1, what questions can you ask to go deeper in your relationship?
- What questions would help them come to terms with WHAT they believe and WHY?

Exercise 6: Next Steps

- What are your next steps with the two people you identified in Week 1?