

A painting of a forest path with trees and a stream. The path is a light brown color, winding through a green landscape. There are several trees with dark trunks and green foliage. A stream flows through the scene, reflecting the light. The overall style is impressionistic, with visible brushstrokes and a warm, golden light.

Engaging with People on the Topic of Truth

Week 1:
Our Modern World
Approaches to Modern Evangelism

Worldviews

(Traditional Christian)

	TRADITIONAL Antiquity	MODERN Enlightenment 1700's	POSTMODERN New Age 1970's
SOURCE	God-Centric		
TRUTH	Transcendent Absolute		

Worldviews

(Modernism)

TRADITIONAL Antiquity		MODERN Enlightenment 1700's	POSTMODERN New Age 1970's
SOURCE	God-Centric	Science-Centric	
TRUTH	Transcendent Absolute	Material Subjective	

Modern Worldview

(Shortcomings)

Science is Unreliable, Untrustworthy

Erroneous / Insufficient Data

Misinterpretations

Biases / One-Sidedness

Fallible Methodologies

Unfathomable Complexities

Science Doesn't Inform on
Spiritual & Deeper Aspects of Life

Modern Worldview

(Outcomes)

OUTCOME 1

Left with a **false sense** of **certainty**
because truth is always a **moving target**.

OUTCOME 2

Get **frustrated**,
abandon science altogether, and
devolve into Postmodernism

Worldviews

(Postmodernism)

TRADITIONAL Antiquity		MODERN Enlightenment 1700's	POSTMODERN New Age 1970's
SOURCE	God-Centric	Science-Centric	Man-Centric
TRUTH	Transcendent Absolute	Material Subjective	Sensory Relative



Postmodern Worldview

(Shortcomings)

The Problem with Our 5 Senses
Absolute Lack of Objectivity & Certainty

Postmodern Worldview

(Outcomes)

OUTCOME 1

Paralyzed by **uncertainty**

OUTCOME 2

Personal Depression

Social Disorder, Anarchy, Fatalism

The background of the slide is a painting of a forest scene. A dirt path leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground, flanked by green grass and trees. The trees have dense foliage in shades of green and brown. The lighting is soft, suggesting a dappled sunlight effect. The overall style is painterly and somewhat impressionistic.

Blended Worldview

People who are influenced by each worldview
and construct a blended worldview
from God and Science and Man

State of Affairs

We have gone

- from **absolute** Truth
- to **subjective** truth
- to **NO** truth.

Rejection of God's **objective** Truth
leaves the world with RELATIVISM

- relative **truth**
- relative **morality**
- lack of **certainty** & **consensus**

Exercise 1

Opportunities

Identify **two people** who are not believers

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

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?

Approaches to Evangelism

Traditional Approach

DECLARATIVE

Articulating the Content of the Gospel
with Clarity

Contemporary Approach

LIFESTYLE

Demonstrating the Potency of the Gospel
in our Lives with Credibility

Approaches to Evangelism

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.

It enables people to **build trusting, caring relationships** and see **authentic faith** in action.

Approaches to Evangelism

Evangelism-as-a-Process

The evangelistic process of **hearing, discovering, and responding** is not only **essential**, but **formative**. It is how people come to saving faith.

Younger cohorts are **less likely** to hold **traditional views** in the God of the Bible.

Approaches to Evangelism

Exploring-Then-Explaining

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

... from their **perspective**,
their **values**, their **passions**,
their **aspirations**, their **challenges**

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Engaging with People on the Topic of Truth

Week 2:
Principles & Life Skills
for Engagement

Role of the Holy Spirit

Illumination

John 15:16

Conviction

John 16:8

Salvation

John 6:44

Building Trust in God

One Step at a Time

STAGE 4

SUPREMACY of the Triune God

STAGE 3

INSPIRATION/AUTHORITY of God's Word

STAGE 2

AUTHENTICITY of a Christian Community

STAGE 1

GENUINENESS of a Believer's Personal Witness

Paul's Approach to Evangelism

PURPOSE

*I run with **purpose in every step.***

I am not just shadowboxing.

(1 Corinthians 9:26 NLT)

RELEVANCE

*I have become **all things to all people**
so that by **all possible means***

I might save some.

(1 Corinthians 9:22B NIV)

Art of Crafting Your Gospel Story

The Human Problem

Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23a

Humanity's Hope in Christ

Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23b

The Sinner's Response

Romans 10:9-10, Romans 10:13

The Result of Salvation

Romans 5:1-2, Romans 8:1

Exercise 2

Art of Crafting Your Gospel Story

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?

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

Exercise 3

Art of Engaging

What are two skills you do well at?

What are two skills you can improve on?

How would you characterize your level of engagement with the two people you identified in Week 1?

Art of Active Listening

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

Exercise 4

Art of Active Listening

What are two skills you do well at?

What are two skills you can improve on?

How will these listening skills help you interact with the two people you identified in Week 1?

Art of Asking Great Questions

ACQUINTANCES

WHAT/WHERE Questions

CASUAL FRIENDS

HOW Questions

CLOSE FRIENDS

WHY/THEN Questions

Exercise 5

Art of Asking Great Questions

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

(Homework)

What are the next you need to take with the two people you identified in Week 1?