

Our worldview = The presuppositions, assumptions, or framework through which we interpret reality. Everyone has a worldview.

Why does our worldview matter? Because we must rightly see and understand the reality of:

- The existence of God and His character and purposes
- Why we exist and how we should live
- What is wrong with the world and what is the solution

Worldview encompasses *all of life*:

- Our initial mindset informs our thinking about everything.
- Our thinking then shapes how we respond to everything.

Biblical worldview is seeing and interpreting *all of life* through the truth of Scripture

For by the Scriptures as our guide and teacher, [God] not only makes those things plain that would otherwise escape our notice, but he almost compels us to behold them, as if he had assisted our dull sight with spectacles.—John Calvin

1. Teach our children that God is the source of all truth and that His Word, the Bible, is truth.

Proverbs 30:5, Isaiah 40:8; 45:19, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16

Characteristics of biblical truth:

- Objective—Is independent of us
- Absolute—Is fixed and immovable
- Universal—Applies to all people
- Unchanging
- Knowable

God's truth is authoritative and all people are under its authority (Hebrews 4:12-13).

How we can help our children:

- Assume the absolute truthfulness of the Bible as you teach. Young children need statements of fact, not a defense of those facts (apologetics).
- Use correct biblical language as you teach. (i.e. Do not say “*God asks...*” when the text says “*God commands...*”)
- Emphasize the clarity, necessity, and sufficiency of Scripture. The Bible presents us with all essential truths.
- Include a global perspective as you teach. God's truths apply to all people regardless of geography, language, ethnicity, and culture.
- Teach children what it means to be under the authority of another, especially God and His Word.
- Emphasize that we must test everything by the absolute truth of the Bible.
- Teach children that our feelings do not decide what is true; rather our feelings are to conform to the truth.

Opposition to biblical truth—Satan, who is the “father of lies,” blinds sinners to the truth by offering competing claims to truth.

John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 11:14-15

- ❖ Naturalism/secularism/atheism
- ❖ Other religions: Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Mormonism, the New Age, etc.
- ❖ Postmodernism: Redefines “truth” to be...
 - Subjective—Self-derived, coming from within me
 - Relative—No fixed “appearance” expressed as equally valid truth claims
 - Individual—Defining truth is the right of each individual or culture
 - Changeable—As it is always being made
 - Uncertain—You can never be absolutely sure whether something is true

Evidences that postmodernism has subtly crept into the church:

- Reducing Scripture to behavior modification therapies
- Studying the Bible by asking: “What does this mean to me?”
- Acceptance of competing and unbiblical truth claims
- “Softening” biblical truth in order to be more seeker-friendly
- Reluctance to take clear biblical stands because they may be offensive to the culture
- An unhealthy craving to “blend in” with the culture

2. Teach our children a biblical understanding of God’s nature and character.

Isaiah 44:24; 45:7; 46:9-11, Romans 11:33-36, 1 Timothy 6:15-16

Inevitably, our concept of God determines our worldview. The question of the existence or non-existence of God is primary, but so is the question of God’s power and character. Theologians speak of the “attributes” of God, meaning the particulars about God’s revealed nature. If we begin with the right concept of God, our worldview will be properly aligned. If our concept of God is sub-biblical, our worldview will be sub-biblical, as well.
—Dr. Albert Mohler, *The Knowledge of the Self-Revealing God*

How we can help our children:

- Provide them with a comprehensive study on the doctrine of God.
- Use every day experiences and news events to remind them of God’s attributes.

3. Teach our children that biblical truth is relevant to everything in life.

Colossians 1:15-19, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 10:31

The late Francis Schaeffer maintained that the Bible is not simply a set of timeless truths but is itself total truth. What did he mean? He said, “Biblical Christianity is not simply a series of truths in the plural, but rather truth spelled with a capital ‘T’—Truth about total reality, not just about religious things.” In other words, the Bible is not simply a manual for understanding things of a spiritual nature. It’s earthier than that. It provides us with a comprehensive framework for understanding all of reality. It presents an entire worldview, a complete perspective on all of life.—Pastor Tullian Tchividjian

How we can help our children:

- Intentionally make connections between biblical truth and everyday life experiences.
- Help them to see that the Bible is the only thing that reasonably explains the world in which we live.
- Challenge them to see their own feelings, words, and actions in light of Scripture.
- Point out the natural consequences of right and wrong thinking on any given topic.
- Teach them the “whole counsel of God” so that they see the comprehensive scope of Scripture.
- Emphasize the transforming power of the Bible and the necessity to “walk in the truth.”
- Help them to see that there is “nothing new under the sun.” God’s truth is timeless.

4. Teach our children to evaluate all things through the truth of Scripture: Biblical discernment. ***Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 2:8, Hebrews 5:14***

How we can help our children:

- Continually ask: *What does the Bible say about this?*
- Point out the futility of unbiblical ideas and arguments
- For older students, teach them a guided, step-by-step approach to evaluate any situation or topic. For example:

Step 1: Carefully examine the real issues/message involved.—Proverbs 18:17

Step 2: Search for the truth in Scripture.—Psalm 119:15

Step 3: Ask important and appropriate questions:

- ◆ *Does Scripture specifically address this issue? What tools do I need to find out?*
- ◆ *Are there similar situations presented in Scripture?*
- ◆ *Do I have sinful desires that are causing me to “look past” the truth?*
- ◆ *Would my understanding of this be “according to Christ”?*
- ◆ *What will my actions demonstrate to others about God?*
- ◆ *If my response is lawful, will it also be helpful?*

Step 4: Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.—John 16:13

Step 5: Seek out wisdom from others.—Proverbs 11:14

Step 6: Submit to God’s Word and authority.—2 Corinthians 10:5b; James 4:7

Step 7: Do what is right.—Deuteronomy 6:18a

5. Teach our children the enlightening and transforming truth of the Gospel.

John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 2:1-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Presenting our children with a biblical worldview is not simply meant to give them an truthful, intellectual understanding or explanation of reality. It is meant to save and transform them. A true biblical worldview involves embracing the gospel. And this is by God’s grace and power alone, whereby He removes the lies of Satan that blind us to the truth, and gives us a new heart to love and embrace Jesus and then walk in His truth.

6. **Teach our children that a biblical worldview is meant to point them to true, lasting joy.**
Psalm 16:11; 19:7-11; 119:24, 43, Proverbs 22:17-18, Jeremiah 15:16, John 8:31-32

How we can help our children:

- Point out the many benefits of walking in God's truth: Protection from the harmful consequences of sin, clean conscience, experiencing God's approval, good witness to others, etc.
- Emphasize the merits of long-term joy vs. fleeting pleasures.
- Remind them that, in the end, God's truth will triumph over all other competing truth claims—all false philosophies, ideas, arguments, and religions.

7. **Teach our children to boldly proclaim God's truth in a spirit of humility.**
Colossians 4:6, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2:1-5

How we can help our children:

- Demonstrate this through our own demeanor and words.
- Remind them that the goal of presenting God's truth is that sinners might be saved.
- Remind them that, ultimately, it is God who saves and brings people to embrace truth.
- Give our children a strong defense for what they believe.
- Develop a practice of humble, prayerful dependence.

8. **Teach our children to expect opposition and to be prepared to stand firm.**
Matthew 5:11, John 15:18, Philippians 2:15, Ephesians 6:10-18

How we can help our children:

- Point out evidences of God's grace in their lives. Use this to encourage them.
- Remind them of Jesus and others who have experienced ridicule.
- Pray with and for them.
- Try to find them some like-minded mentors and friends.

Additional resources for parents and teachers:

Books

The Compact Guide to World Religions, Dean C. Halverson General Ed.

Defending Your Faith, R.C. Sproul

The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World, John Piper and Justin Taylor, eds.

Total Truth, Nancy Pearcey

The Truth War, John MacArthur

Unfashionable, Tullian Tchividjian

Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World, C.J. Mahaney, ed.

Websites and Blogs

Between Two Worlds, Justin Taylor <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/>

The Counsel on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood www.cbmw.org

DeYoung, Restless, and Reformed, Kevin DeYoung <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/>

Dr. Albert Mohler Blog <http://www.albertmohler.com>

Focus on the Family - Entertainment/mediawise <http://www.focusonthefamily.org>

Monergism <http://www.monergism.com>

Moore to the Point, Dr. Russell Moore <http://www.russellmoore.com>

RZIM, Ravi Zacharias <http://www.rzim.org>

Sovereign Grace Ministries Blog, C. J. Mahaney <http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org/blogs>

Stand to Reason <http://www.str.org>

Youth Curriculum

Your Word Is Truth, Jill Nelson (Minneapolis: Children Desiring God, 2010)