



TRUE STORY

An Apologetic for Christianity

MAVEN'S Apologetics Course Workbook

TRUE STORY

AN APOLOGETIC FOR CHRISTIANITY

VIDEO SERIES
WORKBOOK

MAVEN[®]

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TRUE STORY: AN APOLOGETIC FOR CHRISTIANITY

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The session notes and review material presented here accompany the video training series, "True Story – An Apologetic for Christianity." This is the same video series that MAVEN uses to train students and leaders as they prepare to join us for a week-long apologetics Immersive Experience. So, you're going to get some in-depth training here!

We encourage you to use this workbook as you watch the series. When you view each individual video session, filling in the outlines as you go will help you to follow along, learn the material and retain more of the information over the long haul. Afterward, use the discussion guides to dialogue with others and engage the material more deeply.

TRUE STORY

AN APOLOGETIC FOR CHRISTIANITY

This workbook is set up as an interactive engagement tool to help you grow in your knowledge of the evidence for Christianity during the six-session teaching series *TRUE STORY*.

We have included the following tools for each session:

- **Session Outlines:** During each teaching follow along by filling in the blanks, highlighting key points, and taking notes.
- **Session Reviews:** After each teaching, take a minute to quiz yourself on what you just listened to and see how much knowledge you were able to retain. You might learn that you'll need to re-watch the video training and that's perfectly okay! Don't expect to get it all after one viewing.
- **Session Discussions:** Lastly, dialogue and process with others by using the discussion questions we've included.

Don't be a passive listener, be an active learner. Use these tools!

Session One

Why I Am a Christian

"Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, is of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important."

C. S. Lewis

"I had a crisis of faith. I thought you had to experience things if you want to know right from wrong. I'd go to Christian revivals and be moved by the Holy Spirit, and I'd go to rock concerts and feel the same fervor. Then I'd be told, 'that's the devil's music! Don't partake in that!' I wanted to experience things religion said not to experience...when I got untethered from the comfort of religion, it wasn't a loss of faith for me, it was a discovery of self."

Brad Pitt | Actor

Why Should We Believe?

I am a Christian because...

- Christianity is _____

_____ (NKJV)

Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

_____ (NKJV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

_____ (ESV)

"I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God..."

- I'm a Christian because Christianity's _____ and... there are good reasons & evidence to think it's _____

2. Does God _____?

3. Has God _____?

4. Has God _____?

Two Common Objections to Apologetics...

1. Objection #1: No one comes to Christ through _____.

False! Consider Acts 17:2-4.

_____ (NIV)

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

Four Modern Day Examples
of Converted Skeptics...

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Objection #2: It's the
_____ who saves, not us.

"The longer I am in this work, the more I realize that intellectual struggles are merely the hazardous waste of life, blocking the heart from truth. The task of apologetics is to carefully remove that hazardous material and keep it from igniting into a destructive fire. Once that is done, the way to the heart is always through the way of the cross, God's love for each and every one of us."

Ravi Zacharias | Apologist

Where's the Room for Faith?

_____ (NIV)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Faith = _____

- ... in what you have good reasons to believe is _____

Session One Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session One. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your session outline. *Grade = __ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank....

1. What should your primary response be when asked the question, "Why are you a Christian?"
 - o I am a Christian because Christianity is _____ and there are good reasons and evidence to think it's _____!
2. What Bible verses could you reference to give biblical backing to the importance of truth to the Christian faith?
 - o _____; _____; _____
3. Apologia = " _____ "
4. What are the four key questions you must answer affirmatively to make the cumulative case that Christianity is true?
 - o Does Truth _____ and can we know it?
 - o Does God _____?
 - o Has God _____?
 - o Has God _____?

5. What are two of the more common objections to apologetics?

- o No one comes to Christ through _____.
- o It's the _____ who saves, not us.

Session One Discussion

Use the questions below to help you engage in a discussion with your teammates about what you just learned.

1. What has been your usual response to the question, "Why are you a Christian?", and do you think others found your reasons persuasive and compelling?
2. Does it really matter if our religious beliefs are false? Why or why not?
3. Can evidence persuade someone to become a Christian? Is your answer consistent with Acts 17:1-4 and I Peter 3:15?
4. What one question do you have after today's teaching?
5. How much time might it take a non-Christian to carefully examine the truth claims and evidence for Christianity? How long are you willing to walk with someone on that journey?

Session Two

Truth Never Gets Old

"The right approach to life is one that hungers to know as many truths as one can and to avoid as many falsehoods as possible."

J.P. Moreland

Consequences of Relativism...

1. Consequence #1: Relativism undermines _____ & the _____

"It is after you have realized that there is a moral law and a power behind that law, and that you have broken the law and put yourself wrong with that power – it is after this and not a moment sooner, that Christianity begins to talk."

C.S. Lewis | Apologist

2. Consequence #2: Relativism undermines the _____ of the _____

The Mission of the Church is...

_____ (NIV)

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

Two Major Problems with Relativism...

1. Relativism is _____
2. Relativism doesn't _____ with our _____ of reality

Correspondence Theory of Truth

- Our beliefs are true if they match up with _____

"If you say that it is and it is, or you say that it isn't and it isn't, that's true. If you say that it isn't and it is, or you say that it is and it isn't, that's false."

Aristotle | Greek Philosopher

The Biblical View of Truth

- _____: Hebrew for truth. *faithfulness and conformity to fact.*
- _____: Greek for truth. *that which is conformed to reality.*

In Summary

- If something is _____, it is the truth about reality.
- Christianity is the _____.

If Christianity is not true should you believe it? No! Paul says...

_____ (NIV)

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Session Two Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Two. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Two outline. *Grade = __ / 5*

Fill-In-The-Blank....

1. Complete the definition of relativism below.
 - There are no _____ truths, rather all truths are _____ to a culture or an individual.
2. List the two types of truths.
 - _____ truth
 - _____ truth
3. What are moral relativism's three fatal flaws?
 - Relativism is _____
 - Relativism doesn't _____ with our _____ of reality
 - Relativism is _____ - _____
4. Give one example of a subjective statement.
 - _____.
5. Give one example of an objective statement.
 - _____.

Session Two Discussion

Engage in today's teaching by discussing with your teammates the material you were just taught.

1. Define moral relativism. Do you understand what it is?
2. Why do so many people buy into the idea of moral relativism?
3. Are things like rape, racism, or slavery obvious moral wrongs *to most people*? Why or why not?
4. What are the differences between knowing there *are* true objective moral views and knowing *which* moral views are the right ones?
5. Is it possible for a moral rule to exist, even if no one recognizes it as a moral rule? In other words, if no one believed it was wrong to kill innocent people for no reason, would it still be wrong to do so? Why or why not?

Session Three

God, Are You Out There?

"God has provided enough evidence in this life to convince anyone willing to believe, yet he has also left some ambiguity so as not to compel the unwilling."

Norman L. Geisler

Obvious Truth #1

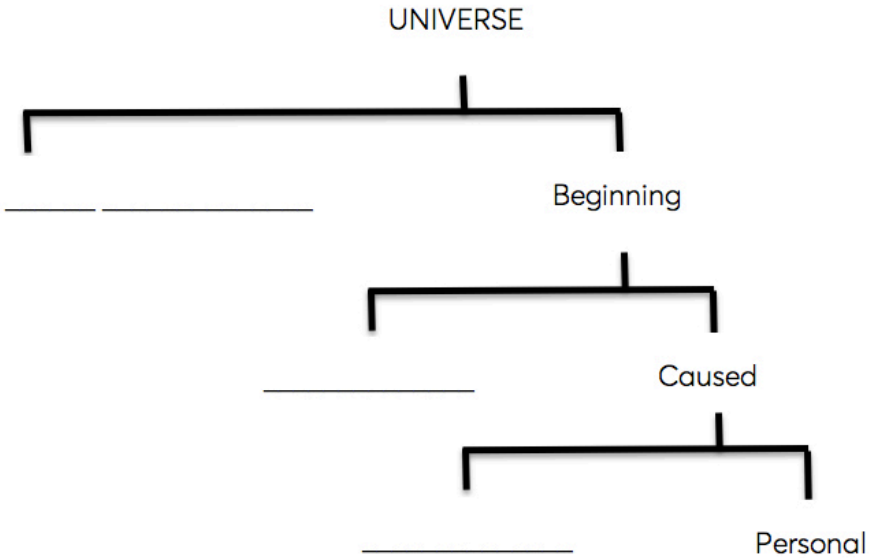
1. The universe _____

The Formal Structure of the Kalam Cosmological Argument

- Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist _____

- Premise 2: The universe began to _____
- Conclusion: Therefore, the universe has a _____

Graph 1: The Argument Put into a Series of Dilemmas



Three Reasons Why the Universe Might Have a Beginning...

- Reason #1 (Philosophical): It is impossible to complete an _____ of past events.

Graph 2: A Timeline, Where Each Dot Represents an Event in Time



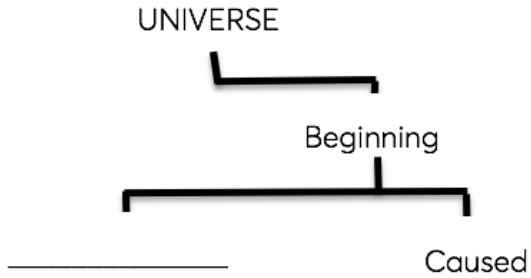
- Reason #2 (Scientific):
The _____

_____ (NIV)

By the word of the Lord the
Heavens were made, their starry
host by the breath of his mouth.

- Reason #3: The 2nd law of

Graph 1 Cont.



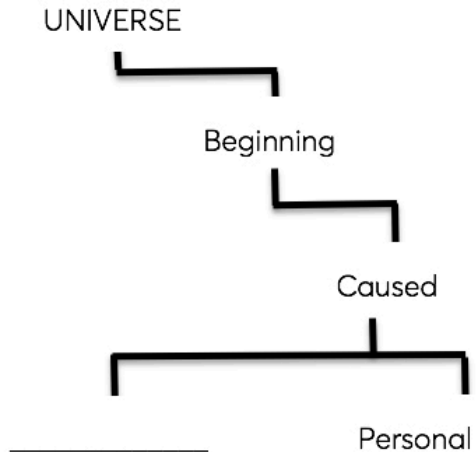
"Suppose you suddenly hear a loud bang... and you ask me, 'what made that bang?' and I reply, 'nothing, it just happened.' You would not accept that."

Kai Nielsen | Atheist Philosopher

*"What does need its origin explained is the concrete universe itself... [It] does perform a version of the ultimate bootstrapping trick; it creates itself **ex nihilo**. Or at any rate out of something that is well-nigh indistinguishable from nothing at all."*

Daniel Dennett | Atheist

Graph 1 Cont.



_____ (NASB)

For when Gentiles who do not have the law do instinctively the things of the law, these, not having the law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the works of the law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them...

The Formal Argument

- Premise 1: If objective moral values exist, then _____
- Premise 2: Objective moral values _____
- Conclusion: Therefore, God _____

True or False?

Place *T* next to true claims, and *F* next to a false claims.

- Killing innocent people for no reason is wrong. _____
- Raping women is morally good. _____

- We should practice racism daily. _____

- You should beat your siblings often. _____

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed to be cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"

C.S. Lewis | Apologist

"A duty is something that is owed... but something can be owed only to some person or persons. There can be no such thing as a duty in isolation... the concept of moral obligation [is] unintelligible apart from the idea of God."

Richard Taylor | Skeptic & Philosopher

The Conclusion to the Argument

- There is a _____

Obvious Truth #3

3. There is evil in the _____

"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: Jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

Richard Dawkins | Atheist

"In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference."

Richard Dawkins | Atheist

Three-Step Argument of Evil

1. Evil is a departure from the way things _____

2. The way things ought to be implies an _____

3. An objective moral law implies a _____

The conclusion to the moral argument

- *There Is a Moral Law GIVER!*

Other Arguments for God's Existence

- The _____ argument

- The _____ argument

Session Three Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Three. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Three outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank....

- List the three obvious truths discussed in Session Three.
 - Obvious Truth #1: The _____ exists.
 - Obvious Truth #2: It's wrong to _____ young _____ for _____.
 - Obvious Truth #3: There is _____ in the world.
- Complete the Kalam Cosmological Argument.
 - Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a _____.
 - Premise 2: The universe began to _____.
 - Conclusion: Therefore, the universe has a _____.
- Evil is a departure from the way things _____ to _____.
- The way things ought to be implies an _____ moral law.
- An _____ moral law implies a moral law _____.

Session Three Discussion

Discuss with your team the material you just reviewed.

1. Is there value in leading someone to believe in God even if they do not immediately accept Christianity? Why or why not?
2. What are the implications of an atheistic universe versus the implications of a theistic universe?
3. Explain the cosmological argument for God's existence? What parts do you find confusing?
4. Why might the Christian argue that life without God is ultimately absurd? Do you find this line of argument compelling? Why or why not?
5. Do you believe that God exists? Why or why not?

Session Four

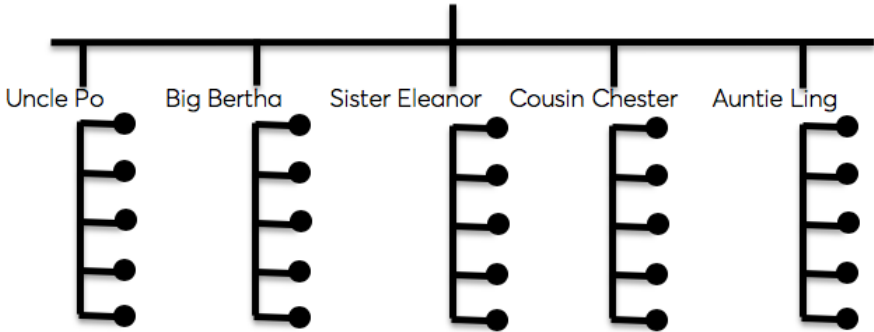
Why Should I Trust the Bible?

"If skeptics were willing to give the Gospels the same benefit of the doubt they are willing to give other ancient documents, the Gospels would easily pass the test of authorship."

J. Warner Wallace

Analogy: How Aunt Sally's Recipe Gets Passed Along

AUNT SALLY'S SECRET SAUCE



Three questions scholars ask about the manuscripts they have, helping them determine how reliable the copy of the original is...

1. How _____ manuscripts do we have?
2. How _____ are the manuscripts we have?
3. How _____ are the textual variations?

1. How many manuscripts do we have?
- More than _____ Greek manuscripts

- More than _____ pages of text

Graph 4: Amount of Handwritten NT Manuscripts

10,000+ Latin manuscripts
 8,000 Coptic, Syriac, Gothic, and Arabic manuscripts
 + 5,800 Handwritten manuscripts
23,800+ Handwritten Manuscripts of the New Testament

- More than _____
 quotations of the New
 Testament by early Church
 fathers _____

2. How early are the _____
 manuscripts we have? _____

Graph 5: Total early New Testament manuscripts

12 Second Century
 64 Third Century
 + 48 Fourth Century
124 Manuscripts Within First 300 Years of NT Writings

Other Ancient Documents

- Livy has _____ copies _____
 & the earliest copy is _____
 _____ years after the _____
 original _____

- Tacitus has _____
copies & the earliest
copy is _____ years
after the original

- Suetonius has _____
copies & the earliest
copy is _____ years
after the original

Compare Ancient Manuscripts to the New Testament

- _____ NT copies
- We have copies as early
as _____ years after
originals
- _____ Within 1st 300
years

3. How significant are the
textual variations?

- _____% of the
variations are what
scholars call insignificant
variations

Find the Variations

Circle the variations in Aunt Sally's recipe. How many?

1. Add 1 cop of finely chopped garlic, and boil.
2. Add 1 cup of finely chipped garlic, and boil.
3. Ad 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, and boil.
4. Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, and bowl.
5. Add 1 cup of finely chopped glarlic, and boil.
6. Add 1 cup # finely chopped garlic, and boil.
7. Add 1 cup of finely chopped garlic, nd boil.
8. Add 1 cup of fly chopped garlic, and boil.

The BIG Three...

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

"Most of the changes found in our early Christian manuscripts have nothing to do with theology or ideology. Far and away the most changes are the result of mistakes, pure and simple slips of the pen, accidental omissions, inadvertent additions, misspelled words, blunders of one sort or another."

Bart Ehrman | Skeptic

Father-In-Law of _____...

Caiaphas Ossuary

- Discovered in December of _____
- Inscribed on the ossuary were the words "Yehosef Bar Kayafa," translated as "Joseph, Son of Caiaphas"

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Discovered in _____

Historicity Conclusion...

- We Have an Accurate _____ Book

3. Inspiration: Is What They Wrote What God Actually Said?

Supernatural Predictions...

Example: Micah 5:2 Predicts the City Jesus Would Be Born In 700 Years Before His Actual Birth

- Be a descendant of Abraham _____
(Genesis 12:1-3) _____
- Be from the tribe of Judah _____
(Genesis 49:10) _____
- And the house of David _____
(Psalm 110:1) _____
- Be born of a Virgin _____
(Isaiah 7:14) _____
- Be betrayed for 30 silver pieces _____
(Zechariah 11:12) _____
- Have his hands & feet pierced _____
(Psalm 22:16) _____
- Be crucified with transgressors _____
(Isaiah 53:9,12) _____
- Cry out, "my God, my God, ... _____"
(Psalm 22:1) _____
- Rise from the dead _____
(Psalm 16:8-11) _____

- Ascend into Heaven _____ (Ps 68:1-8)

Supernatural Unity

- _____ different authors
- Over _____ years
- In _____ different countries
- On _____ different continents

The Bible Also Has...

- Supernatural _____
- Supernatural _____
- Supernatural _____

Inspiration Conclusion...

The Bible is _____ the
_____ of _____

Session Four Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Four. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Four outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank....

1. When it comes to establishing the authority of the Bible, what are the three key questions we must ask and answer?
 - _____: Is what we have what they wrote?
 - _____: Are the things written what really happened?
 - _____: Is what they wrote what God actually said?
2. When it comes to the transmission of the biblical manuscripts, what are the three important questions scholars ask as they try to reconstruct the original?
 - How _____ manuscripts do we have?
 - How _____ are the manuscripts we have?
 - How _____ are the textual variations?
3. When it comes to the historicity of the Bible, what are the two important tests we must conduct?
 - _____ Test
 - _____ Test

4. Name two of the ten fulfilled prophecies we learned about in Session Four.

○ Prophecy 1: _____

○ Prophecy 2: _____

5. What is one way the Bible is supernatural?

• Supernatural _____

Session Four Discussion

With your team, discuss the material you learned today. Use the questions below to aid your discussion.

1. Why is the telephone analogy a bad analogy to describe the way the Bible has been passed down through time?
2. What's the difference between translation and transmission of the Bible?
3. Explain the difference between the internal and external tests for the historical reliability of the Bible.
4. What are the two or three most compelling reasons for you to think the Bible is no mere book but inspired by God?
5. What clarifications do you need from Session Four?

Session Five

Only One Way

"So, Jesus is a man. That is the first thing. But there is something more. From the beginning Jesus says things no man is allowed to say, at least not a Jew speaking to other Jews. He says he existed before he was born. He says any sin he pardons is forgiven, as if he is the one any sin has wronged. He says honor due the Father is due him. He says final judgment in the final day falls to him. He says he is drink for the thirsty and bread for the hungry, so they will never thirst or hunger again. He says those who trust in him will live, even if they die."

Gregory Koukl

Objections to the Exclusive Claims of Jesus

1. Objection #1: I Am

One should respond by asking...

- Why are you _____?

The mature one asks...

- What is _____?

_____ (ESV)

...A Stone of Stumbling, and a Rock of Offense.

2. Objection #2: How can Christianity be the only

_____ _____?

This Objection commits a logical fallacy...

- _____: There are many religions in the world
- _____: There cannot be only one true religion
- This is called a _____ - _____

3. Objection #3: Aren't all Religions _____
_____?

- Why can't we focus on the _____, not the _____?

4. Objection #4: What about people who are _____
_____?

- Sincerity is not _____

5. Obstacle #5: If you were born in Saudi Arabia, you would _____

This obstacle commits the genetic fallacy

- You can't dismiss a _____
- based upon where it _____

6. Obstacle #6: Exclusive religious views are the cause of _____

Encyclopedia of Wars
5 Millennia of Wars – by Charles Phillips & Alan Axelrod

- _____ total wars listed

Four Key Questions We Must Answer to Make the Case that Christianity is True...

1. Does truth exist and is it _____?
2. Does God _____?
3. Does God _____?
4. Does God _____?

What Does the Bible Tell Us About Jesus?

_____ (NIV)

"...Who do people say I am?"

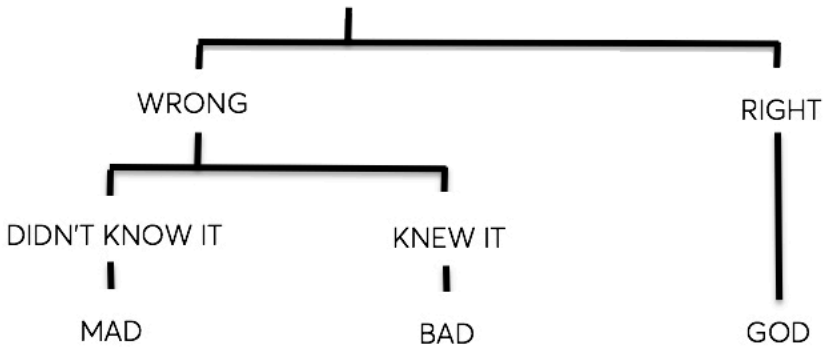
JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD!

_____ (NIV)

I and the Father are One.

Graph 6: Jesus Claims to be God

JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD



"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic...or else he would be the devil in hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit on him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis | Apologist

_____ (NASB)

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light for their deeds were evil.

Christians will be hated...

_____ (NIV)

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you; "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

_____ (NIV)

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood..."

Session Five Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Five. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Five outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank....

1. _____: All religions are equally true and valid paths to God.
2. _____: Only one true religion leads to God.

True or False?

3. _____: Christianity is unique in making exclusive religious claims.
4. _____: All religions teach essentially the same principles.
5. _____: Jesus could have been a good moral teacher, but not God.

Session Five Discussion

With your team, discuss the material you learned today. Use the questions below to aid your discussion.

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to God? Why?
2. Does it really matter if our religious beliefs are false?
3. What objections have you heard people raise against the idea that Jesus is the only way? How would you respond?
4. How are Jesus' claims different from the claims of other religious leaders?
5. Why are people resistant to the claim Jesus is the only way?

Session Six

The Allure of Good Questions

"If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first 55 minutes asking questions and finding out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then the last 5 minutes I will share something of the truth."

Francis Schaeffer

Session Six Outline

The Great Commission

_____ (NASB)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

_____ (NASB)

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Phrases Christians Use...

- You have to get non-Christians to the _____
- Close the _____ with unbelievers
- Preach the _____
- Lead people to _____

Four Key Questions We Must Answer to Make the Case for Christianity Being True...

1. Does truth exist and can we _____?
2. Does God _____?
3. Has God _____?
4. Has God _____?

Graph 7: The Alphabet Analogy



There is no God.

Atheist

I put my trust in Christ.

Christian

Conversational Goal...

- Put a _____ in Their Shoe

The Main Conversational Tool to Put A Stone in People's Shoes...

- _____

Starting with Questions Does Two Good Things...

1. You _____ the other person
2. It takes the _____ off you

Two Key Questions You Must Learn to Ask...

Question #1...

1. What do you _____?
 - Purpose: To get _____

Common Objections Your Skeptical Friend May Raise...

- There is no _____!
- Christians are _____!
- God cannot exist when there is so much _____ in the world!
- We believe in _____ too!

- The goal is not to win _____ but to win _____ to _____

_____ (NIV)

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...

***Get Off the Sidelines.
Live Your Life on Mission for Jesus.***

Session Six Review

Test yourself on what you retained from Session Six. Once you've completed this review, grade yourself. Answers are found in your Session Six outline. *Grade = ____ / 5*

Fill-in-the-Blank....

1. The conversational goal is to put a " _____ in a person's shoe."
2. By asking good questions you will _____ the other person, while taking the _____ off of you.
3. Question #1: _____ do you _____?
4. Question #2: How did you _____ to that _____?
5. Question #3: Have you ever _____ about _____...?

Session Six Discussion

With your team, discuss the material you learned today. Use the questions below to aid your discussion.

1. What's a reasonable goal for each **conversation** we have with non-Christians? How does this differ from the goal we may have for the person?
2. What are the possible benefits when you start with questions rather than statements in a conversation with a non-Christian?
3. What's the purpose of question number one?
4. What is the second question? What is its purpose?
5. What is holding you back from talking to your friends about Christ? How might the questions help you?

