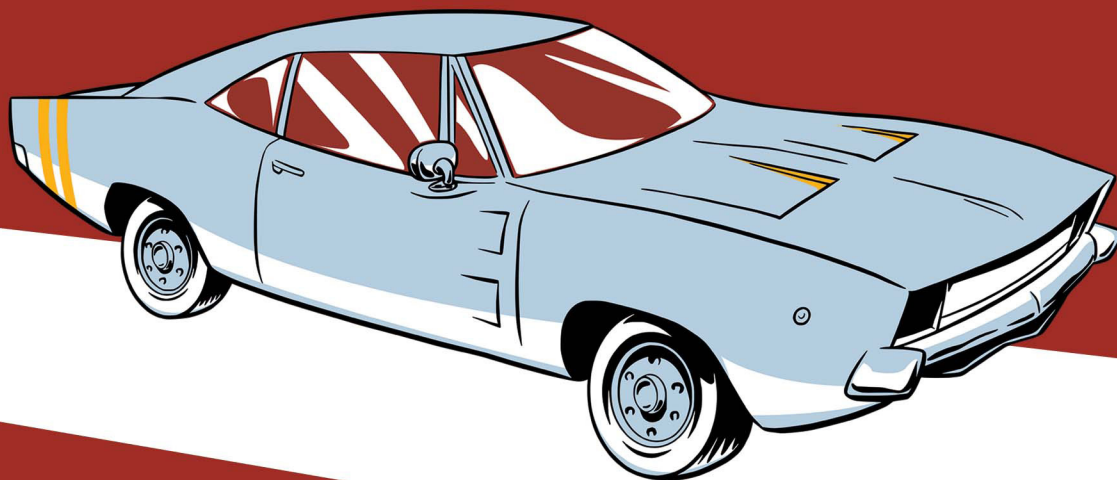


Road Trip
to
TRUTH

Study Guide



Season 2

Table of Contents

How to Use This Curriculum	3
Episode 1: Objections to Christianity.....	6
Episode 2: Agnosticism and Theism.....	12
Episode 3: Monotheistic Religions.....	19
Episode 4: Philosophical Systems.....	25
Episode 5: Environmentalism	32
Episode 6: The Gravity of the Gospel.....	38
Episode 7: One Book to Explain it All	45
Episode 8: Abortion.....	51
Episode 9: Examining Abortion Arguments.....	58
Episode 10: Porn.....	65
Episode 11: Racism	71
Episode 12: Darwin's World.....	78
Episode 13: Progressive Sexuality	84

How to Use This Curriculum

Two-thirds of American young adults leave the church between the ages of 18 and 22, according to a study done by LifeWay Research in 2017. Of those who dropped out, 71 percent did not plan to leave the church. A Pinetops Foundation report in 2019 predicted that about 35 million youths raised in Christian homes will depart from the faith over the next 30 years.

Although there are a variety of factors that lead to this exodus of young people from the Christian faith, the secular ideas encountered on university and college campuses undeniably exacerbate the issue. Campuses are rife with atheistic, evolutionary, and postmodern ideas that are incompatible with a biblical worldview.

The Road Trip to Truth curriculum is intended to prepare churched teenagers for the onslaught of postmodern ideas they will encounter on university campuses. The goal of this study is to introduce students to many of the ideas and arguments they will likely face and to persuade them of the reality and defensibility of the Christian worldview. After this study, students should be able to demonstrate the irrationality of an atheistic worldview, describe the Christian worldview and its basis, articulate the Gospel, and recognize many of the ideas and arguments indicative of non-biblical worldviews.

We cannot impose faith for our students, but we can equip and empower them to face a world of lies.

Curriculum Components

Road Trip to Truth DVD

This curriculum is based on The Road Trip to Truth, a 13-episode video series. Each approximately 30-minute episode invites experts to deal with a particular topic that students are likely to face on university campuses.

Student Guide

The student guide provides a place for students to engage with their assumptions and pre-suppositions as they are challenged by the content of this curriculum. This can become a valuable tool as they find themselves being confronted by the worldly claims of their peers. The guide presents four questions for each episode and space to take notes and record how answers may change throughout the study.

Teacher Guide

The teacher guide equips you to facilitate the study in a meaningful way. With detailed instructions, a clear schedule, main ideas, and a scripted Connection Point, you will be



prepared to lead each session so that you can focus on engaging your students in the most effective way. The schedule includes pacing guides that are based on 1-hour of class time. If you have more time, you can inflate the discussion time between each video or allow for a deeper discussion following the last segment.

Questions

Each lesson begins with four questions the students should answer before watching the videos. All four questions should be answered at the beginning of the class. Each question corresponds to a segment of the episode. After each segment, pause the video and allow students to revisit the corresponding question. They should decide whether or not they would like to change their answer and record their reasoning. Discuss their answers and explanations as time allows.

Video Segments

Each session covers a full episode, broken into four segments. The episode should be paused after each segment to maximize the teaching content it covers. After each segment, use the main ideas provided to reinforce the concepts from the video. See Discussion Tips.

Connection Point

Provided with each segment is a scripted Connection Point. This section is scripted so it can be read directly, but you are encouraged to be familiar with the material and to make it your own. As the teacher, you know your students best and are uniquely qualified to engage them in a way that will have a lasting impact. The Connection Point is designed to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video segment.

Conclusion

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and to close in prayer.

Discussion Tips

The strength of this curriculum depends on the engagement of the students with the ideas presented. Many of these ideas may be new and unfamiliar. Many unsuspecting university students are swept up by the philosophies of postmodernism and non-biblical worldviews without ever realizing the implications of those beliefs. Use the discussion time to guide students to think about what they believe, why they believe it, and how it lines up with truth. Use the following discussion tips to help you lead fruitful discussion:

- Discussion is most fruitful when a majority of students are involved. Manage students as necessary to draw out those who are quieter and keep the more vocal from dominating the conversation.
- Create an environment where students feel safe to share their thoughts and experiences without judgment or ridicule.
- While you need to be aware of your time, do not cut short a discussion that seems es-

- pecially engaging to the students. Invest your time where the students respond best.
- Have a plan, but be flexible enough to allow the students to guide the discussion. In this way you will learn what aspects they are most concerned with.
 - Use the students' answers to the questions, especially if they changed their answers, to launch discussion.
 - Use the main ideas provided as prompts for discussion. Ask whether students agree with certain statements in the video. Encourage thoughtful explanations.
 - Ask questions that require thoughtful answers.
 - Avoid leading questions; the goal of discussion is not to receive correct answers, but to lead students to think about their answers
 - Be prepared to offer correction to false ideas, especially toward the end of the curriculum, but when possible, guide students to discover for themselves the flaws in their thinking

Sample Schedule

Below is a sample schedule based on one hour of class time. Exact timing will vary with segment lengths and success of discussion.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 6:00-6:01 | Open, introduction, and prayer. |
| 6:01-6:03 | Have students answer all four questions. |
| 6:03-6:11 | Watch video segment one. Pause. |
| 6:11-6:17 | Discuss segment one and students' answers to question one. |
| 6:17-6:25 | Watch video segment two. Pause. |
| 6:25-6:31 | Discuss segment two and students' answers to question two. |
| 6:31-6:39 | Watch video segment three. Pause. |
| 6:39-6:45 | Discuss segment three and students' answers to question three. |
| 6:45-6:51 | Watch video segment four. |
| 6:51-6:57 | Discuss segment four and students' answers to question four. |
| 6:57-7:00 | Wrap-up, answer questions, make announcements, close in prayer. |

Episode 1: Objections to Christianity

KEY QUESTIONS

Have students write their answers to all four questions. We will discuss how their answers change after watching the video segments.

1. Christian unity is based on (choose one)
 - a. A commitment to core truths
 - b. Agreement on elements of worship and practice
2. Christianity is (choose one)
 - a. A violent religion.
 - b. A peaceful religion.
3. To send people to hell is (choose one)
 - a. Unreasonable and unfair
 - b. A just punishment for sin
4. The good news is that (choose one)
 - a. We can save ourselves
 - b. Jesus has died for our sins

Episode 1 - Segment 1

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes. Main ideas:

- Many political issues are not civil issues, but rather moral issues that the Bible speaks very clearly on
- The cross of Jesus Christ is not a crutch; it is a cure
- The claim that God does not exist does not follow logically from the claim that Christianity is a crutch
- Genuine Christian churches believe God exists in a Trinity, salvation is in faith in Jesus alone, and the Bible is God's Word
- Denominations differ on non-essential elements like baptism, the Lord's Supper, gifts of the Spirit, worship styles, and order of salvation
- Christians are united not by organization but because they are committed to the same core truths

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the first question has changed after watching the video. The main ideas listed for each video segment can become talking points or questions to help generate discussion. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Many people reject Christianity, and they point to different reasons for their objections. Some point to political behaviors. Christianity doesn't pick political sides, but many political issues are not civil issues but moral issues that the Bible does clearly speak about. Others object to Christianity by labeling it as a crutch. Christianity is more of a cure, but even thinking of it as a crutch does not imply that God doesn't exist. A popular objection to Christianity is the number of different denominations. But this is actually evidence for Christianity because each of these Christian denominations are united in the commitment to core beliefs about Jesus, salvation, and God's Word. As Paul wrote, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What objections to Christianity have you heard?
- Do you think denominations undermine the truth of the Gospel?



Episode 1 - Segment 2

VIDEO

Play the second segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes. Main ideas:

- Biblical Christianity is defined by one person—Jesus Christ
- Christianity is not defined by the behavior of individuals, but by the teachings of Jesus and the Word of God
- People may have been hurt by true Christians doing wrong things, the truth of the Christian message, or those who are not true Christians who do wrong things
- Neither the good nor the bad behavior of Christianity's followers proves, or disproves, God's existence

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the second question has changed after watching the video. The main ideas listed for each video segment can become talking points or questions to help generate discussion. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: One of the most common objections to Christianity is that it is a violent religion or that Christians are mean. While there has been some historical violence committed in the name of Christianity, and there are people who have been hurt by Christians or those claiming to be, none of those experiences prove that God doesn't exist or that Christianity isn't true. Jesus taught to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). In fact, Christianity is built on mercy and forgiveness: "He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us . . . having nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14). People don't always act perfectly according to the commands of Christ, but that in no way proves Christianity itself to be false.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Is it valid to point to historical violence to deny the existence of God?
- Do you have a personal example of Christians who were mean?

Episode 1 - Segment 3

VIDEO

Watch the third segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes. Main ideas:

- God is the Creator and Judge of the universe and has the right to take any life at any moment
- Every human being (except Jesus) has sinned and the consequence for sin is death
- The more authoritative the person wronged, the bigger the consequence of the wrong
- Every sin is high-handed treason against the Sovereign of the universe
- Because God is eternal and His Law is eternal, to transgress his law demands eternal punishment

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the third question has changed after watching the video. The main ideas listed for each video segment can become talking points or questions to help generate discussion. Encourage discussion as time allows. Use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, point to Scripture, and transition to the next video.

Connection Point: Many people object to Christianity by claiming that God is unfair or that it is unreasonable for Him to send people to hell for eternity. But who gets to decide what is fair? God is the Creator and Judge of all things. He has the right to do with His creation whatever He wishes. God is a just God. But each and every one of us has broken His eternal Law (Romans 3:23). And the punishment for that transgression is death (Romans 6:23). The people in hell are enduring the just punishment for their treason against the Sovereign of the universe. In fact, we all deserve eternal punishment in hell. Fortunately, God is also a God of mercy.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How do we know what is fair? Who defines what is fair?
- How does understanding who we sin against inform your understanding of just punishment?

Episode 1 - Segment 4

VIDEO

Watch the fourth segment of Road Trip to Truth Episode 1. Encourage students to take notes. Main ideas:

- We will all have our day in God's court, where every thought, word, and deed will be revealed
- God prefers to rescue sinners so we don't have to go to hell
- Christianity is the only religion that recognizes that we cannot save ourselves
- Jesus' death is the payment for your sin; Jesus' resurrection is God's receipt, declaring the payment acceptable
- If you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, when God looks at you, He sees Jesus

DISCUSSION

Have students write down if and why their answer to the fourth question has changed after watching the video. The main ideas listed for each video segment can become talking points or questions to help generate discussion. Encourage discussion as time allows. Then, use the provided connection point to reinforce the truths from the video, and point to Scripture.

Connection Point: We are all sinners who justly deserve hell, but Jesus paid the price to restore us and make us members of his family. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). That is why He has revealed to truth to us in His Word and in the person of His Son, Jesus, whom He sent to die on the cross for our sin. Jesus took on all of our sins and died for them, paying our penalty, so that we might have eternal life (Romans 6:23). God is just to send sinners to Hell, but He is merciful to provide a way of escape, if only we will lay aside our own case, with its half-baked objections, and accept the plea-deal of Christ, receiving His just and perfect record.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How does the death and resurrection of Jesus effect the Gospel?
- Do you think it makes sense that you must recognize the bad news in order to receive the good news?

CONCLUSION

Use whatever time remains to answer questions, make announcements, and close in prayer.

Episode 1:

Additional Sources

Hall, Amy. "Yes, Christians Are Hypocrites, If by 'Hypocrite' You Mean 'Sinner.'" Stand to Reason. Accessed July 05, 2020. <https://www.str.org/w/yes-christians-are-hypocrites-if-by-hypocrite-you-mean-sinner>.

Many have rejected Christianity, claiming hypocrisy as their reason for objecting. But or hypocrisy is not a reason to reject Christianity, it is further proof for the need of salvation through Jesus Christ. Christians do not claim to be perfect; we recognize that we fall short of God's glory. Christianity is not merely about being a good person, it is about surrendering to the only one who was ever perfect. That is why we go to church and follow Christ. A Christian's sin doesn't contradict Christianity, it confirms it. Christianity isn't about how good the Christians are; it's about the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross. Being honest about our sin is simply another avenue to point to the need for Jesus.

GotQuestions.org. "Which of the 30,000 Protestant denominations is the true church of God?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed August 22, 2021. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Protestant-denominations.html>.

A common challenge to Protestant Christianity is the existence of denominations. Atheists and Roman Catholics alike point to this variation to argue that since the denominations cannot agree, they must not be the true church. But the existence of denominations does not come from disunity in the body, but diversity in worship styles and non-essential doctrines. All of the truly Protestant denominations agree on the essential doctrines of salvation.

Barnett, Tim. "Is Eternal Punishment Just?" Stand To Reason. Accessed August 22, 2021. <http://www.str.org/w/is-eternal-punishment-just-1>.

When we object to the idea of eternal punishment for a finite number of sin committed during a few short years on earth, we are clearly failing to see sin the way God sees sin. When we consider that our sin offends an infinite being, it stands to reason that the punishment ought to be infinite. When we consider the holiness of God, we recognize the severity of our transgressions. Eternal judgment in Hell only seems unfair when we fail to see the gravity of our offense and the infinite nature of the one we offend.

Shlemon, Alan. "God Is Good and Just When He Punishes People." Stand to Reason. Accessed July 05, 2020. <https://www.str.org/w/god-is-good-and-just-when-he-punishes-people>.

Parents punish their children when they have violated a family rule. This holds the child accountable for his actions, teaches him that the rules are to be followed, and protects the one violated by his act. This is simply the basic concept of loving discipline. But when it comes to God, people object to justice and discipline. They protest: "If God is good, how could He send someone to hell?" But God is good and just when he punishes us. We have violated His law, so we must be punished. In fact, we all deserve the punishment of hell. But God further demonstrates his goodness by mercifully providing a way of salvation and reconciliation. He offers a just pardon. We either accept the terms of His pardon, or we receive the punishment we deserve.