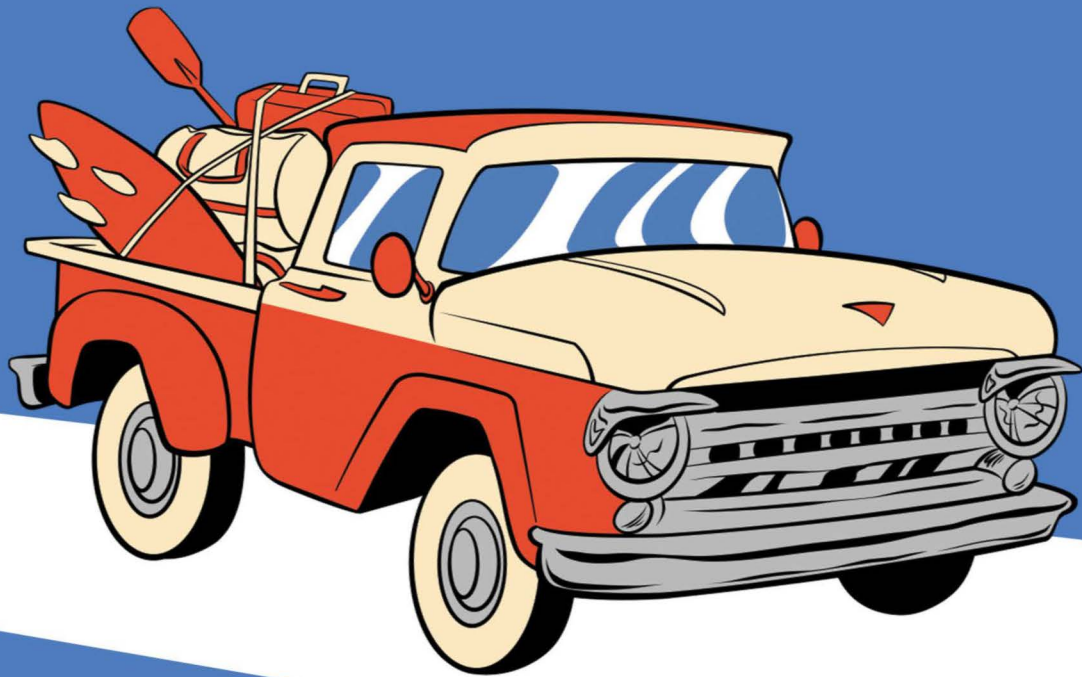


Road Trip
to
TRUTH

Study Guide



Season 4

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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.

Curriculum Components

Road Trip to Truth DVD

This curriculum is based on The Road Trip to Truth, a 13-episode video series. Each approximately 25-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 presuppositions 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 especially 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: The Real Solution to Racism

KEY QUESTIONS

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

1. Racism (choose one)
 - Is a major problem.
 - Doesn't really exist.
2. The root cause of racism is (choose one)
 - Natural biases.
 - Sinful hearts.
3. Laws and cultural pressures (choose one)
 - Can cure racism.
 - Cannot cure racism.
4. Racism can be solved (choose one)
 - By carefully crafted laws and regulation.
 - Only through salvation.

Episode 1: Segment 1

Wrong Terms

VIDEO

Play the first segment of Road Trip to Truth episode 1. Encourage students to take notes.

Main ideas:

- Racism is the result of an individual or group viewing their “race” as superior.
- Race is a man-made social construct.
- All people are descended from Adam and Eve, but there are many ethnicities.
- A key to having a conversation about racism is defining terms.
- Racism is a highly emotional issue.

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: Racism is a hot-button topic in many arenas and discourse can be especially challenging. It is important to understand that emotions run deep on all sides of the issue. But the Bible makes it clear that there are not distinct races of people. As Paul explained in Acts 17:26, God “made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth.” In the beginning, God created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, in his own image (Genesis 1:27). Every person is descended from these two. There are many nations, or ethnicities, but the differences are simply genetic diversity and culture. All people are created in God’s image and are part of one common race. That truth must inform any Christian who engages with this topic.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What is racism? What is race?
- What significance would you give skin shade when it comes to judging another person?

Episode 1: Segment 2

The Root Issue

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- Darwin came up with the idea that there are distinct races that evolved differently, with some more evolved than others.
- Every person is an image-bearer of the Creator.
- The Christian's speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6).
- An evolutionary worldview justifies racism, but the Bible helps us understand that evolution is just a mechanism that wicked people use to wound and subjugate others.
- Because we live in a broken world (because of sin), we all have natural biases, prejudices, and stereotypes; but the Christian, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit, can overcome these types of differences.

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: God created man in his image, from one man and one woman—one race of people. But when they disobeyed God, their sin had drastic consequences. Not only were they condemned to die and their relationship with God interrupted, but all of creation suffered from the curse of sin and death. Every person born since that time is sinful. This is why we struggle with things like biases and prejudices. But Christians have been freed from their enslavement to sin through the work of Jesus on the cross, and the Holy Spirit dwells in them. It is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit that Christians can overcome the sinful tendencies and instead speak graciously (Colossians 4:6).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Where does racism come from? What is the fundamental issue behind racism?
- Do you think there is systemic racism?

Episode 1: Segment 3

The Gospel and Racism

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- The world's approach to racism hasn't worked because it focuses on external control mechanisms, like laws and regulations.
- The Biblical solution recognizes that racism is a heart issue and thus the solution can only come through a spiritual heart transplant.
- The gospel of Christ changes our hearts and affections so we become so enraptured with Christ that we are not enticed by the dangerous sin of racism.
- Jesus died for every tribe, tongue, and nation of people, regardless of skin shade.
- Christians strive to love like Jesus, who loved to the point of sacrificial death, and this pursuit enables us to not hate or despise others because of something as trivial as skin shade.

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: Most people today agree that racism is bad and the issue needs to be fixed. The conversation becomes contentious when it goes beyond that. Different experiences, motivations, and ideas for moving forward cause heated exchanges. What is clear, though, is that the world's approach has not been altogether successful. This is because, ultimately, a heart issue can only be resolved in the heart. You can't legislate someone's heart. But the message of the Bible is about changing people's hearts. The gospel of Jesus Christ changes the hearts of those who trust him. The Bible says "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The new heart is no longer enslaved by sin and its effects, but is enraptured with Christ. We learn to love as he loves—a genuine and sacrificial love for every tribe, tongue, and nation.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What is the solution to racial animosity?
- Why have laws and cultural pressure have not cured racism?



Episode 1: Segment 4

The Cure

VIDEO

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

Main ideas:

- For all of human history, people have hated other people because of differences like skin color, language, or culture.
- Man's response has been to force a behavioral change, an approach that has not succeeded in curing racism.
- The only true cure for racism is the gospel of Jesus Christ, a changed heart and an acceptance of a new identity in Christ.
- Jesus willingly chose to die on the cross for sinners, regardless of what they looked like or the culture they were from.
- Knowing the gospel is the cure for racism and for all sin; Christians can help by sharing the gospel more.

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: God doesn't see people as we do—externally; he looks at people's hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). He created each person in his image (Genesis 1:27) and wants a relationship with them. But we have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and thus deserve death and separation from God (Romans 6:23). But God showed how much he loved us by sending his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay our penalty so that whoever would call on his name for salvation would be saved (Romans 5:8, 10:9-10; John 3:16). When we are saved, we are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17) and adopted as children of God (John 1:12). This new identity is the ultimate cure for racism. With a new heart unshackled by sin (Romans 6:6), we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus did—genuinely and sacrificially. We accept a new identity and begin to see others through that lens. We are all image-bearers of God, and those who are saved are family, fellow children of God. With this truth, we recognize that the true cure for racism is to share the gospel with others so that hearts and lives might be transformed.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What can you do to stop racism?
- How does the gospel change the way you think about racism?

Episode 1:

Additional Sources

Ham, Ken. "Are There Really Different Races?" Chapter 17 in The New Answers Book 1. Answers in Genesis. November 29, 2007. Accessed September 23, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/racism/are-there-really-different-races>.

When we start with the Bible, it is clear that there is only one race—the human race. God created man in His image, male and female, and from that first couple descend every human being. In fact, the idea of races of people was popularized by evolutionary ideas like those of Charles Darwin. If people have evolved, then it is possible that some races are more evolved than others. The truth is, though, that all people belong to the same race, created by God. The differences we see are due to the beauty of genetic and cultural diversity, distinctions that are explained by the dispersion of family groups from the tower of Babel.

Smith, Calvin. "Systemic Racism Is Real—But Not What Most People Think." Answers in Genesis. August 10, 2020. Accessed September 23, 2023. <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/calvin-smith/2020/08/10/systemic-racism-is-real-but-not-what-most-people-think>.

As racial tensions abound, so have cries of systemic racism. Many claim that our very systems and structures are racist and exacerbate racial oppression. Perhaps the truly racist system is an unexpected one. The system that teaches racism at a foundational level is humanistic naturalism. The story of evolution allows for various races to have evolved separately and at differing rates, resulting in some races being superior to others. It is secular humanism and biological evolution that is inherently and systemically racist at its foundation.

"What does the Bible say about systemic racism?" GotQuestions.org. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://www.gotquestions.org/systemic-racism.html>.

Though the Bible doesn't use the term "systemic racism," the Word of God does speak to the value and sanctity of life and how people ought to be treated. In fact, it is the biblical perspective alone that provides a basis for casting moral judgment against the evils of racism. The Christian is thus obligated by the biblical worldview to fight against systemic racism. However, discernment is required in evaluating the veracity and validity of each claim, as well as determining how to address the valid claims. And the Christian must not embrace anti-biblical philosophies in the quest to counter legitimate evil.

Long, Blake. "The Imago Dei Under Attack." Theology & Life. January 3, 2022. Accessed September 25, 2023. <https://theology-and-life.com/2022/01/03/the-imago-dei-under-attack>.

Humanity is sacred because of the imago Dei—the image of God. We alone were created in God's likeness. But that foundational doctrine is under attack through racism. Racism leads to treating people less than human. But nobody is less human than anyone else—we are all created in God's image. To be racist is to ignore or reject that God created all things very good. Racism is not compatible with biblical Christianity.