

# Lesson 1

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## There is more than one way to look at your world

When people look at the same event or object, they often think very different things. It's as if everyone wears different eyeglasses, and therefore each has a different view of what is really there.

For example, when you look at a beautiful cake, you may have different ideas about that cake, depending on what you know about cake or the maker of the cake.

Mary made this cake.  
Mary bought the cake.



Cake is good for you.  
Cake is bad for you.

Cake tastes good.  
Cake is too sweet.

This is a beautiful cake.  
This is a 'tacky' cake.

When people think about God, they have different ideas, too.

There is a God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal and ever-present.  
There is no God.  
Everything is God. All is divine.

When people look at the world, what different ideas do they have?

God created the world.



The world evolved by chance.

When people look at themselves, what different ideas do they have?

Mankind is just a cosmic accident.  
Man was created in the image of God.  
Man has a special purpose.

Man came up from the slime.  
There is no purpose for man's life.  
Why bother?

In the coming weeks, we are going to be talking a lot about something called a **WORLDVIEW**. And we are going to learn, through the study of the book of beginnings, Genesis, what a **CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW** really is.

1. We will begin with the word 'worldview' and see what it means. Your teacher will be giving you a word puzzle to unscramble. Take the words in your puzzle and paste them in the right order below. This should give you a good definition of worldview.


2. Here are some other ideas that help us to understand worldview:
  - A worldview is what you believe about the world because of what you believe about God.
  - A worldview is the 'big picture' of life. It starts with an understanding of God, which then helps you to fit together all the individual pieces of your world.
3. Your worldview gives you the answers to the really important, difficult questions of life. It begins with questions such as these:

Who is God?                      What has He done?                      What can He do?  
 What is God like?                      Can I really trust Him?

The way you answer those important questions will then give you answers to other questions, such as these:

Who am I?                      What is my purpose in life?  
 What is really true?                      Why do bad things happen?

Finally, all the answers will come together as you answer the key question:

How then should I live?

4. We know that people have many different ways of looking at their world.

Where do you suppose people get their ideas about the world? Write your thoughts below, or discuss them with your class.



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5. When people have different ideas about something, such as who made the cake in the example we saw, what is the best way to discover what is really true? Which of the following is the best way to ‘settle the matter’? Put a check  beside your answer.

- Ask your best friend what he thinks.
- Ask your teacher at school.
- Look in the newspaper.
- Ask the eyewitness who was there when the cake was made or bought.

6. When it comes to questions about who God is, what He is like, who made the world, who made you, or why were you made, was there an eyewitness? Who?

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7. Do we have that eyewitness report written down anywhere? Where?

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8. Finally, considering your answer to the last question, where should we look to find truth that will give us the answers to all those hard worldview questions?

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9. Can you trust what you read in the Bible? What does the Bible say about itself? Read the passages below and *highlight* or *underline* what you learn about what is true.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** (NIV) ‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.’

**Psalms 119:142** (NIV) ‘Your righteousness is everlasting and your law [meaning God’s Word] is true.’

**John 1:14** (NIV) ‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.’

**John 14:6** (NIV) ‘Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”’

**John 17:17** (NIV) ‘Sanctify [means ‘make holy’ or ‘set aside for His use’] them by the truth; your word is truth.’

10. Let’s think a little more about how Scripture can give us truth—a worldview that really gives us the answers that will ‘work’ in our lives.

For example, consider these questions:

How did the world get here?

How did I get here?

Read the Scriptures below and *underline* or *highlight* what the eyewitness (the Creator) tells us about how the heavens, the Earth and all living things came to be.

**Genesis 1:1** (NIV) ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’

**Genesis 1:26–27** (NIV) ‘Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.’

**Psalm 148:5** (NIV) ‘Let them [the angels, sun, moon, stars, highest heavens, waters above the heavens] praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.’

**Isaiah 40:26** (NIV) ‘Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.’

**Isaiah 45:12** (NIV) ‘It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.’

**Colossians 1:16** (NIV) ‘For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.’

11. Finally, before we stop for the week, we need to think about just one more question. Does it make a difference whether you are a special creation of God or you simply ‘came from the slime’? Would it make any difference in your worldview? Would it make any difference how you would live? Think about it a moment and then write the answer below or discuss it in class.

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Thanks for ‘hanging in’ this week with some new ideas and new ‘50-cent’ words. You have made a good beginning. See you next week.