

The Biblical World View

ESL Bible Studies

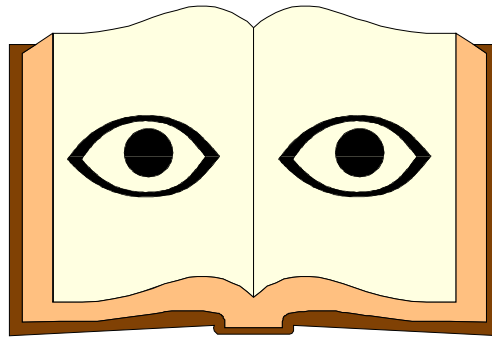
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1. The Biblical World View
2. God
3. Satan
4. Humans (part 1)
5. Humans (part 2)
6. Punishment for Sin
7. Peace with God
8. Communication between God and People

The Biblical World View

Questions:

1. Each of us wears a “pair of glasses” that we use to look at and understand the world around us. We can call these glasses one’s “world view.” Where do you think are some of the “places” from which a person’s world view comes?
2. The book in the picture below is the Christians’ Bible. When Christians look at the world from the view of the Bible, whose “eyes” do they say they are looking at the world through?



The Bible’s “world view” starts with God. According to the Bible...

- The universe and all we see in nature were created by God.
- God formed humans, breathed life into us, and gave us unique identities.
- It is God who has given humans’ lives purpose and value.
- It is God who determines what is “good” and what is “evil.” He has the right to reward and punish.
- Even though human “knowledge” has changed from age to age, God never changes. The truth that God has revealed to us never changes either.

The world view we find in the Bible is often different from our own. However, the Bible’s world view can help change our own world view so that we can see the world around us more clearly and understand our lives more clearly also.

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| - world view (n) | - nature (n) | - purpose (n) |
| - pair of glasses (n) | - create (v) | - value (n) (also v) |
| - belief (n) | - form (v) | - determine (v) |
| - hold (v) | - human (n) | - evil (n) |
| - Bible (n) | - breathe (v) | - reward (v) |
| - universe (n) | - unique (adj) | - punish (v) |
| | - identity (n) | - age (n) |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. A person’s world view is like a _____ that the person uses to look at the world.
2. The world view of Christians comes from the _____.
3. The Bible says that God _____ everything in the world.
4. The Bible says that God gives _____ to peoples’ lives.
5. The Bible says that although people change, God _____ changes.

God

Questions:

1. Do you believe in an “unseen” or spiritual world? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe that there is a God? Why or why not?
3. If you believe that there is a God, what do you think God is like?

What the Bible says about God:

God is...

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Spirit | God is Spirit. (John 4:24, TEV) |
| 2. Eternal | From everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalm 90:2, NIV) |
| 3. Unchangeable | I am the LORD, and I do not change. (Malachi 3:6, TEV) |
| 4. All-powerful | I am the almighty God. (Genesis 17:1, TEV)
Nothing is impossible for God. (Luke 1:37, God's Word) |
| 5. All-knowing | “Lord, you know everything.” (John 21:17, TEV) |
| 6. Everywhere | “I am everywhere in heaven and on earth” says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:24, TEV) |
| 7. Holy | I, the LORD, your God, am holy. (Leviticus 19:2, NIV) |
| 8. Just/Fair | Your God does what is right and fair. (Deuteronomy 32:4, TEV) |
| 9. Faithful | God remains faithful. He cannot be untrue to himself. (2 Timothy 2:13, God's Word) |
| 10. Good | The LORD is good to all. He has compassion on all he has made. (Psalm 145:9, NIV) |
| 11. Loving | God is love. (1 John 4:16, NIV) |
| 12. Forgiving | The LORD, a compassionate and merciful God, patient...forgiving wrongdoing, disobedience, and sin. (Exodus 34:6-7, God's Word) |

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| - unseen (adj) | - almighty (adj) | - untrue (adj) |
| - spiritual (adj) | - holy (adj) | - compassion (n) |
| - spirit (n) | - just (adj) | - compassionate (adj) |
| - eternal (adj) | - fair (adj) | - merciful (adj) |
| - everlasting (adj) | - right (adj) | - wrongdoing (n) |
| - unchangeable (adj) | - faithful (adj) | - disobedience (n) |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. The Bible says that our physical bodies will die. They are not _____.
2. We are often very weak, but God is _____.
3. Two other words for sin are _____ and _____.
4. The Bible says that all people have a body and a _____.
5. Because God keeps his promises, we say that he is _____.

Satan

Questions:

1. Do you believe that Satan and evil spirits exist? Why or why not?
2. What do you think these are like and where do you think they came from?
3. Do you believe that there are spiritual forces that can cause events to happen in the human world?

What the Bible says about Satan and evil spirits:

1. Satan and evil spirits exist. They were created by God and in the beginning they were good angels. However, they later rebelled against God and God sent them out of heaven. There are many of them and they are powerful.

“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels; but the dragon was defeated, and he and his angels were not allowed to stay in heaven any longer. The huge dragon was thrown out – that ancient serpent, named the Devil or Satan, that deceived the whole world. He was thrown down to earth, and all his angels with him.” (Revelation 12:7-9, TEV)

2. Satan and the other evil spirits are enemies of God and enemies of people. They want to ruin and destroy what God has created.

“Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, TEV)

3. Since Satan knows he can't defeat God, he instead tries to destroy people by trying to prevent them from believing in Jesus.

Jesus said to Paul: “You are to open their eyes and turn them from the darkness to the light and from the power of Satan to God, so that through faith in me they will have their sins forgiven and receive their place among God's chosen people.” (Acts 26:18, TEV)

Vocabulary:

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|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| - Satan (n) | - defeat (v) | - ruin (v) |
| - evil (adj) (n) | - huge (adj) | - destroy (v) |
| - exit (n) | - throw out (v) | - alert (adj) |
| - force (n) | - ancient (adj) | - on watch (adj) |
| - rebel (v) | - serpent (n) | - roam (v) |
| - break out (v) | - devil (n) | - roar (v) |
| - dragon (n) | - deceive (v) | - devour (v) |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. Both good and _____ in the world.
2. The Bible says that Satan is like a _____ or a _____.
3. In the 1700s, the Americans _____ against Great Britain.
4. “If you mark on your dress you'll _____ it,” said Linda to her daughter.
5. When lions make sound, we say they _____.

Humans (part 1)

Questions:

1. If someone asked you, "Who are you?" what are some different ways that you could answer?
2. Where do you think humans come from? Why?
3. Do you think humans are different from animals? If so, how are they different?

What the Bible says about where humans come from and who they are:

1. God created humans. We are not the result of chance, but God created us for a purpose.

"Then the LORD God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; He breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live." (Genesis 2:7, TEV)

"From one man God made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth...God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'...We are his children."
(Acts 17:26,27,28, NIV)

2. Humans are different from animals. Humans were originally created "like God," they have a spirit, and they rule over the animals.

"Then God said, 'And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.' So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female."
(Genesis 1:26-27, TEV)

Vocabulary:

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|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| - human (n) | - breath (n) | - reach out (v) |
| - result (n) | - life-giving (adj) | - originally (adv) |
| - chance (n) | - nostril (n) | - human beings (n) |
| - purpose (n) | - nation | - resemble (v) |
| - soil (n) | - inhabit (v) | - domestic (adj) |
| - form (v) | - seek (v) | - wild (v) |
| - breathe (v) | - perhaps (adv) | |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. "Peter really _____ his father. They look very much alike."
2. The Bible says that God created _____ for a _____.
3. "Sue _____ wanted to go to the beach, but later she decided to stay home."
4. Lions are _____ animals and most cats are _____ animals.
5. Flowers are planted in _____.

Humans (part 2)

Questions:

1. In the previous lesson, we learned how God created people good. But today we see that people do many bad things. Where do you think the “bad” came from? Why do you think so?
2. What do you think happens to people when they die? Why do you think that?

What the Bible says about the first humans’ sin and humans’ death:

1. Although God created the first humans good, they later disobeyed God and followed Satan rather than God.

“Then the LORD God told [the man], ‘You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die’... The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat... so she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it.” (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:6, TEV)

2. Because of the first humans’ sin, all people must now die. After people die they are not reborn on earth in another body (human or animal), but they are judged by God. All people that have sin must be punished.

God said to Adam, “You will [live] until you return to the ground, because you were taken from it. You are dust, and you will return to dust.” (Genesis 3:19, God’s Word)

“Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God.” (Hebrews 9:27, TEV)

“[Those who] reject God... will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction.” (2 Thessalonians 1:9, TEV)

Vocabulary:

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|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| - previous (adj) | - Satan (n) | - reject (v) |
| - create (v) | - knowledge (n) | - suffer (v) |
| - happen (v) | - reborn (v) | - punishment (n) |
| - sin (n) | - punish (v) | - eternal (adj) |
| - disobey (v) | - judge (v) | - destruction (n) |
| - except (adv) | - dust (n) | |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. If children _____ their parents, they often get _____.
2. “What is the funniest thing that ever _____ to you?”
3. “Please wipe the _____ off the table,” Nancy told her daughter.
4. Jerry wanted to study in the United States, but his visa application was _____.
5. Because of our _____, we should suffer _____ death.

Punishment for Sin

Questions:

1. Suppose a thief stole 10,000 dollars from you and the police caught him. When the thief is sentenced by the judge, the judge says the man must be executed. Would you be willing to die in the place of the thief?
2. Now suppose that you are the thief who stole the money. If the person from whom you stole the money would be willing to die in your place, how would you feel?

What the Bible says about punishment for sin:

1. Because we all sin (nobody is perfect), we all deserve to be punished by God forever in hell.

“Whoever does not always obey everything that is written in the book of the Law is under God’s curse!” (Galatians 3:10, TEV)

2. But God loves us and doesn’t want us to be punished forever in hell.

“God’s love for us is so great.” (Ephesians 2:4, TEV) “God does not want anyone to be destroyed.” (2 Peter 3:9, TEV) “God wants everyone to be saved.” (1 Timothy 2:4, TEV)

3. Because God loves us and doesn’t want us to be punished, he punished his Son, Jesus Christ, instead of us, so that we don’t need to be punished anymore.

“Christ himself died for you. And that one death paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but he died for people who are guilty. He did this to bring you all to God.” (1 Peter 3:18, Easy-to-Read Version)

Vocabulary:

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|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| - punishment (n) | - sentence (v) | - hell (n) |
| - sin (n) | - judge (n) | - the book of the Law (n) |
| - suppose (v) | - execute (v) | - curse (n) |
| - thief (n) | - be willing to (v) | - under a curse (adj) |
| - steal (v) | - in (the) place of | - destroy (v) |
| - dollar (n) | - deserve (v) | - guilty (adj) |
| - police (n) | - forever (adv) | |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. Would you _____ pay 40 _____ to go to a music concert?
2. Jesus didn’t _____ to die, but he did anyway because he loved us.
3. If you drive too fast, the _____ might stop you.
4. The Bible says that everyone who is _____ of sinning is _____.
5. How much money did the _____ when he broke into your apartment?

Peace with God

Questions:

1. "Peace" always involves a relationship between "x" and "y." What are some examples of the kinds of peace that people want to have today?
2. In English we also talk about having "peace of mind." What do you think that means? How do you think people can have that kind of peace?

What the Bible says about peace with God:

1. God is a God of peace who gives people peace:

"God is not a God of disorder, but of peace" (Psalm 4:8, NLT). "O LORD, you will establish peace for us, since you have done everything for us" (Isaiah 26:12, God's Word). "God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7, God's Word).

2. **Through Jesus, we have peace with God:** Because of our sin we are God's enemies. But God still loves us and sent Jesus to pay the punishment that we deserve from God because of our sin. Because Jesus' death on the cross forgives our sins, we now have peace with God. Jesus has restored our relationship with God and we are now God's friends, not his enemies.

"The punishment that brought us peace was upon [Jesus], and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV). "The death of [God's] Son (Jesus) restored our relationship with God while we were still his enemies" (Romans 5:10, God's Word). "Since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us" (Romans 5:1, NLT).

3. Peace with God is the foundation for peace for all other kinds of peace:

"Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death, and our hostility towards each other was put to death" (Ephesians 2:16, NLT).

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| - peace (n) | - enemy (n) | - to make right (v) |
| - peaceful (adj) | - punishment (n) | - foundation (n) |
| - disorder (n) | - punish (v) | - reconcile (v) |
| - establish (v) | - deserve (v) | - by means of (adv) |
| - guard (v) (also n) | - restore (v) | - hostility (n) |
| - emotions (n) | - wound (n) (also v) | - hostile (adj) |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. Teachers often _____ rules so that they can have a _____ classroom.
2. John is not my friend, he's my _____.
3. When children do something wrong, their parents often _____ them.
4. Because of our sin, we _____ to receive _____ from God.

5. Jesus _____ us to God. Now we have _____ with God.

Communication between God and People

Questions:

1. What are some different ways that humans communicate with each other?
2. Why is communication important in relationships?
3. Do you think humans can communicate with God and God with humans? If so, how?

What the Bible says about communication between God and people:

1. **God communicates with people:** Before Jesus came to earth, God communicated with people in many different ways. He spoke directly to them, he told men called “prophets” to give messages to people, he sent messengers called “angels” to speak to people, and he appeared to people in dreams. Finally, God himself (Jesus) came to earth and communicated his power, love, and salvation to us. Today God continues to speak to us through his Word, the Bible.

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors at many different times and in many different ways through the prophets. In these last days he has spoken to us through his Son [Jesus].” (Hebrews 1:1-2a, God’s Word)

“The Scriptures (Bible) are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by God. And all Scripture is useful for teaching...” (2 Timothy 3:16, Easy-to-Read Version)

2. **People can communicate with God:** When Christians communicate with God by speaking to him in words or thoughts, it is called prayer. Christians 1) thank and praise God for blessings God gives them and 2) ask God for physical and spiritual needs.

“Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking with a thankful heart. And God’s peace...will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7, TEV)

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| - communication (n) | - angel (n) | - prayer (n) |
| - communicate (v) | - salvation (n) | - praise (v) (also n) |
| - directly (adv) | - ancestor (n) | - physical (adj) |
| - prophet (n) | - Scripture(s) (n) | - spiritual (adj) |
| - message (n) | - wise (adj) | - need (n) (also v) |
| - messenger (n) | - wisdom (n) | - union (n) |

Fill in the Blanks:

1. Mark is a very _____ man. He understands many things.
2. Before Karen left home, she left a _____ on the table for her husband.
3. How often do you _____ with your other family members?
4. Before Jesus came, God spoke to people through _____ and _____.
5. How much do you know about your how your _____ lived 200 years ago?