

Worldview

Chalice Lighting

Sharing of Joys and Sorrows

Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support.

Shared Readings:

Our seven principles include some powerful pieces of our core beliefs. Our first principle answers one of the essential theological questions: what is the essential nature of the human being? We embrace without reservation, a worldview that human nature is fundamentally good, having inherent worth and dignity.
Jennifer Youngsun Ryu

I think of worldviews in relation to trees. A worldview is the root, the beginning point, the source from which all the rest of a person's thoughts, actions, beliefs, loves, hates and feelings grow. But not the part you can see. It's the part buried under the dirt where you can't see, but if you dig for it you can find it.

Robbi Erickson

You've got to be taught
To hate and fear,
You've got to be taught
From year to year,
It's got to be drummed
In your dear little ear
You've got to be carefully taught.

Oscar Hammerstein, South Pacific

No problem can ever be solved from the consciousness that created it. We must learn to see the world anew.

Albert Einstein

A worldview is like a picture puzzle made up of different pieces that represent the answers to our deepest questions about reality.

Jon Hobbs

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round I Briefly tell a story about a way your worldview has changed from “x to y” over the years. This may have happened as you “rubbed shoulders” with people of other cultures or beliefs...Or it may have happened when you realized that your upbringing held worldviews that no longer fit who you were becoming.

Round II Share more stories, experiences and feelings about your worldview in response to the homework questions.

Round III A more general discussion

Group Business

Pass out homework for the next session. Look over together.

Closing Words and Song “Go Now in Peace”

Covenant Groups

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group.
- to honor the group by letting the leader know if I will be absent and to come to the group one last time and say goodbye if I need to quit.
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others.
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and not tell other people's stories.
- to listen to what others share with an open heart, and to share deeply in my turn.

Worldview



Leader's Notes for Worldview

*****Give this some thought to your response to Round I before the meeting to be sure you can model a response at a deeper level.**

Chalice Lighting: (2 min) 7:00-7:15

Ask a group member to read a chalice lighting reading from your manual. There is a separate copy in the pocket of the facilitator's manual.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns: (10 min)

Ask group members to tell in one or two sentences...How you are today? Share any information you have about absent members.

Silence: (3 min)

Give your group the gift of three minutes of silence. Time it!

Shared Readings: (5min) 7:15-7:20

Go around your group, letting persons in turn read one of the readings.

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening: Do your rounds of deep sharing/deep listening.

Round I (20 min) 7:20-7:40

Briefly tell us a story about a way your worldview changed from "x to y" over the years. This may have happened as you "rubbed shoulders" with people of other cultures or beliefs. Or it may have happened when you realized that your upbringing held worldviews that no longer fit who you were becoming.

Round II (40 min) 7:40-8:20

Each person will have a chance to share more deeply stories, feelings and experiences about worldview in response to the homework questions.

Round III As time permits

A more general discussion

Group Business: (5 min) 8:20-8:30

Pass out Q and Q (homework) for next time. Preview it with the group. There is lots of material here, it is intended to give you fertile ground for thinking about this subject.

You don't need to answer every question.

Closing words: (3 min)

Invite people to hold hands around the chalice and say one or two words about an insight they have had this evening or the way they are feeling as we close.

Sing: Go Now in Peace (2 min)

Worldview Q&Q

What is worldview? *Worldview is a belief system held by an individual, community, or society that explains the world around us and our experiences and role in that world. Our worldview tells us who we are and what is the purpose of our existence. It also tells us what is right and wrong about the world, and how to preserve what is right and fix what is wrong. Worldview is determined largely by the culture in which we are raised.*

ESDA Network

It might be helpful to think of worldviews as being similar to wearing prescription sunglasses. How you see and understand the things around you is directly related to the glasses through which you are looking. Change the prescription (the worldview) and you see things differently. Every thinking person is wearing worldview sunglasses, but we see things differently from people who have different worldviews.

Jay Lucas

In general there are five areas that make up a worldview. They are beliefs about:

- God - Is there a God? Can He/She/It be known? What is He like?
- Reality - What is real? Is the universe eternal? Is everything interrelated/connected or separate/distinct? Does beauty exist?
- Knowledge - How do we know what we know? Is there a relationship between faith and reason?
- Ethics (What is good or moral? Can moral judgments be made? By what standard? Why should someone seek to be good?)
- Humankind (Is man material only, or does he also possess a soul? Is there a purpose to life? Is there continued existence after death?)

1. Create several sentences that describe a part of your worldview. This statement won't describe all of it, just a part of it. For instance, you might say, "I believe there is a God, how God relates to the world, I am confused about. Freedom is generally good. People are naturally good in the right setting."

Developing a worldview

No infant has a worldview. Each person's "life understanding" takes shape over time as the individual grows and develops, as he or she engages in new events and experiences, interacts with others and with his or her surroundings, and derives answers to inquiries about life and living from fellow human beings. Any individual's worldview is internal and, in the fine scale, unique. Mynga Futrell

From one covenant group member. "I remember a time at the dinner table in the 50s when I brought up a question about why there were no Negroes living in my town. My mother glared at me and said, 'We don't talk about that in this family.'"

2. Do you remember a time in your childhood or youth when you realized you differed from your parents in some part of your worldview...or differed from your peer group, an organization?

3. Think of a time your worldview changed from “x to y” over the years and think about why it changed? For instance, you may have associated with or roomed with people of different cultures, races or religions in school, which ultimately changed your worldview.

Worldviews as an issue in conflict management

If we make fundamentally different meaning of the world, then all of our attempts to improve communication or expand the pie of our material resources will fail because we may not be addressing our deeper differences that continue to fuel conflicts.

Michelle LaBaron

Conflict resolution processes help people look into each other's worldviews without trying to change them. It is possible to uncover shared values, or shared aspects of values, without fundamentally changing worldviews. Developing approaches to uncover shared values is an important area for the future.

4. Tell a story about when you realized there was a conflict in worldviews... perhaps in your family, at work, at church, in our country...?

5. Have you ever run across someone whose worldview seemed entirely different from yours? Were there any shared values?

6. Was there a time when you took a significant risk based on worldview?