

# SESSION 3

## RESILIENT SEEING

### GET STARTED

- For those of you who wear glasses or contact lenses, what do you remember about your eyesight before seeing an optometrist? What was it likely seeing clearly after you received your glasses or contact lenses?

### TAKE IT IN

- Watch Session 3: Resilient Seeing at [mynorthside.com/resilent](http://mynorthside.com/resilent). What encouraged or challenged you from the video this week?
- What did you learn and/or how was your experience with the fasting spiritual exercise?

### TALK IT OVER

- A worldview is how a person views the world and creates the framework for how to live. With that in mind how would you define a biblical worldview? What implications does a biblical worldview have on ways we live, view, and interact with others?

### Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

- In verse 12, Paul reveals a powerful and uncomfortable truth that if you want to live a godly life, then you will experience persecution. What is your reaction when you hear this? To what degree have you experienced persecution for your faith? How have you viewed this persecution: something to avoid, not what you signed up for, opportunity to live out your faith, or opportunity to show Christ to others?
- Verse 16 says that all Scripture is God-breathed, and this is a powerful statement. It means that these words are true, good, and life giving, because that's who God is. In what ways does it encourage you to know that Scripture has been breathed out by God himself? How does the inspiration of Scripture change the way you view it and affect the level of trust you have in the Bible?
- Take a few minutes and think of 2-3 of your favorite verses of Scripture. Write them down here, on a piece of paper, or on your phone.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



- Paul writes that Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (right living). **Review your favorite verses and make notes on which ones teach, rebuke, correct, or train you? What did you discover about your favorite Scriptures? Did your Scriptures lean towards teaching, rebuking, correcting, training, or a mixture.** Share your findings with your group.
- God’s Word shapes the foundation of our beliefs (v. 16) and actions (v. 17). There is a current to the world we live in that wants to draw us away from God. **How does a biblical worldview help us to stand firm and thoroughly equip us for every good work?**
- There are several questions that all worldviews attempt to answer, here are a few examples: where do we come from, who are we, what is our purpose, what is our core problem, how is this problem solved, how should we live, and what happens when we die? **How have you found answers to these questions in Scripture? Is there a question you would like to spend more time seeking Scripture on? Why is it so important to have answers to these questions from a biblical perspective?**
- We began this discussion by asking your definition of what a Biblical worldview is. **How has this discussion impacted your definition? What questions, thoughts, actions, or opinions do you need to filter through the Bible? What does it take for our group to help each other see the world through a biblical lens?**

## LIVE IT OUT

Our worldview is the basic set of beliefs that shapes our view OF and FOR the world. A biblical worldview is not something we are adding in, it becomes the foundation for everything. This transformation process is the work of the Holy Spirit rooting our lives in the Bible. Where do you have trouble filtering a thought, action or opinion through the Bible? Write these things down, and with prayer and humility seek answers in the Bible. If you get stuck along the way, reach out to a Christian friend or minister for encouragement.

**Individual Training:** How you look at the world matters, because it impacts both what you believe and do. This week’s individual training focuses on reading and Scripture (pg 4). This exercise will guide you through some of the foundations for developing a biblical worldview. Review this exercise as a group, share your plans to complete it, encourage one another throughout the week, and come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

**Memorize:** *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

---

4 McCoy, Daniel, Harrington, Bobby, *What Is a Biblical Worldview? Definitions, Dilemmas, and Dangers.* Renew. <https://renew.org/what-is-a-biblical-worldview/>.



# SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

## DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

**THIS WEEK'S TRAINING GOAL:** Reading & Personal Study

### INTRODUCTION

This week's training focuses on developing a biblical worldview. As we go on this journey, we have to start with the question, "can we trust the Bible?" There is no reason to build a worldview around it, if the Bible isn't true and the authority in our lives. The road ahead includes reading and Scriptures to study. All of these things can be completed in one setting or spread out across the week. Highlight, take notes, study, and come ready to your group to discuss what you are learning.

---

### WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is unique. It is 66 different books written over a 1500 year span by more than 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, military leaders, political leaders, prophets, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, musicians, doctors, and shepherds. It was written on three different continents (Asia, Africa, & Europe) in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), and in multiple environments including the wilderness, palaces, prisons, in exile, and while traveling. Combined, it tells one story of God's love for us through His creation, our fall, and His passionate pursuit to redeem us.

---

### CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

This is one of the most important questions about following Jesus. If the answer is yes, then we have to seriously consider the implications of the Bible's authority on our lives. If the answer is no, then there is no real reason to follow Jesus, because almost everything we know about Him comes from the Bible.

To look more at this question, let's begin with what the Bible says about itself. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*" The phrase "God-breathed" is a powerful statement. In the very first book of the Bible (Genesis), you see God-breathing physical life into humanity. Scripture says that God-breathed the Bible and this brings spiritual life. These are not just words written down, they are words divinely inspired by God. If you believe this, then it changes the way you view Scripture. If this book is God-breathed then it has to be true and good, because God is true and good. God is the creator and sustainer of life and is gracious, kind, compassionate, and loving. Therefore, the Word He breathes out is gracious, kind, compassionate, and loving. Even when the Bible confronts and challenges us, as this passage points out, it still points us towards a life of purpose that we are designed for.

Back to questions you might have pondered. The Bible may claim to be God-breathed, but what about other books that may claim the same thing. Why would you believe one is God-breathed and not the other. As with many aspects of following Jesus, faith is needed. For you to believe Scripture is God-breathed will take faith. This faith isn't blind, but reasonable. To help make this step of faith, here are 4 reasons why you can trust the Bible is God-breathed.

**RELIABILITY OF THE MANUSCRIPTS:** When historians study ancient writings, they try to decide the reliability of each ancient text. One of the biggest factors in measuring reliability is the number of manuscripts available. The more manuscripts that are available to scholars, the more they can compare content across copies. Another important factor in determining reliability is the amount of time between the original document and the copy. A closer date to the original manuscript usually represents a more reliable copy of a document.

With these reliability factors in mind, let's take a look at some ancient writings. For Plato's writing, 210 manuscripts exist dating back to about 1,300 years after the original writing. There are 251 manuscripts of Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars dating to 950 years after the original. Homer's The Iliad has 1,757 manuscripts dating back to 500 years after the original. Now, let's take a look at the New Testament, because there is nothing else like it. There are 5,700 manuscripts dating back less than a 100 years from the original documents. If you include ancient copies of the New Testament written in other languages you can add 18,300 more copies for a total of 24,000 manuscripts. This has led historians and scholars to declare the New Testament to be 99.5% accurate. This reliability of the manuscripts points towards the truth that the Bible can be trusted.<sup>5</sup>

**TOO MANY EYEWITNESSES:** From the manuscripts, historians have dated the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John) as being written at the very most 40-60 years after Jesus's death. Paul's letters, which make up most of the New Testament, were written 15-25 years after the death of Jesus. This means that these documents on the life of Jesus were in circulation within the lifetimes of thousands of people who had been present at the various events of Jesus' ministry. Luke claims he got his account of Jesus from eyewitnesses still alive (Luke 1:1-4). Mark specifically cites Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus as the man who helped Jesus carry the cross (Mark 15:21). The implication being, you can go talk to Simon and ask him if this is true. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, Paul refers to 500 eyewitnesses who saw a post resurrection risen Jesus. Timothy Keller writes, "For a highly altered, fictionalized account of an event to take hold in the public imagination it is necessary that the eyewitnesses (and their children and grandchildren) all be long dead. They must be off the scene so they cannot contradict or debunk the embellishments and falsehoods of the story. The gospels were written far too soon for this to occur."<sup>6</sup>

---

5 Geiger, Eric, Stetzer, Ed, Lee, Steve, *On The Table: Questions Confronting The Christian Faith* (Rooted Network, 2023), 13-16.

6 Keller, Timothy, *The Reason For God: Belief In An Age Of Skepticism* (Penguin Group, 2008), 105.

**TOO COUNTERPRODUCTIVE:** One opinion about the New Testament is that it was written by early church leaders to promote their policies and power. This idea doesn't fit with what we find in the New Testament, because it is too counterproductive. Why would the early church writers make up a story about Jesus being crucified? Any reader or listener would have immediately suspected he was a criminal. Why would they make up an account of Jesus asking God to take the cross away (Matthew 26:36-46) or crying out to God that He has abandoned Him (Matthew 27:46)? This would have created confusion on Jesus' leadership and strength of faith. Why would they write that the first witnesses of the resurrection were women (Mark 16:1-8)? It would have made far more sense to have some male pillars of the community be the witnesses. At the time, women held such a low status that their testimony was not admissible in court. Why would the writers constantly depict the Apostles, the eventual leaders of the church, as petty, jealous, at times dim-witted, and cowards that abandoned/denied Jesus (too many biblical references to include)? The only plausible reason is that all of these incidents and events were included because that is how it actually happened.<sup>7</sup>

**TOO DETAILED:** In Mark 4, we read that Jesus was asleep on a cushion at the back of the boat. In John 21, we are told Peter was 100 yards out when he jumped out of the boat and that they caught 153 fish. In John 8, it says that Jesus drew with his finger in the dust. In modern novels, details like these are added to create more realism, but this kind of writing was unknown in the first century. The only reason for a writer to mention details like this is because they had been retained in eyewitness memory.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, the writers of the New Testament regularly share details about cities, towns, and places. Archaeologists continually visit, explore, and discover the evidence from historical details that points towards the truthfulness of Scripture.

**TAKING THE STEP OF FAITH:** Many of us, land on the truth that we trust the Bible. Then we start to read it and come across a passage or teaching that is hard to digest. Sometimes this choking point causes us to run away from the Bible. When we hit these moments, this is when we lean into faith. Faith continues to trust even when we do not fully understand. It continues to seek and read the Bible while we process the implications. Faith leans into trusting that Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior, and our Lord. This faith is essential, because if Jesus is not who He says He is, then why should we care about what the Bible has to say about anything? The fact the Bible challenges us, creates conversation, and points us to God is actually one final reason why we know that it is God-breathed. Timothy Keller writes, "Now, what happens if you eliminate anything from the Bible that offends your sensibility and crosses your will? If you pick and choose what you want to believe and reject the rest, how will you ever have a God who can contradict you? You won't! You'll have a Stepford God! A God, essentially, of your own making, and not a God with whom you can have a relationship and genuine interaction. Only if your God can say things that outrage you and make you struggle (as in a real friendship or marriage!) will you know that you have gotten hold of a real God and not a figment of your imagination."<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Keller, Timothy, *The Reason For God: Belief In An Age Of Skepticism* (Penguin Group, 2008), 107-109.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 110-111.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 118.



We began with 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and this is the best place to end, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” God gave us His written Word to transform us. If we trust the Bible, and allow it to become the authority in our lives, we will be equipped. It doesn’t end there, because it will change the way we live our lives and how we interact with people. It will give us a guide and lens to view the world.

---

## **WHAT IS A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW?**

It sounds simple, but a worldview is a person’s view of the world. It’s your framework for understanding reality and answering the big questions about it. Your worldview is like the box top to a puzzle; it gives you the big picture so that you can make sense of the individual pieces and arrange them in place.

So, what is a Biblical Worldview? In short, it is how we answer life’s biggest questions through the Truth of the Bible. It’s important to note that we are not limiting faith to primarily a set of answers to questions. The gospel of Jesus (His incarnation, death, resurrection, authority, return, etc.) is far more foundational than “the biblical worldview.” It is because of the saving grace of Jesus that we strive to be like Him, and live using the Bible to interpret and act in the world around us.

## **HERE ARE SOME ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS THAT ALL WORLDVIEWS STRIVE TO ANSWER.<sup>10</sup>**

1. Where do we come from?
2. Who are we?
3. What is our purpose?
4. What is our core problem?
5. How is this problem solved?
6. How should we live?
7. What happens when we die?

Now you might be thinking, “why is this important?” The answer is that everyone has a worldview. Even the view that says, “Everybody’s truth is equally valid” is a worldview (relativism). Everyone will have answers to big-picture questions which will shape how they perceive the world. To become a better and more resilient disciple, we need to spend some time developing a biblical worldview. If we are not basing our views on Scripture, then we are getting them somewhere else.

---

<sup>10</sup> McCoy, Daniel, Harrington, Bobby, *What Is a Biblical Worldview? Definitions, Dilemmas, and Dangers.* Renew. <https://renew.org/what-is-a-biblical-worldview/>.

Let's start developing a biblical worldview with 7 questions above. Below you will find each question and some passages of Scripture. Read through each Scripture and then write out the answer to the question in 1-2 sentences.

### **WHERE DO WE COME FROM?**

- Genesis 1:1-3; 2:7
- Deuteronomy 32:3-4
- Psalms 139:7-12
- Isaiah 45:18
- Hebrews 11:3
- Revelation 4:11

### **WHO ARE WE?**

- Genesis 1:26-28; 5:1-2
- Psalm 139:13-14
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- 1 Peter 2:9-10

### **WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?**

- Genesis 1:28
- Matthew 5:13-16
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Philippians 2:12-13
- 2 Timothy 1:9-10

### **WHAT IS OUR CORE PROBLEM?**

- Genesis 3
- Romans 3:9-12; 22-24
- Romans 5:6-8; 12-15
- Romans 7:18-20
- Galatians 5:19-21

### **HOW IS THIS PROBLEM SOLVED?**

- John 3:16-18
- Acts 2:38
- Romans 10:9-10
- Galatians 2:19-21
- Ephesians 2:4-9
- Phillipians 2:6-11
- Colossians 1:15-20



## HOW SHOULD WE LIVE?

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 12:28-34
- John 15:5-17
- Romans 12:1-2
- Galatians 5:22-25
- Colossians 3:1-17

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

- Matthew 25:31-46
- Luke 23:39-43
- John 14:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-55
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
- Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-8

---

## CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE HOLDING A DIFFERENT WORLDVIEW

Part of a biblical worldview is believing that Christianity is true. The same idea applies to all other worldviews, because they all believe their view is true as well. This means that asking someone to follow Christ is asking them to shift their worldview. With a biblical worldview in mind, there are some fundamental truths about humanity. First, all humans are made in the image of God and are more valuable than anything else in creation. Second, all humans have sinned and fall short of the glory we were created for. This means that all people are worth our care and attention, and we all have a sin problem needing Jesus. Holding a biblical worldview calls us to treat others with a different worldview with gentleness and respect. In *Rhythms: How To Live As A Disciple*<sup>11</sup>, four important questions are asked to help us better connect with people holding a different worldview.

**DO I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISAGREEING WITH SOMEONE AND HATING THEM?:** Disagreement doesn't mean hate. But, it is possible to be a jerk or hateful when you disagree. You will encounter people with a different worldview about God, the afterlife, the bible, sin, and so on. It's important to disagree while being kind and honoring the relationship/friendship. Here is a good question to ponder, "is my will to be right more important than God's call to love people?"

**DO I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVING SOMEONE AND AFFIRMING THEIR DECISIONS?:** Loving someone does NOT mean you agree with everything they say and do. To do so is simply a nice form of indifference. God has shown us over and over how He loves us even when we don't follow Him. Ephesians 4:15 and James 5:19-20 call us to speak the truth in love when people give us the permission to do so into their lives. This call assumes that you have a deeper relationship to speak truth. Which means you are loving others even if you don't agree with their decisions (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

---

<sup>11</sup> McCoy, Daniel, Jit, Andrew, *Rhythms: How To Live As A Disciple* (Renew, 2024), 116-117.



**CAN I RECOGNIZE THE GOOD IN PEOPLE WITH WHOM I DISAGREE?:** We have a spiritual enemy and it's not the person you disagree with (Ephesians 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8). Followers of Jesus should have a deep compassion for those who don't know God, because that is the example He set for us (Mark 6:4, Romans 5:8). In Acts 17, Paul is traveling through Athens, and what he encountered created a large amount of distress. The city was full of idols devoted to every single type of god you could think of. In fact, they had an idol for an unknown god just in case they left one out. When Paul had a chance to speak to some of the Athenians, he didn't start with his distressed over the idols. Instead, he complimented them on being so religious (Acts 17:22). Afterwards, using the idol to the unknown god as a springboard, he begins telling them about Jesus. In response, some sneered and others wanted to hear more (Acts 17:32). We can connect with people holding a different worldview if we can recognize the good in them, even though we disagree.

**CAN I ASK QUESTIONS AND CARE ABOUT THE ANSWERS?:** If you genuinely care about people, you will be surprised at the bridges and friendships that can be built across worldviews. Author Bob Goff says it best, "Find a way to love difficult people more, and you will be living the life that Jesus talked about. Go find someone you have been avoiding and give away extravagant love to them. You'll learn more about God, your neighbor, your enemies, and your faith. Find someone you think is wrong, someone you disagree with, someone who isn't like you at all, and decide to love that person the way you want Jesus to love you. We need to love everybody, always. Jesus never said doing these things would be easy. He just said it would work."<sup>12</sup>

---

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

A biblical worldview isn't confined to just the big questions of life. While these serve at the foundation for the way you view the world, there are still more questions to answer. What are the other big or small questions impacting the way you view the world and the people around you? Write these questions down, and filter your answers through the Bible. Along the way, if you come across a tough, troubling, or confusing passage, slow down the process. The Bible is consistent and God-breathed, meaning that it doesn't contradict itself. Sometimes, we need to filter a passage through the foundations of the essential worldview questions, look at more Scripture on the topic, reference a commentary for historical context, or discuss it with a friend or minister.

As you continue to develop your biblical worldview, remember to walk in humility. You will be challenged, because God will have views that are different from yours. You will encounter Truths that are countercultural to the views of the world. Be encouraged because this is a life long transformative process of the Holy Spirit helping you develop a biblical worldview. Paul in his letter to the Phillippians 4:8-9 (NLT) sums up where we go from here, "*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you*".

---

<sup>12</sup> Goff, Bob, *Everybody Always* (Thomas Nelson, 2018), 8-9.

## FURTHER STUDY

- Hidden Worldviews: Eight Cultural Stories That Shape Our Lives by Steve Wilkens and Mark L. Sanford
- The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog by James Sire
- What Is a Biblical Worldview? Definitions, Dilemmas, and Dangers by Daniel McCoy & Bobby Harrington - <https://renew.org/what-is-a-biblical-worldview/>
- Worldview Changes Everything by John Stonestreet, [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org)



# FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

These Family Conversations are designed to help you create moments to talk about God and faith in your family. We want to encourage you to carve out a moment each week to read and discuss each Family Conversation. This could be over the dinner table, before bedtime, or whenever works best for your family. In each Family Conversation, you will find 4 parts.

1. **Scripture:** Read the passage out loud, or encourage a family member to read.
2. **Devotion:** Read this to your family.
3. **Conversation:** Pick and choose what questions are best for your family to discuss.
4. **Prayer:** Pray for your family, or encourage a family member to pray.

**Just as a heads-up, things probably won't go as planned with your Family Conversations.** Your family may interrupt, someone probably won't pay attention, and there may not be any grand spiritual moments. What matters most is that you are seeking God as a family. Faith in your family is more often caught than taught. Your family will most likely forget these devotions, but they will remember the intentionality and time together. That will set the stage for you to model faith and continue building a spiritual legacy in your family.

## FAMILY CONVERSATION: SESSION 3 RESILIENT SEEING

### Scripture:

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* **2 Timothy 3:16-17**





**Devotion:**

You have a lot of decisions to make every single day, some are easy but some can be pretty difficult to navigate. How can you know if you are making the right decisions? This is a question that every single person asks every day of their lives. A person's worldview is how they see, understand, and interact with the world. It is what your beliefs, values, and perspective are based on, and what drives your behaviors, relationships, and decision making. As followers of Jesus, we are called to hold a biblical worldview, which means seeing and understanding life through the lens of the Bible.

Paul, in his letter to Timothy, reminds us that "all scripture is God-breathed." This means that the Bible is not just another book; it is inspired by God Himself. It provides us with everything we need to navigate life faithfully. Paul outlines 4 ways that the Bible helps to shape us:

**Teaching:** It helps us learn about God's character, His promises, and His will for our life.

**Rebuking:** It challenges us when our thoughts and actions are different from God's.

**Correcting:** It guides us back to the right path when we make mistakes.

**Training in Righteousness:** It shapes our character and actions to reflect Jesus.

When we see the world through a biblical lens, we align our perspectives and decisions with God's truth.

**Conversation:**

- Think of a recent situation where you were unsure about a decision you had to make? How did you decide what was the right or best option? Who did you turn to or ask for help?
- Can you think of a time where the Bible helped you make a difficult decision or understand a situation better? How have you seen the Bible Teach, Rebuke, Correct, or Train you?
- How can we make time as a family to read and study the Bible together?
- This week, commit as a family to choose one or more Bible verses and memorize them. Print them out and place them somewhere everyone can see (fridge, kitchen table, bathroom mirror, etc...). Take some time every night to recite it outloud, discuss its meaning, and how it can be applied.

**Prayer:**

Together as a family, thank God for the beautiful gift of the Bible that serves as a guide for our lives. Ask for God's help to see the world through His eyes and for wisdom and courage to stand firm in His truth.

