

WORLDVIEW

Session One

Family of Christ Lutheran Worldview Study

THEME TEXT

John 15:1–8

**“Abide in me, and I
in you. As the
branch cannot
bear fruit by itself,
unless it abides in
the vine, neither
can you, unless
you abide in me.”
— John 15:4**

Key Point

The Christian cannot simply absorb the world's ideas and then add Jesus on top. Christ and His Word must remain at the center.

Central Idea

Our worldview matters because what we believe about God, truth, humanity, sin, and salvation shapes how we live. As Christians, we do not create our own worldview; we receive the truth of God revealed in His Word and centered in Jesus Christ. The goal is not simply to have the “right opinions,” but to abide in Christ, receive His gifts, and bear fruit through faith.

1. Everyone Has A Worldview

A worldview is the framework through which we understand:

- Who God is, Who we are, What is true, What is good and evil
- Why the world is broken, What is wrong with humanity
- How sin is overcome, What happens after death

Everyone has a worldview—even if they have never thought about it consciously.

Our thinking is continually shaped by family, education, entertainment, social media, politics, advertising, technology, popular culture, and our own desires.

WORLDVIEW

Session One

Family of Christ Lutheran Worldview Study

Read: Romans 12:2; Colossians 2:8; Ephesians 2:1–2

Discuss:

1. What influences most strongly shape the way people think today?
2. Which cultural influences are easiest to recognize? Which are hardest?
3. Where might Christians unintentionally absorb the world's assumptions?
4. What does Romans 12:2 mean by the “renewing” of our minds?

2. Apart from Christ, We are Not Neutral

Read: John 15:1–5; John 14:6 and John 17:17; Romans 1:25

Human beings can exchange God's truth for lies. This means we should not only ask: **“What false beliefs are out there in the world?”** We should also ask: **“Where have I allowed false beliefs to shape me?”**

Consider:

- Do I trust money more than God?
- Do I define myself primarily by my desires?
- Do I treat human opinion as more authoritative than God's Word?
- Has political identity become more important than Christian identity?
- Do I trust myself rather than Christ?

LAW

The problem is not simply that **the world has a bad worldview**. The problem is that **we are sinners who are continually tempted to turn away from Christ**.

WORLDVIEW

Session One

Family of Christ Lutheran Worldview Study

Discuss:

Why is it sometimes easier to identify the sins and false beliefs of the culture than to recognize them in ourselves?

3. The Christian Worldview: Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration

The biblical worldview begins not with politics or culture, but with **God and His work**.

Discuss:

1. How does Creation → Fall → Redemption → Restoration explain the human condition?
2. Why is the **Redemption** section the center of the Christian worldview?
3. How does this keep us from thinking Christianity is merely a system of moral improvement?

4. Abiding in Christ Through His Word

Read: John 15:4–5; Romans 10:17; Romans 12:2

Discuss:

4. What does “abiding in Christ” look like during an ordinary week?
5. How does regular hearing and reading of God's Word shape our thinking?
6. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper keep us centered on Christ and His promises?
7. Why is it important that our salvation depends on Christ rather than on how well we understand or defend a worldview?

WORLDVIEW

Session One

Family of Christ Lutheran Worldview Study

5. What Worldview Is Shaping Me?

Consider some competing ideas:

Materialism: Life is ultimately about possessions, consumption, and what can be measured.

Hedonism: Pleasure and personal happiness are the highest good.

Humanism: Human beings become the ultimate source of meaning, morality, and truth.

Individualism: “I determine who I am and what is right for me.”

Moral Relativism: There is no objective truth about right and wrong.

Political Tribalism: Political identity becomes more important than identity in Christ.

Real-world worldviews often combine several of these ideas.

Read: Matthew 16:26

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”

Discuss:

1. Which competing worldview seems most influential in our culture?
2. Which is most tempting for Christians?
3. What “fruit” does each worldview produce?
4. How does a Christ-centered worldview produce different fruit?

6. Christ is the True Vine

Read: John 15:8

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” A worldview eventually becomes a way of life. The ultimate Christian confession is not: “I have all the correct opinions.”

WORLDVIEW

Session One

Family of Christ Lutheran Worldview Study

It is: **“I belong to Jesus Christ.”** We are the branches. **He is the Vine.** We do not manufacture spiritual life. **We receive life from Him.** We do not save ourselves. **Christ saves us by His grace.** When we recognize that our thinking and living have been corrupted by sin, we do not despair. **We return to Christ. We hear His Word. We receive His forgiveness. We receive His gifts. We abide in Him.**

Final Questions

1. What does Jesus' picture of the vine and branches teach us about our dependence upon Him?
2. What is one area where the world is competing with God's Word for your heart and mind?
3. How does the Gospel change the way we respond to those competing worldviews?
4. How can our congregation encourage one another to remain rooted in Christ and His Word?

Key Takeaway

The purpose of studying worldviews is **not to make us angry at the culture, intellectually superior, or better at winning arguments.** The goal is to **remain connected to Christ.**

Christ is the Truth. Christ is the Life. Christ is the Vine. Christ is our Savior. “Apart from me you can do nothing.” — John 15:5