

**UNSHAKEN &
UNASHAMED**

U&U

LIVING OUT
A BIBLICAL
WORLDVIEW
FALL 2023
EDGEWOOD
BAPTIST
CHURCH

**DISCUSSION
GUIDE**

Seismic shifts have hit our society, leaving people unmoored from truth and unsettled in their faith. The question asked by David in Psalm 11:3 resonates among many today: ***“When the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”***

In our present cultural environment, it’s imperative for followers of Christ to be convictional, courageous, and compassionate. We must know what we believe, why we believe it, and how we can communicate it to others. In short, we must be unshaken in our faith (Psalm 62:2), and unashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16). Grounded in truth and lived out in God’s grace, our faith in Christ will change our own lives and ultimately help transform a broken world.

We’ve put together some discussion questions to help us go deeper in our faith as we seek to apply the Word to our world today. These questions are designed to be used individually, or with another believer. We’re also hoping many utilize them in the context of our Sunday and midweek Growth Groups.

We believe you will find this guide helpful, whether you have listened to the sermon or not. However, you will get more out of the study if you listen to or read the sermons beforehand. As always, the sermons are available on the website or mobile app. If you’d like the manuscripts emailed to you each Friday, contact the church office (marie@edgewoodbaptist.net). The sermons are also available online or as audio podcasts after they are preached.

You’ll notice we have included more questions than you will likely have time to address. Feel free to choose the ones you find to be the most helpful.

On mission with you,

Pastor Kyle and Pastor Brian

Why Worldview Matters

Romans 12:1-2

September 9-10, 2023

Every person, whether they realize it or not, has a worldview. A worldview is simply a pattern of ideas, beliefs, convictions, and habits that help us make sense of our experiences. Like putting on a pair of glasses, these ideas shape our perspectives and solidify our sense of meaning and purpose. Understanding your own worldview is crucial because ideas have consequences both for you and for the society you live in. What you believe about God will determine what you think is real and affect how you behave.

Main Point: *Make sure your worldview comes from God's Word and not from the world.*

1. In your own words, define "worldview." What would you say to someone who says they don't have a worldview?
2. Why do you think so many Christians do not have a *biblical* worldview? What factors contribute to this? What specific steps can we take to help believers develop a biblical way of looking at the world?
3. What's the connection between the way someone believes and how they behave? Share some examples.

4. In what ways have you experienced inconsistencies between what you believe to be true and how you behave? Read Romans 7:18-8:1 and discuss ways you can relate to the Apostle Paul's struggles.

5. Discuss this quote from Frank Turek: *"Most people are not on a truth quest. They're on a happiness quest; whatever is going to make them happy they're going to believe."* Do you think this is true? If so, how do we present the claims of Christ to someone who doesn't seem interested in the truth?

6. Consider Romans 12:2 from the J.B. Phillips Paraphrase: ***"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within."*** What do you think is the most insidious way the world squeezes people into its mold today? In what ways have you allowed yourself to be conformed to the world? How can we counteract this? What two things will you do to remold your mind?

7. Read and reflect upon Colossians 2:8. What are some specific ways children and teenagers are being taken ***"captive"*** by philosophy and empty deceit today? If you had ten minutes of a teenager's undivided attention, what would you tell them to avoid? What should they embrace? What role do parents and grandparents have in equipping the minds and reaching the hearts of young disciples?

8. Someone has said Christians suffer from "*Multiple Worldview Disorder.*" Give some examples of how believers mix and match their beliefs, even if they are contradictory. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and discuss practical ways to take "***every thought captive.***"

9. What evidence would you give to show we are now living in a post-Christian era? How can we ground ourselves, and others, in a biblical worldview? How does the gospel provide hope to our hurting world today?

10. Read Romans 12:1-2 slowly. Why is it essential to put verse one into practice before you try to live out verse two? Pray through this passage phrase-by-phrase and then surrender your body as a living sacrifice to God.

The Real Reality

Acts 17:16-34; Genesis 1-3

September 16-17, 2023

Christianity claims to be not just another worldview, but the one true story of reality. It is true at all times, for all people, and at all places. The biblical narrative outlines how God is the Creator, how He relates to humanity, and how He is working to reconcile the world to its intended purpose. This story can be summarized as Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. Within this narrative, we see where God is directing history and how He will ultimately defeat all opposition. It provides answers to life's fundamental questions and offers a vision for true human flourishing.

Main Point: *The story of God is all about the glory of God.*

1. What's one takeaway from the sermon? Was there something that was new to you or was reinforced? How can you apply this truth to your thoughts, your words, your behavior, and to your outreach?
2. How does viewing the Bible as a meta-narrative help make sense of the individual pieces of the story? Discuss the illustration of putting together a puzzle by comparing this activity to understanding the Bible.
3. If you tried watching a movie by starting in the middle of it, what would you miss? How is this similar to picking up the Bible and reading from various sections? If one were to only read the Christmas story, what would they not understand?

4. Give your perspective related to this quote: *“Many people know some stories from the Bible but do not know the Bible’s story.”* In what way is this a true statement for those raised in the church? How about for those who are unchurched?

5. Briefly describe the grand story line of the Bible in your own words. How does the meta-narrative in Scripture reflect the reality of what we see around us today? How might this answer someone who brings up the *“problem of evil”* in an effort to dismiss Christianity?

6. G.K. Chesterton famously pointed out that original sin is the one doctrine of Christianity that can actually be proven. Share some examples from culture and your personal life. How would you respond to someone who believes humans are basically *“good”*? Read Romans 3:9-18 slowly and discuss implications and applications to our lives.

7. Read Acts 17:22-34. How do you think Paul could be both compassionate and convictional? Do you find yourself more on the *“truth”* side or do you default to *“grace”* when you talk to someone who believes differently than you do. How does John 1:14 speak into this?

8. Do you typically think of Christianity as a set of rules or as a story about God's unfolding glory? How do you think unbelievers would answer this question? In what ways does it make a difference in how you live?

9. Christianity claims to be not just another worldview, but the one true story of reality. It is true at all times, for all people, in all places. Describe how you would communicate this truth to an atheist. How would you present this to a pluralist? To someone who follows another religion?

10. Interact with this quote by Francis Schaefer: *"Christianity does not start with 'Jesus saves you from your sins.' It starts with 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.'"* Why is it important to start with creation when speaking to a non-Christian? What approach should we take if someone says they don't believe God created the world?

11. Why is it important to build bridges with someone who believes differently than you do? What "gods" do you see in our culture today? How can we help people to see that there is just one true God, and that Jesus is the only solution to the problem of sin?

Who Jesus Is

John 14:1-7; Colossians 1:15-23

September 23-24, 2023

The biblical narrative points to and centers on the person of Jesus Christ and the good news He proclaims. Jesus teaches that through Him God's reign broke into the world, offering freedom and forgiveness for those in bondage to sin. He claims to be the Savior of the world, the one who teaches what is true, and models the way of abundant life. He is the King of Kings, calling for our ultimate allegiance in all areas of life. By resurrecting Jesus from the dead, God shows His supreme approval and vindication of Jesus, giving Him all authority over creation.

Main Point: *If I believe the Bible, I must say that Jesus is the only way.*

1. What has God been teaching you from this sermon series so far? Have you learned something new or been reminded of something you already knew? Be specific.
2. Sometimes people say, *"The Bible is God's love letter to me."* In what ways might this be true? Why could this be an inadequate and self-centered perspective? What difference does it make that the glory of God and the gospel of Christ are at the center of the biblical narrative?
3. Read [John 14:1-7](#). What do we miss if we think of Jesus only as a good example of a life well lived? What did Jesus say about who He is and what He came to do? How do we communicate these truths to people in our pluralistic society?

4. Think back to the scene from “A Few Good Men” when Jack Nicholson said to Tom Cruise, “*You can’t handle the truth!*” Why do you think some people can’t handle the truth? How do we present Jesus as the only way to a generation that “*listens with its eyes and thinks with its feelings?*”

5. Jesus is very *inclusive* in the sense that everyone is invited to a relationship with Him as John 6:37 states: “***...and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.***” But, His claims are extremely *exclusive* in that there is no other way to Heaven except through Him. How does this mesh in a pluralistic society like ours that values variety and excludes exclusive truth claims?

6. If someone were to say, “*My Jesus wouldn’t send anyone to Hell,*” how would you answer them? What Scriptures would you use? How would you bridge to the gospel?

7. In what ways do Christians today subscribe to a “Salad Bar Theology”? Which of Jesus’ teachings do you gravitate towards? Which do you find yourself disregarding? Are there parts of the Bible which you have found yourself avoiding because they make you uncomfortable? Be specific. Why do you think you do this?

8. What one teaching of Jesus would stretch you if you determined to live it out? What's holding you back from putting it into practice?

9. Read Colossians 1:15-23. Ponder this quote: *“Jesus is paramount over everything that He has created and He’s preeminent over all that He has redeemed. Jesus has first place over both the cosmos and the church. He is Lord of everything He has made, and He is Lord over everyone He has saved.”*
Would you say Jesus is prominent in your life, or is He preeminent? Is there a specific area of your life you have not surrendered to Christ? What’s holding you back? Pause and pray right now.

The Timelessness of Truth

John 8:31-32; 1 Peter 3:14-16

September 30-October 1, 2023

Christianity is not merely a comforting story with some nice moral teachings, taken to be true on blind faith. The Christian worldview is both true and can be shown to be a reasonable faith based on evidence. God has acted within history to demonstrate that He alone is the true God who is worthy of following. Because of this, all Christians are called to be winsome witnesses, able to give a defense for their beliefs, done in such a way that is Christlike, respectful, and compassionate.

Main Point: *Since Jesus is truth, we must be ready at all times to tell others the truth about Him.*

1. What's one thing God has been teaching you through our "Unshaken and Unashamed" series so far? What truth is helping you to not be shaken in your faith? How are you being equipped not to be ashamed of the gospel in your family, neighborhood, school, or workplace?
2. Do you think most objections to Christianity are intellectual, moral, or some other category? Why? What's one way these objections can be addressed?
3. Have there been times you have had doubts or objections about the Bible? How did you handle (or are you handling) them? How has the response of others to these doubts/objections affected you?

4. Do you think it's possible to share your faith when experiencing doubts? Read Matthew 28:16-20.

5. Think of a specific person you know who would likely echo Pilate's question in John 18:38: "**What is truth?**" What answer would you give them?

6. How would you respond to an unbeliever who says, "*I have my truth and you have your truth. It doesn't really matter what one believes as long as it works for them.*" What illustration would you use? If you could only share one verse, what would it be and why? What approach would you take if that person says they don't believe the Bible?

7. Read John 14:6 and John 8:32. Why is it important to emphasize truth is primarily a Person and not a principle or a philosophy? Discuss the connection between finding freedom from sin and believing Jesus is truth (see John 8:36).

8. What are some examples of error in our culture today? Why do you think so many people believe lies instead of basing their lives on what is true? What does the Bible say about this?

9. Read 1 Peter 3:13-15. Why is it important to exhibit the Christian life before trying to explain Christianity? How does having hope lead to someone asking questions? In what ways do you find it difficult to be gentle and respectful toward those who believe differently? What specific steps will you take to ***“be prepared to make a defense”*** for what you believe? Is there a book you will read or a podcast you’ll start listening to?

10. In less than five minutes, describe the gospel message and how you came to know Jesus Christ through the new birth. Practice sharing this with another Christian so you’re ready to tell the good news to an unbeliever.

11. Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26. Ask God to turn your fear of witnessing and/or your anger toward non-Christians into an inner attitude of grace and gentleness toward people. Spend time praying about this right now.

Your Identity is Essential

Genesis 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 3:18

October 7-8, 2023

As followers of Jesus, we are image bearers of God. This objective and holistic identity has profound implications for how we live and see ourselves, others, God, and the world. The goal for Christians is to grow into the image of Jesus, who embodies what a flourishing life looks like. In Him, we are a new creation, forgiven from sin, called to be lights to a broken world as we imitate Jesus and His sacrificial love.

Main Point: *You are who God says you are.*

1. What has God been teaching you recently? Is there a step He is asking you to take? What decision will you make related to gathering, growing, giving, or going with the gospel?
2. Contrary to our culture's confusion, identity is not self-declared or self-developed; it is given to us by our Maker and Redeemer. Why is it futile to find your identity by looking inward? What are some biblical reasons why we should not define our identity according to our marital status, occupation, or gender?
3. Read [Genesis 1:26-27](#). Being made in God's image can feel theoretical or overwhelming. How does it become personal? How would you put these verses into your own words?

4. Discuss this statement: *"If you are a follower of Jesus, your identity in Christ is everything. It's who you really are."* List three things that are true about you if you are born again. Include verses that go along with each of these identifiers. Which one means the most to you? Why?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. How are we transformed into the image of Christ? What is our responsibility in this process and what is the Holy's Spirit's role?

6. Read Ephesians 2:19. Is it possible to fully understand your identity in Christ apart from involvement in a local church? How does being an active member of God's household make you a legitimate member of His forever family?

7. Discuss this statement: *"What you do doesn't determine who you are, who you are determines what you do."* What is a helpful way to balance our various identifiers (ethnicity, vocation, citizenship, etc.) with our primary identity in Christ? Why is it so important to know our identity in Christ?

8. In what way does knowing your identity help you know your deeper purpose (see Ephesians 2:10)? We're not saved by our good works, but we are saved to do good works. How does understanding you are God's workmanship relate to doing "good works"?

9. Discuss this statement: "*Christians are 'saints' who sometimes sin, rather than 'sinners' who sometimes do what is right.*" Look up 1 Corinthians 1:1-2. Why does God call us "**saints?**" How should this truth about our identity transform the way we look at our growth as believers? Does that mean we're perfect?

Being Salt and Light in Society

Matthew 5:13-16

October 14-15, 2023

If the Christian worldview is true and lived out by Christians, it has the power to affect society in significant ways as it has in the past. Jesus turned the world upside down not by force or manipulation, but by teaching the truth, offering a life of meaning and purpose, and modeling sacrificial love through His atoning death. From the life and actions of this one individual, the world has never been the same. Christians can likewise help to transform all areas of society as we fully follow Christ.

Main Point: *If the Christian faith is true, then it must be lived out to help create a more flourishing society.*

1. What's something from this sermon topic that stuck out to you and why?
2. Why does the Christian worldview have implications in society?
3. Are Christians forcing their views on others when promoting Biblical ideas in society? Why or why not?
4. How does Christianity promote good for all people whether they believe in God or not?

5. Are there more issues inside the church or outside the church that harm the witness of the Christian faith?

6. Give some examples throughout history where the church did more harm than good when it came to the culture around them? Are there ways Christians still do this today? Why or why not?

7. What are some ways Christians can participate in creating a society that flourishes?

8. Read Luke 10:25-37. Discuss what ***“loving your neighbor”*** actually looks like on a normal, everyday basis.

9. What are some specific ways you (and your group) can actively engage your neighbors, community, and society as a whole this fall?

10. When you get involved in the lives of people, things can get messy. How can we balance truth and love for people far from God?

11. Give an example of a time when you have been inclined to withdraw from society rather than engage? Why?

12. What are you going to do differently now as a result of this sermon and discussion?

Putting It Into Practice

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

October 21-22, 2023

While it's important to learn more information, we must always be a people who are seeking transformation. We must understand the Word and then ask the Holy Spirit to help us live it out in our world. In this final message, we'll consider ways to be unshaken and unashamed in our homes as we pass along the faith to our family.

Main Point: *Parents must pass along the faith they possess.*

1. What's one thing you've learned during our "Unshaken and Unashamed" series? In what ways has your worldview changed? Is there something God is prompting you to do as a result of what you've learned? Be specific.
2. Whether you're a parent or not, why is it important to synchronize both the efforts of our faith community *and* the family to make disciples in the next generation? How is Edgewood partnering with you in teaching your children? How are you partnering with Edgewood?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-2. Why is it important for us to know God's Word and to be life-long learners? What happens when we become spiritually stagnant or stalled-out in our faith walk? Who does this affect the most? Is there something different you can do to keep your relationship with Jesus fresh and growing?

4. Read Deuteronomy 6:3. Describe what happens when children detect hypocrisy in their parents or grandparents. Why is it so important to live out what we say we believe? What should we do when we fail to live out what we believe?

5. Since children need to know there is only one true God, how can parents equip them to live convictionally without compromise in our pluralistic and godless society? If you're not a parent, what are some ways you can equip the next generation to love God with their whole hearts?

6. Discuss this statement: *"Our primary call isn't to be good parents. Our primary call is to model a vibrant and vital love relationship with the living God."*

7. The Puritans viewed *"every home as a little church."* Discuss what might happen if families lived this way. What might this look like in your context? What potential does this have to change the way you view your time, your priorities, and your purpose?

8. Read Deuteronomy 6:7. In what ways can you teach your family in formal spiritual settings? What might this look like? Why is it also important to teach the next generation in the *"casual classroom of everyday life?"* Discuss the strategic importance of *"intentional moments."*

9. Does your day-to-day routine of life help to teach your children about God? If so, give an example of a routine that helps teach your children about God. If not, what can you do to take advantage of your routine to teach about God
10. Discuss this sentence: *“The goal of parenting and grandparenting is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life change.”* How can you put God’s truth into practice without being legalistic? Read Proverbs 4:23. Why must we always focus on the heart as the heart of the matter?
11. What are some specific ways you can transmit biblical truth to your children or grandchildren during the natural rhythms of the day? What’s one thing you can implement during each of these time frames?

Morning times:

Meal times:

Drive times:

Bed times:

12. What's one takeaway from the series that will help you remain unshaken in your faith? What's one thing you've learned to help you be unashamed of the gospel? Spend time praying for someone who is far from God.

Notes:



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