

WORLDVIEWS

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. Complete the following questions, keeping your answers anonymous.

What do I believe...

- a. About God?
- b. About an afterlife?
- c. About the meaning of life?
- d. About the importance of Christianity?

DISCUSS THIS TOGETHER

2. Match the following terms with their correct meaning.

WORLDVIEW

A system in which members of the group share a commitment to a set of beliefs and values that systematically defines a way of perceiving the social, cultural, physical and psychological world.

PHILOSOPHY

A particular philosophy of life or conception of the world that is characterised by an organised and accepted set of ideas that attempts to explain the social, cultural, physical and psychological world. It can also be described as a way to answer the big questions of philosophy.

RELIGION

The underlying principle or set of ideas that contains a way of thinking and behaving that makes up a broad field of knowledge or doctrine of thought.

BELIEF SYSTEM

The belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods. (Source: Oxford Living Dictionaries)

WRAPPING IT UP

3. Of which topics would you like to know more?

DEMOCRACY

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. What do you understand democracy to mean? “Democracy is...”
2. Is democracy working well in Australia?

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

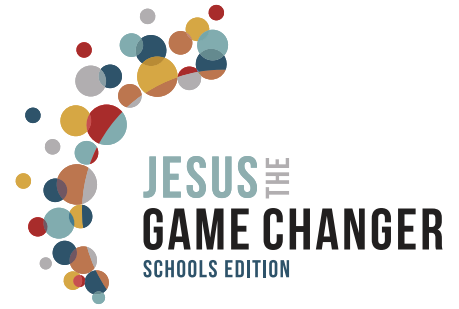
3. Explain what Christianity has added to democracy?
4. The argument put here is that Christianity has the effect of valuing the importance of the individual which is necessary for democracy. What do you think?
5. Equality has a direct link to democracy. Where are those links demonstrated in Australia? In other parts of the world?
6. What arguments are these speakers giving for the importance of the Christian worldview in democracy?

WRAPPING IT UP

7. What does the Christian worldview contribute to democracy?
8. In what areas could you become a more active citizen? What would you prioritise once the HSC is finished?
9. Review your answer to the second question. Is there anything you would change about your answer now?



FORGIVENESS



BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. Read the following statements about forgiveness. Highlight those you agree with. Place a tick next to those you believe are Christian perspectives.

“... the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offence, lets go of negative emotions such as vengefulness, with an increased ability to wish the offender well.”

“If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent’, you must forgive them.”

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.”

“Forgiveness has nothing to do with absolving a criminal of his crime. It has everything to do with relieving oneself of the burden of being a victim – letting go of the pain and transforming oneself from victim to survivor.”

“Throughout life people will make you mad, disrespect you and treat you bad. Let God deal with the things they do, because hate in your heart will consume you too.”

2. Is there anything you believe about forgiveness that is not covered already?

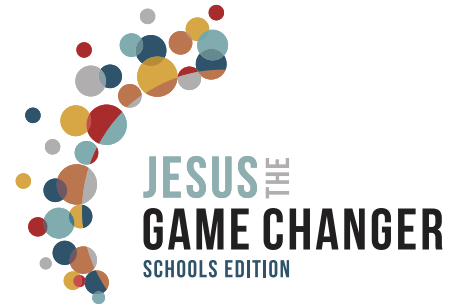
WATCH THIS TOGETHER

3. What was identified as the key difference between forgiveness in Hebrew, Greek and Christian worldviews?
4. Do you agree? Do you think forgiveness should be available and offered to everyone? What other examples of big forgiveness have you seen?
5. What obstacles are there to forgiveness? Which do you believe is the hardest to overcome? What makes you say that?
6. Why is forgiveness costly?
7. Why do you think forgiveness is so important in the Christian worldview?

WRAPPING IT UP

8. Can you think of an area in your personal life where forgiveness is needed? How might you do this?
9. How can you help others in your society benefit from what you know about forgiveness?

EQUALITY



BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. There are many groups that do not experience equality. Brainstorm as many as you can think of, starting with Australian society but then moving to consider the whole world.

2. Read the following quotes:

“If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.”

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

What do these suggest about the Christian worldview on equality?

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

3. Jesus’ ministry focused on people who were considered the least. Who were they? What specific examples did John use? Why are they important?
4. What was the Clapham sect according to Jago?
5. There was a serious shift in how British society saw the poor during William Wilberforce’s lifetime. How was this directly related to the Christian Worldview?
6. This is an example of the plate designed by Josiah Wedgwood that Jago discusses. The wording around the image of a slave says, “Am I not a man and a brother?” Wedgwood, More and Wilberforce all used their skills and talents to make a difference in their world. What skills and talents do you have? How could they be used in the same way?
7. What qualities did Christine identify as essential to achieving this change?
8. How has this episode and these stories impacted your view of how Christians understand equality?

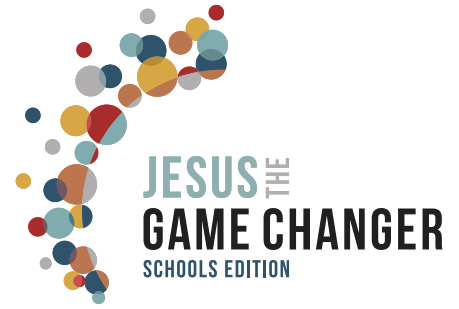


WRAPPING IT UP

9. Jago clarifies that Wilberforce was motivated specifically by his Christian worldview? How does he explain this?



JESUS



BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. What do you already know about Jesus as a historical figure? Make a list or mindmap.
 - a. Jesus had parents, brothers and sisters
 - b. Jesus was born in Bethlehem
 - c. Jesus ministered mainly in Nazareth
 - d. There are many historical records that support Jesus' existence
 - e. Jesus' tomb and body has been discovered

List any other important ideas.

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

2. Circle the sources available about Jesus that confirm he was a real historical figure.

Tacitus

Suetonius

Josephus

Gospel of Mark

Lucien of Samosata

Gospel of John

Nero

Pliny

Mara Bar-Serapian

Gospel of Luke

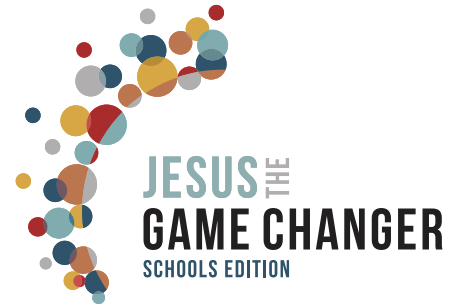
Plutarch

Gospel of Matthew

3. What arguments and reasons did these guests give for the reliability of the material available about Jesus?
4. Do you find this a convincing argument for why miracle accounts are included in the gospel accounts? Why?
5. Are you satisfied by these explanations? What themes run through all the gospel accounts?
6. In these examples or in stories you've heard, what do you see as the connection between understanding Jesus and being a Christian?

WRAPPING IT UP

7. Revisit your list or mindmap from the beginning of the lesson. What do you need to add or change? Has your understanding of Jesus changed at all?



LEADERSHIP

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. What do you know about humility? What does humility mean to you? Do you agree that it's a virtue?

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

2. Is there a difference between humility and servanthood?
3. What made an effective leader in ancient times? What characteristics or behaviours did they try to avoid?
4. Why was ancient understanding of religion different from today?
5. Jesus' statements about humility have a direct impact on the Christian worldview on leadership. How important is it to you that leaders are humble today?
6. We've heard about two moments where Jesus models something important about leadership – when he washes the disciples feet and the crucifixion. How do these two stories add to the Christian perspective on leadership?
7. Do you agree that to serve the most downtrodden people is the practical outworking of Christian leadership? What makes you say that?
8. How did Hudson Taylor show Christian leadership in his life? Are there other missionaries who showed this type of leadership that you know about?
9. What are the skills of leadership according to John Anderson?
10. Do you agree with the idea that leaders are simply equipped with different skills to others, not better people? Explain your view.

WRAPPING IT UP

11. John says that God does not act like an aloof, power-hungry puppeteer but that he would rather sacrifice himself for us. Is this an appropriate summary of the Christian view on leadership presented here?

CARE

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. List as many different groups as you can in Australia who need care. For example, homeless people.

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

2. Review the list you created above. Are there any groups you have listed that are not covered by Karl's interpretation of this story?
3. What definition does Rico Tice give for this word agape? Why should Christians show agape?
4. Think of a time when you have had unexpected acceptance. What happened? What effect did it have in your life?
5. Three speakers presented different explanations of how people in ancient times saw caring differently to today. List two arguments you have found interesting.
6. What is "the secret of the west" according to Rodney?
7. What is Jossy's goal in caring for people in India?
8. What are some of the practical ways Jossy's organisation is caring for people in India. List three examples.

WRAPPING IT UP

9. How is caring a "game changer" action?
10. What are some practical ways you can show caring in your life?

WEALTH

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. Imagine someone has just deposited a million dollars into your bank account. What now? What are the first five things that you would do with the money?

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

2. What attitudes did Humphrey Monmouth have towards money? Are these what you would expect of a wealthy person today?
3. A number of speakers highlight the connections between Christianity and economics. What was the point that stood out the most for you?
4. What was the main point of Jesus' story? What makes you say that?
5. What arguments have been given to support the view that Jesus didn't have a problem with wealth and wealthy people?
6. In what ways can money become an idol?
7. What qualities are discussed as markers of a Christian worldview on wealth?
8. Discuss how giving protects our attitude towards money.
9. How did the Thornton family use their wealth? Where did the motivation come from?
10. What things do these quotes from John Thornton reveal about what he valued above money.

WRAPPING IT UP

11. If you did the first exercise again now, would you change anything? Would you spend that million dollars differently? Why or why not?

EDUCATION & HEALTH

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. Write down five ways that your life would be different if you had no access to education or health care.

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

2. Discuss with the group why you think literacy can be a game changer in people's lives.
3. Why is literacy and education seen as important in the Christian worldview?
4. Match the individuals and their contribution to education.

MARTIN LUTHER

Gifted with language but burdened for his country to allow them to read the Bible for themselves

WILLIAM TYNDALE

Go and teach everybody and make disciples

JOHN WYCLIFFE

We are all priests, so we all need to be educated

JESUS

Sentenced to death for translating the Bible from Latin to English

PETER, DISCIPLE

The Bible ought to be unleashed for everyone to read, and everyone should be educated

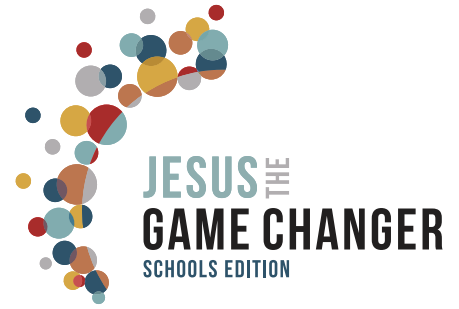
HANNAH MARSHMAN

Building primary schools around Serampore

5. From the history recounted by Jonathan, Dale and John, which of these stands out for you? What do you think is the most important action Christians took to encourage learning?
6. The last few speakers have discussed universities. Why were universities established?
7. Why is the statement "We stand on the shoulders of giants" relevant to education?
8. What insights are presented about how healthcare started in Australia?
9. Who was hospital care provided for?

WRAPPING IT UP

10. Toby concludes his interview by showing the important influence of Christian groups in health, education and not-for-profit caring roles. Do you agree that these actions are appropriate focus areas for Christians?



REASON & SCIENCE

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. What do you think makes someone gullible?
2. What is your personal view of science, reason and Christianity? Do you view them as incompatible?

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

3. Science and Christianity have had a mixed history. What were some of the important developments discussed here?
4. What contribution did John Locke make to the Christian worldview?
5. What contribution did Isaac Newton make to the Christian worldview? How was that significant?
6. The treatment of Galileo is one of the reasons why some people see science and religion as incompatible. What argument is presented to counter this viewpoint?
7. Tom concludes this series of arguments by saying there needs to be a middle way. What do you think about this?
8. According to Dale, what is the relationship between science and Christianity today?
9. Tom's life story is included here as an example of the connection between reason and the Christian worldview. How important is it to you for your personal beliefs to be reasonable?

WRAPPING IT UP

10. How does Peter Harrison explain his position on science, reason and the Christian worldview? Is this an appropriate conclusion to you?
11. How would you respond to someone claiming that you cannot be a Christian and a scientist? Could you make use of any of the information from the DVD?

WOMEN & CHILDREN

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. Match the following terms to their meanings.

GRAECO-ROMAN	A legally arranged financial payment between ex-partners following a divorce
ALIMONY	Attitudes and behaviour of someone who is against women
VOCATION	The cultural world created by the Ancient Greeks and Ancient Romans
MISOGYNISTIC	A job or career you participate in because you feel you have been “called” to it by God

2. What do you think the Christian worldview is about women and children today?

WATCH THIS TOGETHER

3. What does Jo say was the experience of most women in ancient times?
4. Why does Rodney conclude that Christian women had a “nicer life”?
5. Christine is involved in an organisation called A21. Why has human trafficking affected women and children so directly?
6. Karl makes two points about the importance of Jesus first appearing to women after the resurrection. What were they?
7. Jo, Michelle, Christine and Mary Jo all make a number of points about how Jesus’ teaching about women was ground breaking for the time. List three that stood out for you.
8. What opportunities do Jo and Sr Clare mention here that women gain by being involved in religious orders?
9. Why is Christine’s work with A21 so personal?

WRAPPING IT UP

10. Why is Christine so keen to be a game changer in someone else’s life? What does this show about the Christian worldview regarding women and children?
11. Did I learn anything new? Is my perception of the Christian worldview on women and children different to when I started?