



WORLDVIEW

The Ultimate Reality • Week 1: January 15



POTLUCK & COVENANT WEEK

This week, we start our winter session of Life Groups with a potluck and covenant meeting. Your Life Group leaders should have contacted you by now to make sure you know the time and location of the meeting, as well as what to expect for the first gathering. If you have not heard from your Life Group leaders, please contact Stacy Sullivan at (818) 709-0113, ext. 105, and she will help you get connected.

The Life Group Covenant explains the purpose of your Life Group, clarifies the expectations for being a part of your Life Group, and explains what you are committing to for this session. Your covenant will look different based on whether you are in a digital (Zoom) group or an in-person group.

As you prepare for your meeting, make sure to take some time to answer the questions in the study and then bring them with you to your first meeting.

Finally, we are providing less space for answers on this sheet, so make sure to have a journal handy to write down your answers.

Enjoy!



READING ASSIGNMENT

To prepare for this week's LG study and discussion, please read the following pages in *Faithfully Different*:

- Chapter 2, "Surrounded by Secularism" (p.35-48)
- Chapter 7, "Reclaiming What Belongs to the Biblical Worldview" (p. 133-151)



GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued in our new *Worldview* series. We tackled the first major question of worldview which has to do with what we believe about ultimate reality.

As you begin the study, take a moment to reflect on the verse below:

*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. **Romans 1:20***

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Imagine you are taking a meal to a friend who just delivered a new baby. You want to take them one of your favorite childhood comfort meals. What will you take them? (Don't forget dessert)! Why? What are some of the emotions and memories from your childhood that this meal conjures up?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As we begin this new Life Group session and study this new series, *Worldview...Renewing Your Mind*, what are you most looking forward to? Do you have any trepidations about studying *Worldview*?
2. What have been some of the insights, passages, principles that have impacted you the most the first two weeks of this series?
3. Take a couple minutes and review "When Your Worldview Won't Fit In The Box" (p. 135-137).
 - a. Reread Romans 1:18-25 in your Bible. How would you summarize Paul's main points in your own words?
 - b. How would you summarize the point Natasha is making about worldviews in this section of the book?
4. In Chapter 2, "Surrounded by Secularism", Natasha writes,

Secularism has become the cultural air in which we live and breathe. It's literally inescapable ... Every day is a push and pull of competing worldviews in politics, media, entertainment, education and much more. As secularism becomes the prevailing worldview that Christians encounter at every turn, more and more of us are mixing these mainstream secular ideas with biblical views. We take some ideas from the "instruction" book (the Bible) and some from what secular players come up with on their own. The resulting worldview is often more secular than biblical—a hybrid that's no longer faithful to the Bible, whether we realize it or not. **Natasha Crain, *Faithfully Different*, p. 47**

- a. How does it feel to hold such a biblical worldview in our secular world? What are some of the pressures that you feel to conform to culture, instead of to Christ?
 - b. Can you think of some examples where Christians are being tempted to compromise the Bible's teaching in order to "conform to the pattern of this world" (Romans 12:2)? If so, give some examples.
5. Reread the section "*Reclaiming Our Worldview Pieces Is Worth The Effort*" (p. 148-149).
 - a. How would you summarize the points she is making in your own words?
 - b. Why do you think that many in the early church were willing to face persecution for their faith/Christian worldview?
 - c. Have you ever considered the possibility of potentially being fined, losing your job or possessions, or being imprisoned for your Christian worldview? Would it be worth it? Explain.
 - d. What are some ways that you can grow in your understanding of what you believe and why, so that you will be able to stand against the ever-increasing pressure to conform to a secular worldview?



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.