



WORLDVIEW

Taste & See • Week 2: January 22

READING ASSIGNMENT

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

- Chapter 3, "Why Secularism is Compelling—Even for Christians" (pp.49-63)
- Chapter 4, "Regaining a Supernatural Worldview" (pp. 67-87)

GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued in our new *Worldview* series. We looked at two opposing worldviews: secular naturalism and supernaturalism. We learned how God intended for us to be aware not only of our physical, natural world but the spiritual, supernatural world as well.

As you begin the study, read this incredible description of who Jesus is and what He's done and take a moment to reflect on the implications of what this means:

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **Colossians 1:15-17***

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

If you could spend time with any biblical figure, who would it be? Second, if you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be? Why would you want to spend time with those specific people?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As you think back over the message this last weekend and the two chapters of reading, what one or two points stick out to you the most?
2. Joel shared that we can discover some truths of God by looking at the universe and the world around us. Read Psalm 19:1-6. When you look at the beauty of the world around you, are you more inclined to think about the natural processes causing the beauty or think about how amazingly creative and beautiful God is? Why do you think that is your initial response to the beauty of creation?
3. This weekend Joel explained why secular naturalism is so appealing in our society. This worldview allows us to become our own boss rather than submit to God. The following is a quote from Natasha Crain on some of the reasons why this naturalistic worldview has become so prominent:

*“A major reason secularism is so influential is that it appeals directly to the desires of our fallen nature—it reinforces the desired authority of the self. People feel the need to be autonomous, and secular culture is ready and willing to tell us what we want to hear. While these messages can take on endless forms, we can broadly summarize the nature of most of them in just four statements: **Feelings are the ultimate guide, happiness is the ultimate goal, judging is the ultimate sin, and God is the ultimate guess.** Understanding how these core messages speak to people’s felt needs of self-authority is a major key to understanding why secularism is so influential.”*

Natasha Crain, *Faithfully Different*, p. 52

- a. Natasha goes into more depth with the four statements (in bold above) from pages 52 to 58. Review those pages. How would you explain what each of these four statements mean?
 - b. How have you seen these play out in our culture and the lives of those around you?
 - c. Which of these four are you most inclined to embrace? What does that practically look like in your life when you do?
 - d. In your life, where do you wrestle with wanting to be the boss over something instead of God? What benefits have you discovered when you have been able to surrender it to God?
4. Reread the section “The Existence of God Is Amazing News” (pp. 83-85).
- a. What is the main argument that she is making in this section?
 - b. Do you agree that the implications of naturalism are this bleak? Why or why not?
 - c. How do you think someone who prescribes to a naturalistic worldview might respond and attempt to explain how they find purpose?
5. At the end of the message this weekend, Joel invited us to consider that there might be more for us to discover about the reality of God by quoting Psalm 34:8, which says, “taste and see that the Lord is good.” Are there any areas of your life that you don’t feel like you are tasting of God’s goodness? If so, what are they? End the study this week by taking a couple of minutes to pray. Ask God for breakthrough in those areas so that you might enjoy Him and His goodness this week.



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.