

# Sermon Study Guide

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## THE MAIN THING:

God, the creator of the universe, in order to rescue man from punishment for his rebellion, took on humanity in Jesus, the Savior to die on a cross and rise from the dead, so that in the final resurrection, we could enjoy a wonderful friendship with our sovereign Lord, in the kind of perfect world our hearts have always yearned for.

## PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. How did the illustration of the puzzle pieces help you gain a better understanding of the 'Christian worldview'?
2. What was it that first attracted you to Christianity?

## PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. What impacted you about this description of the Christian worldview? Why?
2. Review the outline (summary) and the following verses:

God	Gen 1:1
Man	Gen 1:27; 2:15-17; 3:7,8, 24
Jesus	John 1:1, 14; Phil 2:7; Heb 5:8
Cross	Col 2:13-15; Luke 19:10
Resurrection	2 Cor 5:1,7,15,17,21

Using your own words, complete the following:  
"The story of reality is....."

## PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community*

1. In what ways has your thinking of the worldview changed?
2. How does my story fit into God's big story?
3. If someone asks you, "What is Christianity?" how would you now answer?
4. Pray for those in your circle of influence who need to be introduced to this message.

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## THE WORD (NIV)

### Genesis 1:1, 27

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### Genesis 2:15-17; 3:7-8,24

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." <sup>37</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden... <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### John 1:1, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### Philippians 2:6-7

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

### Hebrews 5:8

<sup>8</sup> Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered...

### Colossians 2:13-15

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

### Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

### 2 Corinthians 5:1,7,15,17,21

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands...<sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight...<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# Sermon Study Summary

Credo: The Story of Reality

By Greg Koukl

## I. What is Christianity?

### A. Worldview

1. The correct answer to the question “What is Christianity?” is this: Christianity is a picture of reality. [I’ve chosen these words carefully because of the pluralistic world we live in.] 2. If you don’t know what the big picture looks like beforehand, it will be much harder to assemble it from the parts.

3. I want to show you the big picture—the Christian worldview—so you never get lost in the details again. I want to tell the Christian story of reality.

### B. Every worldview has these four elements

1. Creation: How things began—ultimate reality 2. Fall: How things went wrong 3. Redemption: How to fix what went wrong.

4. Restoration: How things get worked out

### C. You can assess every worldview by asking how it addresses each of these issues.

**Key:** If your Christian worldview is not accurate, you will not be able to navigate well, even if you call yourself a believer.

### D. True story

1. The Christian story starts a long, long time ago, long before Jesus. 2. The important thing: It is different from other stories in a significant way.

a. This story does not start with the words “Once upon a time.” Why? b. Because this story is not meant to be understood as a fairy tale or a myth.

3. It is a true story.

### E. So let me give you the backbone of the Christian story in 5 words.

1. God, Man, Jesus, the cross, and the final resurrection. 2. There is a logical order to these 5 elements

a. Our story starts with God. He created everything, including the most valuable thing in all creation: man. b. But something went wrong.

c. So God set up a rescue plan. d. In this plan, God entered into the world that he created by becoming a man: Jesus.

e. Jesus did something very special to rescue man from his problem. This happened on the cross.

f. How people respond to this solution will determine what will happen to them at the final event of history: the resurrection.

### 3. Notice:

a. You have all the parts of a good story. b. You also have all the pieces of a complete worldview

## II. God

**The story starts with God. Main theme of the Bible: Rulership. God is distinct from creation.**

## III. Man

### A. Man is special:

1. Man is...created with a physical body. 2. Man is a non-physical soul or spirit. 3. Man is...noble, created in the image of God.

B. Relationship -This likeness between man and God makes it possible for man to have a unique friendship with God.

C. Man is desperately fallen and needs God Himself to take action.

## IV. Jesus

A. There are two very critical issues regarding Jesus: 1. Who Jesus was. 2. What Jesus came to do.

B. Jesus was a real human being. C. Jesus is fully God. D. The Hypostatic Union (adds humanity to God)

1. Definition: In the *one person* of Jesus the Messiah there were *two natures*: undiminished deity and true humanity.

2. Isaiah 9:6 intimates the dual nature of Jesus: 3. Micah 5:2 gives the same picture

E. 1. God stepped down to become a man (Philippians 2:5-8)

2. Important clarification: Jesus never ceased being God. The Son laid aside only His privileges of deity, not His divine nature.

So the answer to our first question: Who is Jesus: So, Jesus is the God/man.

F. Why did Jesus come? What did he come to do? He mainly came to solve the problem: to rescue, to save.

G. What did Jesus ultimately do to rescue us? 1. First, he lived the life we should have lived. 2. Second, he made a trade, his life for ours.

## V. The Cross

A. The “Certificate of Debt” B. This is why Jesus is the only way.

## VI. The Resurrection

A. All human beings will be raised from the dead. B. All who have received mercy in Christ will go on to eternal reward.

C. All those who have rejected God’s mercy in Christ will be judged by their works and punished.

## V. Conclusion

A. The Christian story of reality has five elements: God, man, Jesus, the cross, the resurrection.

B. It’s a story that can be told in single a sentence: 1. God, the creator of the universe 2. In order to rescue man from punishment for his rebellion 3. Took on humanity in Jesus, the savior 4. To die on a cross and rise from the dead 5. So that in the final resurrection, we could enjoy a wonderful friendship with our sovereign Lord, in the kind of perfect world our hearts have always yearned for.

C. But it’s not just a story. It’s a true story. It’s the story of reality.

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