

Session 5 Handout

The Universe Next Door, by James Sire

	Christianity	Naturalism	Pantheism	Post-modernism
Reality	God is	The Cosmos exists as a uniformity of cause/effect	Some things are more than others (reality levels of a ppearance)	The truth about the reality itself is forever hidden from us
Human Being	Created in the image of God	Complex machines (chemical and physical)	Pass beyond personality by realizing oneness with cosmos	We make ourselves by languages constructed
At death...	Gate to life with God or separation in hell	Extinction of personality and individuality	All roads lead to the one – end of personal existence	
Morality...	Ethics based on character of God	Social constructs	Cosmos is perfect at every moment	A linguistic and social construct
Meaning of history...	History is meaningful sequence leading to God's purposes	Cause and effect with no purpose	Time is unreal; history is cyclical	

Use the worldview questions presented in session four to evaluate contemporary western culture. In your group, you will discuss these questions and answer them based on how you think a typical unbelieving American would answer them.

- Every worldview asks and answers questions such as:
 - **What is reality?** *Stories that deal with ultimate reality*
 - **Who are we?** *Stories that shape our sense of identity*
 - **Why are we here?** *Stories that shape our sense of purpose and value*
 - **What's wrong?** *Stories that explain the broken world in which we live and of which we are a part*
 - **What's the remedy?** *Stories that shape our hope or expectations*
- What are some of the things that Jesus did to bring people to a realization that their understanding of reality was skewed?
- Positioning for impact:
 - Think of a person or event that has significantly shaped the way you view reality – your worldview.
 - In what way did this event or person shape your reality about God, yourself, others, purpose, time, work, etc.?
 - If this can be traced back to a person, what was the primary factor that enabled that person to have such a powerful influence in your life?