

Worldview
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I didn't want to tackle Apologetics *per se*.

But this is a lot like a study in Apologetics.

(Plus, I didn't really find a series that spoke to these issues the way I was inspired to address them...)

I certainly see the value of defending our faith against the attacks of the enemy and the world; I'm just not sure our students were ready to engage their faith at that kind of academic level. Even more, with the current cultural *zeitgeist*, I'm not sure I want to encourage an attitude of debate within a population that's already known more for what we're against than what we're for... I'd just like shift how students see their world, first—and hopefully get them to see how their worldview affects their decisions. If they can acknowledge that they DO have a worldview shaped by their language, their upbringing, their experiences, their desires and their own sense of morality, then we can begin assessing the quality of that perspective.

I spoke a lot about the kind of glasses we wear... the ones that make the fuzzy, focused, and the ones that make our heads hurt. ... I told my students that we all wear glasses, and those glasses affect what we see, how we see it, and our vision subsequently affects our decisions. It's quite simple, but also very abstract.

The thrust of this series is to open a dialogue about how our students view the world. Using Wesley's quadrilateral as a framework¹ for the lessons, *Worldview* begins with faith, the foundation of our relationship with Christ, and progresses through Scripture, Corporate Worship, and Experience.² Each lesson defines one of those pillars, discusses how that pillar is important to our faith journey, and describes how that pillar helps to focus our worldviews.

The desired outcome is that our students would recognize their own biases and experiences, assess their quality as they affect the decision-making process, and then begin adopting these four pillars into their schema. When they go off to college, or enter their vocation, regardless of the attacks of satan, they'll have a faith, a framework, a weapon to confront him.

I pray this series is helpful to you, and to your ministry, as you engage students and show them how to place their faith in the person and work of Christ.

In His Service,
sj

¹ For a basic overview, check out <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/wesleyan-quadrilateral>. There are lots of articles to be found on the web on this topic.

² Although "Reason" is one of the pillars of Wesley's Quadrilateral, it was excluded from this series for the sake of brevity. It is nonetheless important that we help our students understand that our faith is actually quite *reasonable*. This can be emphasized during the conversations about faith (ours is not a *blind* faith), and about scripture (the Bible documents the significant events of our faith through eyewitness accounts).