Worldview

Truman Show Discussion:
1. How does Truman view reality?

2. What is the key and central message of this film?
   -

3. Are there some ways that our worldview does not correspond to reality?
   -
   -
   -

What is Worldview?
1. What do we not mean by “worldview”?
   -
   -

2. What is worldview?
   - How we see ourselves in relation to
     1.
     2.
     3.

   - What do these drawings say about their owner’s worldview?
     1.
     2.
     3.
     4.

A Component of Anthropology:
1. The belief that values and behaviors are based on
2. What is “Worldview”? It refers to the central assumptions, and
   that are more or less by the members of a culture or subculture which ...
   1. are presumed to be without prior proof or logical reasoning,
   2. allow people to
   3. the people’s life and experiences into an explanatory whole.

What are the Layers of Culture?
1. Behavior and beliefs (values) differ from one culture to the next because we hold different assumptions concerning reality.
2. There is good evidence to suggest that human reasoning processes are essentially the same no matter what one's culture is.
3. Different cultures arrive at different conclusions concerning reality not because they reason differently—but because of their starting point, their basic assumptions.
1. How does an Iceberg illustrate the concept of Worldview
   □ The part that we can observe of a culture is the __________ part: ________.
   □ Deep under the surface are the ________ underlying assumptions about reality that control behavior.
   □

Biblical Example of Worldview: Lystra Cripple, Acts 14:8-18
1. To what did the “Lysterines” attribute this healing? □

2. What were some of their basic assumptions about the world they lived in?
   □
   □
   □

3. What did Paul tell them to convince them otherwise?
   □
   □
   □

4. What are the two major assertions of Worldview?
The mental construct of worldview furnishes:
   □ A key to understanding different cultural perceptions of reality (different cultural perceptions can be traced to worldview assumptions).
   □ A useful and significant framework for evaluating and analyzing the application of Christianity to a culture since worldview assumptions are primary in the process of change involved in conversion and nurturing.

What are the Five Functions of Worldview?
Worldview provides
1. The ________ of how and why things got to be as they are and how and why they continue or change.

2. ________ for that group. Especially at times of crisis do we seek emotional security. eg. death, birth, illness; stages of development: puberty, marriage, middle age, empty nest, etc.; Planting and harvest. Reinforcement takes the form of a ritual: funerals, harvest celebrations, weddings, graduation ceremonies, initiation; personal devotion and prayer.
   □ Illus. What function did our worldview play in understanding 9/11?
   1. 
   2.

   □ Illus. Italian Catholic worldview?
   1. 
   2.
3. A means by which we evaluate (judge, validate) our culture and our individual experiences.
4. An ______________________ It systematizes and orders our perceptions of reality into an overall design.
5. An ______________________ Worldviews tend to be resistant to change. But cultures do change and our worldview functions to monitor that change. ___________

**Five characteristics of worldview:**
1. __________: As societies mental map, it is taught to new generations as absolute and is seldom questioned.
2. __________ __________. There are individual differences in worldview. The more "monolithic" the culture the greater the uniformity.
3. __________ __________. Ex. Animists believe that evil spirits cause disease.
4. __________. Hiebert: "Differences in worldview are the most difficult of all cultural differences to bridge." The communication of Christianity is basically a matter of communicating at worldview level.
5. __________: Two things can cause questioning of assumptions within a worldview:
   - 
   - 

**Five Worldview Questions:**
1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

**Worldview Questions Practice**

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<tr>
<th>WHERE?</th>
<th>YODA</th>
<th>TRAVOLTA</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHO?</td>
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<td>KNOW?</td>
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**Redfield's Definition:**

1. “Worldview:
C.S. Lewis's Classification of Worldviews:
1. __________ __________ the universe “just happened.”

2. __________ __________ the universe is more like a mind than a machine. “There’s something behind everything.”

3. ___ __________ __________ Life-force philosophy, creative evolution. The universe is both mind and machine.

Worldview Top Six Elements (of 75+)
1. Idea of Self
2. Nuclear Family
3. Difference between human and non-human
4. Spatial and temporal orientation.
5. Birth
6. Death

Options of a Missionary When Encountering a Different Worldview:
1.
2.
3.
Worldview Practice: Assign a worldview (Christian, animistic, modern, folk-Christian) to each of the explanations given for the following events (Hesselgrave, pp. 193-194).

1. “What can explain the origin of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico, an image with a mestizo face, a painting which has withstood many attempts at destruction while all around it was destroyed?”
   a. God created the image of Our Lady in this way in order to Christianize the Mexican Indians, and he has protect Her.
   b. Some priest painted the cloth; the stories of miraculous protection are folklore.
   c. There must have been many paintings of Our Lady; naturally the Indians noticed this one more than the others and so the fame and folklore grew.

2. “When King Frederick Mutesa, the Kabaka, was forced to flee Uganda, many of the loyal Baganda people began to become sick; some died. Why?”
   a. When the Kabaka left, part of us left, and the life went out of our people. If he remains away we will all die.
   b. For whatever reasons social psychologist can present, the Baganda think that they will die and lacking a will to live, some do die.
   c. Perhaps an epidemic growing out of the many deaths in the war has spread among the Baganda.
   d. This is a punishment for the Baganda for cooperating with the British colonialists, and profiting at the expense of their African brothers.
   e. The Baganda have been cursed by a witch from another tribe.

3. “Recently a man in England was struck by lightning twice in the same day, yet he lives. Why?”
   a. God has spared him for some purpose.
   b. He was always lucky.
   c. The probabilities of being struck by lightning twice are fantastic, and to live through both—well, this is one for the record books!
   d. A careful examination of all conditions (weather, location, his clothing, etc.) will probably explain both why he was struck twice and at the same time explain why he was not killed.
Worldview: Islam

What are the current trends in Islam?
1. The world's fastest growing supracultural religion, at 2.9% annual growth.
2. Oil brought wealth and political power.
3. Evangelism. Islamic nations are pouring millions into ex-Eastern block countries to promote Islam.
4. Very zealous for faith.

Relationship to the West:
1. Presuppositions are closer to Christianity and Judaism than to Eastern religions.
2. Culturally, Islam belongs neither to east or west. It has an all encompassing worldview of its own.

Key Principles:
1. *Islam*— in Arabic means “submission, obedience and surrender”. Islam claims to be universality.
   - “As the entire creation obeys the law of God, the whole universe, therefore, literally follows the religion of Islam.”
2. People as physical and subject to physical laws are all Muslim.
3. People can decide not to be in submission and are infidels or unbelievers.
4. Revelation only can reveal the whole will of God. His will is beyond reason and must be accepted by faith in the unseen and by submission to revealed will of Allah.
5. How can we know the will of Allah?
   - Through THE PROPHET— “the duty of common men and women is to recognize the true prophet, to have faith in him and obey him. This is the road to salvation.”
   a. Adam
   b. Moses
   c. David
   d. Jesus
   e. Muhammad— is the last and greatest prophet.

Muhammad's Story:
1. In 610 AD, at age of 40, the angel Gabriel spoke to him in his home city of Mecca.
2. Mecca was immersed in tribal and primitive polytheism.
   - *Ka’ba*— cube shaped building of idols.
   - He called people to one God—Allah
3. *Hejra*— flight to Medina in 622 (beginning of the Muslim calendar). After 13 years of few converts and persecution he moved to Medina.
4. Medina accepted him as prophet and leader and in 630 AD he conquered Mecca and destroyed its idols.
5. He died in 632 A.D. but his followers marched in conquest of
- Syria
- Egypt
- Iraq
- North Africa
- Palestine
- Spain
- Central Asia

What are the five articles of faith of Islam?
1. The Oneness of God
   - *La ilaha illallah* — “there is no deity but Allah”
2. The Angels. They watch each person and keep records for the Day of Judgment.
3. The Books of God
   - Of Abraham — are lost
   - Torah — of Moses
   - Zabor (Psalms) of David
   - Injeel (Gospel) of Jesus
   - *Qur’an* — “reading or recitation”. Is all truth with no error. Word for word dictation from God.
   - *Hadith* — are the traditions about The Prophet.
4. The Prophets of God
5. Life after Death
   - Day of Judgment — rewards or punishments.

What are the five pillars of Islam?
1. *Shahadat* — “Testimony”. “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger.”
2. *Salat* — prayer. Five times each day. Minarets (towers) of mosques call to prayer
   - before sunrise
   - at noon
   - before sunset
   - at sunset
   - after sunset
3. *Zakat* — Alms giving. At least 2.5% of income for the poor. Sometimes enforced by government.
4. Fasting has the effect of freeing man from slavery to his own desires.
   - *Ramadan* — lunar month during which no food or drink is consumed during daylight hours.
5. *Hajj* — Pilgrimage. If you can afford it, once in your life time you are to go to Mecca.

Other Duties:
1. Submission to the *shari'ah* “ethical code”.
2. *Jihad* — holy war. A war that is fought solely in the name of Allah against the enemies of Islam. All nations and people are called to fight.

Division:
3. *Sunnis* — “the way” is the traditional orthodox branch comprising 85% of Islamic people.
4. *Shi'ites* — “pertaining to” believe that Muhammad’s successors were infallible.
ISLAM WORLDVIEW

ALLAH/ QUR’AN
ARCHANGELS
PROPHETS
JINNS/SPRIRITS

FATE MAGIC

Muhammed
males

females

plants/animals
Worldview: Animism

Definition:
1. Animism: The belief that the world is full of …
   Success in life is the ability to ______________ those forces for one’s own good.
2. Go to diagram.

Components Explained:
1. The world is a ______________.
2. Ancestors are ______________ in a cycle of life.
3. ______________ can bring powers against the individual.
   □ Creator God:
   □ Personal ancestors work ______________ clans
   □ Magic:
4. Rituals at important moments:
   □
   □
   □
5. Totemism: there is a ______________ with each clan to a particular ______________ from which the clan draws power.

Examples of How this Worldview Effects Behavior:
1. When a child is born, parents and relatives name the baby after an ancestor. One takes on that personality in self-fulfilling prophecy.
2. Buying or selling of property. A ritual goat is killed, and the undigested grass (chyme) is examined to see if it is spoiled or fresh.
3. Barrenness. A woman can have no children must be cursed some way. If she looks upon your children, she can do them great harm.

Key Concepts:
1.
2.
3.
4.

Observations:
**Worldview: Hinduism**

What are some ways that Eastern Worldview is different?
1. The spiritual world is real. (the West tends to think that only the material world is real).
2. More is accomplished by doing less. (West tries to become rich, famous, get to the top, ambition)
3. The real you is spiritual. (West sees the body as the real you).

What existential needs do supra-cultural religions try to meet?
1. *The sense of precariousness* — religion tries to provide a sense of wholeness and stability.
2. *The experience of alienation, separation, and loneliness* — religion tries to provide a sense of kinship with the ultimate.
3. *The demand for meaning* — religion seeks to fulfill this need by reordering perception.
4. *The right relationship with the “holy”* — ethics, rules of behavior, ceremonies and rites.

What is the Hindu answer?
1. What are the key concepts of Hinduism?
   - *Bhagavad Gita* — most holy Hindu writing.
     - a. The god *Krishna* appears to the warrior *Arjuna*.
     - b. Arjuna is upset by killing people.
     - c. Krishna explains that we are divided into *castes*.
     - d. *Dharma* = duties. One must fulfill the duties of the caste.
   - *Atman* — or self is the indestructible reality that is the real person.
     - a. travels through several bodies.
     - b. *karma* — the universe keeps books. Doing good things generates good karma, bad things, bad karma. Good karma moves you through reincarnation toward brahman.
     - c. after long struggle it is reunited with *brahman*.
   - *Brahman* — means “ultimate” and is the eternal oneness in its purity, God.
   - *moksha* — is the last stage of the transmigration of the soul. “Like a drop of rain water falling into the sea.”
   - “I am brahman” is repeated by holy men in order to arrive to moksha.
   - *Maya* — is illusion, seeing things wrongly and hiding the truth for us. Multiplicity is an illusion.
   - *Lila* — is the play of brahman. Illustrations: Passage to India. The holy Hindu will be a spectator at a play. Mistake: the movie is real.
2. What is a key characteristic of Hinduism?
   - Tolerance — there are many ways to salvation. Most religions in India have been “hugged to death”. No resistance, just acceptance.
3. What are the three classical paths of Hinduism?
   - *karma marga* — the path of works.
   - *bhakti marga* — the path of devotion.
   - *jnana marga* — the path of knowledge.
4. What is *yoga*?

*Yoga* — physical and psychological exercise to shut out the unreal outer world and get into oneself. Empty the mind of everything. Illus. Just try not to think of a white bear.
Worldview: Buddhism

Buddhism at a Glance:

1. Who is the founder of Buddhism?
   - Siddhartha Guatama is the Buddha.
   - Born in 563 BC
   - Rich. Palace for each member of the family.
   - Very protected from all suffering, evil and violence.
   - Overwhelmed with the suffering at first exposure
   - Sought what is real and true:
   - ascetics—almost killed by fasting. Disillusioned he moved on.
   - from guru to guru.
   - Under the bo tree he received Enlightenment.

2. Where is Buddhism?
   - In India swallowed up by Hinduism
   - Southeast Asia
   - Japan
   - China

3. What are the two kinds of Buddhism?
   - Theravada Buddhism—southern countries.
   - Mahayana Buddhism—northern countries.

4. What are the fundamental principles of Buddhism?
   - *Nirvana*—is the goal of the Buddhist. State in which all the flame of desire has been blown out. "being so full of the infinite that the loss of the finite is of no consequence."
   - *Dhammapada*—the holy book of Buddhists. "Like a bird flying invisibly in the sky, while others wonder, he lives, the saint without passions, indifferent to food, aware of the meaning of freedom."

5. Four noble truths:
   - suffering: contact with the unpleasant is painful. Not getting what you want is painful.
   - origin of suffering: desire creates sorrow.
   - end of suffering: nothing remains of desire. Nirvana is attained, all is given up, renounced, detached, and abandoned.
   - practical plan for nirvana: the eightfold way of right views, intentions, speech, action, profession, watchfulness and concentration.

Contrasting Eastern and Western Religions

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<th>The East</th>
<th>The West</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broad Tolerance</td>
<td>Exclusivism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reality monistic and imminent</td>
<td>Reality dualistic and transcendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World denying</td>
<td>God acts in history and nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive acceptance of human condition</td>
<td>Active attempt to change human condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hightest goal: union with the ultimate</td>
<td>Highest goal: true personhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclical view of history</td>
<td>Linear view of history</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. New Age is not __________. It borrows from
   □ __________:
   a. the emphasis on oneness with the basic cosmic energy of the universe.
   b. achieved through “altered states of consciousness” as “doors of perception.”
   c. reincarnation
   d. cyclical view of history

   □ __________: the belief that the world is filled with hostile forces, seen and unseen, that
   must be appeased to maintain harmony.

2. Self is supreme, ultimate reality
   □ Ex. Shirley McClain “We are gods although we don’t realize it. Jesus and Buddha
   knew it.”
3. Experience is more important than belief. Experiences include:
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 

How Would New Agers Answer the Five Worldview Questions?
1. Where are we and what is this place like?
   - In a real world that is ordered by its essential _________ (“God”). “Real” is a variable. The Church of Scientology does not believe that this is a “real” world but exists because enough of us believe it into existence.

2. Who are we and where are we going?
   - We are _________ _________ spirit beings in the _________ of our _________ universes. We will forever repeat the human experience.

3. What is the problem and what is right and wrong?
   - People are ignorant of their true _________ _________ to go beyond the limits of time and space and experience this Oneness. Ethics are relative to whatever brings the individual to this state of consciousness.

4. What is the solution?
   - _________ _________ through “doors of perception” which might include: drugs, meditation, trance, biofeedback, acupuncture, ritual dance, channeling (use of mediums), crystals, and the like.

5. How do we know?
   - Because our _________ in these altered states of consciousness confirms that truth lies within each person.
1. Where are we?
   - Modern: In a closed universe, on a chunk of spinning space mass, the product of a natural cosmic event.
   - Post-modern: We don’t really know. We can only tell stories about our perceptions.
   - Christian: In an open universe designed, created, and sustained by God, though since the Fall, it is not the way He intended it to be.

2. Who are we?
   - Modern: Highly evolved biological organisms destined for personal extinction.
   - Post-modern: We don’t know. We can only "invent" ourselves; that is, tell different stories about who we wish to be.
   - Christian: God’s creations, made in His image, an image distorted by sin, clarified by Jesus Christ, and restored by His redemptive work, created to enjoy fellowship with Him forever.

3. What is the problem?
   - Modern: Some people haven't evolved as much as others.
   - Post-modern: What do you mean by "problem"?
   - Christian: Sin is the problem. Sin as defined by God Himself is anything that is incompatible with His nature and will.

4. What is the solution?
   - Modern: More science and technology which will help people "advance" up the evolutionary ladder.
   - Post-modern: What do you mean by "solution"?
   - Christian: Individual and collective reconciliation through Jesus and re-creation through our obedience to God and cooperation with His Holy Spirit.

5. How do we know?
   - Modern: Science.
   - Post-modern: We don't "know."
   - Christian: Revelation. God has spoken.
Christian Worldview

Which Statements are True?
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Biblical Perspectives on Spiritual Warfare
1. Recently Christians have shown great interest in spiritual warfare. Examples include:
   - Frank Peretti’s This Present Darkness, Piercing the Darkness.
   - Joe Beam, Seeing the Unseen
   - TV’s fascination with angels.
   - Interest in spiritual matters should be welcomed and tested.
   - Some elements reflect not Christian but __________ _________ _________.

2. The Indo-European Myth Elements:
   - Good and Evil have always co-existed
     a. Ultimate good is ________ and ________. Ultimate Evil is chaos and enslavement.
     b. Evil gods (like Asag, Vritra, Tiamat, Ravana) are in __________ __________ with
        good gods (Ninurta, Indra, Markuk, Rama) for control of the world.
     c. Satan and demons are __________ __________ no longer depending on God.
     d. __________: God and Satan, angels and demons, good nations and evil ones.

Indo-European View

Super-natural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Evil</th>
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<tr>
<td>GOD</td>
<td>SATAN</td>
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Central battle of power

Heaven: Good gods/angels

Hell: Evil gods/demons

(fallout)

Natural

Earth: Good people

Evil people
Order and __________ must be kept in balance:

a. Central issue is order and __________.

b. Two competing parties create a fundamental danger of __________.

c. Gods battle/rule on a higher plane influencing us humans as __________. “When the elephants fight, the __________ __________ __________.”

d. Humans live in __________.

e. Who is __________ _________ of the earth? Satan or Jesus?

f. Remember: Luke 10:20 "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The Battle in the Cosmos:

a. To win is everything. If the good wins there will be peace and success.

b. To be fair the fight must be among equals.

c. The good side can’t use evil means unless the bad side does first.

d. Land is important. Gods and humans battle and rule over different territories. Illus. Peter Wagner, “To win the city, we must name the demon that rules and cast the demon out.”

e. Relationships based on competition.

Victory is the Goal.

What is the effect of the Indo-European Worldview on Christianity?

a. Prayer — a means to obtaining what we want? Considered answered if…

b. Success—defined by numbers, church growth

c. Enthusiasm—a high pitch of emotional or extraordinary experience

d. Miraculous—a sign that we are spiritual, or that God favors a group.

Evaluation:

a. Scriptures speak of __________ _________ (Eph. 6:10-20; Rev. 19:19-20).

b. Central issue in biblical warfare is not power but __________. In the OT both victories and defeats are explained in terms of God’s __________, not because Yahweh was defeated or thwarted by an evil god.

c. The Bible place the blame for suffering on __________ _________ Ro. 5:12 “because all sinned.”

d. The _________ is the ultimate _________ (1 Cor. 1:18-25; 2:8; Heb. 12:2).

Righteousness and love are the ultimate end.

Biblical Images of Spiritual Warfare:

1. Good is Eternal, evil is __________

a. God is eternal, Satan, sinners, and sin appear in creation.

b. Gods creation depends on God for continued existence.


2. Peace with God and Holiness

a. Right relationship with God involves grace, worship, holiness, and obedience. Prayer in the Indo-European thought is a means to control the gods (Matt. 6:7).

3. In Scripture the ruler is the servant of the people.

4. The Battle is in Human Hearts

5. James 4:1
6. In the cross Jesus demonstrates his ultimate love and Satan is shown to be evil. John 16:8-10.
7. Shalom is the Goal.

**GOD**

Creator, Omnipotent

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<tr>
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<td>Rebellious — Evil</td>
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<td>Satan and Demons</td>
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<tr>
<td>ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battle ground</td>
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**Implications:**
1. What does it matter?
   - fear
   - manipulation
   - rationalization and justification
   - deification of self
   - fight the wrong battle. “Satan would like us either to ignore him so that he can carry out his work undetected, or to fear him unduly so that we take our eyes off Christ, our strength.” Remember Matt. 16:18.

2. Important Principles:
   - The spiritual battle is for the hearts and souls of humans. God has already defeated Satan (Heb. 2:14).
   - Satan has no power over God’s people other than what God permits for the testing of their faith. (1 Cor. 10:15)
   - Must ignore two extremes:
     a. denial of Satan
     b. undue fascination with, and fear of Satan.