

Lesson 4: The World, But Not as We Know it!

The world is not Christian, but rather everything that fights against Christ

1 min

Previously in Reality Bites...

Last lesson the class looked at an example of one of the starting points that form a worldview called Naturalism. They see how it replaces God with nature, how it's prevalent in the world today and the effects it has on those who believe in it.

Remind the class about this.

GOALS:

- To show the contrast between the worldview of the world and the Kingdom of Christ.
- Understand what actually makes that difference between the world and the Kingdom of Christ.
- The class should come out of this week challenged to choose between the truth of Christ and the lies of the world.

1 min

Opening Prayer

1

"Dear Father, **thank you** for helping us **understand** the concept of **worldviews**. **Guide** us now with your **Holy Spirit** as we learn this lesson about the **world** in **contrast to your kingdom**. Let us **see the world through your eyes**. In Jesus' name, Amen."

THE BIG PICTURE

This lesson is the last lesson on laying the foundation of worldview study. After looking at Naturalism last week, it's clear that it's prevalent in the world today. It's not the truth and it's against Christ. This week will continue by looking at truth and lies, illusion and reality which is a ground rule for Reality Bites. It establishes in the minds of the class the framework for everything to come: Christianity is the simple, not entirely pretty, truth; the world is an illusion, although it is often much prettier than the truth.

These themes run very strongly through *The Matrix*, so we shall be using this movie a lot in the upcoming lessons.

2

PREVIOUS VERSES TO PONDER

Read aloud Romans 1:25.

²⁵ They gave up the truth about God for a lie, and they worshiped God's creation instead of God, who will be praised forever. Amen.

Ask if anyone remember what the verses were. Give them time. Read the verses out if no one answer. Or get one of the class to read them out from the bible. Ask if they thought about the verses last week and ask for the results if they did.

3

BIBLE READING

Read aloud Romans 3:10-18

"No one is acceptable to God!

¹¹ Not one of them understands or even searches for God.

¹² They have all turned away and are worthless. There isn't one person who does right.



Media Message

4

MOVIE DISCUSSION (Part 1)

8 mins

The movie for this lesson is *The Matrix*. The scene is the introduction to Morpheus. Neo has been searching for Morpheus, and finally is introduced to him. Morpheus is the leader of a group of rebels, who fight to free humanity from The Matrix. This clip is selected because it shows Neo being confronted with the choice between joining the rebels and discovering what The Matrix is, and returning to his old life.

Play the clip.



5

BIBLE STUDY

3 mins

The Bible Study is integral to this lesson, and the discussion focuses on relating the movie to the Bible study.

Read the verses from Romans 3:10-18



- “No one is acceptable to God!
¹¹Not one of them understands or even searches for God.
¹²They have all turned away and are worthless.
 There isn't one person who does right.
¹³Their words are like an open pit,
 and their tongues are good only for telling lies.
 Each word is as deadly as the fangs of a snake,
¹⁴and they say nothing but bitter curses.
¹⁵These people quickly become violent.
¹⁶Wherever they go, they leave ruin and destruction.
¹⁷They don't know how to live in peace.
¹⁸They don't even fear God.”

Explain that “the world” that the Bible talks about, and the world that all non-Christians live in, is like the Matrix: illusory, and how Christianity is like the rebellion, trying to save people with the truth.



6

ACTIVITY: RED PILL, BLUE PILL


12-17 mins

Break into groups. Try to keep each group as separate as possible. In different rooms if necessary. Make sure each teacher has a cache of red and blue “pills” hidden in their bag, or materials. Make sure that each teacher agrees on a time for the discussion (leave at least ten minutes – it will take a while for the kids to get the idea), and keeps careful track of time so that the groups can come back together for the second session of the video.



Ask the kids to provide concrete (real, actual, real-world) examples of how the Matrix is like the world, and Christianity is like the rebellion.





Movie	The Matrix	
Rated	MA (strong violent and adult themes)	
Start	0:23:50 - When the car containing Neo pulls up in front of the hotel Morpheus is in.	
End	0:28:00 - When Neo is about to reach for the blue or red pill. Make sure you stop just as he starts to reach, so that it's not obvious what his choice is.	
Duration	0:5:50	
Synopsis	Neo (Keanu Reeves) discovers that the world is an elaborate deception spun by all-powerful machines of artificial intelligence that control us. He joined the rebellions led by Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) to fight to free humankind.	

! Prepare in advance!

Purchase a whole bunch of red and blue lollies that are pill-like. Jaffas, M&Ms, Smarties, bubble gum, or other types that are appropriate. You will probably find that you have to go to the local supermarket or lolly store and manually pick blue and red lollies from a container of multicoloured ones. You will also need to find container for these lollies too.



When the first person gets one right, make a show of reaching into your bag and pulling out an appropriate coloured pill:


-  Red for an answer about Christianity and the rebellion
-  Blue for an answer about the world and the Matrix

Continue handing out pills as people get new answers. There are actually plenty of answers.

Follow are some valid answers. Use your discretion for others. Provide hints if the kids run out of steam, but only provide hints after they have run out of ideas – wait for as long as necessary before giving hints or giving out that first lolly – that should be a surprise.

Christianity (The Rebels) VS The world (The Matrix)

- Christians are fighting against the spiritual rulers of this world, just like the rebels are fighting against the rulers of the Matrix.
- Christians consumed Christ's red blood, just like the rebels eat the red pill.
- Christians have to make a choice between choosing to rebel or just forgetting and waking up in their bed.
- Christians try to save the world.
- Christians try to convert others to their cause.
- Christians understand that the world around them is merely temporary.
- Trinity is one of the rebels, just as the Trinity is the leader of Christianity.
- When people make a choice for Christianity it changes their relationship to the world, just as Neo's choice will.
- The world is built on lies, just like the Matrix.
- The world is everywhere, and all around us, like the Matrix.
- The world is even in Churches, just like the Matrix.
- The world is impossible to understand without some form of conversion experience, like the Matrix.
- The world enslaves everyone but the Christians, just like the Matrix.
- The world is comfortable, just like the Matrix.
- Christians still exist in the world, just like the rebels do in the Matrix.
- We are born and grow up in the world, just like people do in the Matrix.
- The world hides the reality of our rulers, just like the Matrix.
- The battle over our souls is invisible to people in the world, just like the Matrix.
- If we don't choose, we will stay a part of the world, just like the Matrix.



Leader's Notes

Use your discretion with the answers to this discussion. The provided answers are examples and can be used as guidelines. The class might not get them in these exact words. Keep in mind the theme of the discussion is how the truth of Christianity is like the rebels and how the lies in this world is like the illusion that keep us in bondage, like the Matrix. Provide hints if the kids run out of steam, but only provide hints after they have run out of ideas – wait for as long as necessary before giving hints or giving out that first lolly – that should be a surprise.



Media Message

Movie	The Matrix
Start	0:28:00 Continue from where you stopped before.
End	0:33:41 After Morpheous says "Welcome to the real world."
Duration	00:05:41

7

MOVIE DISCUSSION (Part 2)

7 mins

Show the second clip from *The Matrix*.

Explain how Neo's world looked like ours, but was really as they just saw in the movie – a machine in which people were "stored". The two places are the same world, but two different views – one true, one illusion.

End on that note.



8

VERSES TO PONDER



Read this verse out to the class.

Romans 3:12

¹² They have all turned away and are worthless.
There isn't one person who does right.



Ask them to think about this verse and see how it's true in the world today. Tell them to look for examples of that, which should be pretty easy.



9

Closing Prayer

Dear Father, we know that we can only **see** what the **world** is really **like** through **your Word**. We **realise** that sometimes the **world** **enslave** us. Help us to have the **understanding** of your **Word** to **properly understand the world** and to **fight against** it. We pray this in the name of your Son, Amen."

10

Next Week

Tell the class about the highlight of next week's lesson.

