

# PARENT/STUDENT BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW GUIDE

## 9th Grade Conversation

### OBJECTIVE

Have a conversation with your teen on how the Bible is God's Word and is relevant in our lives today. Encourage your teen to read God's Word, because it is our guide to life.

### THE 411

Our teens are hearing from many different voices and influences in their lives. They are being influenced by the movies they watch, the friends they hang around with, the teachers at school, and most importantly, us. Each one of these influences has a different worldview that is being impressed upon our teens. They are making choices and decisions that stem from a worldview they are developing right now.

A worldview is the sum of all our underlying beliefs about life from which we make choices and act. It is the way we see the world through a belief system. Everyone has a worldview.

Your goal as a parent is to help your teen develop a biblical worldview. However, for many teens this is a time of doubts and questions, which is great. That is how we form our faith. This should also be a time when we help shape their understanding of God's Word – that God's Word is relevant and inspired from God. It is our instruction manual for life, and it is the guide for us in how we live and model Christ.

### SUGGESTION

#### OPTION #1

Buy something your teen helps you put together. However, hide the instruction manual. During the process of putting this together without the instructions, you will see how difficult it is. If it becomes impossible, get the instructions out and start the conversation while you finish the project. The example is that when we try to live our lives by not reading and following the instruction manual that is God's Word, then we never become who God created us to be.

Later, have the conversation on why God's Word is relevant and is truth for us to live by each day. Not only is it our instruction manual for life, it also shapes our worldview and helps us base our decisions from God's Word.

#### OPTION #2

Get a 500-piece puzzle that you and your teen put together. This could take a week or so, but halfway through the project, hide the box that has the picture on it. The idea is that without the picture it becomes very difficult to put the puzzle together. Then start the conversation in the same way: that the Bible is our guide to life, yet in many ways we go through life without ever looking at it. We start making choices that just don't fit together in our life the way He designed them to go.



**READING PLAN**

Come up with a plan together to make God's Word a priority in your lives. Here are some steps to do that.

- Get reading plans from YouVersion, an app for mobile devices. You also can access it on your computer and it will keep track of your reading plan.
- Take your teen to a Christian bookstore and pick out a devotional.
- Before school, read a Scripture out loud as a family.
- Get a plan on a book of the Bible your teen will read, and at the end of each week ask how he is doing and keep encouraging him.
- Every Saturday morning lead a devotional for your family.
- On Monday nights hold a No-Media Monday when you have no cell phones, television or computer for a couple of hours. This can be a great time as a family, and each family member can have time for God's word or with a personal devotional book. You can also do this on No-Technology Tuesday or Thursday. Pick a day that works for your family.

Come up with a plan that works and then keep each other accountable.

**DISCUSSION**

**ASK:** Is the Bible relevant for today?

**READ:** **Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)**

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** The Bible was written by more than 40 authors over a period of more than 1,500 years; its accuracy and relevance for today remains unchanged.

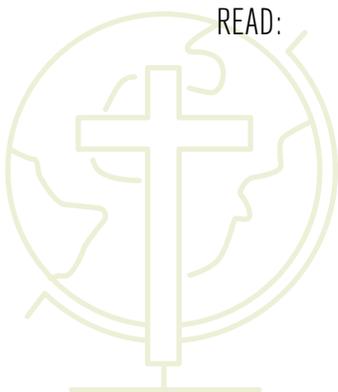
**Option #1** – God's word is like that piece of paper we looked for when putting together that project. He has the answers and the way for us to live. It is written out for us.

**Option #2** – God's word is like that picture on the puzzle box. It brings clarity to life, and we can see our purpose and how it fits together.

The Bible is what it claims to be: “God-breathed.”

**READ:** **2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)**

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”



**ASK:** What does that mean to you, that Scripture is God-breathed?  
 What questions have you had about the Bible? *Give your teen some time to ask and process here. If you don't know the answers, that's OK – you can tell him so, then research the questions or ask a pastor and get back with him.*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** A question that is asked a lot: Is the Bible trustworthy when it speaks of historical matters? The Bible contains two kinds of information. Some of it can be checked; some of it cannot. For example, it is not possible to “check” scientifically the accuracy of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” On the other hand, the Scriptures contain hundreds of references that arise out of the background of human history. These may be tested for accuracy. In fact, one of the most amazing features of the Bible is its uncanny reliability in the smallest of details.

**EXAMPLES:** *You can refer to one of the following examples or all of them.*

1. During His personal ministry, Jesus once passed through the region of Samaria. Near Sychar, the Lord stopped for a brief rest at Jacob’s well. He engaged a Samaritan woman in conversation, during which He suggested that He could provide the woman with water that could perpetually quench her thirst. Misunderstanding the nature of the Master’s instruction, the woman, alluding to Jacob’s well, declared: “Sir ... you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep ...” John 4:11 (NIV). The statement is quite correct, for even now, some 20 centuries later, Jacob’s well is approximately 80 feet deep – the equivalent of an eight-story building!
2. Acts 10 tells of the account of Peter’s visit in the city of Joppa. Luke declared that Peter was staying in the home of Simon, a tanner of animal hides. Then the historian said, almost as an afterthought, “... whose house is by the sea.” Acts 10:6 (NIV). Hugh J. Schonfield, author of the infamous book *The Passover Plot* — and certainly no friend of Christianity — has commented on this passage as follows:
 

“This is an interesting factual detail, because the tanners used sea water in the process of converting hides into leather. The skins were soaked in the sea and then treated with lime before the hair was scraped off.” (*The Bible Was Right*, New York: The New American Library, 1959, p. 98).
3. Another interesting case of biblical precision comes from one of Paul’s journeys. When Paul was en route to Rome for trial, the ship upon which he sailed became involved in a terrible storm. When it eventually became apparent that the vessel was in a very dangerous circumstance, the crew cast the ship’s anchors into the water. At the same time, they “... loosed the rudder bands, and hoisted up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore,” Acts 27:40 (KJV). There is an interesting and subtle point in the Greek text that is not apparent in the King James Version. The original language actually says that they “loosed the bands of the rudders” (plural – see ASV). This is amazingly precise, for in ancient times, ships actually possessed two paddle-rudders, not a single rudder as with modern vessels. In 1969, a submerged ancient ship was discovered in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Cyprus. An examination of the ruins gave evidence of dual rudder-oars by which the boat was steered (see *National Geographic*, November 1974), thus demonstrating the remarkable accuracy of Luke’s record.



The Bible can be tested – historically, geographically, scientifically – and it always passes the test. Its incredible accuracy can be explained only in light of its divine inspiration.

**ASK:** Do you know what prophecy means? (A foretelling of the future)

Do you know how many prophecies were fulfilled in scripture?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled in scripture. In 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. These scrolls contained the book of Isaiah and other prophetic books. When dated, they were found to be written from 120 to 100 B.C., well before Jesus was born. In those books, prophecies were given and fulfilled. It would have been an incredible accomplishment for Jesus to have fulfilled all 300 prophecies. Some say these prophecies were fulfilled by chance, but the odds that all of these were fulfilled by chance are ridiculously impossible. It would take more faith to believe in that chance happening than in the fact that Jesus is God and these prophecies are divinely inspired.

**ASK:** If God's word is truth and inspired by God – and I believe that – then how does that impact and change our lives?

How can we come up with a plan to be in God's word so that God can impact us and mold us into who He has called us to be?

