

Discipleship 101
Learning to Take Christianity Seriously

Session #6—God's Word as Reality

1. God's Word establishes _____. Read John 1:1-4, 14.
2. God's Word is first and foremost connected to _____ and _____.
3. You may think that the *really real stuff* of the universe is:
 - a. ...your _____—like how you _____ makes things good or bad (righteous or unrighteous).
 - b. ...the things you can see and _____—as though _____ can determine what's good or bad.
 - c. ... your personal _____—as though what you _____ makes something good or bad.
 - d. BUT ALL OF THESE FOUNDATIONS FOR IDENTITY ARE _____ BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT FOUNDATIONS AT ALL. INSTEAD, THE AMOUNT TO PURE _____ (remember the Great Reversal!).
4. What the *really real stuff* of the universe is turns out to be _____, which is to say _____. This universe turns out to be a meaningful place, but it's only meaningful according to God's Word (that is Jesus), not ours.
5. Because Jesus is the Word, "who we are" (our identity) will not be determined by other people's words, by our feelings, by science, or by our personal preferences. Who we are will be determined by our relationship to this Man, the Word in the Flesh—Jesus. Read John 14:6.
6. Idolatry and our stories. Idolatry is always accompanied by three things: 1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____.

7. Idols and **Stories**. *Finding Nemo* example. How does the story go?
- What things would you include if I asked you, “What’s your story?”
 - How do you think your story will change as you get older?
 - How would Christ or how has Christ changed your story?
8. Idols and Stories and _____ .
9. Idols control your identity by giving you a _____ or _____ in your mind of what it looks like to be _____.
10. Idols deceive the idol worshiper by creating a false story that promises a happy ending. This false story hides the idol behind a veil or camouflage of goodness.
11. The picture painted for you by your idol becomes the source of your righteousness—that is—it tells you the way things are supposed to be, and you begin to measure the people and circumstances around you (their righteousness) based on the sinful righteousness of your idol. Isaiah 35:8-10. “Gives you a Way” example (goal/means analysis).
12. Whatever you call “the best” in your life is probably where you are most susceptible to idolatry.
13. Idols, Stories, Happy Endings, and FoMO—F. _____ of M. _____ O. _____. Give an example where you’ve seen others go through FoMO.
14. Read Galatians 5:22-24. How does Christ’s death and resurrection eliminate FoMO? Why does the Spirit of Christ never produce the fruit of idolatry?
15. Believing. Belonging. Behaving.

At your tables or in your group, answer the question, “How do you think this view of God’s Word affects the way we believe, belong, and behave?”