

Series: Higher Voltage

Session Title: Word

Date and Time: _____

Number of Students: _____

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Five pieces of chart paper or Bristol board with questions written on them
- ☐ One marker for every student
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Task three questions written on a board or chart paper
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Double-sided copies of pages A29-30

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify five questions that their peers have about spiritual things.
- Think through potential responses to those five questions.
- Devise one thoughtful answer to one of those five questions.
- Recognize that their role as a Christian includes a responsibility to help people grow in their spiritual understanding.
- Differentiate between 'interesting but not urgent issues' and 'salvation level issues'.

Pastoral Objectives:

Lead In:

I have provided a list of the 'Top Five Questions Our Friends Are Asking' that I generated through a student survey. You can use those or as a lead in activity you can challenge your students to generate a list of the top ten questions their friends would want to ask about

God/religion/spiritual life and then develop some sort of a ranking system to determine the top five. Having done that you will be ready to move on to the next stage of the lesson. You could transition by saying something along the lines of:

Jesus described himself as the Light of the World and said that a part of his purpose was to bring sight to the blind. Christians are supposed to serve as light and sight bringers and as people who help other people find their way to God and Truth. The following list (or the list they generated) represents the top five questions our friends would like answers to.

1. If God is so good why do so many bad things happen?
2. Do good people who do not believe in Jesus go to hell?
3. Are all religions equally true?
4. Did God use evolution to create humanity?
5. Why does the Bible record so many murders and atrocities in the Old Testament?
Are we supposed to think that was a good thing?

Task One:

Prepare these questions on chart paper or Bristol board and tape them up around the room. Put one question on each piece of paper. For the task, have the students travel around the room with a marker and write their first response to each question on the appropriate paper. For example, Carly takes her marker up to question three and writes, "I think that there is some truth to every religion." They should have the freedom to respond sincerely whether you agree with them or not at this stage. This is the unrefined reactions stage. Give the students space to travel around the room and put down whatever answers they want. Give them a time limit of ten minutes. When the time is up, have everyone gather together again.

Task Two:

Have students choose one of the five questions which they would like to investigate further. Ask them to move to the sheet of paper. They are now in small groups. If you have several leaders, make sure they are spread out among the groups for guidance. Hand out pens and double-sided copies of pages A29-30 and instruct the students to follow the instructions on the handout.

Task Three:

Omit this task if you are short on time. Focus on taking up the previous task. If you have time, ask each group to reiterate their question and their proposed answer. After hearing from every group, ask the students to rate the issues investigated according to the following scale (have this written on a board or chart for them to see). Have them vote on the ranking for each of the five questions. Ask students to decide the difference between their approach to a level one conversation and a level five conversation.

- Level One: Interesting to think or talk about but has little overall significance.
- Level Two: Important to have an opinion about this but I wouldn't bother trying to get anyone to share my view.
- Level Three: Very important that people have the right information about this because whatever you decide will have a significant impact on your life.
- Level Four: This is a Truth issue. You need to get this right and you need to help others get this right. Failure to achieve understanding on this issue will have serious consequences.
- Level Five: This is a salvation level issue. If you do not have the right answer on this one your soul is in jeopardy.

Conclusion:

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

One of the reasons you are not immediately raptured up to heaven when you become a Christian is because you have a job to do here on earth and a big part of that job is to function as a spiritual guide to other people. You are a light bringer. We need to raise the voltage a little bit on the light we are shining. We can do that by being prepared. We also need to remember that being a guide is different than being a champion debater. Remember that the goal is not to win the argument; the goal is to win people to Christ. Always share the truth in love. You are the light of the world; shine!