Study Guide: The War on Reality

Sunday PM-November 8, 2026

Introduction

This study guide reviews the sermon titled "The War on Reality." The lesson explores how modern culture faces a spiritual battle over the nature of truth, morality, and reality. Many people in society believe that truth is personal, morality is negotiable, and reality can be changed based on human feelings. However, biblical teaching establishes that God is the Creator of all things. Because He created reality, He alone possesses the authority to define it.

Through Scripture, practical examples, and historical illustrations, this lesson emphasizes that Christians are called to stand firmly on God's Word. Believers must speak the truth in love, discern deception, and pass divine truth down to the next generation.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the following ten questions based on the lesson. Write two to three complete sentences for each response.

1. What historical event regarding the sanctuary movement took place in Tucson, Arizona, on March 24, 1982, and why was it highlighted in the lesson?
2. Why does Genesis 1:1 establish that God holds the ultimate authority to define reality rather than human governments, cultures, or opinions?
3. How does the lesson use the illustration of a physical building to demonstrate that the universe was designed by an intelligent Creator?
4. Why are personal feelings an unreliable foundation for establishing ultimate truth, according to the lesson?
5. How does the illustration of a magnetic compass explain a believer's relationship to God's Word when personal feelings conflict with divine direction?
6. What does the lesson's illustration of a fish taken out of water teach about the relationship between freedom and God's intentional design?
7. According to Ephesians 6:12, who or what is the actual enemy in the battle for truth, and why cannot this battle be won through human anger or insults?
8. Why were the Bereans in Acts 17:11 commended, and how should modern believers apply their example?
9. According to Deuteronomy 6:6–7 and Proverbs 22:6, what critical responsibility do parents, grandparents, and church leaders have toward children?

10. What specific book and workbook resource, authored by Frank Turek and Phoenix Hayes, was recommended to help believers study and understand these concepts?

Answer Key

1. On March 24, 1982, the sanctuary movement in the United States began at a Presbyterian church and Quaker meeting in Tucson, Arizona, led in part by Reverend John Fife of Southside Presbyterian Church. This event was highlighted to show that major cultural and political movements take place even near quiet, rural communities, proving that believers are not immune to surrounding societal changes.
2. Genesis 1:1 states that God existed before any human governments, cultures, or philosophies were formed, and that He created the heavens and the earth. Because He is the Creator of everything that exists, He alone has the ultimate authority to define truth and reality, while human beings are called to discover and obey His standards.
3. When a person views a physical building, they recognize that an architect and builder designed and assembled the structure rather than assuming the materials randomly fell into place. Similarly, the complexity, order, and design observed throughout the universe point to the existence of an intelligent Creator Who made human beings intentionally and with purpose.
4. Personal feelings change from day to day and can easily lead people into error, such as saying hurtful words in anger or fearing things that are not actually dangerous. Because human emotions fluctuate, they cannot serve as a reliable guide for truth; instead, truth rests upon the unchanging character of God and His Word.
5. A compass always points north regardless of whether a traveler likes the direction, meaning that if a person wishes to travel south, the traveler must turn around rather than expect the compass to change. In the same way, God's Word is a fixed spiritual compass; when human feelings conflict with divine truth, human beings must change their direction to align with Him.
6. A fish is designed by God to live and flourish inside water, so removing it from the water under the claim of granting it "freedom" on land results in its death. This demonstrates that human freedom separated from God's design leads to destruction, whereas human beings flourish when they live within the moral boundaries established by their Creator.
7. Ephesians 6:12 states that believers do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places. Because the battle is spiritual rather than physical or political, it cannot be won through human hostility, insults, or anger, but requires prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit.

8. The Bereans were commended because they daily searched and examined the Scriptures to verify whether the teachings they heard were actually true. Modern believers must follow their example by fact-checking every message, opinion, and cultural trend against the objective truth of God's Word before accepting or repeating it.
9. Scripture commands adults to teach God's commandments diligently to their children and to train them up in the way they should go. Parents and church leaders must actively equip young people with biblical wisdom and explain why Christianity is true, rather than leaving their education entirely to schools, governments, or social media.
10. The recommended resource is the book titled The War on Reality, written by Frank Turek and Phoenix Hayes, which includes a foreword by Erica Kirk and comes with an accompanying workbook. The lesson suggests using this material in small group studies to help cement biblical principles and discern cultural deceptions.

Essay Questions

Directions: Answer the following five essay prompts in detailed paragraphs, using evidence and principles from the lesson context.

1. **The Nature of Objective Truth:** Explain the difference between discovering truth and attempting to create truth. How does modern society's view that "truth is personal" conflict with the biblical declaration of God as the sole Creator of reality?
2. **Balancing Truth and Compassion:** Analyze how Jesus Christ demonstrated both uncompromising truth and deep compassion toward sinners. Why must Christians avoid using truth as a harsh weapon while refusing to abandon divine standards out of a desire to show love?
3. **Spiritual Warfare and the Limits of Debate:** Discuss why human political arguments, anger, and social media conflicts fail to win the ultimate battle described in Ephesians 6:12 and 2 Corinthians 10:5. What methods did Jesus Christ use when proclaiming truth, and how should believers model His approach?
4. **Discerning Influence and Information:** Evaluate the role of modern media, technology, and texting in spreading deception and communication breakdowns. How can believers practice spiritual discernment like the Bereans to ensure their assumptions are formed by God's Word rather than popular opinion?
5. **Equipping the Next Generation:** Describe the importance of raising children within a strong Christian foundation, referencing the principles of Deuteronomy 6:6–7 and the practical example of young people growing up in the church. Why is entertaining children insufficient compared to teaching them how to think biblically?

Key Terms Glossary

- **Bereans:** A group of believers mentioned in Acts 17:11 who were praised for examining the Scriptures daily to verify the truth of what they were taught.
- **Compass:** A navigational tool used as an analogy for God's Word, demonstrating how divine truth remains fixed and constant regardless of human feelings.
- **Creator:** God, Who brought the universe, nature, and humanity into existence with design, intention, and absolute authority.
- **Discernment:** The spiritual ability to judge and evaluate information, opinions, and culture against the truth of God's Word.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and love, which believers must extend to others while sharing divine truth.
- **Image of God:** The biblical principle that every human being has inherent worth and dignity because God created them individually in His likeness.
- **Objective Morality:** Universal standards of right and wrong established by God's unchanging nature, rather than subjective standards invented by human culture.
- **Redeemer:** Jesus Christ, Who came to save humanity from sin through His death and resurrection, offering forgiveness and eternal life.
- **Repentance:** A sincere turning away from sin and self-centered living to return to obedience and faith in God.
- **Sanctuary Movement:** A religious and political movement offering refuge, noted in the sermon as having historical roots starting on March 24, 1982, in Tucson, Arizona.
- **Spiritual Warfare:** The unseen battle between divine truth and spiritual forces of darkness, which requires spiritual weapons such as prayer, Scripture, and faith.

Greek Words Section

This section addresses biblical terms derived from original Greek roots found in the New Testament passages cited within the study guide. While the spoken sermon relied primarily on English translations, key biblical terms in the New Testament originate from the Greek language.

Terms and Pronunciation Guide

- **Bereans** (derived from the Greek place name Beroia / Βέροια)
    - **Phonetic Pronunciation:** /bə-REE-uhns/ (^1)
    - **Brief Definition:** Residents of the ancient city of Beroia in Macedonia. In New Testament usage (Acts 17:11), the term refers to believers who demonstrated

noble character by studying the original Scriptures daily to verify apostolic teaching.

Footnotes

1. The term Bereans originates from the Greek name Beroia (Βέροια), referring to the biblical city in Macedonia whose citizens diligently searched the Scriptures to confirm divine truth.