



## SESSION 3: WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD?



### Aim

To explore reasons why the world is not perfect and to consider the Christian worldview which teaches that the human heart is the reason for the world's problems.



### Starter

There are many answers to the question 'What is wrong with the world?' This quiz is about some of the most popular answers. Pupils can do the quiz in their seats or you could label corners of the room a, b and c and ask pupils to stand next to their chosen answer. The correct answers are in bold.

War: What percentage of children were living in a country affected by conflict in 2019?

- a) 27%    b) 53%    **c) 69%**

Lack of Education: How many children worldwide are not in school?

- a) 1 in 5**    b) 1 in 10    c) 1 in 25

Environment: In 2021, how many years were left until there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans?

- a) 29**    b) 46    c) 79

Politics: What excuse did Dominic Cummings (when he was the Prime Minister's chief adviser) give for breaking COVID-19 lockdown regulations by driving out of his local area to Barnard Castle in 2020?

- a) A dying relative    **b) A need to test his eyes by driving**    c) Ran out of milk



### Video

Watch the video **What is Wrong with the World?** (Running time 4:43)



### Questions

Encourage pupils to write any questions on sticky notes as they occur to them.

Answer questions of understanding about the video straight away unless these will be answered later in the session. If there is not time for a question, confirm you will answer it another time. Consider using the 'car park' so pupils know you will not forget.



## Exploring the Bible

In the video Andy Bannister shared the Christian worldview on what is wrong with the world – humans! The quiz showed us people are really messing things up. In fact, 90% of young people in Europe agree humans are responsible for climate change. Do humans account for all the reasons the world is messed up? Let's look at another section of Mark's biography where Jesus tells a parable – a story designed to communicate a moral truth.

Read Mark 12:1-12

### Discuss

#### **What is wrong with the behaviour of the tenants in this story?**

*They lease a property but instead of paying for it, they abuse and kill the rent collectors. Finally, they see an opportunity to own the property for themselves by killing the landlord's son.*

What is strange about this story is that Jesus tells it to the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders (verse 12). These are all highly respected, religious people who always seemed to do the right thing. Yet Jesus tells them this story because it applies to all people, even those who think they have it sorted.

### Discuss

#### **If God is a Father who created the world, how do you think this story might apply to the world and its problems?**

*The story teaches us that the world was created by a loving God who entrusts us with its care. Instead of living in the world as God intended, humans prefer to go their own way and live however they please. In the story they even murder Jesus, God's son, to suppress the truth about the world.*

In the video Andy Bannister shared these words from atheist David Foster Wallace:

'There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship... And the outstanding reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive.'

#### **What do you think of these words?**

#### **Can you identify things or people that you worship? Can you imagine any way in which going after that thing with all you have might lead to disappointment?**

*Allow pupils to express their views about this idea, which may be new to them. As always, remember to appreciate everyone who shares their opinion.*



## Reflection

When we consider all the problems in our opening quiz – war, environmental damage, politics, lack of education – these are all issues caused by people. In the thousands of years that humans have existed we have not found any solutions to these problems, and many have become worse. It can be hard to face up to being part of a flawed race.

Allow a time of reflection that is most appropriate to your group.

You may wish to reflect on or discuss the following:

- ◆ How easy do you find it to own up when you get something wrong?
- ◆ How do you process your feelings of disappointment when you do not measure up?
- ◆ Although we are all part of the problem of the flawed human race, the Bible teaches that God loves broken and flawed people and can transform them.



### Further resource

**What hope does Christianity offer the world?** An article by Josh McDowell Ministry

## Starter Activity References

69% of children, or 1.6 billion children lived in a country affected by conflict in 2019. Approximately 1 in 6 or 17% of children lived less than 50km from where fighting took place. Children Affected By Armed Conflict, 1990-2019 at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/children-affected-armed-conflict-1990-2019> [accessed 23.06.21]

1 in 5 children are not in school and around 617 million children are unable to meet minimum proficiency levels in language and numeracy. Unicef at <https://www.unicef.org/education> [accessed 23.06.21]

By 2050 it is expected that there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans. Ellen McArthur 'The New Plastics Economy' find out more here <https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/> [accessed 23.06.21]

Advisor Dominic Cummings claimed he broke lockdown regulations in order to test his eyesight. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/52828076> [accessed 23.06.21]

## Exploring the Bible Reference

Action Aid <https://actionaid.org/news/2021/90-young-europeans-believe-climate-change-and-environmental-breakdown-are-worlds-greatest>