

Week 1 Discussion Guide

Summary Statement:

General Revelation is God's revelation of Himself through nature and morality. All people at all times have access to this revelation of God which leaves them without excuse for failing to worship Him.

Questions from, and in addition to, the video:

*Leader: before asking any questions have someone recap the teaching and explain in their own words what General Revelation is.

1-Do you struggle with the principle in Romans 1 that all men are without excuse for their failure to worship God because God has generally revealed Himself to all men?

*Leader: draw the group into this question. It is a good opportunity to inscribe a biblical worldview which biases us toward God's rights rather than toward humanity's. The question ought not be, "why won't God cut more slack?" The Christian's question should be "why does God bother to reveal Himself and interact with us at all?"

2-What are the consequences, with regard to God's character, if God's general revelation is insufficient for man to know and worship God?

*Leader: If God has not revealed Himself sufficiently in nature and morality than He is unjust in His punishment of humanity for our rejection of Him. If it is not the case that all men know and reject God then we are not under God's wrath and we need no Savior. Make sure your group grasps this crucial aspect of General Revelation.

3-How does your understanding of General Revelation inform your evangelism?

*Leader: The truth of Romans 1 (that all men know God but simply suppress that truth in unrighteous) means that even in our post-Christian, secular society, we do not need to argue for the existence of God in evangelism. Remember that everyone you meet already knows that they are in rebellion against God so don't waste time trying to convince them of that, just assert it and let the Holy Spirit bear witness to them of the truthfulness of the assertion.

*Leader: Some will struggle with this point. Some may not even agree with it. Take them back to Romans 1 to make sure they see the truth in Scripture that all men know and suppress the truth of God's existence.

4-What is wrong with the man made religions that seemingly seek to respond to God's General Revelation through worshipping, false gods like the sun god, or contriving something like the Greek pantheon?

*Leader: False religions deny exactly what Romans 1 says God makes clear: external power and divine nature. Man made religions always construct gods in their image; gods they can please and placate. If you can please and placate your god than he must not have eternal power and a divine nature. In this way man made religion denies God's reveal nature, again, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.

Closing:

We've spent some time on what could be regarded as negative aspects of General Revelation. Ask the group to name some of the benefits that come our way by means of God's General Revelation.

*Leaders: Generally revealed morality has led to nations with just laws because we intrinsically know what is good and what is evil. General Revelation through nature has led to the scientific revolution to which we owe our modern comforts and amenities. Conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's revelation and a prayer of salvation for your friends and family who still suppressing the truth of God in unrighteousness.