Introduction:

How do you hope that reading this book will enrich or enhance your relationship with Christ?

According to the introduction, how has failing to see Christianity as a worldview crippled Christians?

What is the difference between saving grace and common grace?

What is the purpose of *How Now Shall We Live*?

Chapter 1:

Describe the differences between the Detainees Pavilion of the García Moreno Prison and the wing that had been given over to the Prison Fellowship (PF) leaders.

To what may we attribute these differences?

In what ways is the García Moreno Prison a parable of God’s kingdom at work in the midst of a fallen world?

Chapter 2:

What is a worldview? A Christian worldview?

What are the three questions that form the grid through which all worldviews can be evaluated?

What is the “false dichotomy” that plagues much of contemporary evangelicalism?

What are the great commission and the cultural commission? How do we “engage the world”?

In what areas of your life do you see your worldview having an impact? Think about the places you go and kind of activities you are involved with during a typical week. Which of them can you honestly say are shaped by a Christian worldview? Which still need to be influenced by a Christian worldview?

Chapter 3:

Describe naturalism, relativism, pragmatism, and utopianism. How are they opposed to theism?

In what sense are we living in a post-Christian world?

How are existentialism and postmodernism related to multiculturalism?

How are these ideas opposed to the Christian worldview?

Chapter 4:

What is the role of the mind in the life of discipleship? What is the state of the “Christian mind” today?

What is the mission of the church? Does your personal “mission statement” line up with it?

Review the activities you discussed in Chapter 2. Do you find you are confronted by such things as naturalism, relativism, and the other “isms” described in chapters 3 and 4? Share some examples.

How can these ways of thinking actually be Satan’s instruments in spiritual warfare? What is his purpose as he confronts us with these ideas?
How can you prepare yourself to be victorious in the Lord in the face of such temptations? Describe how you might use pre-evangelism, apologetics, and discipleship to strengthen your ability to be a positive influence on your world. In what ways are you fulfilling the great commission? In what ways are you fulfilling the cultural commission?

Chapter 5:
Discuss Dave Mulholland’s account of his trip to Disney World with his daughter. What shocking realizations did he make about the place of God in the scientific worldview, his daughter’s view of religion vs. science, and his own ability to talk with his daughter about biblical perspectives?
No one doubts that science and technology have enriched our lives immeasurably. However, what are some of the problems that can ensue when science exceeds its limits and reaches into areas such as theology, philosophy, and ethics?

Chapter 6:
In what ways is the dominant view in our culture today “radically one-dimensional”?
Is naturalistic science neutral and objective? Or does it begin with certain faith assumptions? Explain your answer.
In what ways did Carl Sagan’s Cosmos attempt to provide a substitute for the Christian religion?
In what ways are Americans today being encouraged to believe in science as a religion?

Chapter 7:
What is big bang theory, and how can Christians use it to encourage belief in God?
What is the anthropic principle, and how does it help you to express your confidence in God’s creation of the world?
How does the world as it presently exists strongly suggest that it was designed by the Creator?
Have you observed that modern science claims to be the only genuine form of knowledge? Explain.
How would you engage a proponent of naturalism in a discussion? How would you articulate your worldview?

Chapter 8:
How do scientists’ attempts to create life in a test tube demonstrate that life is not a product of chance interactions of molecules?
How does the discovery of DNA support the idea of design and creation?
What is information theory? How does it affect the argument for design?
What is complexity theory? Does it establish a naturalistic account of life’s origin?

Chapter 9:
What is Darwinism?
How have studies in animal breeding actually served to discredit Darwinism?
How do studies in genetic mutations and the concept of irreducible complexity discredit Darwinian thinking?
In the face of so much contradictory evidence, why do naturalistic scientists continue to hold on to Darwinism?
Chapter 10: Why is Darwinism a dangerous idea? What “non-scientific” areas of life does it threaten to subvert? On what does the authority of science rest today? How has Richard Lewontin helped to expose this false wizard? What steps can you take to defend children and young people against the false teachings of Darwinism and naturalism? How can you engage the naturalistic scientists whom you know? What approach and reasoned arguments will you use?

Chapter 11: In what ways did God show his mercy and grace to Ken McGarity? How did Ken finally come to realize that mercy and grace?

Chapter 12: What are the main differences between the Christian and the naturalistic views of human life? In what ways might we say that ours has become a “culture of death”? How did we become this way? What is meant by “a radical dualism between body and soul,” and why is this a problem? What do we mean when we say, “Abortion has always been about more than abortion”? What’s wrong with the “choice” argument?

Chapter 13: In what ways does the Christian worldview provide a basis for the dignity of human life? How does the Christian worldview provide meaning and purpose for life? How does the Christian worldview provide hope for the future? How does the Christian worldview motivate us to serve others?

Chapter 14: How does the story of Max help us to see that every life is worth living when it is recognized as having been made in the image of God? In what aspects of God’s image do you believe you need to grow? How would growing in these areas prepare you to be more effective in fulfilling the great commission and the cultural commission? In what ways do you think your community would benefit if all the Christians in it lived fully as God’s image-bearers?

Chapter 15: What has been the effect on humanity of Adam and Eve’s first sin? What do Enlightenment thinkers purpose as the cause of the human dilemma? What are some examples of this?

Chapter 16: How can you see, even very early in Meg’s experience with Synanon, that this would be a place where the lowest human inclinations would be encouraged? How do Charles Dederich’s comments to Meg and Jack during their first meeting reveal that he and Synanon held to an Enlightenment view regarding the cause of the human dilemma? In what ways did Synanon become like a religion for Meg?
Chapter 17:
What is meant by a "utopian vision of a new age"?
Briefly summarize how the idea of sin came to be discarded in Western societies. What was the role of such ideas as freedom, Marxism, and fascism in this process?

Chapter 18:
In what ways are many Americans today caught up in the myth of utopianism?
How does the utopian myth appear in each of the following:
- Psychology
- Law
- Welfare
- Criminal justice

How does the denial of sin ultimately make us vulnerable to the schemes of social planners?
Where do you see the influence of the utopian worldview in your life? Is it encouraged by any of the following:
- Advertising
- Consumerism
- News media

How can our understanding of the reality of sin prepare us to overcome the temptations of utopian thinking?
Will people you know be receptive to the idea that sin lies at the root of the human dilemma? Why or why not?

Chapter 19:
What does this statement mean: "The face of evil is frighteningly ordinary"?
How do people who hold a naturalistic worldview try to account for evil?
What have been some of the factors leading people to set aside the idea of sin?
What is popular culture’s attitude toward sin today?
What is the “fatal flaw” in the myth of human goodness?
How does society try to hold sin in check? To what degree is it unable to do this?

Chapter 20:
What is involved in obeying God?
How does the Bible account for the entrance of sin and evil into the world?
What do nonbelievers need to see?
As individual followers of Christ, where must be begin in the battle to roll back sin (Romans 6:23)? What does this require of you (Romans 6:11-19)?
What are some ways that we can help one another in this important and difficult challenge?

Chapter 21:
What problem was bothering Albert Einstein? Why was it on his mind at this particular time? How did this problem affect his view of God?
What did Einstein conclude about the problem of suffering? How did this affect his response to God?
How have atheists, Eastern religions, and Christian Science tried to solve the problem of evil and suffering? How have some theologians and “process theology” tried to solve this problem? Why is it necessary for God to condemn evil? How did God in his mercy respond to evil and suffering in his creation? What should we keep in mind about the ultimate source of suffering? What should our attitude be toward those who suffer? Think of a recent incident in which people in your community were subjected to suffering—through crime, accident, storm, or similar circumstances. How might your church have responded in order to show God’s love? What can your church do in order to be ready for the next opportunity?

Chapter 22:
Briefly summarize the process that Dr. Nathanson went through as his mind began to change about abortion. What were some of the factors involved? What did Dr. Nathanson discover from watching ultrasound images of abortion? How did proponents of abortion respond to Dr. Nathanson’s change of heart? Why? What happened to cause Dr. Nathanson’s heart to begin to turn to God?

Chapter 23:
What kind of redemption is promised through the medium of advertising? How do these ads try to appeal to religious hopes? Why is materialism no true redemption at all? What does it fail to provide? Do you recognize any false gods in your life? If so, what will you do about it? Why do many young people get caught up in the allure of materialism? How can parents and churches help children recognize and resist this false god? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ give greater satisfaction and hope than the empty promises of materialism?

Chapter 24:
What is the “myth of progress” or the “Escalator Myth”? What does it promise? How is the Escalator Myth related to ideas of sin, utopia, and evolution? In what ways is Marxism a form of the Escalator Myth? Do the ideas of Karl Marx reflect a religious worldview? What is the fatal flaw of Marxism?

Chapter 25:
Who was Margaret Sanger, and what was her contribution to the Escalator Myth? How did Alfred Kinsey try to detach sex from morality? What justification did he offer? How is the Escalator Myth another form of religion promising redemption? In what ways do the founders of this worldview demonstrate the emptiness of their own lives? How should Christians respond to the vain aspirations of our “liberated” contemporaries?
Chapter 26:
How does popular culture portray the hope of redemption through science and technology?
Why is science unable to give any moral guidance?
What danger for human dignity lies in this version of the Escalator Myth?
What evidence do you see to indicate that many people are still looking for science to take us along the road to utopia?
In evaluating current technology, many people in the scientific community believe that "if we can do it, we should." What kinds of moral questions does such thinking provoke? How can a biblical worldview help in addressing those questions?

Chapter 27:
What caused people to begin to doubt the promise of science and technology?
In what ways did existential thinking appeal to the countercultural movement of the sixties?
How did the various strains of pessimism dovetail nicely into the predominant Darwinian views of the day?

Chapter 28:
How did the popular culture help to spread the gospel of Eastern religion and the New Age?
What is the New Age movement? How does it differ from traditional Eastern thinking?
By what means is New Age thinking making its way into our society? Why is the New Age god unable to save us?

Chapter 29:
Briefly summarize the promise of redemption as each of the following offers it:
• Commercialism
• Neo-Marxism
• Sexual liberation
• Science and technology
• The New Age
What is the human dilemma according to the Christian worldview? What does Christianity present as the solution to this problem?
Why is it important to stress that Christianity’s solution is rooted in historical truth?
What does it mean that God’s redemption restores us? How does this restoration get us back on track with God and his plan?
How did you come to know Christ and the restoring grace of God? What difference has that made in your life?

Chapter 30:
Summarize the steps that led Danny Croce to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
What evidence can you see that Danny truly came to know the Lord?

Chapter 31:
What is the status of the cultural commission (or cultural mandate) today?
What does it mean that Christians are saved not only from something but also to something?
Why should there be no dichotomy between the “sacred” and the “secular” for the Christian?
In what ways did the Irish Christian missionaries of the fifth to the eighth centuries effectively combine the cultural commission with the great commission?

In what other ways did Christianity serve as a creative cultural force during the Middle Ages?

Why is today an excellent time for Christians to begin once again to live and proclaim their faith boldly? What is the message that we—as Christ’s ambassadors—have to proclaim to our postmodernist world?

Chapter 32:
How is it apparent that the secular worldview affects the thinking of even sincere Christians?
What has become of the sense of individual responsibility in our postmodernist world?
What is a “value free lifestyle”? In what ways is this concept evident in our day?
What is the “modernist impasse”? Why does this make today an opportune time for Christians to share their worldview?
Summarize the ways in which the Christian worldview provides help and hope for our postmodernist generation.
Can you see any ways—either in your own life or that of your church—in which the ideas of secularism have affected your approach to the Christian life?
From what we saw in those first Christians, what is required for us to overcome our captivity to secular thinking and to gain the new worldview and attitudes that will cause the watching world to take notice?

Chapter 33:
In what ways is the family today being redefined? From what sources?
Why is it important that we ask people not only to explain but to justify their worldview?
Why is it so important to root the idea of marriage and family in God’s creation?
How does the philosophy of the “unencumbered self” affect the family and other social institutions?
What does it mean for Christians to treat their own families as a ministry?
What are some things that local churches can do to promote healthier families among their members and in their community?
How can Christian families help one another to realize more of the biblical promise for families?
What will be your greatest obstacles? How will you overcome these? Whose help will you enlist?

Chapter 34:
What are the two historic tasks of American education, and how well are American schools addressing these tasks today?
How has an emphasis on self-esteem affected the learning process in our schools?
What view of the child prevails in America’s schools? How does that view work against effective learning? What faulty assumptions about children guide this view of learning?
What is the starting point of a biblical view of education, and how is it unique?
What options are available for the education of Christian children today? What do you consider to be some of the strengths and weaknesses of these various options?
Chapter 35:
What made Sal think that he could make a difference in his community?
What evidence indicates that Sal actually did help his community to begin to change?

Chapter 36:
How did the Supreme Court exacerbate the problems of crime in the neighborhoods of America?
In what ways does the worldview behind the civil liberties movement reject biblical teaching?
What does shalom mean, and how does it relate to the idea of community? In what ways have Christians begun to show that shalom is a workable idea in communities?
What problems are threatening or depriving your community of its shalom today? How is your community trying to cope with these problems? Are they getting better or worse?
How will you get involved in restoring shalom to your community? How will your church get involved?

Chapter 37:
Why doesn’t relativism provide a foundation for a safe and orderly society?
What role should conscience play in achieving a moral society? How does this notion relate to the biblical worldview?
How has our sense of separation between public life and private life affect the morality of Americans? How does the Christian worldview respond to this false dichotomy?
What is integrity, and why is it so important? How does the biblical worldview help people achieve integrity?
Through what positive and negative means do societies encourage virtuous behavior? What is the state of these means in our society today?
Can we expect the members of our community to become moral people apart from being converted to Christ? Will keeping the law save them?

Chapter 38:
How can we see that God intended work to be part of his plan for a world filled with shalom?
How did the fall into sin affect the work that people were given to do?
How are Christians to view wealth?
What is the Bible’s view of private property?
In the biblical worldview, what becomes of the poor?
How did Enlightenment views begin to corrupt the biblical view of work?
In what ways has the workplace begun to work against healthy community life?
How is your own work related to your calling as an image-bearer of God?
How does your work allow you to labor for the realization of God’s “good” in your community?
What can your church do to prepare its young people to enter the workforce with a biblical view of work as their operating framework?

Chapter 39:
On what basis did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. decide to disobey the law in Birmingham? Do you agree with King’s reasoning? his actions?
What is the difference between just and unjust law?
In what ways does the American system of government and law as designed by the Founders reflect biblical principles?
What did the momentous Supreme Court ruling against the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) signify?
How do liberal and conservative approaches to the law and morality create a catch-22?
What is the “great vulnerability of the American system” of government?

Chapter 40:
In what ways is it apparent that science is used as a weapon against religious faith?
What task does the Christian community face in responding to the naturalistic assumptions of science?
In what kinds of forums should Christians be trying to raise issues regarding the fallacies of naturalism in science?
Why should we encourage Christian young people to go into the field of science as their work?
What can we expect if Christians fail to take up this challenge and naturalism continues its warfare against the faith without any opposition?
How can you become better prepared to talk with someone about the fallacies of naturalistic thinking?

Chapter 41:
How does the opening vignette of chapter 41 illustrate the power of the arts to affect our outlook on life?
How does the story of Henryk Górecki illustrate the power that a Christian worldview can have on the arts?

Chapter 42:
Why are so many contemporary composers producing such dissonant music?
Why are so many modern artists creating abstract art?
Why are the arts important to the Christian? To society? What is their purpose?
Cite some historical examples of Christians working in the arts. How have they used the arts to testify of their faith in Christ?
What caused the arts to veer off the path marked out by so many exemplary Christian artists?
What steps can Christians take to begin restoring the arts to their God-honoring position in society? How will you become more aware of and active in the arts yourself?
In what ways do the arts play a role in the way you live and in what your home “says” to any visitors?

Chapter 43:
How would you describe Martha Williamson’s early experience as a Christian working in Hollywood?
Why was deciding to do Angel’s Attic such a struggle for Martha? How was her faith at work in the midst of this struggle?
How would you describe Martha’s efforts to keep Touched by an Angel on the air? What can we learn from her about reforming popular culture?

Chapter 44:
What has happened to popular culture as it has spread and pervaded our society?
In what ways can popular culture adversely affect people?
What does it mean to begin linking “art to truth”?
How can Christians redeem popular culture? Should Christians be involved in creating popular culture? Why or why not?
In what ways does popular culture influence your own life through:
• Advertisements
• Popular music
• Television programs
• Conversations with others
• The print media
Do you think that, on the whole, popular culture is a positive or negative factor in your walk with the Lord? Explain.
Where will you begin to redeem popular culture in your own life? in your home and family?
What can churches do to prepare their young people to take their own popular culture “captive” for Jesus Christ?
How can your church encourage and support its members who become involved in creating popular culture?

Chapter 45:
For what reasons is the Christian worldview to be preferred over all other worldviews?
What is the real test of a worldview, and of the Christian worldview in particular?
How, in a few brief sentences, would you answer the question, “How now shall we live”?
Review:
What new insights have you had from your study of How Now Shall We Live?
In what ways have those ideas begun to affect your approach to living as a Christian in this world?
In what ways has the worldview of naturalism had a great effect in your life than you think it should?
In what ways have you begun to adopt a more consistently biblical worldview as the guiding framework for your life?
In what new areas of study or growth have you been challenged by this book?
What do you intend to do to keep growing in these areas?
In what ways will you begin to be more effective in working for a restoration of biblical thinking in your community?