

Worldview Mapping Tool

I. General Info

The worldview mapping tool helps us discover the core beliefs of people we try to reach with the Gospel. In practice, it is an in-depth interview that you conduct with the person whose worldview you want to discover.

We can apply the tool with any person, regardless of their age, gender, social status, ethnicity and nationality. If applied correctly, it will help us connect to people on a deeper level, improve our understanding of their beliefs

II. How to use the tool

Here are some simple guidelines for conducting the interview successfully:

- Invite the person to participate by explaining that you want to explore their worldview and get a good understanding of their beliefs. A good approach might be to explain that you need it for a bigger research on worldviews that you are doing with people around you - this arouses people's interest, and they will not only agree to participate but also ask additional questions. Thus the tool provides you with a wonderful opportunity for a discussion about faith later on.
- Make sure that you've got at least 60 minutes for the conversation. 90 minutes would be even better.;
- Remember - the purpose of this meeting is exploratory - you want to understand the person opposite you, not change their beliefs; You ask questions, but do not argue.
- Each question in the tool has two parts - a main topic question that you ask first, and clarification questions to it. Do not move on to the next question in the tool until you have exhausted the clarifying questions and are sure that you have a good understanding of the person's beliefs on that topic;
- Make sure the person understands the question - if necessary, ask it differently, use one of the supporting questions, simplify it or give an example.
- Some people will find certain questions strange and incomprehensible - this is because in their own worldview they take the answer for granted. For example, question 1: "What is reality" will surprise many people who take for granted that only the material world exists and nothing else, but this belief is unconscious and they think that all people in the world think the same. If you sense that the person does not understand the question

because they are taking the answer for granted, explain that you are asking the question because there are people in the world who believe very different things about this topic, and you want to know their personal opinion.

- Listen carefully - write down even key parts of the person's answers; ask questions about what you hear to make sure you understand correctly; summarize and paraphrase;
- Listen respectfully - don't interrupt the person; give her a few seconds after she stops talking so she has a chance to add something else; ask the questions in the tool carefully even if the person's beliefs differ from yours on some of the topics;
- At the end of the conversation, thank the person heartily for their time and sincerity.

If you conduct the meeting with love, gentleness, care, respect and humility, show genuine interest in the person, and do not react negatively to their beliefs, even if you disagreed with them, you will gain three things:

1. You have won the deep trust of the person. She has been listened to and felt accepted, which is a rare experience these days;
2. By helping the person realize the rich world of their beliefs you awaken their interest in faith-related questions, which opens the door for further conversations;
3. Now that you know so much more about this person's deepest beliefs, you can (with God's help and wisdom) design a better strategy for future discussions with that person.

III. Questions

Big Question 1: What is reality?

Clarifying questions: Does anything even exist? If yes - what? Is it just the material world? Or is there also a spiritual reality? If there is a spiritual reality - what is it? How do we know?

Big Question 2: Is there a God?

Clarifying questions: If not - why not? How do we know if that's the case? If yes, what is it - a person, a force, an energy?

Big Question 3: What is the origin of the world?

Clarifying questions: How did the world come to be? Did it appear at some point or was it always there? Why do we think so? How do we know?

Big question 4: What is the human being?

Clarifying questions: How did we come to be? What are we (only matter - atoms, cells; is it soul and body, is it an illusion)? Why do we think so? How do we know?

Big Question 5: Does consciousness (soul) exist?

Clarifying questions: Does consciousness exist at all or is it the product of biochemical processes? What is consciousness? Why do we think so? How do we know?

Big Question 6: What is the meaning of life?

Clarifying questions: Does it even make sense? How do we understand/discover it? Why do we think so? How do we know?

Big Question 7: What is death?

Clarifying questions: What happens when we die? Is there anything after death? Why do we think so? How do we know?

Big Question 8: Do good and evil exist?

Clarifying questions: If not, why? If so, what is their source (cause)? What is good and what is evil? Who decides what is good and bad? Why do we think so? How do we know?

Big Question 9: How will we fix the world?

Clarifying Questions: Does the world need fixing? If so, what needs to happen to fix the world? Is this possible? Why do we think so?

Big Question 10: What will happen to the world?

Clarifying questions: What will happen to the universe? Will it disappear? Will it always exist? What about people? What happens after death?

Big question 11: Is there truth?

Clarifying questions: Does truth exist? Can we understand and know the truth? How do we know? Do you believe that what you have been telling me so far is true or not?