

# Conversations Worldview Kit Overview

## How to use these products together

All included products aim to build a Christian view of the world in the student and family using them, but they are not strictly-speaking a sequential series of products. They approach this subject from several different angles. One teaches worldview using Socratic dialogue to explore the seminal text of Scripture that forms a Christian understanding of the world. Another teaches worldview by introducing it as a middle school version of a college level comparative religion course. This introduction, presented in a neutral voice, is a discovery course designed to enable the child to conclude for him or herself that Christianity is the true worldview. Another offering in novel form provides four contrasting worldviews lived out by non-Christian protagonists. No one becomes a Christian, but these historical novels are written for Christian youth. They provide wholesome materials to practice comparing and contrasting other's beliefs to Christianity as learned in the introductory course.

Finally, this kit includes an in-depth comparison of Christian belief to ancient paganism. You might wonder why when not many Baal or Isis worshippers are likely to invite your kids to a local sacrifice. While neo-paganism is actually on the rise, both ancient and modern cultures are saturated with idolatry, whether it's the idol made by the silversmith or the silver sports car the movie star drives. "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" is at least as difficult, if not harder to practice today than it was 2500 years ago. Without this practice, we do not have a Christian worldview.

***Conversations from the Garden: Forty Days to Build a Christian Worldview*** is a devotional tool that is best done by the whole family as an activity separate from school. If such a gathering is only possible once a week, then do it once a week. Its Socratic questions are designed to stimulate conversation about Genesis 1-3. Unlike a textbook, it provides no answers. Discussion quickly ends when the author's answer is read, so this book avoids that problem all together. Genesis 1-3 sets the whole biblical story in motion and lays the foundation for every central Christian belief. Conversations about such an important text should go on and on. It doesn't matter if it takes your family forty days or forty weeks. I'd actually prefer the latter.

***A Young Historians Introduction to Worldview*** teaches an abstract concept in concrete ways, using visuals, hands-on activities and stories to compare and contrast what people believe about the most important questions in life. Employing all learning modalities, student's ten and sometimes even younger are enabled to grasp concepts that are generally left to college. Ten to thirteen is the perfect age to teach worldview. This course respectfully and accurately provides comparisons between the four classical families of worldviews: polytheism, pantheism, naturalism and monotheism. The thoughtful child should have no difficulty figuring out why Christianity matters.

This is the first course formally taught on the subject of worldview. It contains four lessons and approximately six hours of instruction. Ideally, I would recommend spending two to three hours a week to complete the entire course in two weeks or less. Finish it before proceeding to the novels.

**Historical Novels for Engaging Thinkers** takes the lessons learned in the introduction course and provides the student a place to apply the skills of compare and contrast. These books are not “hooky straw men” about the sad state of those deluded by competing worldviews. Rather they are stories about good kids with relatable challenges. As such, they provide the student opportunities to compare the choices of the protagonist with those they might make if confronted by a similar situation. Again, this resource encourages the reader to think about why Christianity matters. As historical novels, they are also an excellent addition to any history curriculum. They can be re-read to coincide with a unit study on the same period or place or incorporated into a chronological flow of ancient, medieval, early modern or modern.

***Christian Theology and Ancient Polytheism: A Comparative Study for Youth*** is a work to begin after finishing the introduction to worldview and *Secret of the Scribe*, the first historical novel. This book compares the significant culture shaping texts of the ancient world with those that shaped Israel’s view of God, man and nature. This course clearly points out why beliefs matter and the type of people these contrasting beliefs shape.

It is also excellent preparation for the secular college professor they may one day meet who will declare that the Old Testament is just a demythologized version of ancient pagan stories. A good rebuttal is not found in knowing whose texts are older (i.e. Moses or Hammurabi). In fact, many of the texts compared to the Bible predate biblical literature. The knowledge that protects against a faltering faith is knowing the unmistakable difference in the messages, in the value given to human life and meaning, and in the startling portrayals of the gods and God.

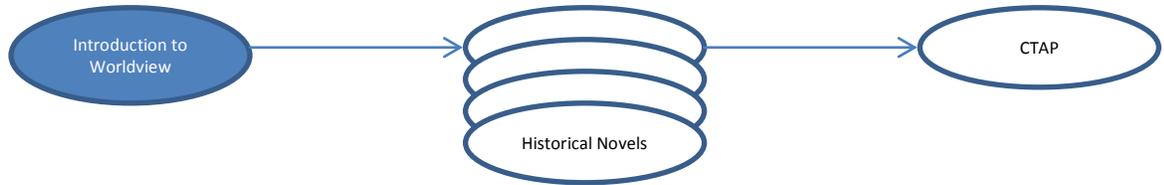
CTAP delves much deeper into comparative theology than any of the previous works. It is more than appropriate for high school and junior high aged students. However, where the introduction to worldview is easily grasped by most ten and eleven year olds, they may need a year or two before being ready for the more abstract and deeper discussions of CTAP. If you do set it aside in order for your child to mature, do not forget about it. It would be better to break it into small portions and spread it over a couple of years, if forgetting is a real possibility. You might also read it for your own enrichment and teacher preparation for some of the hard questions your students will eventually ask.

Below is a simple chart laying out the flow of the products:

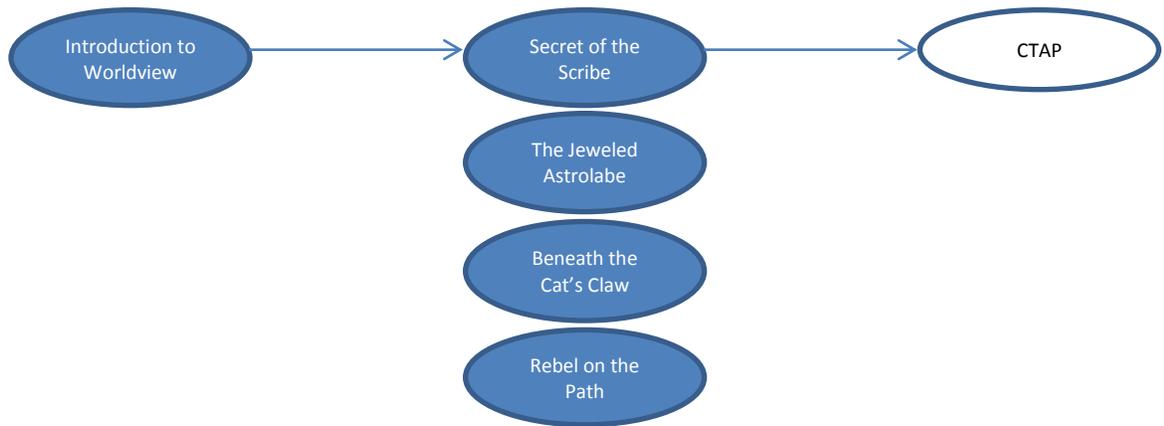
Product	Start time and description	Subjects studied
<b>Conversations from the Garden</b>	Devotional. Not a sequential product. I recommend starting as soon as you can gather your family together.	Bible/Theology



Product	Start time and description	Subjects studied
<b>Introduction to Worldview</b>	4 lessons, approximately six hours, are easily divided up at the completion of any hands-on-activity or story.	World religion and cultures; History; Logic/Critical Thinking



Product	Start time and description	Subjects studied
<b>Historical Novels</b>	Finish <i>Secret of Scribe</i> first. Read and incorporate remaining novels into the flow of school, asking for a comparison of each protagonist to the beliefs and choices of Christians.	History; World Religion; To incorporate Writing assign an essay with each novel that compares and analyses the differences between Christian belief and the beliefs of the protagonist.



Product	Start time and description	Subjects studied
<b>CTAP</b>	An approximate nine-month course. Start as soon as <i>Secret of the Scribe</i> is finished.	World History and Ancient Middle Eastern culture; Bible/Theology; Literature; Critical Thinking; Writing* (the answers and comparisons that a student adds to any of the on-line CTAP charts provide the basis of some powerful essays)



**\*Examples of writing assignments for CTAP:** Write an Expository essay on what the student learned about suffering through studying Job. Write a persuasive essay to convince your readers that Mosaic Law is superior to Hammurabi's Code. Write an analytical essay comparing the *Gilgamesh* account to the flood to Genesis 6-9. Write an argumentative essay supporting your opinion regarding the superiority and truth of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as opposed to other ancient tales of dying and rising gods and goddesses.