

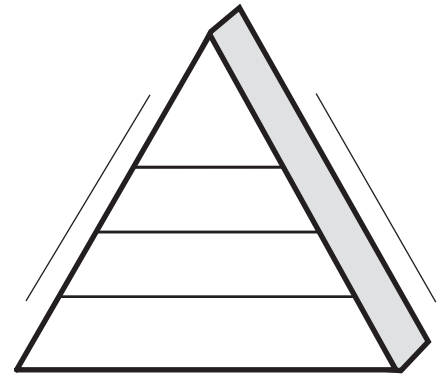
SESSION 1: Why Am I Here?

Discovering that Everyone Has a Crisis of Purpose and Meaning

Reference: *Surprised by Faith*, pages 1-10 (fourth edition); pages 15-22 (third edition)

Making the Discovery

1. Personal crises in our lives often cause us to think about God and faith. Three of these crises are _____, _____, and a lack of ultimate _____.
2. The physical world is _____, that is, it has limits and is dependent on something infinite to define or reveal its ultimate purpose. An eternal and absolute God would be an example of the infinite.
3. Our finite world consists of _____, _____, _____, and _____.
4. Some people think and teach there is nothing but the finite world—_____ God, _____ supernatural and _____ spiritual reality.
5. If this is correct, then there are no answers to the ultimate questions that determine life's purpose and meaning:
My _____—"How did I get here?"; My _____—"Why am I here?"; and My ultimate _____—"What happens to me when I die?"
6. If we believe that the finite world is all there is, then we make a devastating discovery.



DISCOVERY #1

“Ah-ha!” Death is the ultimate and final conqueror if the finite world is all there is!

Confirming the Discovery from God's Word

In summary of God's Word, there is no ultimate hope for us if the physical world is all there is. But if there is an infinite and personal God who created us, everything is different. In that case, human beings bear God's image (Genesis 1:27) and are created with purpose and meaning (Jeremiah 29:11-13). Everyone will also stand accountable before the Creator some day (Hebrews 9:27).

Answers to “Fill in the Blanks”: 1. death, guilt, purpose and meaning; 2. finite; 3. soil, plants, animals, people (The triangle diagram: “finite” and “dependent” around the triangle; “soil,” “plants,” “animals,” “people” in the triangle, from bottom up); 4. no, no, no; 5. origin, purpose, destiny