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Third Edition

WHAT WE BELIEVE

SESSION GUIDE

LEW VANDER MEER

What We Believe (Third Edition)
Session Guides, Part One (Sessions 1-12)

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WHAT WE BELIEVE SESSION 1

REVELATION AND RELIGION

BIBLE TRIVIA

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Briefly define the following terms:
 - a. Belgic Confession
 - b. revelation
 - c. religion
 - d. general revelation

2. Why is knowing the basic facts about what we believe just as important as having the right feelings or commitment?

3. General revelation in nature: you are outdoors in the mountains, looking at a sky full of brilliant stars. Or you are taking a hike through an autumn forest. Or you are watching a thunderstorm roar in over a lake. Think about a personal encounter with God's world that impressed you. What did it show you about God?

4. General revelation in history: think of a recent event in your nation's history or your personal history. What did that event show you about God?

5. General revelation in conscience: Suppose you hurt someone at school by insulting her in front of her friends. That night you can't get to sleep. You begin to regret deeply what you did. How has God used your conscience to reveal himself? What has been revealed?

6. General revelation is nonredemptive, says Pastor Lew. It can't save us. Why not?

7. Imagine an isolated tribe in the dense tropical rainforests of Brazil. Members of this tribe have never heard the gospel. Yet they live by a strict moral code: People who are caught stealing have their hand cut off. Capital punishment is the penalty for murder. The tribe worships the sun, trusting it to provide them with food, prosperity, and long life.

Where do you think this tribe got its sense of morality and its sense of the divine? Is this tribe religious?

Can this tribe give the excuse that it has not been introduced to the one true God? Why or why not? What do Romans 1:19-20 and Article 2 of the Belgic Confession say about this?

May we say with finality that this tribe is not saved? Why or why not? What implications does this suggest for mission work?

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RELIGION / Christian Education / Children & Youth

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