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1

Why This Companion Exists

Christian Field Guide Companion

A brief guide to the gospel, other religions, and the hope of Christ

The Christian Field Guide began in a very ordinary way. A couple of Jehovah’s Witnesses came to the door while the author was not home and left some material behind. That missed conversation exposed a deeper desire—not just to defend personal beliefs, but to be prepared to speak about Jesus clearly, thoughtfully, and faithfully whenever God opens a door.

This Companion introduces the central messages that shape the Field Guide family of documents. The aim is simple: to help ordinary Christians understand the heart of the gospel, think biblically about other beliefs, and be ready for real conversations with neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members.

This is not a debate manual. It is not written to turn readers into professional apologists or to replace the Bible or the local church. Instead, it is meant to sit alongside your Bible and church life, giving you a clear, concise framework so that you can:

- Grasp the big story of the Bible and the core message of Christianity.
- See how historic Reformation Christianity understands Scripture, God, humanity, sin, Christ, and salvation.
- Use a simple set of questions to compare Christianity with other religions and worldviews.
- Approach conversations with conviction, curiosity, confidence, humility, and love.

In short, this Companion is a brief orientation guide. The pages that follow will walk through the Bible’s big story, the core gospel, the authority of Scripture, a basic summary of historic Christian belief, the six worldview questions, how Christianity compares with other religions, and the posture and tools needed for real-life conversations.

SUMMARY

This Companion exists because a missed conversation exposed the need to be ready to speak about Jesus clearly and faithfully. It is not a debate manual, but a concise framework covering the Bible’s big story, the core gospel, Scripture’s authority, historic Christian belief, the six worldview questions, and the posture needed for real conversations.

2

The Big Story Of The Bible

The Christian Field Guide family is built on a simple way of remembering the Bible’s whole story in four moves: Creation, Fall, Rescue, New Creation. If you can keep these four words in mind, you have a basic map of Scripture that keeps Jesus at the center.

Creation – God made everything good

God created the heavens and the earth and made human beings in His image, able to know Him, love Him, and represent Him in the world. Creation was good, purposeful, and full of meaning. Life is not an accident; we were made on purpose by a personal, wise, and powerful Creator.

Fall – We rebelled and broke the world

Our first parents disobeyed God and tried to live on their own terms. Their sin brought guilt, shame, death, and brokenness into the world. Ever since, every person has been born with a sinful nature and has chosen sin. This is why the world feels fractured and why we experience both the dignity of being made in God's image and the deep distortion of our rebellion.

Rescue – God's plan centered on Jesus

God did not leave the world in its fallen state. He chose a people and made promises, and in the fullness of time sent His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the perfect life we failed to live, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead. On the cross, He took our place, bearing the penalty our sins deserve, so that we could be forgiven and declared righteous in Him.

New Creation – Jesus will make all things new

The story does not end with Jesus' resurrection and ascension. One day, Jesus will return personally and visibly, raise the dead, judge the world, and fully and finally defeat evil. God will create a new heaven and new earth where His people live with Him forever, free from sin, suffering, and death. Those who trust Christ will enjoy eternal life in God's presence; those who reject Him will face judgment.

When you remember Creation – Fall – Rescue – New Creation, you have a simple way to tell the Bible's story and to explain why Jesus matters. This four-move framework runs through the Field Guide, the Faith Basics book, and the Workbook, and it prepares you to connect any conversation back to the big story of Scripture.

SUMMARY

Scripture tells one story in four moves: Creation, Fall, Rescue, and New Creation. Remembering this frame keeps Jesus at the center of every conversation and every comparison with other beliefs.

3

The Core Gospel: God, Us, Jesus, Salvation

The big story of the Bible gives us the frame. At the center of that story is the core gospel message, which the Field Guide family summarizes under four headings: Who God is, who we are, who Jesus is and what He did, and how we are saved.

Who God is

There is one living and true God, the Creator and Lord of all. God is holy—pure, set apart from evil, and perfectly good. God is loving—rich in mercy, full of steadfast love and compassion. He has made Himself

known as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God in three Persons, who plans, accomplishes, and applies salvation.

Who we are and what went wrong

We are made in God's image, with real dignity, worth, and moral responsibility. Yet we have all sinned—turned away from God, broken His commands, and tried to run life on our own terms. Our deepest problem is not just lack of information, bad habits, or a broken system, but guilt and separation from a holy God. We are both valuable image-bearers and sinners in need of forgiveness and new life.

Who Jesus is and what He did

Jesus Christ is God the Son, fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead. On the cross, Jesus took the punishment our sins deserve, bearing the wrath and judgment we should face, so that we can be forgiven and brought back to God. His identity and His work belong together: only One who is truly God and truly human can stand in our place and save us.

How we are saved

Salvation is by grace alone—God's undeserved kindness, not something we earn or deserve. We receive it through faith alone—trusting Jesus and relying on Him, not on ourselves. It is in Christ alone—no other savior, no other way. Good works are the fruit of salvation, not the cause; God saves us so that we will live a new life, but our acceptance before Him rests entirely on Christ's finished work.

The Field Guide materials return to these four headings again and again. They ensure that when you compare Christianity with other beliefs or speak with people from different backgrounds, you keep the gospel—who God is, who we are, who Jesus is, and how salvation comes—at the center of every conversation.

SUMMARY

The gospel can be summarized under four headings: who God is, who we are and what went wrong, who Jesus is and what He did, and how we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. These four headings anchor every comparison the Field Guide makes with other beliefs.

GO DEEPER

*For a plain-language, bite-sized treatment of the Bible's big story, core gospel, and key doctrines, along with a full conversation toolkit, see **Christian Field Guide: Faith Basics**.*

The Christian Field Guide stands within historic Reformation Christianity, which treats the Bible as God's written Word—fully trustworthy and the final standard for what Christians believe and how they live.

The Field Guide's comparisons, conversation tools, and practical guidance all rest on this conviction about Scripture.

Scripture as God-breathed and authoritative

Christians confess that the Bible is “God-breathed”—it ultimately comes from God, even though it was written through many human authors over many centuries. Prophets and apostles spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit, so that what they wrote is truly God’s Word. Because God is truthful, His Word is true in all that it affirms and stands as the final written authority for faith and life. The Bible is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Scripture as sufficient and clear

Because Scripture is God’s Word, it is not only true and authoritative; it is also sufficient and clear. The sufficiency of Scripture means that the Bible gives us everything we need to know for salvation and for living a life that pleases God—no tradition, experience, or private revelation stands on the same level of authority. The clarity of Scripture means