

Christian Worldview of Math

Recently a question came in about how to integrate the Christian worldview into the discipline of Math. I'm sure it will not be the last time, as Math can be a challenging subject to teach from the Christian worldview. But consider looking at it through the framework of Truth, Hope, Identity and Calling.

MATH

TRUTH

- Math is discovered, not invented.
- Math reflects God's consistency because it works everywhere.
- Math reflects God's design through patterns and logic.

IDENTITY

- What Christian virtues are being formed while learning math?
- Humility, as I acknowledge I don't understand.
- Honesty, as I show my work.
- Patience, as I work carefully and slowly.
- Perseverance, as I struggle through concepts until I understand.
- One's ability to do math does not determine one's worth.

HOPE

- Math reveals order, not chaos, which points to a knowable universe created by a knowable God. We call this general revelation.
- What great advancements and improvements in human history have been made because of math?

CALLING

- How has math been used for evil?
- How has math been used for restorative purposes?
- How can math be used as an argument for (or to demonstrate) beauty?
- How can I use math to innovate or create what is missing?

Discussion Questions (High School)

TRUTH

1. If math is discovered rather than invented, what does that tell us about reality?

HOPE

2. Brainstorm: What inventions, technologies, or medical advances wouldn't exist without mathematics? How have these improved human life?

IDENTITY

3. Which of the listed virtues (humility, honesty, patience, perseverance) do you find yourself practicing most when doing math? Which is hardest for you?
4. The resource mentions showing your work as an act of honesty. Why might hiding your work or taking shortcuts be more than just an academic issue?

CALLING

5. How can the same mathematical tools be used for healing, restoration, or justice? Give specific examples.
6. The resource suggests that math can demonstrate beauty. Do you see math as beautiful? Why or why not? Can you find an example of mathematical beauty?

Reflection Questions (High School)

1. Before reading this resource, did you think about math as having anything to do with a Christian worldview? Has your perspective changed?
2. Which of these four sections (Truth, Hope, Identity, Calling) was most surprising or interesting to you? Why?



Discussion Questions (Middle School)

TRUTH

1. If math was already “out there” waiting to be discovered (like finding treasure), what does that tell us about how the world works?

HOPE

2. Make a list: What cool inventions or important medicines wouldn't exist if nobody knew math? How do these things help people?

IDENTITY

3. When you're doing math, which of these do you practice the most: humility (admitting you don't know something), honesty (showing your real work), patience (working carefully), or perseverance (not giving up)? Which one is hardest for you?
4. The resource says showing your work is a way of being honest. Why might hiding your work or cutting corners be about more than just getting in trouble at school?

CALLING

5. Math can be used to help and heal people. Can you think of specific examples of how math is used to make things better or fix problems?
6. The resource says math can be beautiful. Do you think math is beautiful? Why or why not? Can you think of an example?

Reflection Questions (Middle School)

1. Before today, did you ever think math had anything to do with Christianity or how you see the world? Do you think about it differently now?
2. Which section (Truth, Hope, Identity, or Calling) was most interesting or most surprising to you? Why?



Activity Time: 15-20 Minutes

Materials: Christian Worldview of Math through the framework of Truth, Hope, Identity and Calling

Presentation Options:

- Option 1: The facilitator will print copies of the Christian Worldview of Math matrix and instruct participants to follow along as they discuss the list in each section: Truth, Hope, Identity, and Calling. (Preferred Option)
- Option 2: The facilitator will print copies of the Christian Worldview of Math matrix for participants to read before the discussion.

