FIVE COMPANION RESOURCES · RALPH C. ENNIS

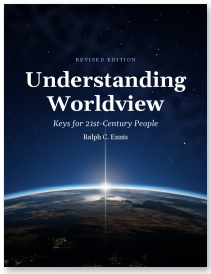
View of World? Why, God?

Two papers, a small-group guide and two illustrated stories that walk with Sam and his cousin Olivia through life's biggest questions, and into a story that holds together.

MEET SAM

Sam is twenty-five, good at a job he can't imagine doing forever, and lonelier than he lets on. Late one Sunday night, his phone face-down on his chest, he starts asking questions he hasn't asked since he was a boy. *Who am I in the scheme of things? Is there more than what I can see?*

> *"He talks to more people in a day than his grandfather met in a month, and he has never felt more alone."*
>
> UNDERSTANDING WORLDVIEW

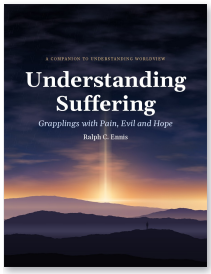


Understanding Worldview

Keys for 21st-Century People

Sam's questions lead through the answers our age offers, six questions every worldview must answer, four tests for weighing them, and the Bible's story in four acts.

FOR *Anyone asking Sam's questions, and those who walk alongside them*



Understanding Suffering

Grapplings with Pain, Evil and Hope

When his college roommate dies, Sam starts a journal and says it to God, not just about Him. The paper traces how the biblical story speaks to justice, love, power, wisdom, goodness and joy.

FOR *Anyone asking "Why, God?" and those who walk alongside sufferers*



Head & Heart

A Reflection Guide for Both Papers

Twelve 45-minute sessions. Head questions weigh whether the ideas hold up; heart questions invite each person to notice what they feel, fear and long for. Each reading takes most people 15 to 20 minutes.

FOR *Small groups and friends reading together*

ONE STORY RUNS THROUGH ALL FIVE

CREATION →	FALL →	REDEMPTION →	CONSUMMATION
Built good.	*Broken.*	*Rescued at great cost.*	*Made new.*







TWO ILLUSTRATED STORIES · STORY BY GRANDPA RALPH · WITH PAINTINGS BY ELLY

Paint what's true. *Not just what's pretty.*

It was 1:12 a.m., and Olivia Hart was still awake. Sam's cousin has 612 followers, a gift for art and questions no feed can answer. When her art teacher writes three words on the whiteboard as the project for the whole year, Olivia starts looking for what is true about herself, and about God.



Paint What's True

Olivia's Story of Big Questions, Hard Days and Hope

Nineteen short chapters in two parts (Who Am I? and Why, God?), each opening with one of Olivia's paintings. Through Grandpa's old barn, his illness and a friend in pain, Olivia discovers who she is, and whose she is.

"God doesn't need the better-lit version. He made the real one."

About 30 to 40 minutes · Head and heart questions at the back



The Painter's Road

Olivia's Journey: An Allegory of the Christian Life

The same story retold in the tradition of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Olivia leaves the City of Glow for the Painter's Road, through the Market of Voices, the Valley of Masks and the Bog of Fear. A key to the allegory waits at the back.

"It's not a road around the storms. It's a road through them."

About 30 to 40 minutes · Key to the allegory and discussion questions

> *"Light doesn't explain the dark. It just lets you see in it."*
>
> GRANDPA, IN PAINT WHAT'S TRUE

Where to begin

Asking the big questions yourself?

Start with *Understanding Worldview*, then *Understanding Suffering*.

Leading a small group?

Use *Head & Heart*: twelve 45-minute sessions on both papers.

Reading with a teen?

Open *Paint What's True* together and try a few of its questions.

Love a good allegory?

Take *The Painter's Road*, a journey in the spirit of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Ralph C. Ennis is an independent researcher in Raleigh, North Carolina, with a master's degree in intercultural relations. Paintings on this page by Elly Toole.

Free downloads at: https://ralphennis.com/worldview-%26-suffering