

Training questions

Logic

- Fill in the 4 blanks to show the logic of the cards.

ABC drama club #1:

Presenting the Gospel Logic cards

Evangelism

- Jesus' 2nd coming will solve all obvious problems like sickness, death, injustice, war, etc. Why then is Jesus' 2nd coming so hard to bring up in conversation with non-Christians?

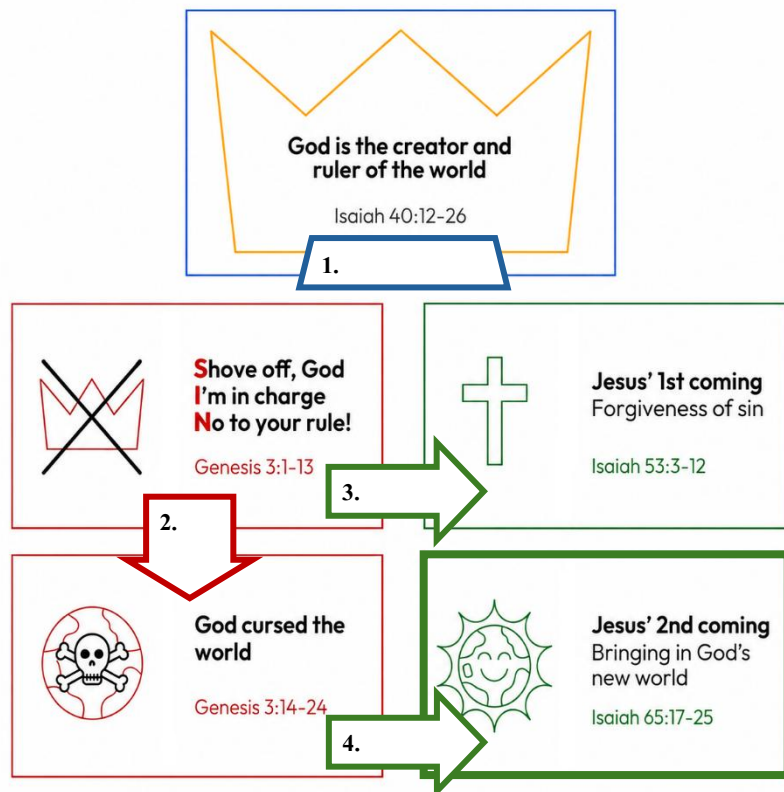
ABC drama club #2:

How to steer conversations towards the Gospel (Logic cards)

1st vs 2nd comings of Jesus

- When will these problems be fixed or solved?

a. My personal guilt for sinning against God	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
b. My ongoing sinfulness	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
c. God's wrath on judgement day	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
d. Christians still get sick and weak	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
e. People die	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
f. The world is under God's curse	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
g. Bad people seem to get away with evil	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
h. Satan causes trouble	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
i. People do not know God	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming
j. God is invisible	1 st coming	Now	2 nd coming





Isaiah 65:17-25 (NIVUK)

God's new world (65:17)

¹⁷ 'See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

a. no more tears (65:18-20)

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ 'Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach^a a hundred
will be considered accursed.

b. no more injustice (65:21-22)

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

c. no more danger (65:23-25)

²³ They will not labour in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.

(for YHWH will be there!)

²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,' says the LORD.

^a Or *the sinner who reaches*

Getting into the text (for group reflection/personal devotion)

- Overall
1. What is the effect of beginning with *new heavens and a new earth* before describing ordinary things like houses, vineyards, children, work, and animals?
 2. What benefits are there of describing the creation mostly by *removing old-world sorrows*, rather than by giving an abstract definition of perfection?
- 65:17
3. To what extent does the opening echo Genesis 1:1 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'? If so, why?
 4. What is the scope of things *not remembered, nor coming to mind*?
- 65:18-20
5. What is the effect of the repeated joy-language, 'be glad,' 'rejoice,' 'delight,' 'joy'?
 6. Isaiah switches from the *people* rejoicing in 65:18 to YHWH in 65:19. What is the literary effect of this?
 7. Building on all the joy-language, what is the impact of 'the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more'?
 8. In 6:20, what is the effect of using concrete terms about *days, years, infants, and old age*, rather than simply saying e.g. 'there will be no sadness'?
- 65:21-22
9. How do you picture or imagine the paired activities of (a) *building houses, dwelling in them*; and (b) *planting vineyards, eating their fruit*?
 10. How does the imagery of houses and vineyards make the promise feel settled and embodied?
 11. What is the effect of comparing the people's days to 'the days of a tree'?
- 65:23-25
12. What is the effect of pairing 'labour in vain' with 'bear children doomed to misfortune'?
 13. How does 65:24 differ from e.g. talking to God now?
 14. How would you describe the tone, or animation style, of 65:25?
 15. Is the serpent more likely to be another predatory/dangerous animal, or is this a representation of Satan?
- Response
16. How does this passage help you to appreciate Jesus' 2nd coming more?

Challenging our worldview

1. Cursed world

Recap/write down ways in which you personally experience cursedness under the categories of Genesis 3:14-24

Enmity with Satan (Genesis 3:14-15)

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-

Relationships/family (Genesis 3:16-17)

-
-
-

Creation/work (Genesis 3:18-19a)

-
-
-

Death/illness (Genesis 3:19b-22)

-
-
-

God being absent (Genesis 3:23-24)

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2. God's new world

In line with Isaiah 65:17-25, write 'NO MORE' before each of the bullets above. How do you feel?

3. Operational belief

In what ways would your life change if you were more aware of God's promises to create a whole new world without any tears, injustice or danger?

4. God's rule amplified

How does Isaiah 65:17-25 help to amplify the creator- and ruler-ness of God?

5. Current curses amplified

To what extent does Isaiah 65:17-25 allow you to *admit the cursedness* of this current creation more easily?

Next meeting (Sun 28 June):

- Michael You – *Hearing God speak*
- No car parking restrictions

