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## A Metaphor: Water

*“This is water” – David Foster Wallace*

### Part I: a framework of culture for Christians

- What success will look like in this cultural moment
- What is it we hope our kids will become in this culture?
- How will we know if they are OK

### Part 2: Powerful yet subtle undercurrents of our culture that often go unnoticed

- The significant ramifications of living in the information age
- What it means to be human – the biblical narratives
- How we can help kids navigate a technoculture and the loss of virtue in an age of extended adolescence

### Part 3: Singular culture issue (or wave) per chapter

- Too many Christians have a tendency to react to what is loudest and noisiest in our culture

## **Part Four: Christian Worldview Essentials**

[Chapter Sixteen. How to Read the Bible](#)

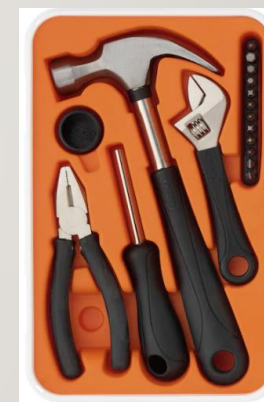
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### Part 4: Essential “tool kit” items



# CHAPTER 16 HOW TO READ BIBLE

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- Christians misread the Bible
  - We don't really read it
  - We read the Bible without recognizing context
  - We read the Bible selectively
  - We fall for “magic” innovations
  - We overpersonalize texts
- Tips for Reading the Bible on Its own Terms
  - Remember to pray
  - Remember the purpose of the Bible
  - Remember the Story
  - Read the Bible as it was written
  - Read in community as much as or more than you read by yourself
- Questions:
  - How were you taught to read the Bible?
  - Which of the wrong Bible-reading methods have you been guilty of?
  - What is your Bible-reading plan? Do you have one?

# CHAPTER 17 WHY TO TRUST THE BIBLE

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- Challenges that undermine the authority of God's Word cannot go unanswered
- Young people must understand the nature of biblical authority
- They must have good reasons to trust the Bible as God's Word.
- Authority of the Bible
  - God's existence
    - Cosmological argument
    - Fine-tuning argument
    - Moral argument
  - Expectations of Divine Revelation
    - Give us good reason to examine, test and assess their authenticity
  - The Bible is God's divine revelation
    - Transmission
    - Historically
    - Inspiration
- Questions:
  - How is the Bible Different from other books?
  - Based on the content of this chapter, summarize the reasons why we can trust the Bible
  - If the Bible indeed is authoritative, what are the implications for your life?

# CHAPTER 18 THE RIGHT KIND OF PLURALISM

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- What the culture teaches about religion and truth
- The Christian vision of religions and truth
- How to navigate the New Kind of Pluralism
  - Christianity is objectively true
  - "Why" Christianity is objectively true
  - Other religious views
  - How to question well
  - Model truth and grace in every conversation
  - Prepare for pushback
- The Right kind of Pluralist

# CHAPTER 19 TAKING THE GOESPEL TO THE CULTURE



*The Gospel is like a caged lion. It does not need to be defended; it simply needs to be let out of its cage.*

Unknown

Throughout this book Brett and I have been talking mostly about defense. Indeed, the goal of this book, as the subtitle says, is to help students successfully navigate the culture without drowning in it. Surviving the cultural moment isn't the totality of what we're called to do. We're also called to be faithful ambassadors to the culture.

In Jeremiah 28, God told Jeremiah to oppose the false prophet Hananiah, who was misleading the people of Israel regarding their time of exile in Babylon. In a very public display, Hananiah proclaimed that within two years, God would defeat the Babylonians and bring His people back to Jerusalem. He was wrong.

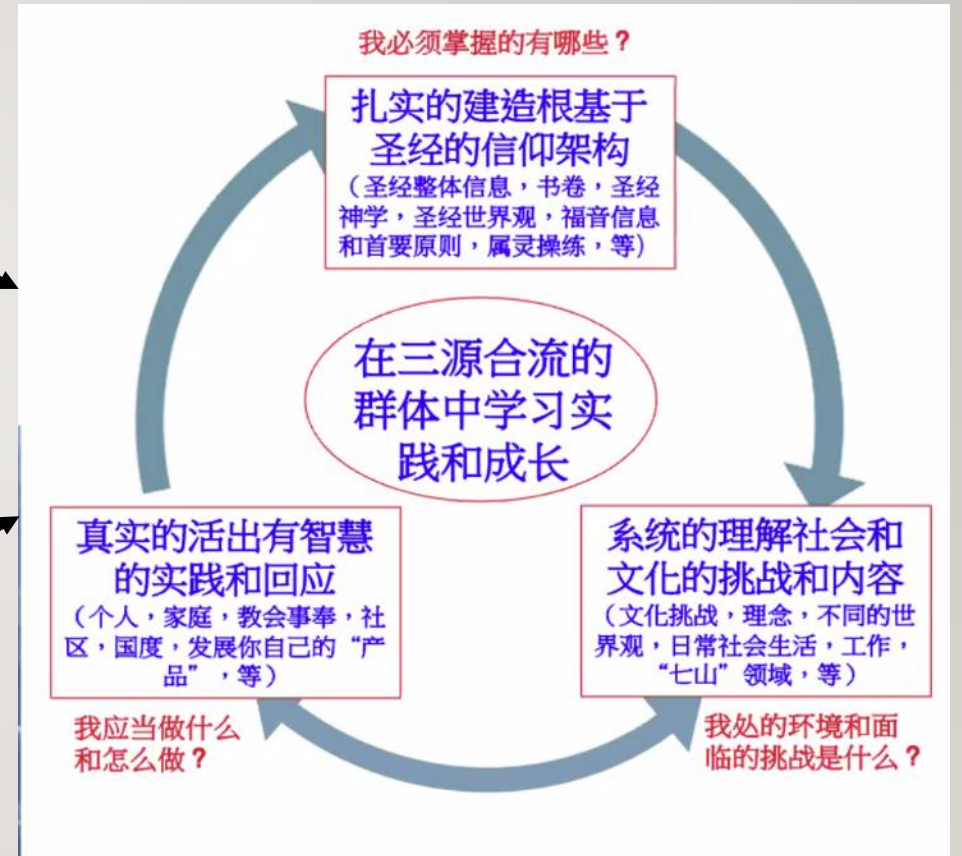
- Questions:
  - What good can we celebrate, protect, promote, and preserve?
  - What is missing that we can contribute?
  - What evil can we stop?
  - What brokenness can we restore?



Tool Kits (compass, maps, etc.)



Playbook (how-to guide)



System Thinking  
Mental Model  
Model-based Thinking