Basic Christian Beliefs

Ways to Narrow your topic:

– Compare/contrast denominations, religions
– Add another related topic
– Look at a specific sub-group of people
– Think about your major/discipline
– Christian worldview vs. secular worldview
– Think about literature (The Shack and others)
– Relate your topic to a current/recent event (Katrina, terrorists, elections, war, etc.)
– Think about the Bible/Biblical characters

REMEMBER: A good thesis is a statement that can be proven or disproven!

Example from class: “In comparison to the United States, South America is experiencing a surge of miraculous occurrences and church growth, providing evidence that the Holy Spirit is strongly at work on that continent.”

Another example: “The concept of suffering is present in both the Buddhist and Christian religions, but it is the related concept of grace that truly differentiates how adherents of both religions think about the act of suffering.

Ways to start your research:

1. Reference/Background sources
   • Print Reference Section
   • Credo Reference Database

2. Books
   • Browse The Shack again
   • SWUcat/PASCALcat

3. Databases
   • ONEsearch (click on “Subject” on the left-side to help you narrow your topic)

4. Print Magazines
   • Browse to get ideas
Ways to continue your research:

General/Interdisciplinary Databases

- ONESearch
- Academic Search Complete

Religion Databases

- ATLA Religion with ATLA Serials
- Christian Periodical Index
- Religion & Philosophy Collection
- OR, all at once!
  (Click “Choose Databases” at the top of the search box after going into any database. You can then search whichever databases from the collection that you want)