

Year **1**

Quarter 1

We Can Trust the Bible

Family Devotional

*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You
established the earth, and it abides.—Psalm 119:89–90*



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

GOD'S WORD FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Answers Bible Curriculum

Year 1 • Quarter 1 • Family Devotional

Second Edition

Copyright © 2012 Answers in Genesis, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher, unless expressly permitted by the terms of the Limited License.

For more information write:

Answers in Genesis

PO Box 510

Hebron, KY 41048

Printed in China



Introduction

Welcome to the *Answers Bible Curriculum* family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training and teaching their children the things of the Lord:

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children." (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and

they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
(Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
(Ephesians 6:4)

We suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller pieces.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and He delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that His wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



God's Word Is Our Foundation

1

Lesson Summary

The Bible is the starting point from which we discern truth and make decisions. We need to learn to use it to guide our every thought. Psalm 19 tells us that God's Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more to be desired than gold, and sweeter than honey! It is like no other book ever written.

God's Word can also change us. It changes our soul, it makes us wise, it brings joy to the heart, and it allows us to see more clearly—like light in the darkness.

We might think we know all the answers, but we don't know anything compared to God. God is the only one who is omniscient—He knows everything! But He has left us with a guidebook—the Bible—to help us understand better. If we refuse to use His Word to guide us, we will never see things clearly. We need to look at all of life through biblical glasses, using the Bible as our foundation in everything.

First and foremost, God's Word reveals who He is and what He has done for us in sending His Son Jesus as Savior. The Bible exhibits God's plan throughout history to save a people for Himself.

God's Word is also a guide—helping us make wise choices that will honor God and glorify Him. His Word will help us to determine what is true and what is not as we hear and learn things. This is very important because most people do not stand on the authority of the Bible. We need to know what it says so we know who is telling the truth and who is not. Wearing our biblical glasses is vitally important. It takes commitment to read the Word in order to know what it says.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 19:7-11

1. How did the psalmist view God's Word? What are some of the adjectives he used to describe it?
2. What are the Scriptures good for? What are some ways that they can change us?
3. Share a specific example with your family of a time when God's Word made you wise or enlightened your eyes.

2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16

4. According to these verses, how was the Bible written? Who is its author?

5. What was the role of God and what was the role of the human author in writing the Bible?
6. Look up the following passages and note the synonym used for the Bible.
- 1 Peter 2:2 –
 - Hebrews 4:12 –
 - Colossians 3:16 –
 - James 1:18 –
 - 2 Timothy 3:15 –
 - Daniel 10:21 –
 - Isaiah 34:16 –
 - Nehemiah 8:3 –
 - Isaiah 30:9 –
 - Ephesians 6:17 –
 - Romans 3:2 –
7. What do these verses tell us about God's Word? Why can we trust it?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Prayer

Take time to thank God for His Word. Ask Him to accomplish His will in and through you as you submit to His Word and seek to obey Him in everything.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



2 Studying the Bible

Lesson Summary

Last week we learned that the Bible is God’s Word and can be trusted. It should be the foundation for our lives—and guide us in all of our decisions. This week we discussed how we can interpret the Bible. God has communicated to us in a clear manner. This is not to say that there is nothing in Scripture that is difficult to completely grasp or that we will ever fully understand God, but we can understand God’s revelation to us and relate to Him. The Bible is a rich soil in which we can grow as Christians. But we must understand how to dig into that soil.

In class we examined and applied the inductive Bible study method. The goal of this method is to help us draw meaning out of the text of Scripture rather than bring our own ideas into the words we find there.

1. What are the three steps we talked about this week that will help us study God’s Word carefully—the way He wants us to?
 -
 -
 -
2. What questions should we ask when we observe a Bible passage?

4. Why is it important to understand the Bible and hold to “sound doctrine”?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.



God's Word Guides Us

3

Lesson Summary

Last week we looked at the importance of studying God's Word correctly or "rightly dividing the word of truth" as the Apostle Paul put it. In our lesson this week, we learned exactly *how* God's Word can guide and change us. After all, the ultimate goal of Bible study is not to gain head knowledge, but to become conformed to the image of Christ as God's Holy Spirit takes His Word and uses it to transform our lives.

We know that the Bible is inspired by God Himself, and He cannot lie. Because of that, we can trust it to be the very foundation for our lives. It guides us by teaching us doctrine, giving us reproof, helping us with correction, and training us with instruction in righteousness.

The more we study the Bible, the more guidance God will give us. We can count on it for excellent guidance because God inspired the writers through the Holy Spirit to write just what He wanted them to write.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

1. What are the different ways that God’s Word can guide us?
What does each mean?

2. What is the ultimate goal of Bible study according to this verse?

3. What might a mature believer who is thoroughly equipped look like?

2 Timothy 4:1–3

4. Why is it important to “preach the word”?

5. What does that involve?

6. Do you love God’s law—His Word?

7. What happens to us as we study and meditate on God’s Word?

8. What does the Psalmist mean when he says that God’s words are “sweeter than honey” to him?

9. If we really loved God’s Word, if we considered it sweeter than honey and more valuable than gold, how would our priorities be different?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.



God Preserves His Word

4

Lesson Summary

Last week we looked at the ways that God's Word changes us and how we can use His Word to help others. His Word truly is sweeter than honey and more precious than gold!

This week's lesson looked at the importance of the Old Testament—the part of the Bible written before Jesus's birth—and how God has preserved His Word. The Old Testament includes 4,000 years of history—and God wants us to know and believe all of it.

The Old Testament is what Jesus Himself studied and taught from. Indeed, Jesus placed such a high value on the inspired Word of God that even He—the very Son of God, the Messiah—willingly submitted Himself to its authority while on earth. He relied on it to resist the temptations of Satan (Matthew 4), and He read from it when He taught in the synagogues. In fact, He was reading from the Old Testament book of Isaiah when He proclaimed that He was the Messiah who fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Luke 4:16–21).

Even after He rose from the dead, Jesus continued to teach His disciples the truth from the Scriptures. He showed how these Scriptures, beginning at the writings of Moses and all through the Prophets, spoke of Him (Luke 24:13–27). His trust in the Old Testament can give us the same trust and confidence in this very important part of God's Word. Because Jesus believed it, we must believe it too.

- Isaiah 53:3–11 –

 - Isaiah 61:1–2 –

 - Jeremiah 23:5–6 –

 - Micah 5:2 –
4. How do passages like these give us confidence in the reliability of the Old Testament?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.



God's Word Is Complete

5

Lesson Summary

Last week we looked at the Old Testament: how it has been preserved, how Jesus believed and taught from it, and why we can trust it to be truthful and accurate. This week we studied the New Testament and learned that God's Word is complete.

We know God's Word is true because 1) God guided and inspired the men to write the message He wanted them to write—in fact, Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to help the writers know exactly what God wanted them to write; 2) God cannot lie—so His Word must be true; 3) the Bible was written by eyewitnesses—like the Apostle John—who learned from Jesus.

We know God's Word is complete because God warns us in the book of Revelation that no one should change God's Word by adding to it or taking anything out of it. The 39 books in the Old Testament and the 27 books in the New Testament make up the complete Word of God. You can be sure of that. No one can add anything to His Word or take anything from it.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

John 14:25–26

1. How does this promise of Jesus to His disciples increase our trust in the reliability of the Gospel accounts?

John 21:24

2. Why should we believe the testimony of John in his Gospel account?

Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32; Proverbs 30:5–6; Revelation 22:18–19

3. How seriously does God take tampering with His Word?

4. If the foundation of the church has already been laid by the apostles and prophets, with Jesus as the chief cornerstone, should we expect future additions to God’s Word?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.



Don't Change God's Word

6

Lesson Summary

Last week we looked at the New Testament and how God used eyewitnesses like the Apostle John to record the Gospels and how Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would remind them of the things He said.

There are many warnings in the Bible against trying to change God's Word and there are serious consequences for anyone who messes with it.

Today, as throughout church history, many false religions and false prophets or teachers teach lies about God and Jesus. Even some who claim to be Christians or pastors are false teachers, teaching things contrary to the Scriptures. We must be on guard. The Bible is the only Word of God, and it must be our final and absolute authority.

It is important for you to know what God's Word says. That way you will realize when someone is trying to trick you by adding something to it. You can be like the Bereans in the book of Acts who listened to the teachers and then studied the Bible to be sure that what they were taught was true.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Deuteronomy 18:20–22

1. How did God tell the Israelites to test whether a prophet was a true one or a false one?

Acts 17:10–11

2. Why were those in Berea called more “fair-minded” than those in Thessalonica?

3. How often did they search the Scriptures?

Galatians 1:6–9

4. Is there another gospel of Christ?

5. What did the Apostle Paul wish upon a man (or an angel!) who would preach any other gospel? What does this tell you about how God views false prophets or teachers?

Acts 20:28–31

6. What did the Apostle Paul warn the Ephesian elders about?
7. What will be the goals of these false teachers?

2 Peter 2:1–3

8. What are some destructive heresies being taught in the church today?
9. How many will follow these false teachers? And what will be the outcome for the church's reputation?

Matthew 7:15–20

10. What does Jesus warn about in this passage?
11. How are we to tell real prophets from false prophets? What are some examples of good fruit and bad fruit (see Galatians 5:19–24)?

12. What are we commanded to do in verse 1? How can we do that?

13. How can we distinguish the Spirit of God from false spirits?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalms 19:7-9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Prayer

Thank God for His all-sufficient Word. Ask Him to help you discern truth from error and to recognize false teaching, whether coming from outside the church or from inside. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Starting with Scripture **7**

Lesson Summary

Apologetics is providing a reasoned defense for the faith that we have in Christ and the hope that gives us. Typically, we would practice apologetics as we interact with people who have questions about what we believe. It is one aspect of evangelism—sharing the core of the gospel. Evangelism and apologetics could be considered two sides of the same coin.

This leads us to the question of how to properly engage in apologetics. Does the Bible give us a framework? Are there examples of biblical figures practicing it? Are there different schools of thought?

When we look at the landscape of apologetics, there are basically two camps: evidentialists and presuppositionalists. These are unfortunate terms since presuppositionalists use evidence and evidentialists have presuppositions. The basic difference is that evidentialists tend to leave the Bible out of their reasoning, at least initially, and presuppositionalists demand the Bible be the foundation for every argument presented in defense of the faith. If you know anything about the Intelligent Design movement, they argue in an evidential manner. They purposefully leave the Bible and any specific “creator” out of their arguments against naturalistic evolution. They argue without starting from the truth of Scripture. However, believing in a generic “designer” does not bring someone to salvation. Paul took an opposite approach and stated very clearly that it is the gospel, not arguments about blood-clotting and DNA, that is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Peter 3:15–17

1. What are we to always be ready to do? Do you think you are ready for this?
2. What does the Apostle Peter say we should do FIRST? How do we do this?
3. With what attitude are we to give a defense to others?

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

This passage is not so much about spiritual warfare as it is “intellectual warfare.” The Apostle Paul speaks of “casting down arguments” and “bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

4. What kinds of weapons do we have? What are they to be used for?
5. How would this perspective affect how we present the gospel and apologetic answers?

6. How did Paul build a bridge with the men of Athens (see verses 22–23, 28)?

7. What allusions to the book of Genesis do you see in Paul's presentation (see verses 24–26)?

8. What essential parts of the gospel did Paul present?

9. What was the response of those who heard?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.



How Do I Know God Exists?

8

Lesson Summary

God's existence as the self-sufficient and eternal Creator of the universe is presupposed from the very first verse of the Bible. God has not instructed His followers to spend time presenting physical evidences in an attempt to convince unbelievers of His existence. For example, Romans 10:17 does not say, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by amazing scientific evidences that prove the Bible to be true." On the contrary, the passage states: "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." No amount of physical evidence can convert a sinner to become a child of God. Thankfully, this responsibility belongs to the Holy Spirit.

While we can use evidence (such as the very existence of design, order, natural laws, and principles in the universe) to confirm God's existence, we have to be careful not to elevate the evidences in nature above the truths of the Bible. If our interpretation of the evidence from nature can prove the Bible is true, then our interpretation becomes the authority over Scripture. That is the difference between thinking in an *evidential* way as opposed to a *presuppositional* way. The Bible should be our ultimate authority—our basic presupposition.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 90:1–6

1. When did God begin to exist?
2. What does it mean that God is everlasting or eternal?
3. How does the Psalmist compare man to God?

Romans 1:20–22

4. What can be known about God from His creation?
5. Are there really any atheists according to this passage?



9 What Is God Like?

Lesson Summary

Because there is no way to comprehend the vast depth of our holy God, we are at risk of conjuring up in our minds what we want Him to be. This is not acceptable, but is a form of idolatry. We can only begin to know who God is by the revelation of His Word—what He has revealed to us.

David said of Him, “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3). And, “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all” (1 Chronicles 29:11). We can’t say it any better than the Apostle Paul: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out” (Romans 11:33)! The glimpses of God we observe from His Word are far, far from complete.

Question 4 of the historic Westminster Catechism, penned in the 1640s, asks, “What is God?” The answer? “God is Spirit (John 4:24), infinite (Jeremiah 23:24), eternal (Psalm 90:2), and unchangeable (Malachi 3:6) in His being (James 1:17), wisdom (Psalm 147:5), power (Revelation 19:6), holiness (1 Samuel 2:2), justice (Psalm 7:11), goodness (Psalm 107:8), and truth (Deuteronomy 32:4).”

Read and Discuss

1. Read the following passages and discuss together which attributes of God each passage mentions.

- Exodus 34:4–8 –
- Exodus 20:4–6 –
- Job 42:2 –
- Isaiah 40:25–28 –
- Psalm 48:3–5 –
- Psalm 90:1–6 –
- Psalm 147:1–7 –
- 1 John 4:7–11 –
- 2 Peter 3:8–9 –

2. Can we ever fully describe or understand God?

3. After reading these passages, do you think you have a clearer understanding of who God is?

4. Which attribute(s) of God do you sometimes fail to think about?

5. Which attribute(s) of God gives you hope? Comfort?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.



10

The Trinity

Lesson Summary

While the word *Trinity* is not found in Scripture, the concept of the Trinity is clear in its accounts. It is an important doctrine of the Christian faith, advocating that God eternally exists as three Persons. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God—but there is only one God. Because of our finite minds, this concept is impossible to fully understand or explain.

In this lesson we looked at several Scripture passages that show that Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit is God. All three Persons of the Trinity are called God; all three are referred to as eternal; all three were present at creation; all three are ascribed attributes that only God has; etc.

Why is it important to believe Trinitarian doctrine and specifically that Jesus is both God and man? Our very salvation requires it. The death of a mere man (no matter how noble) could not provide the purchase price required to redeem other men from their sins against an infinite God. But because Jesus is God, is eternal, and is infinite, He alone is able to satisfy the penalty for those sins by His death.

In addition, Jesus had to be fully human in order to redeem Adam's fallen race. The substitutionary atonement required that Jesus Christ must die as a man to bear judgment for the sins of men. Only the God-man could bridge the gap and bring both God and man together. As a man, He lived a perfect life and is qualified to be our High Priest and Savior (Hebrews 2:17, 7:24–28).

Read and Discuss

1. Read the following passages and discuss how they demonstrate God's triune nature.
 - Colossians 1:16–17, 2:9
 - John 8:58
 - Acts 5:3–4
 - John 14:16–23
 - Hebrews 1
 - Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14
2. Are we able to understand the Trinity?
3. Are there any analogies we can give to help people understand the Trinity?
4. Why is it important to understand the triune nature of God?
5. Why did Jesus have to be both man and God?

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Ephesians 1:3–14

6. What have we received from God the Father?

7. What have we received from God the Son?

8. What have we received from God the Spirit?

9. What is the ultimate purpose of all that God has done for us (vv. 6, 12, 14)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.



The Seven C's of History

11

Lesson Summary

The Bible records actual history. We call it *The History Book of the Universe*. It is not made up. God would not lead us astray—after all, He has been here all the time—He has seen it all, and He does not lie!

Because we know this about God and His Word, we can trust it as our absolute authority. In other words, if you hear something that does not fit in with God's history, then it can't be true.

The evolutionary story of the world begins with a big bang about 13 billion years ago. The earth supposedly formed about 4.5 billion years ago, and the first simple life forms arose about 3.5 billion years ago. From these simple life forms evolved all species of animals we have today, including man. This history is totally contradictory to the biblical account. Unfortunately, it is prevalent in our culture and increasingly found even in the church.

God's history can be easily recapped with the Seven C's of History. They start at the beginning of creation and end at the ending of this present earth. They are Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Six of these events are in the past; one is still to come. These events are actual historical accounts—Adam was real; he was created on Day Six of creation; his sin cast the whole human race into sin; the Flood was a real, global catastrophic event; the confusion at the Tower of Babel really occurred and was the beginning of different languages and people groups; Jesus Christ really lived, died, and rose again; and one day He will return. The Bible is true and its history can be trusted.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passage and discuss the questions together.

John 3:12

1. Can we believe the “heavenly things” that the Bible speaks of?
2. According to this verse, should we then believe the “earthly things” that the Bible speaks of? What are some of these things?
3. Discuss how the following Old Testament and New Testament passages explain each of the Seven C’s of History.
 - Genesis 1:31; John 1:1–3 –
 - Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12 –
 - Genesis 7:23; 2 Peter 3:5–6 –
 - Genesis 11:9; Acts 17:26 –
 - Isaiah 9:6–7; Matthew 1:21 –
 - Isaiah 53:45; John 19:17–18 –
 - Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:4 –

4. How does having a biblical worldview help us make sense of the world we live in?
5. How could you use the Seven C's to explain the gospel to someone?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.



12

What Is the Gospel?

Lesson Summary

To truly understand the good news of the Bible, we must grasp the bad news of the Bible first. Because God is a holy God—righteous and separate from sin—He cannot dwell with sinful man, and His perfect justice demands that He punish disobedience. The Bible tells us that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). This is the bad news—that all people are separated from God, born spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1), under His just penalty, and destined for an eternity in hell.

The good news is that God sent His own Son, Jesus, to become a man, live a sinless life, and then die on the Cross, paying the penalty of death that we all deserve. “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). In the death of Christ, we see the justice of God satisfied and the love of God demonstrated (Romans 5:8).

Repentance of one’s sin and trust in Christ as Savior and Lord are the responses of the sinner unto salvation. We are adopted by God as sons, joint heirs with Christ (Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:16–17); we are born again to a new and living hope (1 Peter 1:3); we become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17); and we have the sure hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2). Praise be to God for His grace and mercy demonstrated in the good news of the gospel—the central theme of the Bible!

5. How many people are sinners and guilty before God?

6. Will a person understand the good news of Jesus's death and Resurrection without first understanding the bad news of his sin and position before God?

7. What is the only way to be justified before God?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.



Value of a Biblical Worldview

13

Lesson Summary

Scripture makes it abundantly clear that the words of God are the source of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and truth. Wisdom begins with a fear of the Lord (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 15:33). If we are to base our lives on any source or system other than the Bible, we are acting as fools.

Apart from the truths in the Bible, we can know little about the true nature of the world around us. Whether we are trying to understand the origin of the world, why bad things happen, or the nature of humanity, we must start with the Bible to get a correct picture. In order to understand what ideas are true, we must compare them to Scripture—we must look at the world using our biblical glasses.

This is the admonition Paul gave to young Timothy when he wrote to him in 1 Timothy 6:20–21. People had strayed from the faith by following ideas that were not founded on God’s truth. Timothy was to protect his flock from these false teachings and hold to the clear teachings he had received. Wisdom based in man’s reasoning, apart from God and His truth, is false knowledge.

Paul expanded upon this concept in Colossians 2:1–10. It is in Christ, not in the philosophies or traditions of men, that we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Thinking and reasoning that starts from man’s ideas alone is deceitful and will lead to error. As believers, we received the truths of Christ by faith, and we should continue to walk with Him by faith. If we do anything other than that, we cheat ourselves and miss the riches of Christ.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Proverbs 4

1. What will wisdom and understanding bring to us?
2. How is the path of the righteous different from the path of the wicked?
3. How does this chapter encourage you to make family teaching and instruction around God's Word a priority?

Colossians 2:1–10

4. Where can we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?
5. Where do we learn about Christ—who He is, how He lived, and what He taught?

6. What did Paul warn us about in verse 8? What are some examples of philosophy, empty deceit, and traditions of men that could cheat us?

1 Timothy 6:20–21

7. What are the two commands Paul gave to Timothy?
8. How can we best avoid “profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge”?

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

9. What are our weapons of spiritual warfare useful for?
10. How can we cast down false arguments?
11. What does it mean to bring every thought into captivity to Christ? How can Scripture memory help us do that?

