

# Introduction

About ABC

#### Mission

Answers Bible Curriculum was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God's Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

#### Overview

The 2009 book *Already Gone* by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer (and the scientific study on which the book is based) reveals the reasons why young people are leaving the church. In much of the teaching today in our churches, the Bible is disconnected from the real world, and the authority of Scripture is undermined and replaced with secular reasoning using man's ideas.

The church has failed to teach the Bible as relevant fact. We have—intentionally or unintentionally—taught the Scriptures as nothing but "stories" that relate to spiritual matters but have avoided engaging the challenging questions from the secular world that bombard churched children and adults the other 166 hours of their week. As a result, children are beginning to doubt the Bible—and the gospel message that it presents—as early as elementary school. Many studies confirm that more than 60% of young people leave the church after they graduate from high school.

Answers Bible Curriculum is designed and written to provide answers to the questions and issues that confront youth (and adults) in school, in the media, from friends, at work, etc. It is our hope and prayer that God will be pleased to use this curriculum to instill a lifelong trust in the Bible and in the God who authored it.

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#### **Guiding Principles**

Certain principles guided our writers, editors, and reviewers as we developed Answers Bible Curriculum. These principles are reflected in the teaching, activities, and illustrations presented throughout the curriculum.

# We can trust all of God's Word beginning in Genesis.

- God's Word is true; God does not lie.
- The historical record of the Bible is confirmed often by historical, archaeological, and scientific support.

# God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.

- God's sovereignty is demonstrated in history as he fulfills his purposes through people and events.
- God's attributes (including his holiness, justice, love, and mercy) are demonstrated through his dealings with people.

#### The Bible presents true history.

- The Bible presents real history, showing the unfolding plan of God to redeem a people for himself.
- The historical accounts of the Bible intersect with secular history.

# We must carefully and accurately interpret the Bible.

- The proper use of hermeneutics helps us understand the Bible accurately.
- Understanding the Bible requires time and effort.

# God's plan of redemption is woven throughout Scripture.

- God's plan of redemption is presented throughout the Bible, beginning in Genesis.
- Many accounts in the Old Testament connect to the New Testament and point to Jesus and the gospel message.

# We must be ready to give a defense for what we believe.

- Students and adults must be equipped with answers to questions skeptics ask.
- We can use science, history, archaeology, etc. to confirm the accuracy of the biblical record.

#### We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches.

- God's Word is applicable today.
- We can learn from scriptural examples of obedience (and disobedience) to God's Word.
- Believers are called to walk in obedience to God's Word.

#### **Bible Version**

Answers Bible Curriculum uses the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible.

#### Scope & Sequence

Answers Bible Curriculum is a 200-lesson curriculum that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first 120 lessons survey the Old Testament, and the final 80 lessons survey the New Testament. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

#### Summary

- 200-lesson, four-year curriculum (50 lessons per year); but take as long as you need to complete it
- Available in six age levels: Pre-K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Middle School, High School, Adult
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—all ages study the same scriptures each week
- Based on the ESV

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#### **How to Use ABC**

#### Teacher Kit Components

Answers Bible Curriculum includes all the necessary elements for you to teach your students with excellence while engaging them in the learning process. The Teacher Kit for each unit of lessons includes the following items:

Teacher Guide—Ten lessons with lesson overview, background material, preparation chart, scripted lesson, and game instructions. The tenth lesson of each unit is a review lesson.

Student Take Home Sheets—Sample set of nine full-color, two-page take home sheets with lesson review and memory verse activities.

Lesson Theme Posters—Nine full-color, illustrated, 8.5 x 11 posters depicting the main point of each lesson. On the back of each poster is the Lesson Focus, Key Passages, and What You Heard in the Word. These posters are used for teaching and reviewing the lessons.

Memory Verse Posters—Two 17 x 22 posters per unit with the memory verses.

Classroom Posters—These large classroom posters enhance the lessons and provide visual reminders of important truths. The posters for this unit include:

- The Books of the Bible
- The Attributes of God
- · Game Board

#### **Optional Resources**

The following additional resources may be purchased from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling (800) 778-3390.

Books of the Bible Flashcards—Sixty-seven 5 x 7 flashcards. Each card has a colorful illustration on the front, and the back features key facts about each book's author, date of writing, key people, main message, and what each book reveals about God and his character.

Books of the Bible Trading Cards—The same as the flashcards, but each card measures 2.75 x 4.

Books of the Bible Coloring Book—Students will have fun coloring these scenes based on the accounts of Scripture. All 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are represented.

Seven C's of History Timeline—This large wall chart covers biblical and historical events from Creation (4004 BC) to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. It follows the chronology of Archbishop James Ussher and helps students to understand the flow of history and to see how biblical events fit with secular events.

#### **Teacher Digital Resources**

When you purchased Answers Bible Curriculum, you received access to a digital library that contains items such as student class notes, game and activity instructions, lesson illustrations, video clips, PowerPoint presentations, review questions, and skits. Be sure to leave enough time to look at the Lesson Preparation section of the lesson so that any needed items can be printed or gathered prior to class.

- Access these resources at MyAnswers.com/ abc-resources using the Resources Code inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.
- You may also purchase these resources on a USB flash drive from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling (800) 778-3390.

#### **Memory Verse Songs**

We teamed up with Seeds Family Worship to produce original Memory Verse songs available as MP3s, lyric videos, and split-screen handmotion/lyric videos.

- Access the songs at MyAnswers.com/ abc-resources using the Songs Code inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.
- CDs and DVDs for students and teachers are available for purchase at AnswersBookstore. com or by calling (800) 778-3390.

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#### Teacher Guide

We have designed the lessons so that they are easy to teach and provide everything needed to successfully guide your students in understanding the Bible and knowing God—the author of the Bible. Here is a breakdown of what is included in each lesson and how to get the most out of it.

#### **Lesson Overview**

Lesson Focus—Each lesson has a short statement with the main theme of the lesson for that week.

Key Passages—These are the Bible passages that will be studied in the lesson. Your teaching will be more rewarding if you familiarize yourself with the key passages before class.

Objectives—Each lesson teaches specific learning objectives. These are what we expect the students will understand by the end of the lesson.

Memory Verse—Students will work on memorizing two passages per unit. Our hope is that this will enable the students to really learn these scriptures—to hide them in their hearts—and to know them well enough that they will be able to recite them from memory not only at the end of the unit but also at the end of the year!

#### **Lesson Preparation**

This chart shows everything you need to do to prepare for each week's lesson. Be sure to consult this several days before class so you can choose games, gather supplies, and print materials from the Teacher Digital Resources.

Optional Supplements—Many of the lessons include optional hands-on activities, a PowerPoint presentation, and video clips. These should be previewed and then incorporated into the lesson where appropriate. Slide numbers in the lessons coincide with the PowerPoint presentations. To properly view the slides, download the PowerPoint fonts from the Teacher Digital Resources and install them.

All pages that are instructions for the teacher will have the word "Teacher" in the footer.

while student pages will have the word "Student." This should make it easy for an assistant to know which pages get multiple copies for students.

Large Group/Small Group Suggestions—While the lessons are written for graded classrooms, we have included suggestions for what order to teach the lesson elements for churches that use a large group/small group format.

#### Prepare to Share

We have provided background information to help you understand the biblical and historical context of the passage being studied. Where appropriate, we have also included apologetics information that will confirm the truth of the Bible.

#### **Lesson Elements**

The lessons are broken down into several elements to make it easier for you to teach and to allow for flexibility. We realize that some teachers have a full hour or more for Sunday school, while others may have only 20 minutes of teaching time. We have planned our lessons to take about 45–50 minutes to teach. Of course, this will vary greatly depending on your class size, student maturity level, etc.

Come On In—The Come On In activity is something for the students to do while they are arriving. The intent is to provide order as children come into the room by giving a specific assignment.

For the first five units, your students will be learning the books of the Bible in order. There are a number of games you can choose from for the students to play. These games use the Books of the Bible Flashcards printed from the Teacher Digital Resources or available in color as an additional purchase.

Memory Verse—Practice the memory verse every week using the Memory Verse Poster and the Memory Verse Song. There are also a number of games you can choose for the students to play. Game instructions are included in the Teacher Digital Resources and in the Appendix in the back of this Teacher Guide.

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Studying God's Word—This is the main teaching part of the lesson including the introduction, Bible study, and application. The lesson is written in a Say-Ask format so inexperienced teachers or substitutes will easily be able to step in and teach by following the script, while experienced teachers may want to "make it their own." Throughout the lesson you will see margin notes with teacher tips, definitions, and other reminders to assist you in planning and teaching.

Group Prayer Time—We encourage you to pray with your students and take prayer requests as time allows.

Lesson Review—Each lesson includes a set of Review Questions to use with the lesson review games. Game instructions can be found in the Teacher Digital Resources or in the Appendix at the back of this Teacher Guide.

#### Student Take Home Sheets

Nine lessons in each unit (Pre-K-Grade 5) include a full-color, two-page Student Take Home Sheet. The Student Take Home Sheets are designed to encourage lesson review, family discussion, and application to real-life situations. A sample set comes in the Teacher Kit. Additional sheets are available for purchase.

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# Leading a Child to Christ

Many of the lessons present an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with your students. Every teacher should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually softhearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming followers of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

#### **Before**

Pray. Salvation is God's work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.

Prepare. Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

#### During

The gospel is clearly presented in many of the lessons. You may give a group invitation or choose to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. When you explain the gospel, please keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- Use your Bible to explain the plan of salvation. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible open and marked ahead of time with the appropriate scriptures.

Avoid abstract phrases like "asking Jesus into your heart." Instead, use terminology like "becoming a child of God." Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.

 If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel, determine if the child has an understanding of his sin. This is very important. A child who cannot verbalize sin, who does not seem to be repentant toward God because he is a sinner, or who does not realize that he must turn away from his sin cannot fully understand his need for a Savior. Ask questions about sin that require more than "yes" or "no" answers:

- Do you know what sin is? Can you explain it to me?
- Can you think of some sins you have done?
- Are you sorry for your sins? Who are you sorry to?
- Why are you sorry for your sins?
- What do you think you should do about these sins in your life?
- If you are not satisfied that God has revealed to this child that his sin is an offense against our holy God, we recommend that you present a booklet we have developed for children that explains the gospel further. It is called *How Can I Become a Child of God?* and can be ordered from AnswersBibleCurriculum.com.
- If the child does seem to be sincerely sorry for his sins, you can proceed with more questions like the following:
  - Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
  - Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
  - Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what he does but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents (if they are followers of Christ) about what it means to become a child of God. Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer.

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- There is no specific prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not be ready to make a decision for Christ but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. Read 1 John 1:9 with children who want to confess sin and encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are forgiven when they repent.

#### After

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
  - How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)

- Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)
- What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)
- What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with the booklet *Growing Up in God's Family* (available at AnswersBookstore. com), and share the following:
  - Read your Bible, and obey what you read. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion on the presentation page.)
  - Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
  - Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
  - Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.

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# Unit I Syllabus

Lesson 1	God's Word Is Our Foundation	Psalm 19:7–11; Proverbs 30:5
Lesson 2	Attributes of God	Psalm 90:2; 1 Samuel 2:2; Romans 5:8; Psalm 36:5, 115:3, 96:13, 86:5; Exodus 20:2–3
Lesson 3	We Can Know God Exists	Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13–15; Romans 1:20–21
Lesson 4	The Trinity	Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-5, 1:14; Matthew 3:16-17
Lesson 5	God's Word Guides Us	2 Timothy 1:1–2, 2:9, 3:16–17
Lesson 6	God Preserves His Word	Luke 24:25–27; Jeremiah 36:1–4, 36:22–23, 36:32
Lesson 7	God's Word Is Complete	John 14:25–26, 21:24–25; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Revelation 22:18–19
Lesson 8	Don't Change God's Word	Deuteronomy 18:20–22; Acts 17:10–11; Galatians 1:6–9
Lesson 9	The Gospel Is Good News	1 Corinthians 15:3–5; Revelation 4:11; James 2:10; Romans 3:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:8; Mark 1:14–15; Acts 16:30–31; Luke 13:3
Lesson 10	Unit Review	

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# God's Word Is Our Foundation

God's Word—the foundation for our lives—is the standard we use to judge every thought.

#### Lesson Focus

The Bible is perfect and true. If we use it as our foundation, it will guide us and change our lives.

#### Key Passages

Psalm 19:7-11; Proverbs 30:5

#### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that the Bible is true and can be trusted because it is God's Word.
- List qualities of God's Word.

#### Memory Verse

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

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Go to Prayer

# **Lesson Preparation**





The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 1.* Game
instructions are
also included in the *Appendix* in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

#### Large Group

Studying God's Word Optional Video Clip Group Prayer

#### **Small Group**

Come On In Memory Verse Optional Activity Lesson Review Take Home Sheet

Dear Lord, you have given us your Word, and it provides all we need in order to trust and obey you. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help my students to fall in love with you and your Word. Move in their hearts and give them understanding so they will allow God's Word to guide their lives.

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# **Optional Supplements**

# **Hands-On Activities** Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson. · Reading the Reference Students will learn how to read a Bible reference and find it in their Bibles. · Coloring Sheet Students will color as you review today's lesson with them. Word Search Students will search for words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock to find all the words. Video Clips Preview the recommended video(s) before class. If appropriate, show to your class and discuss before, during, or after the lesson. • One Solitary Book (3:20) **PowerPoint** \_\_\_\_\_ You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching. **Notes**

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# **Prepare to Share**

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Ever since Satan in the form of a serpent cast doubt on God's instructions in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1–4), people have questioned the authority of God's Word. As descendants of Adam, we have inherited a sinful nature (Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8–10), which corrupts our human reasoning, questions God's authority, and prevents us from embracing the truth.

The Bible says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). This reminds us that we cannot move along the path of life without God's Word providing the light of truth to guide us. The Bible enables us to see the world as it truly is. Without the understanding that Scripture gives, we are lost in the dark, wondering how to accurately interpret good and evil, God and man, right and wrong. We are left with a distorted view

of history, science, and society. The testimony of the Lord, however, is undistorted and sure (Psalm 19:7).

In Psalm 19, King David powerfully reveals the supremacy of Scripture. The perfection of the Word leads to conversion of the soul, the surety of the Word brings wisdom, the righteousness of the Word rejoices the heart, and the purity of the Word lights the way. The Word of God is clean, true, and righteous, producing the fear of the Lord necessary for repentance. Verse 11 summarizes the intention of the Word—that we may be warned to keep the commandments and achieve the promised reward.

Those who stand in awe of God, who are bound to him without compromise, and who submit their minds to the teaching of Scripture are those who have a solid foundation and are able to connect the Bible to real life.

Our response to God and his Word should be to join the Psalmist in praying, "Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name" (Psalm 86:11).

#### Historical/Apologetics Background

The proper role of apologetics is to confirm what we know of God through his Word. It is not a series of explanations attempting to prove that the Bible is true or that there is a God.

As Christians, we start with the assumption that God exists and that his Word is true. This serves as the starting point for our beliefs. This is called *presuppositional thinking* because we are presupposing that what God says about himself is true.

Jesus set the example for us in this way of thinking through his life, ministry, and teaching. All of Jesus' messages presupposed that the Scriptures were true.

He knew the Scriptures so well that learned men marveled (John 7:15). He quoted Scripture as historical fact, referencing some of the most attacked accounts in the Bible, including creation (Matthew 19:4–5), Noah and the flood (Matthew 24:37–39), Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15, 11:23–24), Lot and his wife (Luke 17:28–32), and Jonah and the fish (Matthew 12:39–41).

He said the writings of Moses are more powerful than even someone rising from the dead (Luke 16:29–31).

He defended himself against Satan with God's Word (Matthew 4:4–10).

In the same way, we must rely on God's Word as the starting point for all of our judgments and beliefs. Others may insist that we "leave the Bible out of it" when discussing God, creation, absolute truth, morality, science, or the Bible itself. However, we cannot and must not. Christians stand on the Word of God—it is our foundation (Luke 6:47–49). Everything we believe and how we live are based on what it says.

Disregarding the Scriptures would result in disaster because our foundation would be destroyed. Our starting point is and must always be the Bible. We see the importance of this from the very beginning. Even in the garden of Eden, the battle was over the authority of the Word of God. The serpent asked Eve, "Did God really say that?" (Genesis 3:1).

We are facing a crisis of unbelief among young people in our culture today. One reason for this is

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that so many have discounted the book of Genesis. They are asking, "Did God really do that?" and being told, "No, he did not, and you don't have to believe it."

This is a sad state of affairs. It wasn't too long ago that Genesis was taken literally and there was little controversy over its interpretation. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the history of Genesis came under attack by scientists who began to accept the idea of millions of years of history rather than the thousands of years God records in his Word.

This interpretation brought compromise in the areas of biology—Darwinian evolution replacing God's creation of kinds; geology—millions of years replacing the flood history of Genesis; anthropology—man descended from ape-like ancestors replacing God's creation of man in his own image; astronomy—the big bang replacing God's amazing account of speaking the universe into existence.

As our culture has adopted these secular views, the Bible has been disconnected from reality and consequently is becoming less and less relevant—especially to the younger generations. These compromises have torn down the foundations of biblical authority and trust in God's Word. The result? Jesus gave us the answer when he asked Nicodemus, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12).

Many no longer believe the earthly things that Jesus was referring to. And, consequently, even the heavenly things—redemption, hope, eternity with God, forgiveness, Christ's resurrection, the Trinity, and judgment—are no longer of any interest to us. It is time to get back to the foundational beliefs of the Word of God, beginning in Genesis.

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### Slide #1

> After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.





As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.



Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Studying God's Word

#### Introduction

- Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. How many of you have ever read all the way through the Bible? Show of hands.
- How many of you like to explore new things or new places? Show of hands.

Well, get ready because we are about to begin an exploration! We're going to explore the Bible and learn new things about God, his Word, Jesus, God's plan, and much more. This is an important journey we're going to take. You see, many people do not trust or love God's Word. They don't realize it is the only book that can give us the real and complete history of mankind and the whole universe! In fact, God's Word is really the only book that CAN be completely trusted. And that has never changed! It is the only book that tells us how God can change a sinful heart, offer forgiveness of sins, and give eternal life to all who believe in Jesus Christ. No other book can do that.

Now, the Bible is a very big book! And it may seem overwhelming to even think about understanding it all. But it is worth studying, so we're going to take it little by little because it is a very special and important book.

Why is God's Word so important? Allow discussion.

As we study God's Word, we will see that it is the only book that we can use as a solid foundation for our lives.

What do I mean by that? What is a foundation? Allow discussion.

Whenever a house is built, the first step is to lay a foundation, usually stone or concrete. That's the solid part that stays firm on the ground. Then the house is built on top of the foundation.

Let's play a game to demonstrate the importance of a firm foundation. I **need two volunteers.** Choose two students to come to the front.

# 나 Slide #3

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If you haven't already, place long strips of tape on the floor to create a "balance beam" (about 5 feet long and 4 inches wide). Direct students to stand facing each other on opposite ends of the tape. In this game, you're trying to get the other person to step off the tape using only one hand. With your other hand, you'll hold one foot behind you, so you'll be hopping on one foot. Not a very firm foundation! Ready? Go! Cheer for students as they hop toward each other and try to push each other off the tape. Declare a winner once a student comes off the tape. If time, allow a few other students to try.

Wow! That was pretty hard to stay on the tape while hopping on one foot and getting pushed by someone else! But that is kind of like the tough decisions we have to make every day in life. We may feel like we're getting attacked by others or pressured to do things we don't want to do. When we are relying on ourselves and our own wisdom, it's like we're standing on one leg. It's hard to stay on the right path!

Choose two new volunteers. Direct them to stand facing each other at opposite ends of the tape. Now, let's try the game again, but this time, you can keep both feet on the ground. You still have to keep one hand behind your back, though, as you try to get the other person to step off the tape. Ready? Go! Students should be able to stay on the tape longer than in the previous game. You may have to end the game because no one can win or because a student gets too aggressive. Have students return to their seats once one steps off the tape.

Good job! It was much easier to stay on the tape when you had the firm foundation of two feet on the ground. As we live each day, there will be choices to make, and we all want to make the right decisions. So if we want to please God and follow him each day, we must look to his true Word as the foundation for our lives—it will help us stand firm.

#### God's Word Is Perfect

Pass out the Scripture Sheets and Class Notes to the students. We are going to start our lesson by reading Psalm 19:7–11. This psalm tells us about the Bible.

#### Psalm 19:7-11

**?** Who will read those verses for us? Assign readers.

Very good. It's important to read AND study God's Word, so we are going to study the passage.

Look through the passage again on your Scripture Sheet. In these verses there are five different words that are used to refer to God's Word.

? Who can tell me what they are? As you find the different words, circle them on your paper. Have students answer one at a time as they find the words: law, testimony, precepts, commandment, rules. Have the students circle the words on their Scripture Sheets.

➤ Pass out the Class Notes and Scripture Sheets. Students will be reading and marking these sheets during the lesson.

Slides #4-6

? Great. And what does this passage tell us about God's Word? There are eight different words or phrases that describe God's Word or tell us what it is like. As you find these words, underline them on your paper. Who can give me one? Choose students to answer. Perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more to be desired than gold, sweeter also than honey. As students answer, have them underline the words on their Scripture Sheets.

Wow! God's Word is amazing! And something this wonderful can surely change those who read it, love it, and believe it. And these verses tell us how and why we can be changed forever by the Word of God.

We are going to start our Class Notes now, reviewing what we have read and thinking about how God's Word can change us. Keep your Scripture Sheets handy. You will be using those to help you answer the questions.

- ? Take a look at #1 on the Class Notes and at the beginning of Psalm 19:7. The law of the Lord is perfect. What does the perfect law revive? The soul.
- **?** What does "reviving the soul" mean? Allow discussion.

It means God's Word changes our desires. We no longer want the things we used to want. We want what will honor God. The law of the Lord can change our hearts forever!

- **?** So, how will you answer #1? Choose a reader. Soul. Have students complete #1. Take a look at the second part of Psalm 19:7 on your Scripture Sheet. This says the testimony of the Lord is sure.
- ? How will you complete #2 on your Class Notes based on this verse? What does the sure testimony of God's Word make us? Choose a reader. Wise. Complete #2.
- ? So what does that mean? Where should we go to get wisdom? Allow discussion.

The verse says the testimony of the Lord brings wisdom. Testimony is another word for God's Word. We must go to God's Word for wisdom because we really aren't very wise by ourselves. And we need help making the right choices.

- ? Let's move on! Will someone read the first part of Psalm 19:8? Assign a reader.
- ? And how will you answer #3 on the Class Notes based on that verse? Choose a reader. Joy. Complete #3.

The precepts of the Lord give us joy that really can't be explained. God's Word will rejoice our heart.

? What does Psalm 19:8 tell us about the pure commandment of the Lord? Look at your Scripture Sheet. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

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Slide #7

**?** What does that mean, "enlightening the eyes"? Allow discussion.

"Enlightening the eyes" means the Bible helps us understand—like light brightens a dark room, God's Word shines light on the things around us. It helps us to see truth more clearly, and we begin to understand more as we learn about God.

**?** Who will read #4 on the Class Notes and give the answer? Assign a reader. Enlightens. Complete #4.

Slide #8 Slide #8

- **?** Now look at Psalm 19:9. The second half of that verse says something about the rules of the Lord. What are they? *True and righteous*.
- **?** Good. So, how will you fill in #5 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. True. Complete #5.

God's rules—the Bible—are true and righteous. They can be trusted. And they are to be desired. We should want to know and understand them.

- **?** Someone read Psalm 19:10 again for us. It tells us what God's Word is worth! Assign a reader.
- **?** Now, look at #6 on your Class Notes. According to Psalm 19:10, what is the answer to that? *Choose a reader. Gold. Complete #6.*

Slide #9

The Bible is very important to God. And he wants it to be very important to us as well. The Bible says that God's Word is worth more than gold, and it is sweeter than honey. It is worth learning about!

- **?** Who will read Psalm 19:11 for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** That verse is telling us two things about God's Word. What are those two things? We are warned by them. There is reward in keeping them.

God's Word, his rules, his testimonies—they warn us. They warn us that we should live lives according to what it says—lives that honor and please God. If we pay attention to this warning and obey God's Word, God promises a great reward.

- **?** Will someone read #7? Based on Psalm 19:11, what does God's Word do? Choose a reader. Warns. Complete #7.
- **?** What is your favorite part about God's Word from the verses we studied today? *Allow discussion*.

Every word of God is special. God's Word is meant to change us in many ways. And it will change us if we read it, believe it, love it, and try to live our lives according to it.

We need the truth of God's Word to help us understand the world we live in. There is no book like it. As you get to know it better, it will become your favorite book and the foundation you stand on as you face challenges and hard things in your lives.

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#### God's Word Is True

Refer to the Scripture Sheets. Okay. We already talked about these different words—law, testimony, precepts, commandment, and rules.

**?** What are these words talking about? The Word of God. The Bible.

#### Slide #10

#### Proverbs 30:5

That's right. These are all words that refer to God's Word. We have one more verse to look at. Turn to Proverbs 30:5 in your Bibles. Let's read that verse now. Assign a reader.

**?** This says the Word of God proves true. How many of God's words are true? Look at the verse again. *Every word*.

EVERY word of God is true. This is God's holy Word. We can trust it completely because it is true!

- Slide #11
- **?** Who will read #8 for us on the Class Notes? Which words of God are true? Assign a reader. Every. God. Have students complete #8.
- ? These are the words from the one true God. Don't you think he would be the best one to go to when you have to make choices in life? Yes.
- **?** This verse also tells us something about God. What does it call God? A shield.
- **?** Who is God a shield to? The answer is right there in the verse. Those who take refuge in him.
- **?** What does it mean that God is a shield? What does a shield do? Allow discussion. Protects. Guards against attack.

Remember this verse is about God's Word. If we put our trust in God and have faith in his Word, then he will be our shield. He will protect us and guard us. He will help us to see the truth of his Word, and his Word will help us obey him.

? Look at #9 on your Class Notes now. Who will read that one? How will you complete it? Assign a reader. Shield. Have students complete #9.

The Bible tells us many things about God. In this verse, it says that God is a shield to all who trust in him and his Word. That doesn't mean that we will never get hurt, but it does mean that God will always be with us to help us and guide us even through difficult times. Every part of God's Word is holy and true and good. We need to trust God and his Word over everything else we read or see or hear! God's Word is the foundation we should stand on.

#### **Application**

Slide #12

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The Bible is the starting point from which we make decisions. We need to learn to use it to guide us in everything

we do and think! Psalm 19 tells us that God's Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more valuable than gold, and sweeter than honey! It is like no other book ever written.

We might think we know all the answers, but we don't know anything compared to God. But God has left us with a guidebook—the Bible—to help us understand things better. If we refuse to use his Word to guide us, we will never see things clearly.

On the other hand, if we know God's Word, we will learn to make wise choices—choices that will honor God and glorify him. His Word will help us understand what is true and what is not as we hear and learn new things. This is very important because so many people do not use the Bible as their foundation, and you will hear them say many things that are false. But if you read God's Word, you will gain more and more confidence to stand for God's truth. It takes commitment to read and learn the Word. I pray you will make that commitment today to search for answers in the Bible.

This week you will be faced with many decisions: how to treat your family, what to watch on television, and what you ought to believe. You will be tempted to think that you know what is best for you.

**?** But where can you find the perfect truth to help you make the right choices? *The Bible.* 

That's right. God's Word is the perfect truth, and it is the only place we can get real wisdom—God's wisdom. That is a wisdom way better than our own.

Knowing what the Bible says prepares us to be ready to answer important questions we may get from our friends, families, neighbors, classmates, and others. Knowing God's Word will change us! It brings joy, changes our hearts, and gives wisdom. It is the only book we can trust as our foundation to stand on—even in times of trouble—because it comes from God who has promised to be our shield when we put our trust in him.

# Group Prayer Time

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests as time allows.

- Thank God for giving us his perfect Word, which can make us wise.
- Ask God for the faith to believe what his Word tells us and for the wisdom to defend it.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets, and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

# (E) Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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# Attributes of God

God's attributes are demonstrated and described in Scripture.

#### Lesson Focus

God's attributes are demonstrated and described in Scripture. We must understand God for who he is according to his Word.

#### Key Passages

Psalm 90:2; 1 Samuel 2:2; Romans 5:8; Psalm 36:5, 115:3, 96:13, 86:5; Exodus 20:2–3

#### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Describe some of the attributes of God.
- Explain why it is important to understand who God is according to the Bible.

#### Memory Verse

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

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# **Lesson Preparation**



#### Come On In

Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items.

☐ Bible Book Match
☐ I Have You Have
☐ Bible Book Race
☐ Look Behind You
☐ Bible Speed Round
☐ Next in Line

☐ Popcorn

☐ Flashcard Take Away

Memory Verse

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items.

☐ Down the Line ☐ Popcorn

□ Egg Hunt□ Review Card Relay□ Look Behind You□ Stack Em Up□ Now You See It□ Your Turn

Play the Memory Verse Song (audio or video) to help your students learn the verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.



#### Studying God's Word

Print one Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use. Write the following false ideas about God on slips of paper or index cards to use in the Introduction: Santa Claus, Mean Judge, Genie, Old Grandfather, Many gods.



#### Lesson Review

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

□ Board Game
 □ Box Toss
 □ Draw Dice
 □ Four in a Row
 □ Goofy Golf
 □ Oh No
 □ Pick a Point
 □ Toss for It



#### Go to Prayer

Father God, you are incomprehensible in all your ways. As we study your Word, help us to learn more about you. Please allow my students to grasp some of your amazing power, wisdom, mercy, love, and knowledge! Help them to see your love, mercy, holiness, and justice in the truth of the gospel. Bring them to salvation through your perfect Son.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 2.* Game
instructions are
also included in the *Appendix* in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

#### Large Group

Studying God's Word Optional Video Clip Real World Skit Group Prayer

#### **Small Group**

Come On In Memory Verse Optional Activity Lesson Review Take Home Sheet

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# **Optional Supplements**

#### **Hands-On Activities**

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Attributes Matching Game
  - Students will learn some of the attributes of God while they play a matching game.
- Real World Skit
  - Students will read a short skit discussing some of God's attributes.
- · Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Scramble

Students will unscramble words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock.

#### Video Clips

Preview the recommended video(s) before class. If appropriate, show to your class and discuss before, during, or after the lesson.

- God's Power (5:15)
- Mystery of Life (2:29)

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You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

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# **Prepare to Share**

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

What is God like? How can we presume to answer this question? Our God is incomprehensible—he can never be fully understood. In fact, as believers we anticipate an eternity of discovering new things about him.

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 and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all" (1 Chronicles 29:11). We can't say it any better than the Apostle Paul, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways" (Romans 11:33)! The glimpses of God we observe from his Word are far from complete.

Question 4 of the historic Westminster Shorter Catechism, penned in the 1640s asks, "What is God?" The answer? God is a Spirit (John 4:24), infinite (Jeremiah 23:24), eternal (Psalm 90:2), and unchangeable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17) in his being, 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).

When the Lord descended in the cloud to speak with Moses, he gave testimony to his very character—he proclaimed himself as merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness, always truthful, forgiving, and at the same time, just—not clearing the guilty (Exodus 34:6–7).

Knowing God and knowing that he is perfect in every one of his attributes is imperative to maturing in the Christian faith. That is why we have incorporated teaching these attributes as part of this Bible curriculum, so the next generation will know, love, honor, revere, and fear the God of all creation!

#### Historical/Apologetics Background

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. We can only begin to know who God is by the revelation of his Word.

One attribute of God is all-loving (1 John 4:7–21). But this attribute has been skewed by many Christians and non-Christians alike. The tendency of many is to make God a type of butler—one who waits at our beck and call and exists in order to answer our demands for blessing and comfort. In our world today, we seldom witness the awe and wonder his very name deserves.

This attitude reeks of misunderstanding the holiness of God. His holiness demands that he despise each and every sin committed. Knowing his frightful hatred for sin should bring us to a reverent and godly fear of the one who is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28–29). Only true fear of the Lord will bring knowledge (Proverbs 1:7).

It is not until we fear God for who he is that we will humbly begin to understand the depths of his love—which is beyond all love. It is amazing

that he would love us so much to send his only Son to die a horrible death in order to provide forgiveness to all who would believe (John 3:16). Because of the depth of his love, he was willing to offer the life of Jesus, who committed no sin yet was made sin for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

God is love, yes. But his definition of love goes way beyond the scope of ours. His love is demonstrated in the gospel—that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, he was buried, and he rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

The gospel through Jesus Christ was God's plan from the very beginning. When God created Adam and Eve in the very good world, they saw God clearly. But when they disobeyed God, they were no longer welcome to walk with him (Genesis 3:23–24). They were thrown out of the garden because God cannot dwell with evil or wickedness (Psalm 5:4). But even then, God revealed his plan—his love—to redeem a people to himself through the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). Everyone who would repent of their

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sins and turn to the Savior would be forgiven and given an inheritance with Christ.

Others have wanted to see God as Adam and Eve did. We read that Moses was once bold enough to ask to see more of God (Exodus 33:18). And we know that Moses would die if he saw the face of God. However, Moses did get a glimpse of God's glory passing by as he hid in the cleft of the rock (Exodus 33:22–23).

Jesus came to reveal God to sinners. The Bible tells us that in Jesus we know of God yet have not seen him: "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." (John 1:18). And Paul wrote to Timothy, describing God as the one "who alone has immortality, who

dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen" (1 Timothy 6:16).

God keeps himself in unapproachable light. We cannot see him as Adam and Eve once did. But he promises one day we will. And what a day that will be when his children will be like him, for they will see him as he is (1 John 3:2)! How we long for the day we will once again see God, talk with him, and enjoy the fellowship that was originally intended but broken because of sin. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

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# Slide #1

Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



# **Memory Verse**

Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

Slide #2

➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them. **Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Studying God's Word

#### Introduction

Slide #3 Slide #3

Refer to Lesson 1 Theme Poster. Last week we talked about God's Word. It is where we should start for all our decisions—especially the tough ones. It is the foundation we should stand on and trust. God's Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, and righteous. It is not like any other book ever written! And God's Word can change us. In fact, it is the only thing that will help us turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus!

But before we can trust God's Word, we need to trust God. We can't trust God until we know something about him.

? Bring out the prepared slips of paper/cards with false ideas about God. Many people have wrong ideas about God, who he is and what he is like. Let's look at a few of these false ideas, which I have written on these slips of paper. Who will read one for us? Then we'll see if you can tell what is wrong with each one. Choose a volunteer to read an example. After each one, ask students what kind of god this would be and how it is not true according to

problem with each:

• Santa Claus: kind and jolly, gives gifts to those who are good. Although God is loving, he is also just and must punish sin. God gives gifts out of his kindness and mercy.

the Bible. After a brief discussion, choose another volunteer and move on to the next example. See the list below for a summary of the false ideas and the key

- Mean Judge: strict and harsh, only gives punishment and never shows mercy. This idea ignores God's loving character. Although God is just and must punish sin, he loved us so much he sent his only Son to save us from our sin.
- Genie: appears when summoned and grants wishes. Although God wants us to bring our requests to him, treating God as a genie ignores the relationship God wants to have with his children.

➤ Prepare cards or slips of paper with the false ideas about God written on them for the students to select.

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- Old Grandfather: kind old man sitting in heaven. This idea ignores God's amazing power, wisdom, and care for us. We should fear the Lord because he is our powerful Creator.
- Many gods: there are many gods or ways to get to heaven; none is better than the others. This idea is common today because people think they are being tolerant by saying there are many ways to God. But the Bible makes it clear that repentance and belief in Jesus is the ONLY way to heaven.
- **?** So, where can we find the truth about God so we won't believe the wrong things? *The Bible*.

Right! We can learn more about God through his Word. And the more we know about God the more we know we can trust his Word!

➤ Pass out the Class Notes.

#### The Bible Declares God's Attributes

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Today we are going to look at God's Word and see some of the things we can learn from it about God! We are going to discuss what are called "God's attributes."

Slide #4

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This poster lists some of the attributes of God. God is amazing! We will be referring to this poster all year as we learn from God's Word and see how God reveals himself to us through the Bible.

➤ Refer to the Attributes of God Poster throughout the lesson.

The verses we are going to read today are on your Class Notes. The Bible is all about God. And whatever part we are reading in it, we can be sure it will tell us something about who God is!

#### **Psalm 90:2**

Slide #5

- **?** Let's start with the first verse on your Class Notes—Psalm 90:2. Will someone read that verse? *Assign a reader.*
- **?** According to this verse, how long has God been in existence? Allow discussion. Since before the earth was formed. From everlasting. Forever.

That's right! God existed even before the creation of the world. God has always been.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This describes one of God's attributes. He is eternal.

**?** What does that mean? Someone read the definition for #1 and give us the word that goes in the blank. Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #1.

#### 1 Samuel 2:2

**?** Let's move on. Will someone read the next verse, 1 Samuel 2:2, on the Class Notes? Assign a reader.

Slide #6 ★

- **?** Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Which attribute do you see in this verse? Holy.
- **?** Who is holy like the Lord according to this verse? *None! No one!*

There is no one like the Lord! The idea of God being holy is that he is set apart or separate—he cannot sin. What that means is that he is removed from everything that is sinful. God hates sin! There is no evil in him at all—and he will not tolerate or be near things that are evil.

**?** Will someone read #2 on the Class Notes? Assign a reader. Holy. Have students complete #2.

God is holy and hates sin. That is very bad news for all of us because the Bible tells us we are ALL sinners. But, God is more than that. Let's move on.

#### Romans 5:8

- **?** Will someone read Romans 5:8 on the Class Notes? Assign a reader.
- **?** Refer to Attributes of God Poster. Which attribute of God are we reading about here? Allow discussion. Loving.
- **?** How did God demonstrate his love for us? Allow discussion. He sent Jesus to die while we were still sinners.

Yes! Because God hates all sin, we deserve God's punishment. But God loves sinners so much that he was willing to have his own perfect Son—Jesus—die so sinners could be saved.

**?** Will someone read #3 on your Class Notes and fill in the blank? Assign a reader. Loving. Have students complete #3.

So, God always wants what is best for his children—he loves them. And the most amazing act of God's love is seen in Jesus! God, who is perfectly holy and hates sin, sent his perfect, sinless Son, Jesus, to die for sinners. THAT is amazing love! He did that to make a way for us to be forgiven., Instead of going to hell because of our sin, we can go to heaven if we believe and trust in Jesus. God's love shows that he wants what is best for his children—and that is to spend eternity with him! That is the most wonderful gift we could ever ask for.

#### Psalm 36:5

- **?** What is next? Will someone read Psalm 36:5 on the Class Notes? Assign a reader.
- **?** Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This verse mentions two of God's attributes. What are they? Steadfast love and faithfulness.
- ? We already discussed love, so we are going to talk about God's faithfulness. How far does God's faithfulness extend, or reach? *To the clouds!*
- **?** What do you think that means? Allow discussion.

It means that God's faithfulness is something we can trust. It is huge! It will never fail.





Go ahead and fill in #4 on the Class Notes. Someone read the definition of faithful. Assign a reader. Faithful. Have students complete #4.

God is faithful—he will always keep his promises. That is different from you and me. We may try to keep our promises, but we don't always do it. But God does! He cannot lie. He is always faithful. We can always trust him to do what he says he will do!

I hope you are beginning to see that God is amazing! He is worth studying. It is good to know who he is!

#### Psalm 115:3

Slide #9

- **?** Will someone read Psalm 115:3 for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** Where is God? Look at what we just read! *In heaven.*
- **?** What does God do there? All that he pleases.
- **?** So, do any of you know what attribute this might be? Allow discussion.
- ? Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This verse is talking about God's sovereignty. Look at #5 on your Class Notes. What is the answer? Will someone read it? Assign a reader. Sovereign. Have students complete #5.

When we say that God is sovereign, what we are really saying is that God is God—and no one else is or could ever be! When we talk about God's sovereignty, we are talking about his control and authority over all of creation—everything! Every person, plant, animal, drop of rain, gust of wind, ray of sunshine! God is in control of everything that happens on the earth. He has all power and authority over everything and everyone that exists. Only the one true God can say this. And there are no other gods but him!

#### Psalm 96:13

Slide #10

- **?** There is so much to know about God! We will talk about just two more attributes. Will someone read Psalm 96:13 on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader.*
- **?** This says God is coming back to earth. What will he do one day? Allow discussion. Judge the earth.
- **?** What will God judge the people and the earth by? His righteousness and his faithfulness.
  - So, God will judge the earth. He will judge it according to his righteousness and faithfulness.
- **?** Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What attribute of God does this describe? *Just.*
- ? Go ahead and complete #6. We are talking about God being "just" here. What does that mean? Someone read the definition for us from the Class Notes. Assign a reader. Just. Have students complete #6.

God is just. That means that God must do what is right. God must be just because he is holy. God hates sin, and he must judge it because sin is evil in his eyes. The Bible says that the judgment, or the punishment, for sin is death. All sin offends God. And God's just punishment has to be that sinners will die and be separated from him forever!

This does not sound like good news, does it? God's justice MUST come on all sinners! And we are all sinners. But there is more to God than that.

#### **Psalm 86:5**



- **?** Will someone read Psalm 86:5 on the Class Notes? Assign a reader.
- **?** What does this say about the Lord? There are three things listed here. What are they? The Lord is good and forgiving and abounding in steadfast love.
- **?** Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Which attribute is this verse describing? Allow discussion. Merciful.
- ? Go ahead and fill in #7 on the Class Notes. What do we mean when we say that God is merciful? Will someone read #7 for us? Assign a reader.

  Merciful. Have students complete #7.
  - So, God shows kindness to sinners. All sinners are miserable. Sometimes they don't even know they are in this state, but they are. And that is because they are headed for God's eternal judgment because of their sin.
- **?** But God is merciful! How has God shown kindness to sinners? Look at Psalm 86:5 again. What is God ready to do for sinners? He is ready to forgive.
- **?** The Lord is good. He is ready to forgive sinners. How can sinners be forgiven? *Through Jesus*.
  - That's right. Look back at #3 on your Class Notes. Someone read the definition of God's love. Assign a reader.
- **?** God loves sinners! How did God show his love to sinners? Look there at Romans 5:8. *By sending Jesus to die.*

These two attributes—mercy and love—go together. God showed his love by sending Jesus. God shows his mercy by forgiving sinners of their sin—even though they deserve punishment.

When sinners turn to Jesus in repentance and faith—and turn away from their sin—God shows mercy to them. He will not punish them like they deserve. Instead, God grants them forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. We could talk a very long time about who God is and what the Bible tells us about him. What we talked about today and all of the other attributes on this poster only scratch the surface of who God is. We can't even begin to understand how great God really is. He is so great, there will always be more to learn about God.

In every one of these attributes, God is greater than we can imagine. He is incomprehensible! That means we can never completely understand

all of his love, mercy, holiness, wisdom, or sovereignty. He is beyond all of our understanding!

? Will someone read #8 on the Class Notes? Let's remember this big word and how it describes an even bigger, greater God than we can imagine! Assign a reader. Incomprehensible. Have students complete #8.

Slide #12

#### We Must Worship the True God

Before we end this wonderful lesson on God, I want to talk about why we need to know these things about him.

**?** Why is it important that we learn who God is from his Word? *Allow discussion.* 

#### Exodus 20:2-3

Slide #13

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to Exodus; it's the second book of the Bible. Who will read Exodus 20:2–3? Assign a reader.
- **?** Who is speaking in these verses? Exodus 20:2. The Lord.
  - This is the Lord speaking to the Israelites. He was reminding them that he brought them out of Egypt—out of slavery!
- **?** What was God's command to these people? Look in Exodus 20:3. You shall have no other gods before me.

God commanded that the people love and serve only him. He is the only true God! If anyone worships anything else, God will have to judge him. God deserves all honor and glory! God commanded that the people have no false gods!

But, if we are not careful to study who the true God is, to learn about his attributes, and to understand that he is incomprehensible in all his ways, we may be led to worship false gods, or even make up our own false gods.

I don't mean statues made of gold. I mean a false god we might make up in our heads, like the false ideas we talked about at the beginning of the lesson—a "Santa Claus" god who would never punish sin or a "Mean Judge" god who never shows mercy to sinners. Maybe we would make up a false god who couldn't be in control of everything because we can't understand why bad things happen. Or maybe it is a false god who couldn't have the power to speak the universe into existence because people tell us this can't be how it happened.

Sometimes it is hard to even imagine who God is. He truly is incomprehensible. And that is why we must turn to his Word so we can understand him better. That is where we will get a glimpse into his amazing power, glory, and might! If we study who God is from the Bible, it would be a lot harder for us to make up a false god in our minds—a god who could never be the Creator God we know and worship.

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? Let's finish our Class Notes. Will someone read #9? Assign a reader. False. Have students complete #9.

#### **Application**



Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and the Attributes of God Poster. God is not like anyone else—he is incomprehensible! His attributes are amazing, and we can only begin to know God by studying his Word—the Bible.

Many people want to talk about God's love, but they don't talk about any of his other attributes. You may hear people say God wants to give you whatever you want because he loves you. This is like the "Genie" idea of God. God does love his children, and he wants what is best for us. He knows what we really need, which is often different from what we think we need. And he has shown us the most amazing love.

? What did God do to show us how much he loves us? Go back to #3 on your Class Notes. The answer is in Romans 5:8. He sent Jesus to die for sinners.

That is the most perfect act of love. Jesus was perfect. He never sinned not even once. He did not deserve to die. He did not deserve God's punishment.

But we do deserve it. God would be perfectly right to judge us and send us to hell for our sins because he is holy and just. But, he didn't do that! Instead he showed us his love and mercy when Jesus died so that we could be forgiven of our sins and go to heaven.

If we will humble ourselves, repent of our sins—being truly sorry and turning away from sin—and receive Jesus by believing and trusting in him, then the forgiveness and love of God will be ours.

➤ Pass out the Student

to practice the

week.

Take Home Sheets and remind students

memory verse this

# **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Praise God for who he is—our almighty, holy God.
- Thank God for his holy Word, where we can learn of him and Jesus.
- Pray that the students will come to a saving knowledge of God through Jesus Christ and his Word.



#### Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



# We Can Know God Exists

God is the eternal Creator and is clearly seen in the order of the universe.

#### Lesson Focus

God, the only eternal being, makes sense of the entire universe. The order seen in creation points to a Creator who is the one and only true God.

#### Key Passages

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13–15; Romans 1:20–21

#### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Explain that only God can be eternal and exist outside of time.
- Connect the order in the universe to the existence of God.

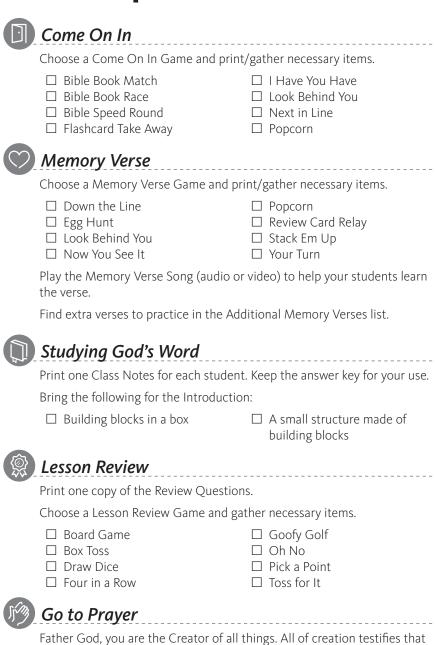
#### Memory Verse

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

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to a saving faith in you.

# **Lesson Preparation**



you are the omnipotent one. Lord, as we study this week, open the hearts

of my students to see your majesty in the wonders of creation. Bring them



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 3.* Game
instructions are
also included in the *Appendix* in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

#### Large Group

Studying God's Word Optional Video Clip Real World Skit Group Prayer

#### **Small Group**

Come On In
Memory Verse
Optional Activity
Lesson Review
Take Home Sheet

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# **Optional Supplements**

#### Hands-On Activities

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- · Real World Skit
  - Students will read a short skit discussing the big bang.
- Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Search

Students will search for words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock to find all the words.

#### Video Clips

Preview the recommended video(s) before class. If appropriate, show to your class and discuss before, during, or after the lesson.

- Backyard Variety (2:38)
- Chameleons (2:04)
- Creator Clearly Seen (4:43)
- Specially Designed by God (6:51)

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You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

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# Prepare to Share

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

"How do I know God exists?" This is a question that has been and will be debated as long as sinners occupy the earth. First of all, as Christians who walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), we do not need to prove the existence of God. The Bible says that we accept God by faith—that we believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6). Because the Bible is our basis for all we believe, we believe in God as presented in the Bible.

God's Word begins with the proclamation that he and he alone existed from eternity past: "In the beginning, God..." (Genesis 1:1). If he had wanted to prove himself to the world in a way our minds could grasp, he could have done that. God saw no need to explain further. Belief in him as the one true God comes by faith and trust in him and his Word.

Genesis 1 continues to describe this God who spoke the entire universe into existence. The order we see in creation—from the stars, solar systems, animal and plant life, to the natural laws of gravity, motion, and thermodynamics—gives evidence of an omnipotent Creator. There is no other explanation. The universe is not a result of random chance. It was created by one who was not created. There had to be someone who never came into being. There had to

be a Creator. God—the one true God—is that Creator, who was and is and is to come (Revelation 4:8).

As we look to the Scriptures, we see that God described himself to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM," which essentially means the one who is and will be (Exodus 3:13–14). The eternal, self-existent nature of God is revealed through his Word and simply assumed. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John records that the Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8). What more do we need? This describes the only holy, omnipotent, omniscient God of the universe—who was and is and always will be. He is not bound by time as we know it. He created time in the beginning (Genesis 1:1).

God in his mercy has also specifically revealed himself through his incredible creation. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). And the Apostle Paul tells us that since the creation of the world, God's invisible attributes have been seen through creation, revealing his eternal power and Godhead—leaving those who do not believe in him without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). God does indeed exist. His existence is confirmed in Scripture and through his creation—and the wrath of God will be revealed from heaven against all who suppress the truth of his existence in unrighteousness.

#### Historical/Apologetics Background

Look around you; what do you see? An amazingly designed universe—from the single cell to the vast and immeasurable solar system. And yet the debate for a Creator of such things rages. We can rest in God's Word, "In the beginning, God . . ." (Genesis 1:1). We know that if something exists, it was somehow created into being. And as Christians we know who that Creator was. But what of folks who state there was no Creator—it all began with a bang, a very "big bang," one that allegedly occurred billions of years ago in one tiny speck of mass and energy, a speck that would one day become everything we see today?

This story of the big bang originated with an attempt to completely discount the Bible and its account of our Creator God. Christians who buy into

it need to understand the atheistic beginnings of this secular story and why it cannot be "added" to the biblical account of Genesis 1 without destroying the Bible's integrity.

From a practical standpoint, have you ever blown something up and then observed the pieces reassembling into a complex . . . anything? No, when buildings are demolished, they pretty much end up in a heap of debris with no order or design. And yet, the big bang proposed by some has produced intricate life and more. In fact, this notion claims that out of a random explosion and expansion of matter billions of years ago, life in its complexity and beauty—from the human body to the ant, from the wonder of the solar system to the universe beyond—has been organized

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and arranged into the complex world we live in today by nothing more than random, natural processes.

But, we know that the very existence of design, order, natural laws, and principles in the universe demands that there was a Creator—an organizer, a designer—not a big bang. That Creator can only be the one true Creator God. The only one who has declared himself the Creator (Genesis 1), and the only one who proclaims that he himself is sustaining the universe—personally maintaining life and upholding all things by the word of his power (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). This Creator, our God, is truly worthy to receive glory and honor and power—for he created all things, and by his will they exist and were created (Revelation 4:11)!

However, from the very beginning, people have wanted to be their own gods—and Satan is the primary encourager of this. The God of the Bible demands obedience, reverence, and accountability. The serpent asked Adam and Eve, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1). Adam and Eve listened to the serpent, disregarding God's Word, and sin, deceit, pride, evil, hatred, death, and suffering entered the world.

God will one day judge the sin of the world in righteousness (Psalm 96:13). Those who believe God's Word know this to be true. However, many doubt the very existence of God and do not fear his judgment. These atheists boldly turn from the greatest commandment—"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3)—to pursue the imaginings of their own minds.

In many ways, our culture has been shaped by these people who claim there is no God. We'll look at a few of them here.

Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, although not a proclaimed atheist, was influenced immensely by his atheist grandfather Erasmus. Darwin's idea of evolution has changed the course of human history and is one of the greatest attacks on the Word of God in our modern time.

Karl Marx, referred to by some as the greatest thinker in all of history, once stated that religion is the opiate of the masses—impotence of the human mind to deal with occurrences it cannot understand.

Sigmund Freud, considered by some as psychology's most famous figure, believed that religion was nothing more than an expression of underlying psychological neuroses and distress.

More recently, Madalyn Murray O'Hair was instrumental in removing prayer from the public schools in 1963. She believed that religion has caused more misery to all of mankind in every stage of human history than any other single idea.

And today we have those who are referred to as the "new atheists"—men such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens (now deceased)—and they are aggressively going after your children, your liberties, and your faith! Dawkins, a scientist and an active leader in this movement, believes that one of the things wrong with religion is that it teaches us to be satisfied with answers which are not answers at all. These men and others have accused Christians of "child abuse" for teaching their children the Bible and passing on their faith.

The worldview of these atheists is dangerous to our culture. However, as Christians we are confident in the promises of the Word of God. We must not lose heart. We must be committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and enthused about keeping God on his throne as Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all (Colossians 1:17). God has assured us that his Word is settled forever and his faithfulness will endure to all generations (Psalm 119:89–90).

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### Slide #1

Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



### Memory Verse

Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.



### Studying God's Word

### Introduction

Slides #3-4

Refer to previous Lesson Theme Posters. Our exploration continues! God's Word should always be our foundation. It is where we should turn to find answers to the questions we have every day in life. The Bible can change us if we read it regularly. It can bring joy, change our soul, and make us wise! As we get to know the Word of God, it will become worth even more to us than precious gold.

- **?** Why can we trust the Bible? Who is the Bible about? Allow discussion. God.
- ? And why should that matter to us? What is God like? Allow discussion.

  Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Our God is all these things and so much more. We talked about God being incomprehensible.
- Slide #5
- **?** What does that word incomprehensible mean? Allow discussion.

# Incomprehensible: greater than we can imagine

God is greater than anything we can imagine. We can never completely understand all of his love, mercy, holiness, wisdom, or sovereignty because he is so great! But God has given us his Word so we can start to learn about these things as we get to know who he is. So let's continue exploring the Bible today and see what more we can find out about God.

- **?** Have you ever wondered where the world came from? How do you think the world got here? Allow discussion. Listen carefully to what the students have heard.
- **?** A lot of people have ideas about where the world came from. One very popular idea is called the big bang theory. How many of you have ever heard of the big bang? *Show of hands*.

The big bang is an idea that says billions of years ago there was a huge explosion in space, and all the parts and pieces from that explosion came together to form the world over billions of years.

Bring out building blocks in the box. Let's try that. Of course, we're not going to blow anything up, but we'll use these blocks to see if this theory might work. I need a volunteer to help me. Choose a volunteer to come stand beside you.

In this box I have a bunch of building blocks. I want you to create something from them just by dumping them onto the floor, like an explosion, and we'll see what happens. Have student shake the box and dump the blocks onto the floor without touching them.

- **?** What did you build? What is it supposed to be? Allow answers from volunteer. If time allows, have another student try to build something in the same way.
- **?** I want to show you something. Show building you made from blocks before class. Can you tell what it is? Allow answers.
- **?** Where do you think it came from? Did it just appear? Did it come from an explosion? *Allow discussion*.
  - Obviously it didn't just appear here all by itself. Someone had to build it, right?
- **?** So do you think the whole world and everything in it could have come from an explosion like the big bang? *Allow discussion*.
  - When we look at creation all around us, even at this building I made with the blocks, you know someone had to have made it. It couldn't have just appeared or put itself together after an explosion. But many people believe that the big bang started the world.
- **?** So where can we find out the TRUTH about how the world was made? Hold up your Bible. The Bible.

➤ Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

### God Is Eternal

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Does anyone know the first four words in the whole Bible? What book of the Bible would that be in? Go ahead and take a look. Genesis.
- **?** And what are the first four words? "In the beginning, God."

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. That's correct. These are the first words in the first verse of the first chapter of the first book of the first Testament in the Bible! Please turn to that verse in your Bibles.

Slide #6

#### **Genesis 1:1**

Slide #7

- **?** Will someone read Genesis 1:1 for us? Assign a reader.
  - These very first words of the Bible tell about the very first hours of the world's history. Let's examine them more closely.

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- **?** Who was there in the beginning? God. Some may say the Trinity—which is true. God is three in one.
- **?** Why is God the only one there? Allow answers. Because God has always existed, and he hadn't created anything yet.
  - God was the only one there. This is the beginning of time as we know it. This is when God first started to create the universe by the power of his voice. And it was only about 6,000 years ago.
- **?** So, what was before this beginning? What existed before anything was created? *God*.

Before this—before Genesis 1:1—God was. He always was. God is eternal. That means he has always existed, and he will always exist. He is the only eternal being. The Bible tells us, "In the beginning, God . . ." and that was it. God is. God always was. God always will be. He is eternal.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Let's read the definition of eternal together from the Attributes of God Poster. Always was and always will be.

- **?** Look at your Class Notes. Today we have a crossword puzzle. Will someone read #1 for us? What word from the word bank completes that sentence? You'll write that word in the puzzle. Assign a reader. Beginning. Have students complete #1.
  - God was in the beginning! God is eternal! He is not bound by time in any way. He created time, but he existed before he created it. So we could say he exists outside of time as we know it.
- **?** Someone read #2 from the Class Notes. What is this attribute? Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #2.

This can be very confusing, I know. But remember, when we talked about God's attributes, we said he was incomprehensible! He is beyond our understanding. We can't figure him out. He is greater than anything we can imagine!

### God Is Outside of Time

Let's move to the next book (after Genesis) in the Bible, Exodus. We're going to read a little about Moses. God had sent Moses to lead his people out of Egypt and into the promised land—a beautiful country God had prepared for them.

However, Moses was afraid to lead the people as God told him to do. Moses didn't think the people would listen to him or want him to be in charge. God assured Moses that he would be with him. But Moses still had his doubts. Let's read what Moses asked God and how God answered him.



- **?** Find Exodus 3:13–15. Will someone read that for us? When everyone finds it, have one or more students read the passage.
- **?** What did Moses ask God? What shall I say to the people of Israel? Who should I say sent me? What is your name?
- **?** What is God's answer in Exodus 3:14? He said I AM WHO I AM and I AM has sent me to you.

Right. God said his name was I AM. When God said this, he was saying that he is the one who was and is and always will be. God was telling Moses that he is eternal—he has always existed.

The Bible is clear. God is the eternal one—the one who always was, the great I AM. Something or someone had to be here before anything else came to be. Do you see that? There had to be someone who never had a beginning—someone who was there when creation began. Someone who commanded everything to be! That someone is the one and only true God. He is God of creation, he is the God of Moses, and he is the same God we worship today. He always was, and he always will be. God exists! He is the Creator of absolutely everything—including time! And he is not bound by time as we know it because he always has been.

? Will someone read #3 on the Class Notes? What did God say to Moses? Assign a reader. I AM. Have students complete #3.

Slide #12

### Creation Reveals God's Existence

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Now turn to Romans 1:20–21. It's in the New Testament. Romans is an epistle, or letter, that was written by the Apostle Paul. This is something God wanted Paul to write to people who said they didn't believe in God. Let's see what God had to say to them.

► Slides #13–14

#### Romans 1:20-21

Let's read Romans 1:20–21. Assign readers.

- ? Now who did I say Paul was talking about in this part of his letter? People who did not believe in God.
- **?** Look carefully at verse 20. What are clearly seen? His invisible attributes.
- Whose invisible attributes? God's.
- Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What are some of those invisible attributes? Look at the poster for help. Briefly review some of the attributes.

These are "invisible attributes." We don't see them. And we don't see God. But we know that God exists, and we know that these attributes describe him because of what we read in the Bible.

**?** So, look again at Romans 1:20. How long have God's invisible attributes been clearly seen? *Since the creation of the world.* 

**?** Before moving on, let's go back to the Class Notes. Will someone read #4? What kind of attributes are these? Assign a reader. Invisible. Have students complete #4.

- **?** And what about #5? How long have God's attributes been clearly seen? Assign a reader. Creation. Have students complete #5.
- ? Now look back at Romans 1:20. What can be understood by looking at the things that are made—or by creation? God; his eternal power; his divine nature.
  When Scripture refers to God's divine nature, that is talking about the attributes of God.
- ? So, what does this verse say about all those people who say there is no God? It is at the very end of Romans 1:20. They are without excuse.
- ? They are without excuse! Why? Look at the beginning of Romans 1:21. Did these people know God? Yes.
- **?** How do they know God? What could they see around them? *Romans 1:20. God's attributes in creation.*
- ? Creation clearly shows us that there is a God. Go to #6 on the Class Notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? Assign a reader. Excuse. Have students complete #6.
- ? They know who God is because of what God made—God tells us that. But how did these people act toward God? The answer is in Romans 1:21. There are four different things they did. Who can answer one? They did not honor him as God.
- **?** And another? They did not give thanks to him.
- **?** What about their thoughts? What does this say about them? Their thoughts were futile.
  - Yes. Their thoughts were futile. This means their thoughts had no purpose. They made no sense because God was not a part of them. They did not believe in God.
- **?** And the last one? What is that? It is about their hearts. Their foolish hearts were darkened.
- **?** Why would God call them foolish and dark? Allow discussion.
  - They are foolish because God's creation makes it clear that there is a God! That is the only way it could have come to be. And everyone can see that! But even though they see it, they still deny God and his truth—they choose not to believe it. They know better but refuse to admit it.
- **?** Look at your Class Notes again. What is the answer to #7? Take a look at Romans 1:21 for help. Assign a reader. Honor. Have students complete #7.

Slide #16

Slide #15

Slide #17

**?** And what about #8? Will someone read that? Assign a reader. Foolish. Have students complete #8.

There is a very important lesson here in just these two verses! Even back when Paul wrote this letter—and that was nearly 2,000 years ago—people were claiming that there was no God.

Creation shows us God's eternal power and his divine nature in a big way. Because of the very universe that God created, we know that there has to be a Creator.

**?** Have you ever noticed how orderly and perfect the universe is? Yes/no.

Think about it. The stars, solar system, plants, animals, the human body—everything is designed to do what it is supposed to do. It is all perfectly organized and designed. Color, variety, and even the smallest detail all point to an eternal God with a plan and the power to make it all perfectly. In Romans 1:20–21, God is saying that when we look at all of his creation we must think of him, our Creator. If people say they don't believe in God, they are denying what they know just by looking around them.

**?** Someone read #9 on the Class Notes. What does creation show us? Assign a reader. Creator. Have students complete #9.

Slide #18

**?** People who refuse to believe that there is a God came up with the big bang theory. But we saw from our blocks that order doesn't come from disorder like an explosion. The big bang is nothing but a lie. And people who teach this want to turn us away from God and his truth.

When we look around and see the universe and everything designed in a special way to do what it is supposed to do, we need to remember that only God could have created it. There is no way it was the result of a big bang. And that is what God's Word tells us in Genesis 1 and in Romans 1. We know that God exists because of the amazing universe that only he could have created!

**?** Go to #10 on the Class Notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #10.

### **Application**

? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God was in the beginning—before he created anything. God is the only eternal being, and he is not bound by time. God was not created by anyone or anything. God is the Creator of all and has always existed. When we look at the order in the entire universe, we can see that there had to be someone who is eternal—and that is the one who created it all.

Slide #19

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People who do not believe in God or that he created the universe often believe the lie called the big bang theory. It says a powerful explosion

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put everything in the universe together, over billions of years, into perfect order. But this is nonsense! Explosions never put things together; they always break things apart. It's like when we dumped the blocks out of the box; nothing was created—it just made a mess!

So, we need to be ready with an answer if people start to tell us about the big bang theory. They teach it to try to convince others that God's Word is not true! But we know that God's amazing divine nature—his attributes—are clear to everyone through his creation.

We need to tell people the truth—that God is our Creator. There had to be someone who always was so he could begin to create. There had to be someone who didn't have any beginning because that is the one who began time as we know it. And that someone is God. He alone is the great I AM.



### **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for his creation that proclaims his glory and attributes.
- Pray that the Lord will give us courage to stand against the false theories of man that deny God's existence.



### **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

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# The Trinity

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

#### Lesson Focus

The Trinity refers to one God in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three Persons of the Trinity were present at creation.

### Key Passages

Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:1-5, 1:14; Matthew 3:16-17

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

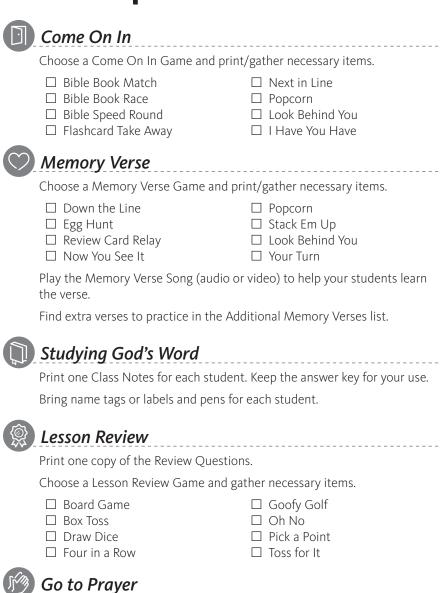
- Name the three Persons of the Trinity.
- Recognize that all three Persons of the Trinity were present at creation.

### Memory Verse

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

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### **Lesson Preparation**





Father God, what a mystery you are. The Trinity—three Persons in one— Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Please give me wisdom, Father, to present this amazing truth in such a way that the students in my class will grow in their understanding of who you are. Lead them to a knowledge that will bring them to worship you as only you deserve.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under Lesson 4. Game instructions are also included in the Appendix in the back of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small

#### Large Group

group format:

Studying God's Word **Group Prayer** 

### **Small Group**

Come On In Memory Verse **Optional Activity** Lesson Review Take Home Sheet

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### **Optional Supplements**

### **Hands-On Activities**

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Scramble

Students will unscramble words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock.

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You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

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### **Prepare to Share**

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The word *Trinity* is not found in Scripture, but 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 and/or explain. Let's consider a few things.

There is only one God. "I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God" (Isaiah 45:5). See also Isaiah 46:9; Galatians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 8:5–6.

All three persons of the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are called God. In *Christ* all the

### Historical/Apologetics Background

The Bible, while not using the term *Trinity*, plainly teaches that while there is but one true God, he consists of three separate yet equal persons—and all were present at creation. In fact, the term *Trinity* did not become a formal doctrine of the church, by name, until the fourth century. This fact has led to numerous debates over the origin of this word and its validity as a doctrine of Scripture.

Many teachers in the history of Christianity have twisted the concept of the Trinity. To misunderstand the nature and character of God is a serious problem. When this misunderstanding leads to a compromise in the true understanding of the gospel, the mistake can rightly be called a heresy—a doctrine that leads to damnation.

A brief look at some of the historical heresies built around the doctrine of the Trinity follows. In all cases they deny either the oneness of God, the distinction between the persons of the Trinity, or the full deity of one or more persons of the Godhead.

**Modalism**: This idea suggests that God acts in three different "modes" but is only one person. God appeared as the "Father" in the Old Testament, as "Jesus" in the earthly ministry, and as the "Spirit" in the present age. Presently, some Pentecostal groups hold to Modalism.

fullness of deity dwells bodily (Colossians 2:9). The *Holy Spirit* and *God* are both referred to as God (Acts 5:3–4).

All three persons of the Trinity are eternal. *God* is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2). The throne of *the Son* is forever and ever (Hebrews 1:8). *The Spirit*, too, is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).

All three persons of the Trinity are Creator. Genesis 1:1–3 clearly references that *God* and the *Spirit of God* were present at creation. John 1:1–5 brings *Christ*—the second person of the Trinity—into the picture at creation. He was in the beginning with God, and all things were made through him. Colossians 1:15–17 again confirms that *Jesus Christ* is the firstborn over all of creation. And by him all things were created. This passage also reiterates the eternality of Christ.

**Arianism**: Named for the fourth-century teacher Arius, this view teaches that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were created by God the Father. This idea was condemned at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

**Adoptionism**: This view teaches that Jesus was an ordinary man until, at his baptism, he was adopted by the Father and given supernatural powers and the status of "Son of God." Some Unitarians hold this view today.

**Unitarianism**: This view holds that there is a single God with no distinct persons. Whether Jesus or the Father is God varies, but many present-day Unitarians reject the pre-existence of Jesus, insisting that he began to exist at the virgin birth.

Church councils were called to deal with mutations of the truth that were being spread in the early church. As a result, the doctrine of the Trinity was codified in the Nicene Creed in 325, and later in the Athanasian Creed. Both of these creeds are the basis of an orthodox understanding of the relationships within the Trinity.

Even today we see how misunderstanding the Trinity can skew the gospel by denying the biblical understanding of atonement, justice, and the effect of Christ's work on the cross.

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We often hear people speak of God: God is good; God will answer our prayers; God is in control; God has a plan. Yet many of these same people seldom speak the name of Jesus Christ—and may not even believe that salvation comes through him alone. They deny and fail to understand the important doctrine of the Trinity—three persons in one God.

These people discount the significance of who Jesus is—that he is 100% fully God and 100% fully man. Specifically, there are many who claim that Jesus Christ was merely a man—a prophet; the first created being; a sinless, good person—but not God in human flesh. The significance of the doctrine of the Trinity eludes them.

And yet, the New Testament is abundantly clear that Jesus is God. Jesus claimed to be one with the Father (John 10:30–33); he used the title of "I AM" from the Old Testament (John 8:23, 8:58); he demonstrated his power over nature, disease, demons, and death (Matthew 8); and he forgave sins—something only God can do (Mark 2:1–11).

Upon seeing the resurrected Christ, Thomas declared, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), and Jesus did not rebuke him but affirmed him for saying so. And finally, the Jewish leaders recognized Jesus' claims to deity and tried to stone him for it (John

5:18, 8:59); ultimately they had him crucified for supposed blasphemy.

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 human 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).

Many discussions surround this important doctrine and can cause division in the church. This is a mysterious doctrine that cannot be comprehended by the human mind. We know that God has revealed the primary truths of the Trinity in his Word. With that in mind, we must be willing to allow that there are secret things that belong to the Lord our God, which have not been revealed (Deuteronomy 29:29).

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### Slide #1

Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

### Slide #2

➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



### Studying God's Word

### Introduction

Refer to Lessons 1–3 Theme Posters. We've been talking about the Bible. God's Word can change us if we allow it to be our foundation in life. In Lesson 2, we learned that the Bible is God's very Word to us! Although God is incomprehensible—greater than we can imagine—the Bible tells us enough about him that we know we can trust him. And in Lesson 3, we know God exists because there had to be someone who was here in the beginning who spoke everything into existence. As we look around at the beauty and order in creation, we know in our hearts and minds that there is a God—an amazing Creator!

Pass out pens and a name tag/label to each student. On your name tag, I want you to write three names you go by. My given name is \_\_\_\_\_\_ (say your name), but I also go by \_\_\_\_\_\_ (fill in with appropriate name such as Mom, Husband, Teacher, Daughter/Son). Maybe you have a fun nickname your friends or family call you, or maybe you are known by a position you play in sports (goalie) or an instrument you play (pianist). Allow students to write names on their tags and put them on.

Let's hear some of the names you go by. Allow students to share their names.

**?** Even though we sometimes go by more than one name, that doesn't mean we are more than one person, does it? *No!* 

Today we are going to be talking about one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity. Unlike each of us with our name tag, each Person in the Trinity is unique and distinct.

It's important to understand that there is ONE God consisting of three Persons. There are NOT three Gods. But the three Persons of the Trinity are also not just three roles or parts of God. We came up with three names for ourselves, but the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are unique Persons.

Slides #3−5

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### The Father and the Holy Spirit Are God

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The Trinity is something that is difficult even for adults to understand, and any human analogy is going to fall short of explaining the Trinity. But we want to learn about the Trinity because it is in the Bible.

Slide #6

➤ Pass out the Class

Notes to the students.

I like to think of the Trinity like this: God in heaven is our Father. When God came to be born on the earth, he was Jesus, the Son. After Jesus left the earth, he sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us see God's truth and obey God.

? We are going to put that on the Class Notes under the word "God." Look at #1. What is another name for God in heaven? Father. Have students complete #1.



- **?** And what about #2 in that first section? Who is God on the earth? *Jesus. Have students complete #2.*
- **?** And #3? Who is God who helps us to see the truth and obey God's law? The Holy Spirit. Have students complete #3.
- ? There are three Persons in one God! God the Father. God the Son. God the Holy Spirit.

#### Genesis 1:1-3



- ? The Trinity is not easy to understand. But we can believe it by faith because the Bible says it is true. Turn to Genesis 1:1–3. Will someone read that? Assign readers.
- ? This passage tells us about the Trinity—although it doesn't use the word "Trinity." There are two Persons of the Trinity in this verse. Who are they? You can find them in the first two verses. *God and the Spirit of God.*
- **?** What is God doing in Genesis 1:1? Creating the heavens and the earth.
- **?** What is the Holy Spirit doing in Genesis 1:2? Hovering over the face of the waters.
- **?** When did this take place? Look at Genesis 1:1. In the beginning.

This is in the very beginning before anything was created and only God existed. But notice we read here that there also was a "Spirit of God." This Spirit of God IS God. And this verse tells us about two of the three Persons of the Trinity.

- **?** What did God do in Genesis 1:3? He said, "Let there be light."
  - That's right. How did that light appear? What did we just read? He spoke it into existence—he created by the power of his Word.
- **?** Yes. This was the beginning when God created the universe. And this tells us two things about God himself. What are they? *God is the Creator, and there is a Spirit of God.*

### Slide #9

As you complete the diagram on the Class Notes, you may want to write the words or even copy the diagram on the board so the students can follow what you are saying and doing.

These verses tell us about two Persons of the Trinity. God the Father spoke, and there was light. And God the Holy Spirit was there also, hovering over the waters.

Let's begin to fill out the diagram on the Class Notes. In the center circle write "God the Creator," and in the circle straight down from that write "Holy Spirit the Creator." Have students complete two circles in the diagram.

That is what we just read in Genesis 1:1–3. God the Father was in the beginning, and God the Holy Spirit was there also. But let's move on and see who else was a part of the beginning of creation.

#### Jesus Is God

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to John 1:1–5. John is the fourth gospel in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, then John.

#### John 1:1-5

These verses tell just a little more about creation and the mystery of the Trinity. *Assign readers*.

- **?** Who wrote this book of the Bible? *John*.
- **?** Who was John? Allow students to answer.

This John was not John the Baptist. This John was one of Jesus' very best friends and one of his apostles. God inspired John to write about Jesus' life in this book. And this book was written not long after Jesus died—about 50 years later.

- **?** There are two Persons mentioned in John 1:1. Take a look. Who are they? *God and the Word.*
- **?** John is talking about something that happened at a certain time. When did this happen? *In the beginning.*
- ? What did John mean by "in the beginning"? Remember what we read in Genesis 1:1? It is the same thing in Genesis and in John. In the beginning means at creation.
- ? Now in John 1:1, who was there in the beginning with God? *The Word.*
- **?** What does it say about the Word? The Word was with God.
- **?** Take a look at your Class Notes. We are moving to the second part, under "The Word." How will you complete #4? Assign a reader. God. Complete #4.
- **?** But what else does John 1:1 say about the Word? Who was the Word? The Word was God.
- ? Look at #5. What is the answer to that? Assign a reader. God. Complete #5. The Word was God? Interesting. Someone read John 1:3–4 again. It tells us about this Word who was God. Assign a reader.



Slide #12

- **?** What was made through the Word? It is in John 1:3. *All things*.
- ? And what was in the Word? That is in John 1:4. Life.
- **?** What was the life? John 1:4. The life was the light of men.
- **?** And where did this light shine? The answer to that is in John 1:5. The light shines in the darkness.

Okay. Let's go back to the Class Notes and write down what we just read about the Word.

- **?** Will someone read #6 for us? How will you answer that? Assign a reader. All. Have students complete #6.
- **?** And what about #7? What was in him? Look in John 1:4. Assign a reader. Life. Complete #7.

Slide #13

- ? Now remember, all of these verses are talking about "the Word." And #8? What was that life? It's also in John 1:4. Assign a reader. Light. Have students complete #8.
- **?** And the life that was light—where did it shine? Someone read #9. Assign a reader. Darkness. Complete #9.
- **?** Let's see. Who is the Word? Does anyone know? Who created all things? Who brings life? Who is the light of men who shines in the darkness? *Jesus, the Son of God.*

#### John 1:14

Slide #14

- **?** Yes! Jesus, the Son of God. Look forward just a bit in your Bibles to John 1:14. It tells us more about the Word—about Jesus! Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** What does this tell us the Word did? The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

He became flesh. Jesus did that, right? He was born as a baby and became a man. And John 1:14 says that Jesus is God's Son. He is full of grace and truth!

**?** So, someone read #10 on the Class Notes. What did the Word become? Assign a reader. Flesh. Have students complete #10.

Slide #15

- **?** And #11? Who is the Word? Assign a reader. Jesus. Complete #11.
- **?** So, John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word." What did John mean by the beginning? *Creation*.

The creation, right! Jesus was the Word, so Jesus was in the very beginning.

**?** Back in Genesis 1:1–3, who else was in the beginning? *God the Father and the Spirit of God.* 

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So, we know only God was in the beginning. He is the Creator. And there could only be one Creator. Genesis tells us it was God and the Spirit of God. John tells us "the Word" was God's Son. And God was his Father.

This can only mean that there is one God—and three Persons in God. And they were all present at creation.

Slide #16

Slide #17

**?** Who were the three Persons present at creation? God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus.

Right! Now look at the diagram on your Class Notes. We already have God the Creator in the center, right? And the Holy Spirit the Creator written in. We saw both of them at creation in Genesis 1:1–3.

Now in John 1 we've seen that God is the Father. And he is Creator. Write "Father the Creator" in the circle on the left. And the Son—Jesus (or the Word)—is the Creator. Put that in the circle on the top right, "Son the Creator." Have students complete final two circles in the diagram.

Even though none of these verses say the word Trinity, we can see that there were three different Persons involved in creation—God the Father, the Spirit of God (or the Holy Spirit), and Jesus, the Son.

There is only one God—we know that. But there are three Persons who make up God. And each of these three Persons was there at creation.

Look at your Class Notes again. Inside each of the three spaces leading to the word "God" I want you to write the word "Is." I want you to remember that even though there are three Persons in the Trinity, they are all the one true God. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. And all three of these Persons who make up one God were present at creation. Have students write "Is" three times in the diagram.

And that is the Trinity! But there is just a little bit more.

### The Baptism of Jesus

There are times in Scripture, like the creation, where all three of the Persons of the Trinity are clearly mentioned and are all there. We are going to read about one of those times now.

#### Matthew 3:16-17

- **?** Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 3:16–17. Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** What had Jesus just done in Matthew 3:16? He had been baptized.
- **?** Someone came down on Jesus in the form of a dove. Who was that? The Spirit of God.
- ? And what was heard from heaven after Jesus was baptized? A voice.

Slides #18–19

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- **?** What did that voice say? This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.
- **?** Whose voice was it that the people heard? *God, the Father.*

That's right. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son." This was God the Father. In these two verses, we see that all three Persons of the Trinity were present at Jesus' baptism. The Son—Jesus—was baptized; the Father's voice—God's voice—was heard from heaven; and the Spirit appeared in the form of a dove.

These are the three Persons of the Trinity. But each of them was doing something different at the same time. They are different Persons. They are each unique. You see, the Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.

To help you remember this, I want you to fill in the last spaces in your diagram. Along the outside of the triangle—on all three sides—write "Is Not." Have students complete the diagram.

Slide #20

**?** Who are the three Persons of the Trinity? The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

There are three Persons, yet they are one God. Look back on your Class Notes at the first three sentences. Remember that when we talk about God in heaven, we mean God the Father. When we talk about God on the earth, we mean Jesus, the Son. And when we talk about the one sent by Jesus to help us obey, we mean God the Holy Spirit. All three of these Persons are God. But all three are different from each other and do different things.

Slide #21

### **Application**

? Did we see the word *Trinity* in any of the verses we read today? *No.* 

That's right. The word *Trinity* is not used in the Bible. But, we did see that all three Persons are mentioned in God's Word.

? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God is made up of three different Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all the one true God. But they each have a different role in God's plan, and they each do different things.

Slide #22

The Trinity can't really be explained because God is not like anything in the world. People can't begin to understand how great God is!

Some people might wonder about the Trinity because they can't figure it out. It doesn't make sense if you don't believe God's Word and if you don't trust him. But we do trust God and his Word. We know his Word is true—God cannot lie. And we have faith that God is three Persons in one great God—just like the Bible teaches.

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### **Group Prayer Time**

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week. Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Praise God that he exists as our all-powerful God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Thank God that he created the world through his great power.



### Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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## God's Word Guides Us

The Bible is God's Word, and we must study it carefully.

#### Lesson Focus

The Bible is God's Word. We study it by observing the text and asking the questions: who, what, when, where, and why. The Bible is profitable for teaching, reproving, correcting, and training in righteousness.

### Key Passages

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1:1-2, 2:9

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Ask the right questions while studying the Bible.
- Recognize the importance of careful study of the Bible.

### Memory Verse

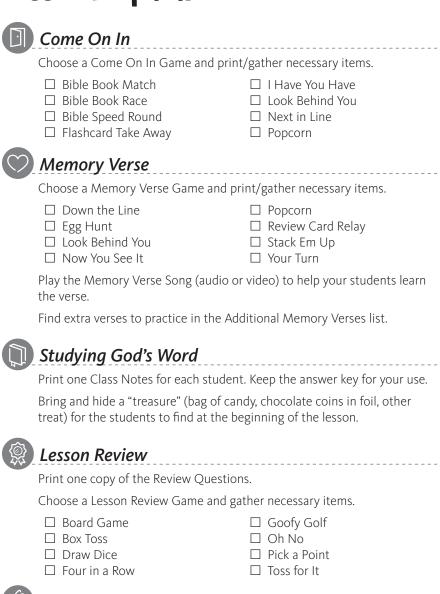
**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

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Go to Prayer

application.

### **Lesson Preparation**



Father, thank you for the precious treasure of your Word. Use your Word to lead my class to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior through faith.

Give me enthusiasm for this lesson and allow that enthusiasm to ignite in

the hearts of these students to lead them to a lifetime of Bible study and



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 5*. Game
instructions are
also included in the *Appendix* in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

### Large Group

Studying God's Word Group Prayer

### **Small Group**

Come On In Memory Verse Optional Activity Lesson Review Take Home Sheet

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### **Optional Supplements**

### **Hands-On Activities**

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- God Guides Footprint
  - Students will trace and decorate their footprint as a reminder that God's Word will guide them.
- Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Search

Students will search for words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock to find all the words.

PowerPoint
You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching. $ \\$

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### Prepare to Share

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

God has revealed himself to us in the words of the Bible—his only written revelation to man. We are called to study diligently what has been revealed and apply it to the way we live our lives. Within the pages of Scripture, we find many exhortations to use what God has revealed in a way that honors him. We also know that as we trust in the Lord with all our heart, and do not lean on our own understanding, he will direct our steps through the wisdom of his Holy Word (Proverbs 3:5–6).

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul stated, "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is the inspired ("breathed out") Word of God, transmitted not by the will of man, but through holy men of God as they were directed by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20–21). These men, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote without error all that God instructed. It is the only inerrant, infallible Word of God, and we can trust it to guide us in all things.

How does it guide us? Paul tells us that it is useful for doctrine—teaching Christian truth;

### Historical/Apologetics Background

Many people chide Christians for reading the Bible literally. The Bible contains many different types of literature, but all of them communicate God's truth to us. When we say we take the Bible literally, we really mean that we take it in the sense that it was written. Some sections of Scripture are meant to be read as historical accounts, while others are poetic.

The process of understanding what Scripture says is called *hermeneutics*—the process of trying to understand what the Bible means. Learning proper hermeneutics opens a whole new world of truth found in the Bible. There are many different schools of biblical interpretation. These range from liberal approaches (mystical interpretation, naturalistic interpretation, etc.) to the more conservative approach we'll be using (where ideas are considered in context and Scripture is used to interpret Scripture). This second, more conservative method may

reproof—telling us when we are wrong; correction—showing us how to correct our wrong actions; and training in righteousness—teaching us how to obey God (2 Timothy 3:16–17). These are the general guidelines—they are expounded on again and again throughout the Bible.

God has spoken to reveal his plan for history, his purpose for mankind, and his will for us. More than 2,000 times the Old Testament states, "Thus says the Lord," or something similar, claiming that God himself is the author. In the New Testament we observe that Jesus preached the Word of God (Luke 5:1), the early church preached the Word of God (Acts 4:31), the Word of God was preached to the Gentiles (Acts 11:1), and Paul preached the Word of God throughout all of his missionary journeys (Acts 13:5, 18:11, 19:10).

The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), given to us by God himself—to teach us the principles of our faith, to reveal our sin, to show us how to deal with sin, to instruct us how to live in a manner that pleases him, and ultimately, to reveal to us how we can be redeemed into everlasting life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

be new to you. It is often referred to as the grammatical-historical method of interpretation because it takes into account the grammar and context of the passage as well as the historical and cultural setting of the author and the original hearers. We will call it the inductive Bible study method.

As we seek to understand what God has said, we should not import our own ideas into Scripture but rather allow Scripture to inform and evaluate our ideas. Drawing ideas out of the text is called *exegesis* (*ex*- meaning "out of"), while adding our ideas into the text is called *eisegesis* (*eis*- meaning "into").

Take Genesis 1 for example. If we simply read that chapter as it is plainly written, we would conclude that God created the universe in six normal days—an accurate exegesis. On the other hand, if we consider that same text by starting with a belief in evolutionary processes occurring over millions of years, we might be tempted instead to interpret those "days" as

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long ages. In that case, we would engage in eisegesis since we imported the idea of long ages into the text—a practice which can lead to the dangers of compromise and distorted conclusions.

In order to properly exegete a passage, we include three essential components in an inductive Bible study: observation, interpretation, and application. These steps can be subdivided in various ways, but we will stick to three basic parts to teach the process.

To **observe**, we simply ask who, what, when, where, why, and how questions about the study passage. For example, who is the author writing to? What words are repeated or emphasized in the passage? When was this written? Where is the event taking place? What type of literature is being used (history, poetry, parable, etc.)? What is the main point of the passage?

By taking time to observe the text, we become familiar with the important words, commands, and main themes that are present. Once we are familiar with the passage, we are ready to interpret what we have read.

To **interpret**, we look at the passage in light of what the rest of the Bible has to say on the same topic. We may identify cross-references, cultural considerations, specific word meanings, context, commentaries, or parallel passages that tell of the

same account or provide the same idea. We should be careful during the interpretation stage because there is always the danger of trying to read our own ideas into the text.

After we have observed what the text says and interpreted the key ideas, the next step is to **apply** the Word to daily life. Scripture is full of God's commands to believers to apply what he has communicated—we are to be doers of the Word, not just hearers (James 1:21–24).

Ultimately, Scripture is to be the source of truth in our lives. Evangelical tradition is built on the belief that every Christian can read and understand God's Word. The fancy term for this idea is the *perspicuity of Scripture*. The Reformers fought to make the Bible available in the language of the people so all could personally read, study, and learn from it. This was highly condemned at the time, and many lost their lives in the process of defending the truth that God's Word is for everyone.

Having the Word of God so available is a privilege that many in the world still do not have. As Christians we should be grateful for our Bibles and take advantage of its availability, while being diligent to read, study, and handle the Word carefully as we use it to direct our lives and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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### Slide #1

 After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.



Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

### Slide #2

➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



### Studying God's Word

### Introduction

Refer to Lesson 2 Theme Poster. The Bible is God's true Word to us! It tells us a lot about God. God is incomprehensible. And many of the things we learn are amazing and could be hard to believe without faith. He is awesome and greater than we can imagine.

Refer to Lesson 4 Theme Poster. We talked about one of those truths in God's Word that is very difficult to understand—the Trinity. God is three Persons in one—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Refer to your Bible. Even though there is a lot in the Bible that we may not understand right now, that doesn't mean we shouldn't study God's Word. This book is actually the most important book you will EVER study!

Before class, hide the "treasure" somewhere challenging in the classroom or in another room/area for the students to find. The verses in the Bible are like hidden treasure! Sometimes we have to ask questions to discover their meaning. I've hidden a treasure for you as a class to find. Before you go searching, you have 20 questions you can ask me to help you know where I hid it. I can only answer "yes" or "no" to your questions, so you can't ask, "Where is the treasure hidden?" But you can ask things like "Is the treasure big or small? Hidden in this room?" I'll keep track of your questions. When you reach 20 or when you think you know where it's hidden, I'll choose two students to go get it. Ready? Allow students to ask yes/no questions. Send students to find treasure and let them share it while you continue with the lesson.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Today we are going to talk a little about why it is important to study the Bible and how to do it in a way that will help us understand it correctly.

### Slides #3−4

➤ Before class, hide the "treasure" somewhere challenging in the classroom or in another room/area of the church.



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### Five Questions Help Us Study

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to 2 Timothy 1. This is a book in the New Testament and one of the Apostle Paul's letters.

➤ Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

Before we read, I want you to know that it is important to read God's Word, but it is also very important to study it! That sounds like work, but it really isn't that hard. The simplest way to understand what you read is to ask five quick questions.

Write the questions on the board as you introduce them. Those questions are who, what, when, where, and why.

Slide #6

Take a look at the top of your Class Notes. I want you to write those five questions there so you can remember them—and use them to help you study better! Have students fill in the five questions.

#### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Slide #7 Slide #7

**?** Will someone read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 from the Class Notes? Assign a reader.

Refer to the questions on the board. So, sometimes when we answer these questions we need to look at some other verses, besides what we just read. That is true with these two verses. You'll see what I mean as we go on.

#### 2 Timothy 1:1

Slide #8

? The first question is who wrote this letter? To find the answer to this first question, you need to look at 2 Timothy 1:1. Take a look at that in your Bibles and tell me who wrote this book. *The Apostle Paul*.

Good. Now look on your Class Notes and complete #1. Paul.

#### 2 Timothy 1:2

Slide #9

? Now, who did Paul write this letter to? You will have to look in 2 Timothy 1:2. *Timothy*.

Right! You can complete #2 on your Class Notes. Timothy.

#### 2 Timothy 3:16

Slide #10

**?** So, what was Paul writing to Timothy about? Now you can look at 2 Timothy 3:16 on the Class Notes. *Scripture*.

Okay. Write that in #3 on your Class Notes. Scripture.

#### 2 Timothy 2:9

Slide #11

- ? Where was Paul while he wrote this letter? You have to look in 2 Timothy 2:9. This verse gives us a clue. Will someone read that? Assign a reader.
- ? Paul says he was suffering in chains as a criminal. So, where do you think he was? Where would he be bound with chains and suffer like a criminal? *Allow discussion*.

Paul was in prison! He was writing to Timothy while he was a prisoner in Rome. Sometimes you have to search and be like a detective to answer these simple questions. But doing that really does help us understand God's Word better.

**?** So how will you answer #4 on your Class Notes? Where was Paul? Assign a reader. Prison. Have students complete #4.

### Slide #12

#### 2 Timothy 3:17

- **?** Let's ask another question. Why was Paul writing to Timothy from prison about God's Word? That answer is in 2 Timothy 3:17. Look at that again on your Class Notes. *Allow discussion*.
  - Paul wanted to encourage Timothy. Timothy was a man of God. And Paul wanted him to be equipped, or prepared, to do good works for the Lord.
- **?** Go ahead and complete #5 on the Class Notes. Why was Paul writing to Timothy about the Scriptures? Assign a reader. Prepare. Complete #5.
  - Good job! But there is still more we can learn from these verses.

### God's Word Is Profitable

**?** When we read about Scripture in the Bible, it is referring to God's Word. Look again at 2 Timothy 3:16 on your Class Notes. Where does Scripture come from? *Allow discussion*.

Scripture, the Bible, is breathed out by God himself. That means that the Bible is given by inspiration of God. We don't hear "breathed out" very often. I can't breathe out my influence onto other people. But God can! And that is exactly what he did! He used the power of his Holy Spirit to guide the minds of the writers so they could write what he wanted them to write. This makes the Bible different from every other book on earth because it came from God.

Go back to your Class Notes. I want you to circle *breathed out* in 2 Timothy 3:16. *Have students circle the words*.

- **?** Who can tell us what inspiriation means in #6? Assign a reader. Breathed. Complete #6.
- **?** So Scripture is inspired by God. What does Paul say next in 2 Timothy 3:16 about Scripture? *It is profitable*.

*Profitable* means helpful. Paul is saying that Scripture—God's Word—can help us.

Circle the word *profitable* in the verse on your Class Notes. *Have students circle the word.* 



**?** So what is the answer to #7 on your Class Notes? What does profitable mean? Choose a reader. Helpful. Complete #7.

Let's keep going! There is still a lot to learn from these verses. We know that God inspired Scripture to be helpful—or profitable. Now, there are four things listed that explain how God's Word can help us.

**?** They are in the same verses on our Class Notes! Can you find those four things and circle them? *Teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness.* Have students circle each answer.

Slide #14

These words tell us why the Bible is still very meaningful today, even after thousands of years. But since we don't use these phrases that often, we're going to figure out what they mean.

**?** Teaching refers to learning the truths in the Bible. A word for teaching God's truths is *doctrine*. How many of you have heard the word doctrine before? *Show of hands*.

We'll use doctrine to help us remember that Scripture helps us learn God's truth. We learn the truth by reading and studying the Bible.

Our next word is *reproof*. God uses the Bible to show us when we do wrong things, when we disobey God and sin against him. That is what this verse means by reproof.

- **?** Look at #8 on your Class Notes. What word will finish that sentence? Assign a reader. Truths. Complete #8.
- ? Who will read #9? What does reproof mean? Assign a reader. Sin. Complete #9.

Now we move on to *correction*. You probably know what that means. Once we have been reproved for our sin and we understand what we're doing wrong, we need to be corrected. God's Word offers correction to us when we have sinned. His Word helps us to change our ways and turn away from our sin.

The last one is *training in righteousness*. That means the Scriptures teach us how to obey God and do what is right. God's Word is full of instruction. It helps us live lives that will honor and glorify God.

- **?** Will someone read #10? What is the answer there? Assign a reader. Away. Complete #10.
- **?** And #11 on your Class Notes. How will you answer that? Assign a reader. Obey. Complete #11.

The verses we just studied tell us that God has given us his Word; it was written by men but inspired by God! It is profitable, or helpful, to us. It teaches us doctrine, God's truth. It is good for reproof—or showing us when we are doing something wrong. And then it helps us see how to correct our mistakes—to turn away from our sin and to obey God. If we allow God's Word to do these things, we will learn to live in a way that will honor and glorify God.

Slide #15

### Doctrine:

teaching God's truths

#### Reproof:

showing us our sin

Slides #16−17

#### Correction:

showing us how to change and to turn from our sins

# Training in righteousness: teaching us how

teaching us how to obey God

Slide #18

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### **Application**



Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. We know that the Bible is inspired by God himself. He caused the authors to write what he wanted them to write. We can spend the rest of our lives studying it.

When we study the Bible, it is good to ask the questions who, what, when, where, and why to help us understand what God is teaching us! The more we study it, the more God's Word will guide us.

**?** Have you ever tried on someone else's glasses? What did everything look like? Was it blurry and hard to see? *Allow answers*.

Without the Bible, it's like we're wearing the wrong glasses. When we look through them, everything's fuzzy. But with the Bible, we can understand God and the world around us more clearly. That's why we need to know God's Word, to trust it, and to use it like wearing biblical glasses so we can be ready to make wise decisions.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



### **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for his written Word.
- Ask God for opportunities to tell others that the Word of God is true.



### **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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## God Preserves His Word

God will always preserve his Word.

#### Lesson Focus

God has protected his Word for thousands of years. It will endure forever through all generations.

### Key Passages

Luke 24:25–27; Jeremiah 36:1–4, 36:22–23, 36:32

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

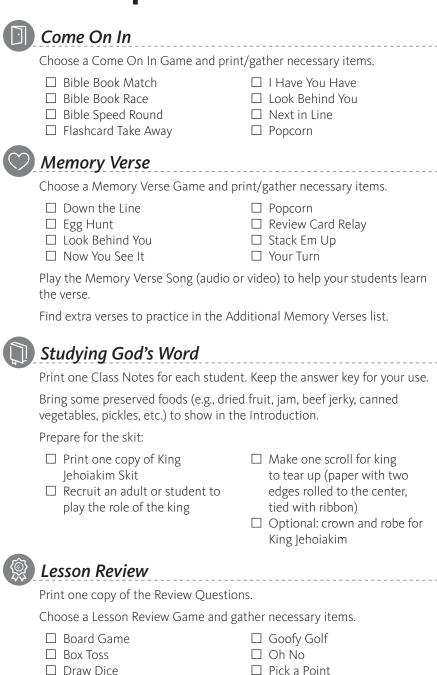
- Describe how Jesus affirms the authority of the Old Testament.
- Identify one way God has shown that he has preserved his Word.

### Memory Verse

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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### **Lesson Preparation**





The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 6*. Game
instructions are
also included in the *Appendix* in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

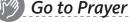
We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

### Large Group

Studying God's Word Interview with Baruch Group Prayer

### **Small Group**

Come On In
Memory Verse
Optional Activity
Lesson Review
Take Home Sheet



☐ Four in a Row

Lord, your Word can be trusted. I pray that my students will understand that truth as they learn that you have preserved it for thousands of years. Move their hearts to love your Word and then use it to open their hearts to the gospel.

☐ Toss for It

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### **Optional Supplements**

### **Hands-On Activities**

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Interview with Baruch
  - Students will hear a reporter interview the scribe Baruch about how he took dictation from the famous prophet Jeremiah.
- Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Search

Students will search for words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock to find all the words.

<b>PowerPo</b>					
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You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

No	otes	

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### Prepare to Share

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The Old Testament begins God's Word—the history of the universe. It contains 39 books and tells us about ancient Israel and God's promise of the Messiah. God has been careful to preserve his Word since the beginning of time.

One dramatic biblical example of God preserving his Word begins in 2 Chronicles 34 during King Josiah's reign over Judah near the beginning of the seventh century BC. Josiah began a period of reformation in Judah. The people before him had completely turned away from God. But Josiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in his ways (2 Chronicles 34:2).

The house of the Lord had been desecrated, and Josiah commanded that it be repaired (2 Chronicles 34:8). It was during this restoration of the temple that Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses (2 Chronicles 34:14). When Josiah heard the Word of the Lord read, he was convicted of the idolatry and sin in the land, and he tore his clothes in repentance (2 Chronicles 34:19). Because of Josiah's tender heart and humble spirit, God's judgment was withheld from Judah for the time being (2 Chronicles 34:27–28).

### Historical/Apologetics Background

You may encounter people who don't necessarily believe the Old Testament can be trusted, or they feel that it is insignificant to today's culture. But we know that it is relevant and true. God has taken great strides to preserve it through many tumultuous times and thousands of years.

Not only that, but he has been gracious to leave historical evidence that confirms the authenticity of the Scriptures. We know that the ancient Hebrews relied on Scripture. They recognized the inspiration of certain texts and depended on them for wisdom.

The five books of Moses, beginning with Genesis, were written around 1500 BC and chronicle the history of the earth over the previous 2,500 years. After that, the remaining books were written by prophets and scribes. These holy men of

However, when Josiah's son Jehoiakim became king, the people once again turned their backs on God and his Word. This is when the Word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 36:1), and he was instructed by the Lord to write the words of judgment against Israel, Judah, and all the nations (Jeremiah 36:2). Jeremiah dictated God's Word as Baruch wrote the scroll (Jeremiah 36:4). When the scroll was finished and read to King Jehoiakim, he was not afraid, repentant, or humble before the Lord as his father had been (Jeremiah 36:24). Instead, Jehoiakim cast the scroll into the fire piece by piece as it was being read (Jeremiah 36:22–23).

But was King Jehoiakim able to destroy God's Word even with fire? No. God will always preserve his Word and did so then. He called Jeremiah again and instructed that another scroll be written. Jeremiah took the scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe who wrote on it. It contained all the words (and more) of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire (Jeremiah 36:32).

God has always been and will always be faithful to preserve his Word. In the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). And in the words of the psalmist, "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever" (Psalm 119:160).

God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19–21). The words were recorded on scrolls and carefully transmitted through the generations with painstaking diligence to ensure their accuracy. The final record from the Old Testament prophets came at the hand of Malachi. His prophecy of the coming Messiah (Malachi 3–4) begins a period of 400 years of silence before John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Christ.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered at Qumran in 1947, gave rise to additional confirmation of these ancient texts. This finding presented Old Testament manuscripts dated as early as 150 BC. These manuscripts were written nearly 1,000 years before other manuscripts already discovered, and they proved to be the same as those previously found.

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For example, a copy of the book of Isaiah was part of the findings at Qumran dated about 150 BC. Prior to this, the oldest dated manuscript of the book of Isaiah was around AD 980. Yet when these two copies of Isaiah were compared, they were found to be 95 percent accurate to the Hebrew Bible—even though they were written over 1,000 years apart.

This evidence of ancient Old Testament Hebrew texts together with the astounding number—more than 24,000—of partial and complete manuscript copies of the New Testament gives us solid historical background to the reliability of the Bible. Biblical scholars have agreed that the number of manuscripts supporting the Bible provides unparalleled authentication of the original documents. In fact, the Bible has more documentation to verify it than any other book of antiquity that is commonly accepted.

In addition to the historical, physical manuscripts and longevity of the Scriptures, we find more confirmation of the Old Testament truth through Jesus Christ himself. Our Lord relied on the truth and promises of the Old Testament. 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).

Then later, after his resurrection from the grave, on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13), Jesus admonished his companions to believe what the prophets of old had written (Luke 24:25). And as they walked, Jesus taught them from the Scriptures, beginning at the writings of Moses and all through the Prophets, the things concerning himself—that he was the one sent to redeem Israel (Luke 24:21). Jesus Christ taught, obeyed, and lived the Scriptures of the Old Testament.

Because Jesus held these testimonies in such high regard, we should as well—never forgetting that God speaks to us through the consistently preserved Scriptures so that we can know him, his character, his purpose, and his plan to redeem a people for himself for all eternity.

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### Slide #1

Slide #2

Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



### Memory Verse

Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you

can use them.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

### Studying God's Word

### Introduction

Slides #3-4

Refer to Lessons 4 and 5 Theme Posters. We have been talking about the importance of studying the Bible. It's the only book that tells us the truth about God, his attributes, the Trinity, and the value of his Word.

Slide #5

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Today, we are going to learn some things from the Old Testament. Even though it's thousands of years old, the Old Testament is definitely part of God's Word. And as we will see, God has preserved it in amazing and miraculous ways.

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? What does "preserved" mean? Allow answers.

➤ Bring some preserved foods to show.

? Show preserved food items (e.g., dried fruit, jam, beef jerky, pickles, canned vegetables, etc.) you brought. I have some items here that can help us understand. What do these foods have in common? How have they been prepared to make them last longer? Allow discussion.

These foods have been preserved. To preserve something means to keep it safe, to protect it, or to make it last. Dried fruit and jams last longer than fresh fruit. Canned vegetables last longer than fresh vegetables. And even meat like beef can last longer when it is dried and salted as beef jerky.

When we talk about God preserving his Word, that means he protects it and keeps it safe so it will last forever. But before we see an example of God preserving his Word, we're going to look and see what Jesus thought of the Old Testament.

➤ Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

### Jesus Believed the Old Testament

The passage we are going to read first comes from Luke 24. I'll give you some background. Jesus had just risen from the grave, but he was still

on earth letting his followers know he was alive. Jesus approached two of his disciples as they were walking along the road. Jesus saw that they were sad, so he asked them what was wrong. They didn't recognize Jesus, so as they walked, they told him about what had happened in Jerusalem: the one they had hoped would one day redeem Israel—the Messiah—had been killed on a cross. They told Jesus all about the crucifixion, the burial, and the empty tomb. Of course, Jesus already knew all these things, but he was silent as he listened to them.

#### Luke 24:25-27

Slides #6−7

Okay. That sets the stage. Let's read Luke 24:25–27. Choose students to read.

- ? Remember, Jesus is talking to the two men. What did Jesus think of these men? Look in Luke 24:25. What did he call them? Foolish, slow to believe.
- **?** That's right. They were slow to believe. Who were they NOT believing? Look in Luke 24:25. *The prophets.* 
  - Yes. Jesus said they were slow of heart to believe what the prophets had said. He wanted to help them believe.
- ? Now look at Luke 24:27. Jesus started to teach these men. Where did he begin? Moses and all the Prophets.
- **?** What part of the Bible was written by Moses and the prophets? The Old Testament.
- **?** Look again at verse 27. It says Jesus "interpreted" to them. Does anyone know what that means? *Allow answers*.
  - It means that Jesus was teaching and explaining the Scriptures to them. And he was using the writings of Moses and the prophets.
- **?** Who were the Scriptures from Moses and the prophets about? You can find the answer at the end of verse 27. *Jesus*.
  - Right. Jesus was walking with these men. They were confused about what had happened. But Jesus told them to refer to Moses and the Prophets in the Old Testament, and they would understand what had happened.
- ? Go to the Class Notes. Will someone read #1 before we move on? What is the answer to that? You'll have to find the right answer in the scroll pieces at the bottom. Assign a reader. Prophets. Have students complete #1.

Slide #8

**?** And what about #2. Who will read that? What are the Scriptures Jesus used? Assign a reader. Old. Have students complete #2.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Jesus was talking to the two disciples about the Old Testament. The first 39 books in the Bible are what make up the Old Testament. Jesus mentioned the books of Moses—that would be these first five books here. Refer to Genesis through Deuteronomy.

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Refer to the major and minor prophets on the Books of the Bible Poster. Jesus also talked about a section called the Prophets. There were a lot of books written by different prophets—17 books in all. These are the books that Jesus taught from. The fact that Jesus used and trusted the Old Testament can give us confidence that we can trust it too. It is an important part of God's Word.

#### God Preserves His Word

Now we're going to read and study the Old Testament ourselves. Jesus believed the Old Testament was God's Word. And what we are about to read will show us how God protected his Word from being destroyed.

**Jehoiakim:** juh-HOI-uh-kim We're going to read from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. This account took place several hundreds of years before Jesus was born while a man named Jehoiakim was the king of Judah. The people in Judah were wicked and sinful at this time. They had no respect for God. They did not fear him, worship him, or have any desire to obey him.

This is when God spoke to his prophet Jeremiah and gave him a message for the people.

## ► Slides #9–10

#### Jeremiah 36:1-2

Let's start with Jeremiah 36:1–2. Who will read that? Assign a reader.

- **?** Now let's ask some questions so we can understand what happened. Who was the king at this time? *King Jehoiakim*.
- ? Whose son was King Jehoiakim? Josiah.
- **?** Good! Who did the Lord's word come to? *Jeremiah*.
- **?** What did God command Jeremiah to do? That's in Jeremiah 36:2. To write on a scroll the things God had spoken against Israel, Judah, and all the nations.

Remember, the nations at this time were wicked. God was angry, and he was about to do something. But before we go on, let's take a look at the Class Notes.

- Slide #11
- **?** Will someone read #3? Which prophet are we talking about? Assign a reader. Jeremiah. Have students complete #3.
- **?** And how about #4? What did God tell Jeremiah to do? Assign a reader. Write. Have students complete #4.

Right. Jeremiah was writing words for God, and these words were against all the wicked nations. This was NOT good news. This was a message of judgment. God was going to punish these nations for their wickedness, and it was Jeremiah's job as a prophet to deliver this message to the people.

**?** Will someone read #5 on the Class Notes? What was God's message? Assign a reader. Judge. Have students complete #5.

#### Jeremiah 36:3

Slide #12

- **?** God was going to warn the people through Jeremiah that they should turn from their sins. Will someone read Jeremiah 36:3? *Assign a reader.*
- **?** What was God hoping his warning would do for the nation of Judah? *Allow discussion.*

God said that maybe the wicked people in Judah would hear of the disaster that he was going to bring on their nation, and they would turn from their evil ways.

**?** What was God willing to do if the people turned from their sins? Look in verse three again. Forgive their iniquity and their sin.

God spoke through Jeremiah, his prophet, to warn the people that if they did not turn away from their sin and turn back to God, they would be punished. God wanted to forgive them, but they had to stop sinning.

This was the job of God's prophets—to warn God's people to turn back to God or face his punishment. God spoke through his prophets. They spoke and wrote just what God wanted them to.

**?** Before we move on, will someone read #6 on the Class Notes? What was the message God wanted Jeremiah to write? Assign a reader. Warn. Have students complete #6.

Slide #13

So God told Jeremiah to write the message. But as we will see, that didn't mean that Jeremiah actually held the pen!

#### Jeremiah 36:4

Slide #14

Someone read Jeremiah 36:4. Assign a reader.

**?** What did Baruch do for Jeremiah? He wrote the words of the Lord for Jeremiah.

Baruch was called a scribe. These were men who wrote down what the prophets told them. So actually, the Lord told Jeremiah, Jeremiah told Baruch, and Baruch wrote it all down.

After Baruch had written God's warning from Jeremiah, Jeremiah told him to go and read the words of the Lord to the people. Even the officials of the land heard about what Baruch was reading. They told him to come into their court and read the scroll—the very word of the Lord—to them. Of course, Baruch did what he was told—and guess what? The people did not like what Baruch was reading!

When the people heard the Word of God, the Bible says they looked in fear at one another. They said they had to tell the king. The people warned Baruch and Jeremiah to hide because the king was not going to like hearing the words written on Jeremiah's scroll.

They knew Jeremiah was a great prophet and that he spoke for God. What he had told the people was a warning—that they would all be judged by God if they did not turn away from their sins. So, after Baruch and Jeremiah hid, the people took the scroll to King Jehoiakim.

**Baruch:** buh-ROOK

## Slide #15

➤ Have an assistant or student prepare for the King Jehoiakim Skit.

**Jehudi:** juh-HOO-di When King Jehoiakim heard about the scroll, he asked to see it. We'll get to see the next part acted out while I read.

#### Jeremiah 36:22-23

King Jehoiakim Skit: have your assistant or a student ready to play the role of King Jehoiakim as you read the verses from the Bible or use the script below. If you don't have a helper, you may pause to act out the verses as you read. If available, give King Jehoiakim a crown and a robe to wear. Have a chair and a rolled scroll nearby for the king to tear and throw into the fire.

Let's see what King Jehoiakim did when he heard God's Word being read by his scribe Jehudi. Introduce King Jehoiakim. Read Jeremiah 36:22–23, pausing after each action to let King Jehoiakim act it out. You and the king may improvise a script or use the one below.

**Teacher:** (verse 22) It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him.

**King:** Sit down in chair and act cold. This house is freezing! Someone bring more wood for the fire! Pretend to be warming hands by a fire. Where is my scribe Jehudi? Wasn't he going to read something to me? He's never around when I need him!

**Teacher:** (verse 23) Jehudi the scribe began to read the words of God from Jeremiah the prophet. But as he read three or four columns from the scroll, the king cut pieces off the scroll with a knife!

**King:** Jump up from chair. Stop reading!! I don't want to hear any more! Give me that scroll! Grab the paper scroll and tear off several pieces.

**Teacher:** (verse 23) And he threw the pieces into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot!

**King:** Act angry. This scroll is going into the fire! Take the pieces of the scroll then throw them into the pretend fire. Now I never have to hear those words again! Sit back down and act satisfied that you destroyed the scroll.

**Teacher:** Uh oh! King Jehoiakim lost his temper when he heard God's Word! Can you believe that he cut up the scroll and burned it?

Let's say goodbye to the king for now. Have king leave and remove costume while you continue with the lesson.

- **?** So, where did this scene happen? Look in Jeremiah 36:22 for help. *In the king's winter house.*
- **?** This was King Jehoiakim's winter house. It must have been cold. How was King Jehoiakim keeping warm? *Jeremiah 36:22. He had a fire going in the fire pot.*
- **?** Who read the scroll to King Jehoiakim? His name is in verse 23. *A man named Jehudi*.

**?** Why do you think King Jehoiakim cut up God's Word and threw it into the fire? *Allow discussion*.

God was warning all the people that they should turn away from their sins and turn back to God. King Jehoiakim did not want to do that. God's Word was accusing him of his sinfulness and telling him that God would judge him one day. The king wanted nothing to do with God or the truth of his Word.

**?** Let's go back to the Class Notes. For #7, how did the king feel after hearing God's Word? Assign a reader. Angry. Have students complete #7.

Slide #16

- **?** And what about #8? What did the king do with the scroll? Assign a reader. Fire. Have students complete #8.
- ? Well, do you suppose that King Jehoiakim could really destroy God's Word—the words that he gave to Jeremiah? No!

#### Jeremiah 36:32

Slide #17

- ? No. God's Word will not be destroyed! After King Jehoiakim burned the scroll, God spoke to Jeremiah again. Will someone read Jeremiah 36:32 for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** What did Jeremiah do? Took another scroll.
- **?** He took another scroll and gave it to Baruch. What did Baruch write? The words of the scroll that King Jehoiakim had burned.

That's right. The king could not destroy God's Word. God spoke again to Jeremiah, and Baruch recorded God's Word once again!

There have been different times in history when wicked rulers thought they could get rid of the Bible. They have gathered up Bibles and burned them. They have punished people for owning a Bible. And yet, the Bible is still with us today because God has promised that his Word will stand forever.

Look at #9 on the Class Notes. What is the answer to that? Assign a reader. Destroyed. Have students complete #9.

Slide #18

#### **Application**

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. We started in the New Testament today—in the book of Luke, and we saw there that Jesus taught from the Old Testament. The Old Testament was actually written long before Jesus was born. It was the part of the Bible that Jesus had at the time he was on earth. Because Jesus trusted and believed these Scriptures—the Old Testament—we know we can believe them, too.

Slide #19

Grades 4–5 • Unit 1

God has promised to protect his Word. It cannot and will not ever be destroyed—not by an evil king, or rulers, or fire. God has preserved it for thousands of years, and he will continue to do so.

You know, some people think the Bible is an out-of-date, old-fashioned book that doesn't apply to us today and has no place in modern-day life—especially the Old Testament—the books of Moses, the Law, and the prophets. These are long books with lots of names in them that are hard to pronounce—and it all happened so long ago. People will try to tell you that it is not important and that you don't need to read that part of the Bible.

This is NOT true! God thinks the Old Testament is so important for us today that he has preserved it all these years so we can read it, study it, and apply it to our lives. The Old Testament Scriptures were so important to Jesus that he knew them and taught from them. If Jesus learned from them, don't you think we should take them seriously, study them, and learn from them, too? The Old Testament is a very important part of God's Word. Don't ever let anyone tell you it isn't.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the confidence we can have in his Word that can't be destroyed.
- Pray that his Word will lead to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



#### Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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# God's Word Is Complete

All of God's written Word is complete.

#### Lesson Focus

We know the New Testament is God's Word and that it is true. We realize that the Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—is the complete written Word of God.

#### Key Passages

John 14:25–26, 21:24–25; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Revelation 22:18–19

#### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Describe three ways we know the New Testament is true.
- Recognize that the Bible—God's Word—is complete.

#### Memory Verse

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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## esson Preparation



#### Come On In

Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items.

- □ Bible Book Match□ I Have You Have□ Bible Book Race□ Look Behind You
- ☐ Bible Speed Round ☐ Next in Line ☐ Flashcard Take Away ☐ Popcorn



#### Memory Verse

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items.

- ☐ Down the Line ☐ Popcorn
- ☐ Egg Hunt☐ Look Behind You☐ Stack Em Up☐ Now You See It☐ Your Turn

Play the Memory Verse Song (audio or video) to help your students learn the verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.



#### Studying God's Word

Print one Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

Prepare an assistant or another adult for the Eyewitness Test in the Introduction

Bring a chapter book to show as an example at the end of the lesson.



#### Lesson Review

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

- □ Board Game□ Goofy Golf□ Box Toss□ Oh No□ Draw Dice□ Pick a Point
- ☐ Four in a Row ☐ Toss for It



#### Go to Prayer

Lord, your Word is accurate and complete! You have commanded that nothing be added to it or taken away from it. As we continue to study your Word this year, please move in the hearts of my students to love it, trust it, live by it, and be confident in its truth. Bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

Teacher Digital
Resources under
Lesson 7. Game
instructions are
also included in the
Appendix in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

#### Large Group

Studying God's Word Group Prayer

#### **Small Group**

Come On In Memory Verse Optional Activity Lesson Review Take Home Sheet

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## **Optional Supplements**

#### **Hands-On Activities**

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Search

Students will search for words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock to find all the words.

#### **PowerPoint**

You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

## **Notes**


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## Prepare to Share

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The Old Testament closed with a warning of judgment (Malachi 2:2) and the promise of a Messiah (Malachi 4:2). And then waiting. Four hundred years of silence from God . . . until the fulfillment of the greatest event in history—the coming of the Messiah.

The New Testament—reflecting the fulfillment of the promised Messiah through Jesus Christ—was written primarily by the apostles. In John 14:26 we find that Jesus empowered the apostles through the Holy Spirit to recall, write, and interpret his life, words, and deeds. Jesus said, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." Jesus again promised his apostles a special revelation of truth through the Holy Spirit in John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

The Apostle John verifies himself as an eyewitness to the events he wrote about: "This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and

#### Historical/Apologetics Background

In his divine providence, God, not man, has determined through the Holy Spirit the books that make up the Bible. The early church, shortly after Christ's death and resurrection, had no discussion about what made a book equal to the Old Testament Scriptures. It was universally accepted that if a letter came from Peter or Paul, it was deemed Scripture.

However, it wasn't long before people began to add their own letters, thoughts, ideas, and gospels—desiring to fill in the gaps with what they believed should be included. Because of this, during the first 200 years of church history, certain questions were adopted to serve as the litmus test for the books added to the Bible. Those questions are:

• Was the book or letter written by an apostle or under the direction of an apostle?

who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true" (John 21:24). And God officially warns against tampering with Scripture—admonishing that no words be added to or taken from this sacred book (Revelation 22:18–19). We can be confident that the writings of those empowered by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are inspired, inerrant, and infallible.

As the New Testament letters began to be gathered and read throughout the church, we find evidence that they were already being included as part of the Old Testament canon and described as "Scripture." The Apostle Peter makes such a claim about Paul's writings in 2 Peter 3:15–16 when he puts Paul's epistles in the same category as the "other Scriptures."

We can rest assured that the New Testament canon has now completed the Word of God. We are reminded of this truth through biblical, historical, and archaeological findings. Not only that, we know it is God's Word because as we read it, we hear God's voice throughout every book—and as children of God we never tire of it. It is the Word of our Creator God—revealing the divine power that grants us everything needed to live a life of godliness through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:3).

- Did the writing resound with the truth of God? Did it speak with the voice of authority as the Word of God and not the words of men?
- Were these writings used from the earliest of times? Attempts to include other writings from much later dates have been made. They have been rejected because the material is too new to have been apostolic.
- Did most churches accept these writings as the New Testament canon? Before the middle of the first century, 20 of the 27 books of the New Testament were universally accepted. And only a few churches questioned the other books.
- Did the writings conform to what the church taught? Because there was general agreement as to what the Christian message actually was, this question ruled out false teachings attempting to taint the truth.

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All of the books of the Bible regarded as Scripture have been examined according to these questions, and have proven to be the Word of God. Yet still today we see that people attack the authenticity and reliability of the Scriptures. The Bible is increasingly regarded as irrelevant due to the apathy of our culture toward things of God and especially his Word. Consequently, we hear very little about the history of the Bible. As we take a quick look at the books of the New Testament below, remember that these books stood the test based on the questions mentioned above as they were included in the canon of the New Testament.

- The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John provide accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection during his three-year ministry. Matthew, Mark, and Luke were written between AD 55 and 68; John was probably written in the 90s.
- The book of Acts provides an account of the history of the early church and the spread of Christianity after Christ's resurrection. Acts was written by Luke in the mid-60s.
- The Pauline epistles—Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1

- & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon are 13 pastoral letters written by Paul as he endeavored to grow Christ's church in truth and sound doctrine. These letters were written between AD 51 and 65.
- The General epistles—Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, and Jude are letters written to believers by five different people. They include doctrinal and practical advice and were sent out to churches. These letters were written from the late-40s (James' letter) to the 90s (John's letters).

Most of the New Testament books were added to the Old Testament Scriptures by the early church and were considered the complete inspired canon around 150 AD—this is called the Muratorian Canon. However, due to false teachers and further attempts to change this compilation, other councils—general meetings of the Christian church—met to eliminate any confusion and bring unity to the church. The Council of Carthage in 397 finally affirmed publicly that the 66 books we have today were the divinely inspired Word of God—not to be added to or taken away from (Proverbs 30:5–6; Revelation 22:18–19).

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## Slide #1



As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

## **Memory Verse**

Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



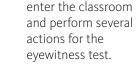
➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



## Studying God's Word

#### Introduction

As you review, have an assistant or other adult enter the room and complete several visible actions, such as changing the time on the clock, taking a book and putting it in a bag, erasing or drawing something on the board, closing a window, moving an item, whispering to someone, etc. After the review, you will ask the students what they remember about the unexpected visitor and his or her actions. This is an eyewitness test to show the students how people remember different details from the same event.



Prepare an assistant or other adult to

Refer to Lesson 5 Theme Poster. I hope you understand by now that God's Word is very important! If we read it and pay attention to it, we can be sure that it will guide us. It will teach us truth, show us our sin, correct and change us, and train us on how to live godly lives!

Slides #3-4

Refer to Lesson 6 Theme Poster. Last time we learned from the prophet Jeremiah that God will not allow his Word to be destroyed. Over thousands of years, many people, like King Jehoiakim, have tried to destroy the Word of God.

? Who remembers what King Jehoiakim did with the scroll that had God's Words given to Jeremiah? He cut it up and threw it into the fire.

That's right. King Jehoiakim was angry when he heard God's Word, and he tried to destroy it. But God gave the message to Jeremiah a second time so his scribe could record it. God has protected his Word, and he promises that it will last forever.

We also looked at how Jesus believed and used the Old Testament to teach others about himself. It is definitely part of God's Word.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Today, we are going to take a look at the New Testament and see how it completes God's Word. We'll learn three reasons why we can trust that the Bible true.



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- **?** Have any of you heard the word "eyewitness" before? Show of hands.
- **?** If you were an eyewitness to a car accident, what does that mean? You saw the accident and can describe what happened.
  - An eyewitness is someone who sees an event and can give an accurate report, or account, of what happened. We're going to see how well you all do as eyewitnesses today.
- **?** How many of you noticed someone walking around during our review time? Show of hands.
  - Let's see how many details you can remember about the visit. Write students' answers on the board as you ask the following questions.
- ? What was he or she wearing? How long was he or she in the room? What did he or she do? What item did he or she take? Continue asking questions and recording answers. Throw in a few questions to influence memory. For example, ask what the person wrote on the board when the person actually erased something on the board. Compare how students' memories are the same or different. If possible, have the assistant or adult come back to the class and tell how accurate the answers on the board are.

Sometimes it's hard to remember things when you didn't know you were going to be asked later! But you all did a great job being eyewitnesses. In our lesson today, we will see how God used eyewitnesses, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to record events in the Bible.

## The Holy Spirit Inspired the Bible's Authors

➤ Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

- **?** To begin, I have a question for you. Who is the New Testament about? *Allow discussion.* 
  - It is about Jesus, the promised Messiah! The New Testament is a written history about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It also tells about the work of Jesus' apostles as the early church grew.
  - But how can we know the New Testament is true? If someone asked you how you can be sure that everything the Bible teaches about Jesus really happened, would you know how to answer?
  - How can we be sure the Bible really is complete? How can we be confident that the Bible is all that God left for us and wanted us to know about him? Today we will turn to the Bible itself to give us the answers. Find John chapter 14 in the New Testament.
- **?** Does anyone know who wrote this book? There is a big hint in the name! *John*.
- **?** Who was John? He was one of Jesus' apostles.

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John was one of Jesus' apostles—and he was also one of Jesus' very closest friends. John was with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry, eating with him, traveling with him, and learning from him. John was there when Jesus was crucified, and he was a witness of Jesus' resurrection. He was very loyal to Jesus, and Jesus loved him very much. In fact, when Jesus was dying on the cross, he asked John to care for his mother, Mary.

John 14:25-26

We are going to read John 14:25–26. Choose a reader.

? In John 14:25, who is "I"? Jesus.

That's right. Jesus was speaking. This conversation took place at the last supper, right before Jesus died. All of his disciples were there—and Jesus was talking to his closest friends after they had just shared a very special Jewish feast, called the Passover.

- ? In John 14:26, Jesus mentions the Helper. Who is the Helper? The Holy Spirit.
- **?** And we also see the Father mentioned. Who is the Father he's talking about here? *John 14:26. God the Father.*
- **?** Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do something for the disciples. What was that? Look in John 14:26. Teach the disciples all things and help them remember everything Jesus had told them.
- **?** Go to your Class Notes. Will someone read #1 and choose the correct word from the word bank? Who would help the disciples? Assign a reader. Helper. Have students complete #1.
- **?** And will someone read #2? What would the Helper do? Assign a reader. Remember. Have students complete #2.

The Holy Spirit would come. He would teach the disciples and help them remember all that God wanted them to write down. And the Holy Spirit helped all the writers of the Bible in the same way. We can trust what the Bible says because the Holy Spirit "inspired" all the writers to put down just what God wanted.

? That is the first reason we can trust the Bible. Will someone read #3 on the Class Notes? Assign a reader. Inspired. Have students complete #3.

#### The Disciples Were Eyewitnesses

Let's look at another passage in the book of John to find our second reason we can trust the Bible.

John 21:24-25

- **?** Will someone read John 21:24–25 for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** John wants us to understand something about what he has written. Look in John 21:24. What is it John wants us to understand? Allow discussion.

Slide #6 ⊾

► Slide #8

Slide #7

Slide #9

John was a disciple of Jesus. He followed Jesus and saw what Jesus did and heard what he taught. He wrote these things about Jesus, and everything that John wrote is true.

**?** And what does John 21:25 tell us about all the things Jesus did? *Allow discussion.* 

This tells us that John only wrote a small portion of what Jesus did. In fact, John says that the whole world couldn't contain the number of books it would take to record everything Jesus did!

John was a friend of Jesus and an eyewitness of the things Jesus did while he was on earth. And because of that, we can trust that what he wrote about Jesus really did happen.

? That is our second reason we know we can trust the Bible. Will someone read #4 on the Class Notes? What is the answer? Assign a reader. Eyewitnesses. Have students complete #4.

Slide #10

#### God Cannot Lie

The Bible tells us something else about God and gives us our third reason we know we can trust the Bible. Turn in your Bibles to the book of Titus. This is a small book written by the Apostle Paul to a man named Titus. It's in the New Testament. Refer to Titus on the Books of the Bible Poster.

#### **Titus 1:2**

Slide #11

- **?** Will someone read Titus 1:2 for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** What does this verse say about God? What does he never do? He never lies.

Of course we know that. But God wanted to include this truth in his Word so we would know for sure that we can trust him.

And there is another verse that tells us why we can trust the Bible. It is Hebrews 6:18. Find that verse in your Bibles. Refer to Hebrews on the Books of the Bible Poster.

#### Hebrews 6:18

Slide #12

- **?** Will someone read that? Assign a reader.
- ? And what does that say about God? It is impossible for him to do something. What is it? It is impossible for God to lie.
- **?** This is the third reason we know we can trust what the Bible tells us. What is that reason? *God cannot lie.*
- **? So, will someone read #5 on the Class Notes?** *Assign a reader. Lie. Have students complete #5.*

Slides #13−14

**?** As a review, what are the three reasons we know we can trust the Bible? Have students read #3, #4, and #5 on the Class Notes again.

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#### God's Word Is Complete

So, we know God's Word is true, but how do we know that the Bible is ALL of God's Word? How do we know there isn't more God wants someone to write? How do we know that it is complete?

#### Slides #15−16

#### Revelation 22:18-19

- **?** Let's find out! Turn to Revelation 22:18–19. Who will read that for us? Assign a reader.
- **?** Who is this written to? The answer is in Revelation 22:18. To everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book.
- ? What does that mean? Allow discussion.
  - It is written to everyone who will ever read or even hear these words—you, me, our families—everyone.
- **?** John is warning everyone who will ever read God's Word. What is he warning us about? *Allow discussion*.
  - John is warning all readers that God will not allow anyone to add to his Word or to take away from his Word.
- **?** What will happen to those who add words to this book? What does it say in Revelation 22:18? They will experience the plagues described in the Bible.
- ? And what will happen to those who take out parts of the book? That is in Revelation 22:19. God will take away their share in the tree of life and the holy city.
  - Hold up your Bible. God is very serious about his Word. These verses we just read tell us just how serious he is. If anyone tries to add to his Word or take anything away, God will judge that person! The Bible is already the complete Word of God.
- **?** *Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster.* **How many books are in the Bible?** *66.* 
  - The Bible is complete with 66 books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. We know that God has promised to preserve his Word. No one can destroy it, and no one should ever try to add to it or take anything away from it.
- ? Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #6 for us? Assign a reader. Add. Have students complete #6.
- **?** And #7? What is the answer? Assign a reader. Away. Have students complete #7.
- **?** And the last one, #8? What is God's Word? Assign a reader. Complete. Have students complete #8.



#### **Application**

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. There are three good reasons why we can trust God's Word. First, we learned that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers, like John and others, to remember all they needed to know and to write down everything correctly, getting all the details right. Second, we know that the apostles were eyewitnesses of what Jesus said and did while he was on earth, so they knew what they wrote was true. And the third reason is that God has told us in his Word that he cannot lie. So we can trust him and everything he says.

Slide #18

God's Word is complete. We cannot add to it or take anything away from it or we won't have the whole truth anymore. The Bible has everything God wants us to know. It is just the way God wants it to be.

Show the chapter book you brought. Just like this book. See? It has different chapters in it, but together they tell the whole story in this one book.

- **?** What if I skipped over chapter 3 or tore out page 5, do you think I would understand the whole story? *No!*
- ? Of course not! What if I added a chapter with my own words? Would it still be what the author wanted? No.

Right again! The author has finished this book, right? He wrote it the way he wanted it to be. It's complete with all the chapters it should have.

Refer to your Bible. And that's the way God's Word is, too. God is the author of the Bible, and he directed men to write his words down just the way he wanted them. All the books in the Old Testament and the New Testament are important to the Word of God.

But there are a lot of people who want to change God's Word. They may not say that exactly, but they don't believe parts of it or they try to change the meaning of what the Scriptures actually say. But if people don't want to believe even a part of God's Word, then they are really saying they want to change it. And God has made it clear that his Word is NOT to be changed!

You may come across things in books, movies, or TV shows that claim something new has been discovered that should be added to the Bible. But we should trust what we learned today. God has already spoken. His Word is finished just like he wants it. No one should try to add anything to his Word or take anything from it. It is complete!

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➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the confidence we can have that his Word is true and complete.
- Pray that his Word will lead to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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# Don't Change God's Word

The Bible must be our final and absolute authority.

#### Lesson Focus

The Bible is the only inspired revelation from God. It must be the absolute authority. Many have tried and will continue to try to change God's Word and teach lies. We must beware of false teachers and false religions.

#### Key Passages

Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Acts 17:10-11; Galatians 1:6-9

#### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

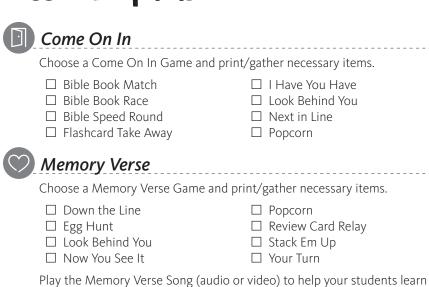
- Recognize there are some who speak for God and some false prophets.
- Recognize that there are other religions that have changed God's Word; they are false religions.

#### Memory Verse

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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## **Lesson Preparation**



the verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Studying God's Word

Print one Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use. Bring play dough, including white and contrasting colors, for a demonstration of how false teaching can contaminate the purity of God's

Word.



Print one copy of the Review Questions.

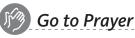
Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

 □ Board Game
 □ Goofy Golf

 □ Box Toss
 □ Oh No

 □ Draw Dice
 □ Pick a Point

 □ Four in a Row
 □ Toss for It



Father, thank you for preserving your Word and allowing it to be so available to us. Help my students understand that the Bible is the final authority—it must be. Give them trust and confidence in the Word so they can discern truth from error. Help them to learn the truth so they can be ready to give an answer for the hope and knowledge that they have in Christ Jesus.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

Teacher Digital
Resources under
Lesson 8. Game
instructions are
also included in the
Appendix in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a

large group/small group format:

#### Large Group

Studying God's Word Real World Skit Group Prayer

#### Small Group

Come On In
Memory Verse
Optional Activity
Lesson Review
Take Home Sheet

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## **Optional Supplements**

#### **Hands-On Activities**

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Be a Berean
  - Students will demonstrate with play dough how listening to false prophets can confuse our thinking when we don't go to the Bible for truth.
- · Real World Skit
  - Students will read a short skit discussing the truth found in the Bible.
- Coloring Sheet
  - Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Scramble

Students will unscramble words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock.

#### **PowerPoint**

You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

#### **Notes**

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## Prepare to Share

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The serpent in the garden of Eden asked Eve, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1). Just as Satan cast doubt on God's Word in the very beginning, the Word of God has been questioned, denied, changed, added to, and misinterpreted throughout history.

We are called to search the Scriptures to discover the truth—to be Bereans (Acts 17:10–11). Our confidence and trust must be in God's Word as our final

#### Historical/Apologetics Background

Tolerance—it's a word we often hear in this culture. The attitude today is to be open-minded, accept everyone, be careful not to offend anyone, and accept all religions as equally true. If it works for you—it works! This is not an accurate understanding of tolerance, but a twisted view that comes from the post-modern mindset where people can construct their own truth. Real tolerance involves understanding the positions of others, knowing why you disagree, living alongside them, and confronting their false ideas with biblical truth.

As Christians, we are called to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who was not tolerant of false religions but stood on the truth of God's Word (John 3:34, 14:6, 17:3).

authority. The Word of God makes it clear that Scripture is what should be guiding us. Deuteronomy provides several warnings against adding to or taking from the Word of God (Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32), as well as a test for false prophets who presume to speak in God's name (Deuteronomy 18:20–22).

A similar warning, given in Galatians 1:6–9, says that those who preach a false gospel will be accursed. Finally, in the Bible's final chapter (Revelation 22:18–19), we are given God's assurance that it is complete and that it must not be changed in any way.

Is the Bible the only Word of God? Be assured, God's Word needs no proof. God begins with the presumption that he exists (Genesis 1:1) and follows up with many texts that authenticate his Word (Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:160; John 17:17). He does, however, warn us against succumbing to empty deceit, traditions of men, and the principles of the world that are not of Christ (Colossians 2:8).

We need to be very aware that there are many false teachings in the world today. And only God's Word provides us with the information needed to discern them from the truth. The Bible is the only Word of God. With this in mind, let's take a look at how some false religions blatantly deny the truth of God and the work of Jesus Christ.

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	Bible	Islam	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses
View of Origins	God created all things in six 24-hour days about 6,000 years ago. All creatures, including man, were created after their own kinds. Sin, disease, sickness, and death were not part of this creation; they came as a result of the fall.	The Koran teaches that Allah created all things, but it contradicts itself on the number of days. It also teaches that the first man and woman were created in Paradise but were later banished to earth after the fall into sin.	God created man physically after he created the earth. However, we had a pre-earth life, in which we existed as God's "spirit children."	The Watchtower Society teaches that each of the six creative days of God in Genesis 1 was 7,000 years long, and that the universe is billions of years old.
View of Christ	Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, who became man to live a perfect life, to be mankind's substitute on the cross, and to rise from the dead, defeating death.	Allah (God) created Jesus and appointed him to be a messenger to the Jewish people. The Koran does teach that Jesus was sinless, but he was not God and he did not die on the cross.	Jesus is the spirit-brother to every man, and even Satan. Jesus is one of an endless number of gods and is a being separate from the Heavenly Father.	Jesus is the Son of God but is a created being. Christ existed in a pre-human state as the Archangel Michael. Jesus died at his crucifixion and was resurrected as an invisible, non-material, glorious spirit creature.
Sin and Salvation	Every person has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ and his redeeming work on the cross.	Salvation is possible after adherence to the Koran, as well as performing the five pillars of the Islamic faith. But even then, salvation is not guaranteed.	Sin was part of God's plan because without it mankind could not progress to become like God, know joy, or have children. Salvation is a combi- nation of faith and works.	Human nature is universally sinful because all humans inherit the original sin of Adam and Eve. Salvation comes by placing faith in Christ's sacrifice, being baptized as a Witness, and doing good works.
Life After Death	Mankind will live forever either in heaven or in hell. The only way for us to get to heaven is through faith in Christ.	Allah sends both righteous and unrighteous to hell unless they die in a holy war. But if their good works outweigh their bad, they should be admitted into Paradise. Paradise is only guaranteed to those who die in jihad (holy war).	Even after death, everyone has an opportunity to respond to the gospel. Heaven has three levels, and those who attain the highest level become gods, ruling and populating their own world.	There is no eternal hell; this is a false concept created by Satan to turn people away from belief in Jehovah. Unbelievers cease to exist at death (annihilation), while believers remain in death until the resurrection. Only 144,000 will go to heaven, while the rest will live in an earthly paradise.

The one true Word is the Bible. Believers who have gone before us have demonstrated how much the Bible meant to them. They sacrificed much to share the Word because they knew it to be the only Word of God. Consider John Wycliffe, who suffered persecution in England for translating the Scriptures into common English from the Latin translations. John Huss was burned at the stake for upholding the authority of the Word of God against the compro-

mises in the church. Other examples include Martin Luther and William Tyndale, who both faced persecution for defending and translating the Word of God.

These are but a few of the saints who have gone before us to preserve, protect, and provide the Word of God to the people. The Word of God cannot be changed, and around the world people are still giving up their lives to honor its integrity.

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## Slide #1

Slide #2

Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## **Memory Verse**

Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Slides #3-4

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## Studying God's Word

#### Introduction

Refer to Lesson 6 Theme Poster. God loves his Word! And he wants us to know it, trust it, believe it, and allow it to change us! He has preserved it over thousands of years even though some, like King Jehoiakim, have tried to destroy it. But God has protected his Word, and he promises that it will endure forever.

Refer to Lesson 7 Theme Poster. And we know that God's Word is complete! It is finished. He has given us all he wants us to know. We are warned not to add to it or take anything away from it. We are going to talk more about that today.

➤ Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

#### True Prophets vs. False Prophets

? There are many different religions that claim to believe in God, yet they don't believe everything the Bible says. Can any of you name some you have heard of? Allow discussion.

You may have heard of Jehovah's Witnesses, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Islam, and Buddhism. And there are many more.

Some of these religions claim that God has given them a different holy book that is better than the Bible. Others may use the Bible, but they add to it, change it, or take things out of it that they don't like.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. This is not right. We have already read that God's Word can't be destroyed or changed, and that anyone who adds to his Word or takes away from it will be punished. We are going to look at what God says will happen to those who try to change his Word.



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#### Deuteronomy 18:20-22

Slides #6–7

Turn to Deuteronomy 18:20–22. In this passage God is speaking through Moses. God was telling the people that there would be teachers or "prophets" who would lie about his Word.

- **?** Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader.
- ? In Deuteronomy 18:20, who is God speaking about? The prophet.
- **?** God is talking about a prophet. The prophet is speaking to others. The verse says the prophet is speaking "in my name"—whose name is that? God's name.

Right. This prophet "presumes" to speak for God—see that word in Deuteronomy 18:20? It means the prophet is daring to speak in God's name.

? What does Deuteronomy 18:20 tell us about what this prophet is **speaking?** Look very closely. God did not command the prophet to speak. The prophet is speaking in the name of other gods.

This is a false prophet. Someone who is saying things God has NOT commanded him to say or speaking in the name of other gods—not the one true God. This is not a true prophet but a false prophet!

- ? What will happen to false prophets like the one described here? It is at the very end of Deuteronomy 18:20. He shall die.
- **?** But how would anyone know if a prophet is from God or not? Look in Deuteronomy 18:22 for the answer. Allow discussion.

The Bible says that if what the prophet spoke in the name of the Lord does NOT happen, then he has not spoken for the Lord. He is a false prophet.

? So, if that is the case for false prophets, how could you know if someone is speaking God's Word truthfully? Deuteronomy 18:22. What a true prophet of God said would happen, does happen. He was speaking for the Lord.

There are lots of people in the world today who are false prophets. Like we just read, false prophets are people who claim to be teaching the things of God, but they twist the truth to say something different than what the Bible actually means. And what they say does not happen.

The true prophets of God in the Old Testament were special. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit and spoke or wrote what God told them to. But there are people today who also claim to be prophets. They say they have new messages or new words from God.

We must be careful! If anyone claims to be a prophet who speaks new truth from God, we know that what he says is false because God's Word is already complete, and there are no new revelations, or messages, from God.

But a false prophet can also be someone who says they are teaching things that are truth, but those things don't line up with the Bible. These



people could be teachers, pastors, authors, or people on TV. So we need to be very careful.

- **?** Look at your Class Notes. Will someone read #1 for us? Assign a reader. False. Have students complete #1.
- **?** And what about #2? Who will read that? Assign a reader. Punished. Have students complete #2.

#### Check It Against God's Word

What should we do if we find ourselves listening to someone who is a false prophet? We are going to read about some people in the early church who knew what to do.

## ► Slides #9–10

#### Acts 17:10-11

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 17:10–11. This tells us about some people who were listening to Paul and Silas as they talked about Jesus. Let's see what these people did. *Assign a reader.* 

- **?** Where were Paul and Silas sent? Which city? Acts 17:10. Berea.
- **?** And where did they go to preach once they were in Berea? Acts 17:10. The Jewish synagogue.
- **?** Paul and Silas were in the synagogue in Berea. As they preached, what did the Bereans do? Look in Acts 17:11. They received the word, and they were examining the Scripture.

The people in Berea were listening to Paul and Silas. And as they listened, they examined, or searched, the Scriptures.

**?** What do you suppose they were searching for? Allow discussion.

They were searching the Scriptures and doing exactly what we should do when we hear teaching about God's Word. They were checking to see if what Paul and Silas said was correct according to the Old Testament Scriptures.

- **?** Look at #3 on your Class Notes. Where did they search for the truth? Assign a reader. Scriptures. Have students complete #3.
- **?** Will someone read #4? What should we compare teaching about God with? Assign a reader. Bible. Have students complete #4.

That is what God wants us all to do. When we hear anyone teach, we are to go to the Bible and check it because the Bible is the only true Word from God.

Maybe this play dough will help you understand.

Take out one white play dough ball and set out other colors. Let's say this nice white dough is God's Word—it's the pure truth we believe in. And these

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other colors are ideas that people use to change God's Word. Let's see what happens to God's Word when we add lies to it.

Add the first color to your white dough. One common lie from false teachers is that Jesus isn't really God but was just a good teacher!

That is NOT what the Bible says! Jesus is God! He came to save sinners so they could have forgiveness and eternal life. Show the mixed dough. See how a lie changes God's Word?

Add another color to the white. You may have heard another lie about God's Word that has to do with creation. Many people say the universe began with a big bang and man evolved from ape-like animals. This is not true. God created everything in the universe in six days. There was no "bang!" And man and woman were created in God's image on Day Six of Creation Week. The big bang is a lie. Adding such lies to God's Word changes it completely! Show the dough with another color mixed in.

Add more colored dough to the white. You may hear from friends or teachers that you should always follow your heart. This isn't what the Bible says. The Bible says our hearts are wicked! And if we follow our hearts, we will get into trouble. We need to follow God's ways according to his Word.

Show the mixed-colored ball. This doesn't look at all like the fresh white dough we started with, does it? When we add lies to God's Word, we change it, and pretty soon, it isn't God's Word anymore.

Add another colored dough to the white. Another lie that we hear a lot from false religions is that all people get to heaven no matter what they believe. This is NOT what God's Word says! God says that we can only get to heaven by believing and trusting in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

Hold up the dough tainted by the "lies" of false prophets. Do you see what happens when we listen to false teachers who tell us things that are not from God's Word? When we add other things to God's Word, our beliefs start looking like this. None of those false things are true, and when they get mixed in with the truth, it makes a mess. Yuck! And it becomes confusing and hard to know what the truth really is.

Bring out a new white ball of play dough. That's why we must rely on God's Word. It is complete. It is perfect, and we can trust it just the way it is!

Show messy dough again. There are many things in the world today that people teach and listen to instead of listening to God's Word. And some people will even take a little bit of the Bible and mix it up with other ideas that aren't true. So, whenever you hear things that don't sound right—either in church, school, or from friends or on TV—it is okay to ask someone about it. Have them help you check and see what the Bible says. As you continue to study God's Word, you will get better at spotting the lies of false teachers.

➤ Use various colors of play dough to illustrate that any false teaching will contaminate the truth of God's Word. You may ask students to help you mix the dough together.

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#### Don't Change the Gospel

Let's find out a little more about what God thinks of false prophets. Turn to the book of Galatians in your Bibles. It is in the New Testament. This book was written by the Apostle Paul. He was concerned because some of the believers in the city of Galatia were listening to false prophets—or teachers.

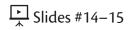
#### Slides #12−13

#### Galatians 1:6-9

- **?** Will someone read Galatians 1:6–9? Assign readers.
- ? What were the Galatians doing? They were turning away from something. What was it? Look in Galatians 1:6–7. Allow discussion. They were turning away from the gospel of Christ to a different gospel.
  - The Apostle Paul knew that someone was preaching to these people. And what they were preaching was not the true gospel of Jesus. The people were believing the false prophets—and turning away from the true gospel!
- **?** Look at the end of Galatians 1:8. What does the Bible say should happen to those who do not teach the truth about Jesus? He should be accursed.
- **?** What do you think accursed means? It means cursed by God. It is the opposite of a blessing from God.
  - That is very serious, isn't it? Anyone who does not preach the true gospel should be cursed!
- **?** Where do we find the true gospel message? In God's Word.
- **?** Who is the real gospel about? Jesus Christ.
- **?** But what is the gospel? Allow answers.
  - This is a very important question. The word gospel means "good news." When we talk about the gospel, we are talking about God as a man—Jesus Christ—who came to earth to live among sinners. He did not sin himself. Jesus was born, became a man, lived, died, and rose again!
- **?** Does anyone know why God would do that? Why would God send Jesus to die for sinners? *Allow answers*.
  - He did it to provide a way for people—sinners like us—to be forgiven of our sins. He did it so that all who would turn to him, ask forgiveness of their sins, and trust Jesus as their Savior could be forgiven and one day go to heaven. That certainly is good news!

But many people today try to change this message. Some say Jesus is not necessary. They say there are many ways to get to heaven and that Jesus is just one of those ways. These are false religions. They teach lies about Jesus. Many teach that you don't have to believe in Jesus or receive him in your life to be forgiven and get to heaven.

? Now look at #5 on your Class Notes. Will someone read that? What does God say about false prophets? Assign a reader. Cursed. Have students complete #5.



- **?** Will someone read #6? How will you answer that? Assign a reader. Change. Have students complete #6.
- **?** And what about #7? What is a false religion? Assign a reader. Adds. Have students complete #7.
- **?** Will someone read #8? Who is the only way? Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #8.

#### **Application**

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. We must not change God's Word. We must not add to it or take anything away from it. Some people say they speak for God—but they really don't. They do not use God's Word correctly.



There have always been and will be false religions and false teachers. Sometimes the things they teach sound really good, but don't be tricked! You have to stand on the only book that can be our strong foundation—the Bible! Be like the Bereans in the book of Acts. They listened to the teachers and then studied the Bible to be sure that what they were taught was true.

There are many things in the world today that can influence us and cause us to ignore what God's Word actually says. For example, some people have a view of God based on movies or TV shows they've seen. But remember, just because you hear something in a movie or see it on TV doesn't make it true. Always ask yourself, "What does the Bible say?" Then check it out. God's Word is the only authority we can trust.

**?** What about other books besides the Bible by authors who claim to be Christians? Can we trust those just because they are in the Christian bookstore? *Allow discussion*.

Not always! We have to compare them to what we read in the Bible.

- ? What if we hear something from a pastor on TV or on the radio or in a church? Can we believe it just because it is on TV and he says he is a pastor? No! We must always compare what we hear to the Bible.
- **?** What about if you hear something in my class? What should you do about things I tell you? *Compare what you hear to the Word of God.*

There are many religions and churches that don't believe or teach God's Word. When you hear something you haven't studied before—in church, school, or from friends—be like the Bereans and study God's Word to make sure that what you're hearing is true. The Bible will never lead you in the wrong direction.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the confidence we can have in his Word.
- Pray that his Word will lead to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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# The Gospel Is Good News

God provides salvation to sinners through Jesus.

#### Lesson Focus

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the central theme of the entire Bible. Salvation can only come because of Christ's death and resurrection. We can be forgiven if we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ.

#### Key Passages

1 Corinthians 15:3–5; Revelation 4:11; James 2:10; Romans 3:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:8; Mark 1:14–15; Acts 16:30–31; Luke 13:3

#### **Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Define the gospel.
- Explain the good news and the bad news of the gospel.

#### Memory Verse

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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#### **Lesson Preparation** Come On In Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items. ☐ Bible Book Match ☐ I Have You Have ☐ Bible Book Race ☐ Look Behind You ☐ Bible Speed Round ☐ Next in Line ☐ Flashcard Take Away ☐ Popcorn Memory Verse Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items. ☐ Down the Line ☐ Popcorn ☐ Egg Hunt ☐ Review Card Relay ☐ Look Behind You ☐ Stack Em Up ☐ Now You See It ☐ Your Turn Play the Memory Verse Song (audio or video) to help your students learn

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital** 

**Resources** under Lesson 9. Game instructions are also included in the Appendix in the back of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

#### Large Group

Studying God's Word Optional Video Clip Group Prayer

#### **Small Group**

Come On In Memory Verse Optional Activity Lesson Review Take Home Sheet

# Stu

the verse.

#### Studying God's Word

Print the following:

- ☐ One Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.
- ☐ One Scripture Sheet for each student.

Bring the following items:

- ☐ 3-4 covered containers with nice-smelling items (e.g., orange slices, crushed peppermint candies, chocolate, cinnamon)
- ☐ 1 covered container with stinky item(s) (e.g., chopped onions, garlic, vinegar)
- ☐ Blindfold (e.g., necktie, scarf, eye mask)



#### Lesson Review

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

 □ Board Game
 □ Goofy Golf

 □ Box Toss
 □ Oh No

 □ Draw Dice
 □ Pick a Point

 □ Four in a Row
 □ Toss for It



#### Go to Prayer

Lord, what could be more important than this lesson on the gospel, presenting your good news to these students? Thank you for Jesus Christ and the forgiveness he offers to sinners. Help me speak your truth in a way that will allow these students to realize the beauty and significance of it. Open their hearts—change them according to your gospel as only you can.

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## **Optional Supplements**

Do	these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.
•	Gospel Beads
	Students will assemble a bracelet or a zipper pull using colored beads that synize the gospel message.
•	Coloring Sheet
	Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
•	Word Search
	Students will search for words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have s dents race against each other or the clock to find all the words.
Vic	leo Clips
	view the recommended video(s) before class. If appropriate, show to your class cuss before, during, or after the lesson.
•	God's Amazing Adventure (3:11)
Po	verPoint
You	may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teach
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## Prepare to Share

#### Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

In past lessons, we have introduced our students to the Bible—where it came from, how to study it, and why we can believe it. These are all critical areas of learning, but what is the central message of the Bible? Let's start at the beginning in the garden of Eden where Adam's fall into sin affected us all. In Genesis, we hear of God's plan of a Redeemer who would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). Jesus the Messiah fulfilled this prophecy—revealing God's plan of redemption.

To truly understand the good news of the Bible, we must first grasp the bad news. Because God is a holy God, 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.

There is absolutely no way that we can work our way to God or ever be good enough to merit eternal life. In fact, the Bible makes it clear that there are no

#### Historical/Apologetics Background

In today's pluralistic society with its many religions and insistence on tolerance, it is important we understand that the good news of the Bible is not just one way among many. Rather, the Bible clearly teaches that faith in this gospel is the ONLY way to be reconciled to God. Jesus is the ONLY mediator between man and God (1 Timothy 2:5). In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." And Acts 4:12 confirms that there is no other name but Jesus' by which we must be saved.

Why is Jesus the only way? Because, as Dr. Bruce Ware puts it:

- Christ alone was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin and as such, he alone qualifies to be Savior (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38).
- Christ alone is God incarnate and as such, he alone qualifies to be Savior (John 1:1–18; Hebrews

good works that will commend us to God. Isaiah 64:6 likens our righteousness to filthy rags.

The good news is that God sent his Son, Jesus, to live a sinless life and die on the cross to pay the penalty of death that we all deserve (2 Corinthians 5:21). Through the death of Christ, we see the justice of God satisfied and the love of God demonstrated (Romans 5:8).

Jesus' death for our sins, his burial, and his resurrection are the heart of the good news. So, what are we required to do to receive forgiveness and gain eternity with our Creator? Repent of our sins and believe the gospel (Mark 1:14–15; John 3:16; Acts 16:30–31; Acts 20:20–21). The Bible promises that those who repent and trust in Christ as Savior will be saved. And when that occurs, 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).

It is not until we grasp the bad news—we are sinners in desperate need of a Savior—that we will appreciate the good news—we can be reconciled to God by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

- 1:1–3, 2:14–18; Philippians 2:5–11; 1 Timothy 2:5–6).
- Christ alone lived a sinless life and as such, he alone qualifies to be Savior (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15, 7:23–28, 9:13–14; 1 Peter 2:21–24).
- Christ alone died a penal, substitutionary death and as such, he alone qualifies to be Savior (Isaiah 53:4–6; Romans 3:21–26; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Christ alone rose from the dead, triumphant over sin and as such, he alone qualifies to be Savior (Acts 2:22-24; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8).<sup>1</sup>

No other person or man-made religion offers the true path of salvation and reconciliation with God. Merely acknowledging that God exists or believing

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<sup>1</sup> Bruce Ware, "Only One Way? The Exclusivity of Jesus Christ and the Gospel," www.christianity.com/god/jesus-christ/only-one-way-the-exclusivity-of-jesus-christ-and-the-gospel-11602124.html

there is a God does not save anyone. Scripture tells us that even the demons believe (James 2:19). It is only through repentance and faith in Jesus and his work on the cross that anyone can be saved.

The early church preached this true gospel amid much opposition. For the first two centuries, Christians were persecuted, killed, and ostracized. Yet, the gospel spread, and the blood of the martyrs only seemed to validate the message, increasing its power.

In AD 312, the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and commanded official toleration of Christianity and other religions. Then in AD 380, Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of the empire. From this point on, Christians could worship openly, and they enjoyed the protection and favor of the government.

Throughout the following centuries, segments of the church began to include doctrines and practices that were not found in the Bible. These included the special authority of the Pope, the concept of purgatory as a place for after-life purification of sins, the immaculate conception and assumption of Mary, the doctrine of transubstantiation (that the bread in the Eucharist becomes the true body of Christ and the wine becomes his blood), and the general belief that

one's good works had to outweigh the bad in order to attain eternal life.

While the true gospel had been corrupted by officials in the church, God always preserved a remnant who believed the truth of his Word. And in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, this remnant courageously began the movement known as the Reformation. God used these believers to restore the gospel of justification by faith in Christ alone, by grace alone—through the truth of the Bible alone.

Today, we again find the professing church corrupted and moving away from the truth and simplicity of the gospel message. Many churches are distorting the Word of God to attract more people to their services. These false messages can range from prosperity preaching (God wants us all to be healthy and wealthy), to "easy believism" (just say a few words and you will be saved for eternity), to counseling sessions based on secular psychology (come see us and we can fix your life), to universalism (anyone can get to heaven as long as you are sincere in what you believe), and the list goes on. As Christians, we are called to be discerning about what we hear and to stand on the authority of God's Word alone.

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## Slide #1



As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

Slide #2



Be sure to explain the memory verse to the students and then practice it by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song.

➤ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them. **2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## Studying God's Word

#### Introduction

Slides #3-5

Refer to previous Lesson Theme Posters. We have been talking a lot about the Bible—where it came from, how to study it, why we can believe it. We know that God loves his Word. He has preserved it. He has protected it. It is complete! And we cannot add to it or take anything away from it.

**?** But why is this such an important book to study? What is the main message of the Bible? *Allow discussion*.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The main message of the Bible has to do with Jesus Christ and what he did when he came to earth. The main message of the Bible is the gospel.



➤ Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

#### Slide #7

Euangelion (yüän-ge'-lē-on): gospel or good news

#### What Is the Gospel?

**?** First of all, who can tell me what I mean by the gospel? Allow students to answer.

Refer to your Bible. Some people think the Bible is the gospel. Some people say that the books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are the Gospels. Both of these answers are right to a point.

- **?** Have any of you ever seen this word? Write on the board, "euangelion."
  - This is a Greek word. The very first manuscripts, or writings, ever found of the New Testament were written in Greek. This Greek word *euangelion* means "good news." We use the word *gospel*, which comes from an Old English word that meant "good news." The gospel is good news. Next to the word "euangelion" write on the board, "means gospel. Gospel means good news."
- ? What do you think this good news is all about? Allow discussion.

The best place to find the answer is right here, in the Bible.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

Slide #8

- **?** Turn to 1 Corinthians 15:3–5. The Apostle Paul wrote this book of the Bible. It is actually a letter written to the Christians in the city of Corinth. They were called Corinthians. Will someone read that? Assign a reader.
- **?** These verses tell us a little bit about the gospel. Who is this verse talking about? *1 Corinthians 15:3. Jesus Christ.*
- **?** What does 1 Corinthians 15:3 tell us Jesus did? Jesus died for our sins.
  - That's right. Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures. That means according to what had been written about him in the Old Testament. He was the Messiah the Jews had been waiting for.
- ? Now look at 1 Corinthians 15:4. What happened to Jesus after he died? He was buried. He rose again.
  - Yes! And again, at the end of that verse, we see that this was according to the Scriptures.
- ? Look in 1 Corinthians 15:5 now. This lists one more thing about Jesus. What is it? He was seen by Cephas and the twelve.
  - Cephas is another name for the Apostle Peter. So, this passage tells us that Peter and the other disciples saw Jesus after he rose from the dead.
  - Let's review these verses as we complete our Class Notes.

Slide #9

- **?** Will someone read #1? What is the answer? Assign a reader. Good news. Have students complete #1.
- **?** And how about #2? What is this good news called? Assign a reader. Gospel. Have students complete #2.
- **?** So, who is this good news about? Look at #3 on the Class Notes. Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #3.
- **?** Great. Look at #4 on your Class Notes. Jesus did something to pay for our sins. What was it that he did? Assign a reader. Died. Have students complete #4.
- Slide #10
- **?** And what happened to him after he died? Look at #5. Will someone read that? Assign a reader. Buried. Have students complete #5.
- **?** And after he was buried? What is the answer to #6? Assign a reader. Rose. Have students complete #6.
- **?** And how can we be sure this is true? Look at #7 on your Class Notes. What is the answer? Assign a reader. Saw. Have students complete #7.

This is the gospel: Jesus lived, died, was buried, and rose again according to what God had spoken through the Scriptures. Jesus was the Messiah the Jews had been waiting for.

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➤ Pass out a Scripture Sheet to each student.

Slide #11

# The Bad News

Pass out a Scripture Sheet to each student. There is more to the gospel, though. You will see what I mean as we read the verses on these Scripture Sheets.

**?** When we talk about the gospel, it is good to start with our holy Creator. Who is that? *God.* 

#### **Revelation 4:11**

- **?** That's right. We start with God. Will someone read Revelation 4:11 from the Scripture Sheet? It is about God. *Assign a reader.*
- **?** What should God always receive? He should receive glory and honor and power.
- **?** Why does God deserve all of these things? Because he created all things.
- **?** God is the perfect Creator of all things. Because of that, he deserves our perfect obedience. He is holy. Will someone read the definition of holy from the Attributes of God Poster? Assign a reader. Cannot sin and hates all sin.
- **?** God wants us to be holy, too. What do you think that means? *Allow discussion*.

God wants us to obey his commands. These commands are in the Bible. We know some of his commands from the Ten Commandments. (See Exodus 20:3–17.)

But can we obey all of God's commandments all the time every day for our whole lives? Are you always content—or do you sometimes want what your friends have? If so, then you've broken the 10th Commandment. Have you ever stolen anything (8th Commandment)? Have you ever hated someone (6th Commandment)? Have you ever told a lie (9th Commandment)? Have you ever used God's name in a way you shouldn't have (3rd Commandment)? Have you always honored your parents with perfect respect and obedience (5th Commandment)?

This isn't easy! Maybe you can keep SOME of God's laws SOME of the time, but it is a sin to disobey ANY of God's laws ANY of the time!

? Do you think God would be happy if you commit just a few sins? Allow discussion.

# Slide #12

#### **James 2:10**

- ? The Bible has something to say about that. Look on your Scripture Sheet. Will someone read James 2:10 for us? Assign a reader.
- ? Who can tell me what this verse is saying? It has to do with the Ten Commandments and obeying God's laws. If we disobey even one part of God's law, we are disobeying all of them.

Wow! That is bad news! If we commit one sin by disobeying even one of God's commandments, it is just like we have disobeyed all of them. And

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disobeying any commandment is a sin. God hates ALL sin—no matter what it is or how small we may think it is.

#### **Romans 3:23**

- Slide #13
- **?** But that's not all. Will someone read Romans 3:23 from the Scripture Sheet? Assign a reader.
- ? And what does God's Word tell us here? We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
  - Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. We are all sinners. God hates sin. And because God is just—he must punish sin.
- ? Who can tell me what the attribute *just* means when we are talking about God? Have a student read the definition. Fair according to who he is; he must punish sin.

Even one sin is not okay with God. God is perfectly right to punish all sin. Remember what James 2:10 said? If we disobey even one law, we are guilty of disobeying all of them.

This is really bad news. God must punish all sins—from the smallest to the largest. And that punishment is eternal life away from God in hell!

# The Good News

So, what can we do? We sin, and we know God hates sin. We know that we must be punished for our sin because God is holy, and he is just. But there is good news! God is good. He loves his children, and he is merciful.

- **?** What do I mean when I say God is loving? Look at the Attributes of God Poster. Always wants what is best for his children.
- **?** And what about merciful? What does that mean? Kind to those in misery; withholds deserved punishment.

Even though God is right to punish us because of our sin, he has shown his love, mercy, and kindness to us. He knows we can't do anything to help ourselves. He knows we can't be perfect on our own.

# John 3:16

- Slide #14
- **?** What did God do to show his love and mercy to us? Will someone read John 3:16 from the Scripture Sheet? That will tell us the answer right from the Bible. *Assign a reader.*
- **?** What did God do for us? He sent Jesus Christ, his Son, to earth.
- **?** What does God offer to sinners who believe in Jesus? *Eternal life in heaven.*
- **?** And how did Jesus die? He was crucified on the cross.

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**?** That is some kind of love. God sent Jesus to die on the cross. Did Jesus ever sin? *No.* 

Do you see God's love and mercy in that? Jesus never did anything wrong—yet he was punished—put to death on the cross. He was punished for our sins—in our place. Jesus, by his death, has saved sinners from the terrible punishment they deserve. That is good news!

# **Ephesians 2:8**

- And the good news keeps getting better. Will someone read Ephesians2:8 on the Scripture Sheet? Assign a reader.
- **?** How are sinners saved, by what? By grace.
- **?** And what are sinners saved through? Faith.

Yes! Sinners are saved by God's grace through faith. Grace and faith are free gifts from God. We aren't saved by anything we do. And that is a good thing because we could never do anything good enough to deserve God's complete forgiveness.

Because Jesus never sinned, his sacrifice on the cross was perfect. And God was able to accept that as payment in full for anyone who would believe in Jesus.

#### Romans 5:8

**?** Let's read another verse that tells about God's amazing love. Will someone read Romans 5:8 on the Scripture Sheet? Assign a reader.

Do you see? This verse tells us that God showed his love for us in Jesus Christ. While we all were still helpless and condemned sinners, Jesus died for us. This is truly good news—this is what we mean by the gospel! It is not about us or anything we could do. It is about what God did for us through Jesus Christ.

# God's Free Gift

#### Mark 1:14-15

- **?** So how do we receive this free gift? Someone read Mark 1:14–15. Assign a reader.
- **?** Who is preaching the gospel in these verses? Jesus.
- **?** What did Jesus tell the people to do? It is at the very end of verse 15. Repent and believe in the gospel. Write on the board, "Repent and believe."

Circle those words on your Scripture Sheets in Mark 1:14–15.

# Acts 16:30-31

Now will someone read Acts 16:30–31? What does this say about being saved? Assign a reader.



# Slide #16



➤ Write the answers to the questions below on the board as you go through these verses. Have the students circle the answers on the Scripture Sheets.



- **?** What question was asked at the beginning of these verses? What must I do to be saved?
- **?** And what is the answer? Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. Write on the board, "Believe in Jesus."

Circle the words "believe in the Lord Jesus" on your Scripture Sheets in Acts 16:30–31.

#### Luke 13:3

- Slide #19
- **?** And the last verse, Luke 13:3. Will someone read that? Assign a reader.
- **?** What does this say sinners must do? *Repent. Write on the board, "Repent."* Circle the word "repent" on your Scripture Sheet in Luke 13:3.
- ? And what if we don't repent? What will happen? We will perish.
- **?** What does repent mean? Allow students to answer.

When we talk about repentance, we are talking about how you feel about your sin. Repentance means you are sorry for your sin—that you hate your sin. To repent, you must know that when you sin against God, he is perfectly right to punish you forever—even for one sin—because all sin is terrible to God. When you repent, you turn away from your sin and turn to Jesus and his free gift of forgiveness.

Bring out covered containers with nice-smelling items. To help us understand what it means to turn away from sin, we're going to do a little experiment. I have some containers here with various items. I want you to smell these items and see if you can name what they are. Go around the class, introducing each item and allowing several students to smell them.

Now, I need a volunteer to smell the items and see if you can name them while blindfolded! Blindfold a volunteer and have him or her smell and name two of the nice items. Secretly bring out the stinky container for volunteer to smell and watch the reaction.

Wheew! What did you think? What did that smell like? Allow volunteer to answer. If time, let a few other students smell the stinky container or pass it around the class.

? This container didn't have nice-smelling items like the others, did it? When we smell something strong or stinky, do we usually get closer or move away? Move away!

Right! We want to get away from the smell! That's how we should feel toward our sin. When we truly repent of sin, we should treat our sin like the stinky container. We should want to get as far away as possible from it! We shouldn't just say, "Well, that was bad, but I'll do it some more." Repentance involves turning away from our sin, or treating our sin as God sees it—as filth he can't be near.

Slide #20

**Repent:** turn away from our sins to Jesus and his free gift of forgiveness

➤ Have the covered containers with items to smell and a blindfold nearby.

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? The Bible says you need to repent and believe. What does it mean when the Bible says you must believe to be saved? Who must we believe in? Jesus.

Right. You need to believe in Jesus. Believe that he is the sinless Son of God who died on the cross and took the punishment for your sins. He is the only one who can save you.

That is the gospel. We started with lots of really bad news about our sin and how God must punish sin because he is holy and just, but we ended with really good news about God's free gift of forgiveness through his grace. The Bible says that to be saved we need to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

Jesus did it all. He took all of the punishment for us. No one else can help us get to heaven and God. We need to repent of our sins, turn to Jesus, and believe what the Bible tells us about Jesus. Then we will be forgiven and won't have to bear the punishment we deserve.

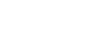
- Slide #21
- ? We have some questions to complete on the Class Notes. Will someone read #8? Who needs to hear the gospel? Assign a reader. Sinners. Have students complete #8.
- **?** And will someone read #9? What do all sinners deserve? Assign a reader. Hell. Have students complete #9.
- **?** God sent Jesus to save sinners. What kind of life did Jesus live? What is the answer to #10 on the Class Notes? Assign a reader. Perfect. Have students complete #10.
- **?** Last is #11. What can sinners do to receive the wonderful eternal life God promised? Assign a reader. Repent. Have students complete #11.

# **Application**

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The gospel is worth sharing with those who don't know it or believe it. But people must understand the bad news of their sin before they can understand and appreciate the good news that Jesus died for them and took their punishment for sin.

A lot of people don't think their sin is "that bad." They don't think that God would really punish anyone for all eternity because of a few sins. They might even think that they can work or do some good things to make up for the bad things they do. But that's not what the Bible teaches. They don't understand what the Bible tells us about God. And they don't know how angry God gets when it comes to sin.

So, if you are talking to your friends or neighbors about Jesus, try to remember to tell them that they do sin—the Bible says everyone does. And tell them that sin separates them from God. They will be separated from God forever unless they repent of their sins and turn to Jesus



Slide #22

Slide #23

Christ in faith. Then the free gift of forgiveness will be theirs because Jesus paid for their punishment for sin on the cross.

Don't be afraid to share the gospel with your friends—it is the most important thing you could ever tell them.

# My G

# **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ and his forgiveness.
- Pray that God would present opportunities to tell family and friends the good news of the gospel.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



# Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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# **Unit Review**

A review of Lessons 1–9.

# Come On In

Students will review the books of the Bible they have been practicing using the Books of the Bible flashcards.

# Memory Verse

Students will take turns reciting the memory verses. You may want to offer prizes or treats to students who can quote them without help. You will start a new verse next week.

# Lesson Theme Poster Review

You will give a quick overview of Lessons 1–9 using the Lesson Theme Posters.

# Review Game

**Bible Standoff:** Students will be divided into two teams. Two students will "standoff" across from each other to answer a review question and earn points for their team.

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# **Lesson Preparation**



# Come On In



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the

**Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 10*. Game
instructions are
also included in the *Appendix* in the back
of this Teacher Guide.

# Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items. Bible Book Match Bible Book Race Bible Speed Round Flashcard Take Away Memory Verse

Bring prizes or treats for students who can recite the verses.

Play the Memory Verse Songs (audio or video) to review the verses with your students.



# **Lesson Theme Poster Review**

Gather the Lesson Theme Posters from Lessons 1-9.



# Review Game—Bible Standoff

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Lesson Theme Posters 1–9.

Bring a deck of numbered cards or write numbers on index cards to use for scoring.

See the game instructions included in the lesson.



# Go to Prayer

Lord, I pray that you would open the eyes and hearts of the students in my class to see your greatness and power. Give them the confidence they need to know that the Bible can be trusted. It is complete. It guides us and can change our lives. Open their eyes to a right understanding of the gospel and what it means for those who believe. Lead them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone.

# Optional Supplements

# **Hands-On Activities**

Choose a favorite or skipped activity from any of the previous nine lessons.

#### **PowerPoint**

You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

We recommend the following order for churches using a large group/small group format:

# Large Group

Lesson Theme Poster Review

**Group Prayer** 

# **Small Group**

Come On In

Memory Verse

Review Game

Optional Activity

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As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

Slide #1

Memory Verse

We are going to start our lesson today by reviewing the memory verses. We should be hiding God's Word in our hearts. Let's see how well you have done with that! Review verses using the Memory Verse Posters and songs.

➤ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

**?** Who can say the verses without any help? Allow students to say the verses individually. Award prizes or treats to those who can recite them without help.

Slides #2-3

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

# Lesson Theme Poster Review

All right! Listen up as we review the last nine lessons!

# Lesson 1

Show Lesson 1 Theme Poster. God's Word must be our foundation. It is completely trustworthy and true. The Bible is described as more valuable than gold and sweeter than honey.

Slide #4

**?** What are some other words used in the psalms to describe God's Word? Allow answers based on the Lesson Theme Poster. Perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous.

If we read and study God's Word, it will 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 shining in the darkness. And it will guide us to make wise choices that will honor and glorify God.

# Lesson 2

Show Lesson 2 Theme Poster and refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What is God like? The answer to that question comes from his Word. We heard about some of the attributes of God in Lesson 2. He is eternal, holy, loving, faithful, sovereign, just, merciful, and so much more! In all these things, God is perfect. And there will always be more about him that we don't know yet. God is incomprehensible!

Slide #5

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But that should not keep us from wanting to learn more! If we don't know the God of the Bible, we may make up a false god in our minds. God has made it clear—we should have no other gods before him.

# Lesson 3

Slide #6

Show Lesson 3 Theme Poster. How do we know God exists? We looked to the Bible to find the answer to that question. In Genesis we found that God was in the beginning—before anything else. And he created ALL things. God is eternal—he had no beginning, and he will have no end.

And we can see that God exists as we look at creation. The design we see could not happen by chance or a big explosion, like the big bang theory that many people believe formed the universe. The Bible calls those who deny the Creator foolish. The perfect order in the universe clearly points to one who is eternal—to the one who created it all.

# Lesson 4

Show Lesson 4 Theme Poster. We spoke of something that really is incomprehensible in Lesson 4—the Trinity. This truth from the Bible tells us that there is one God, and in that one God there are three Persons.

**?** Who are the three Persons in the Trinity? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

And these three Persons have always been! They were present at creation and at Jesus' baptism. They are all the one true God. But they each do different things, and they each have a different role in God's plan.

# Lesson 5

Show Lesson 5 Theme Poster. The Bible is God's Word. It was inspired by God himself. He caused the men who wrote it to write just what he wanted. It is a very important book that should be studied.

**?** There are five questions to ask while we are reading and studying the Bible. What are those five questions? *Who? What? When? Where? Why?* 

As we study the Bible, we will realize that it is good for us. It teaches us the truth—doctrine. It tells us when we are not pleasing God and sinning against him—reproof. It helps us know what WILL please God and teaches us to turn away from our sin—correction. And it tells us how we can honor and obey God—training in righteousness.

# Lesson 6

Show Lesson 6 Theme Poster. In Lesson 6 we read an exciting account of a time God preserved his Word from the wicked King Jehoiakim.

- **?** What was the name of the prophet God gave a message of warning and judgment to deliver to the people, including the king? *Jeremiah*.
- **?** What did King Jehoiakim do when he heard the Word of God read from the scroll? He became angry and tore up the scroll then burned the pieces in a fire.

Slide #7

Slide #8

Slide #9

But King Jehoiakim couldn't destroy God's Word. God gave the message to Jeremiah again, and his scribe Baruch wrote them down a second time. God protected his Word then, and God will continue to protect his Word. It will endure forever—through all generations.

We also learned that the Old Testament is a very important part of God's Word. Jesus had the Scriptures of Moses and the Prophets, which is what we call the Old Testament. Jesus studied it, believed it, and taught from it, so we should too.

# Lesson 7

Show Lesson 7 Theme Poster. In Lesson 7 we learned of three good reasons why we can trust God's Word. First, we learned that the Holy Spirit helped the writers, like John and others, to remember all they needed to know and to write down everything correctly, getting all the details right.

Slide #10

Second, we know that the apostles were eyewitnesses of what Jesus did and said while he was on earth, so they knew what they wrote was true.

Third, we saw, in at least two different places in the Bible, that God cannot lie. It is impossible for God to lie. So we can trust him and everything he says.

God's Word is complete with the books of the Old and the New Testaments. We cannot add anything to it. And if anyone takes words away from it, then he or she wouldn't have the whole truth. The Bible has everything God wants us to know in it. It is just the way God wants it to be.

# Lesson 8

Show Lesson 8 Theme Poster. In Lesson 8 we found out that God is serious about his Word, and he does NOT want anyone to change it. The Bible is the only inspired revelation from God. It must be the absolute authority.

Slide #11

False teachers have tried to change God's Word and teach lies. They add things they like and take out things they don't like. These people are false prophets who teach false religions. They are not speaking for God or teaching God's truth. God warns that they will be punished.

We must always be careful to compare what we hear with what the Bible actually says.

# Lesson 9

Show Lesson 9 Theme Poster. We have talked a lot about God and the Bible. And in Lesson 9 we saw why it is so important to know that the Bible is true! You see, the entire Bible is about the good news. The good news I'm talking about is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Slide #12

The Bible tells us that there is bad news that goes along with that good news. That bad news is that we are all sinners, and God must punish sin. But this bad news helps us realize how important and how wonderful

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the good news is. God loved sinners so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die so sinners could be forgiven—and spend eternity with God. And the salvation Jesus offers is the good news! It is the only way sinners can be saved.



# **Group Prayer Time**

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

- Thank God for the truth of his Word.
- Thank God for the students in your class.



# Review Game-Bible Standoff



We encourage you to play the following review game.

#### **Materials**

Review Questions

Lesson Theme Posters 1–9

Deck of numbered cards or index cards with numbers written on them

#### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions. Place Lesson Theme Posters where students can see them. Shuffle and stack the cards facedown at the front.

Divide the class into two teams. Arrange two rows of chairs facing each other. Have Team 1 sit in one row of chairs across from Team 2.

Ask the first review question to the two students in the first seats. Students can refer to the Lesson Theme Posters or other classroom posters for the answers. Some answers they may just have to know! The first student to stand and answer correctly will draw a card from the deck. If the first student to stand answers incorrectly, the other student may answer and draw a card if correct. Students will keep their cards until the end of the game. The card value represents points. If using playing cards, face cards are 10 and jokers are 20.

After the first question has been answered, tell both players to move to the end seat in their row. All the other players will scoot one seat up. Ask the two new players in the first seats the next question. The student who stands first gets to answer. Repeat the same as before until all questions have been asked. Keep the game moving by having students switch seats quickly. Ask the questions as the players walk back to the end of their row. At the end of the game, teams will add up their cards to see who wins.

➤ If you have more time after the review game, watch a video clip or choose a hands-on activity from a previous lesson.

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# Come On In Games

Choose one of these games to review the books of the Bible with your class. Use the Books of the Bible Flashcards (additional purchase), or print flashcards from the Teacher Digital Resources.

# Memory Verse Games

Choose one of these games to practice the memory verse with your class.

# Lesson Review Games

Choose one of these games to review with your class at the end of each lesson.

All game instructions and materials can also be accessed from the Teacher Digital Resources within each Lesson: *Come On In, Memory Verse*, and *Lesson Review*.

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# Come On In Games

We recommend that you work with sets of 10 flashcards at a time then add on the next 10 until the order of all the flashcards has been memorized.

We have provided a pronunciation guide for the books of the Old Testament. This document can be found in the Teacher Digital Resources. Allow students to refer to the Books of the Bible Poster during the games. You may want to cover it up after a few weeks for more of a challenge.

# **Bible Book Match**

Teams flip over flashcards to make matches.

#### **Materials**

- ☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

# **Instructions**

Print two sets of flashcards. Lay the flashcards out on the floor facedown or attach them to the wall. Divide the class into two teams. Teams will take turns choosing two flashcards, turning them over to see if they match. If they do not match, flip the flashcards back over. Teammates can help each other decide which flashcards to choose. You may want to have the whole class play this game together.

You can make it more challenging by printing four sets of flashcards and playing the game with twice as many flashcards to choose from. As students find matches, discuss each Bible book (give a few details from the back of the color Flashcards if you have those).

# **Bible Book Race**

Teams race to get their sets of Bible books in order. How fast can they go?

# **Materials**

- ☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards
- □ Timer

#### **Instructions**

Print enough flashcards for each team to have a set of 10. Mix up the flashcards in each set. Divide students

into teams and pass sets of 10 flashcards to each team facedown. Set the timer for an appropriate time. Tell the groups to begin. Each group should work together to put their flashcards in order. Check the order by reciting the books of the Bible together using the poster.

You may play this with each team working on the same set, or you may choose to give each team different sets to work on. Check the order of all the teams' flashcards by reciting each set out loud.

# **Bible Speed Round**

Teams lay down their flashcards in order as fast as they can.

# **Materials**

☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards

#### **Instructions**

Print one set of 20+ flashcards for each team of 4–5 students. Divide the class into two or more teams. Give each team a set of flashcards. Have one student in each team pass out the flashcards in random order to their

teammates. Have the student holding the first card in the series place it on the table in the middle of the team. Each team member should hold their flashcards in their hand fanned out, so they can see each book at the same time. When all the teams are ready, signal "Go!" As fast as they can, teams should lay down their flashcards in the correct order on top of each other, saying the name of each book as they go.

When they get to the end of their flashcards, the team will stand up. Check the order of their flashcards by having them say the name of each book out loud.

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# Flashcard Take Away

Start with all of the flashcards—but wait! What happens when flashcards are taken away? Can students still say them in order?

#### **Materials**

- ☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards ☐ Tape or poster putty

# Instructions

Print one set of flashcards. Put them in order on the wall or board as you recite them together. Choose a student to remove one card. Recite the books again. Continue to choose students to remove flashcards one at time, reciting the whole list of books between each one. When all of the flashcards are gone, see if they can say the whole set together!

# I Have You Have

Students will respond to each other with the name of the book on their flashcard in the correct order. See if they can get through the whole set without starting over!

# **Materials**

☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards

#### Instructions

Print any set of 10 flashcards for an easy amount to remember. But if you have a larger class, add enough flashcards so every student has one or divide into groups. Have students sit around a table or in a circle. Pass the

flashcards out to the students. The student with the first book in order will say the name of the book on his card and the next student will respond, for example, "I have Genesis, who has Exodus?" The student with the next card will respond with "I have Exodus, who has Leviticus?" You could play a variation of this by having the whole class ask the question. For example, the student says, "I have Genesis." Then the whole class can ask, "Who has Exodus?" Continue through the set.

Each student will respond and repeat until everyone has said their card. Allow students to help each other and to use the poster.

# **Look Behind You**

"What does mine say?" "Turn around!" "You go here." Students help each other get in the right order according to the signs on their backs in this crazy group game.

#### **Materials**

- ☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards
- ☐ Masking tape

#### Instructions

Print and use a set of 10 flashcards at a time. Tape the flashcards onto students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves into the correct order. Once they think they are standing in order, check by reading the book titles out loud according to how they are standing.

If you have fewer than 10 students, tape more than one card, in the proper order, on some students. If you have more than 10 students, assign the students without the flashcards to put the students with the flashcards into the proper order. Repeat if time allows.

For a challenge, use a timer or count how many changes it takes to finish.

After putting the students with flashcards in order, have the class recite the books in order.

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# **Next in Line**

Students stand in line with the flashcards and must race the clock to get all of the flashcards in order. Can they beat their own time? Note: This game is good for six or more students.

# **Materials**

☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards

# ☐ Stopwatch

**Instructions** 

Print one set of 10 flashcards that you are focusing on. Have students line up a few feet from a table. Mix the flashcards up and give one to each student. If you have fewer than 10 students, give two flashcards out to some of them.

Tell the students the first book and the last book in the set you are practicing, such as "Genesis is first, and 2 Samuel is last." The student with the first book in the set will run up to the table and lay the card down on the end. As soon as he gets back to his place in line, the student with the card that has the next book of the Bible must run up and place his card on the table then run back to the line. Continue until all of the students have placed their flashcards on the table in order.

Use a stopwatch to record the time. Check the order by reciting the names of the books with the students. Have the students try again to beat their time.

# Popcorn

Students "pop" up as they say the name of the book on their flashcard. Start out slowly and see how fast you can

#### Materials

☐ Books of the Bible Flashcards

# Instructions

Print enough flashcards for each student to have at least one. Have students sit around a table or squat down in a circle. Pass out the flashcards in order to the students.

Have the student with the first book on his card begin by popping up and saying the name of the book. As you go around the circle, have each student take turns "popping" up as they say the next book.

Once you get to the end of the set of flashcards you are working on, go around again and have the students sit back down when they say their book.

After the students have practiced the order of the books, you could also mix it up by having students sit out of order and see how well they remember the order, popping up when it's their turn to say the name of their book.

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# Memory Verse Games

Allow students to refer to the Memory Verse Poster during the games. You may want to cover it up after a few weeks for more of a challenge.

# Down the Line

Say your part of the verse while passing the spoon—under your left leg with your right hand, that is!

# Materials

- ☐ Passing Cards☐ Plastic spoon
- □ Cotton ball□ Container

# Instructions

Print and cut out one set of the Passing Cards and put them into a container. Have the students line up facing you. Put a cotton ball into the plastic spoon and give it to the student on one end of the line. Draw a card from the container. The students must pass the spoon from one end of the line and back again according to what the card says, keeping the cotton ball on the spoon (without touching it). For example, they may have to pass the spoon with their left hand or under their right leg! As they pass the spoon, they each must say the next word in the memory verse. If the cotton ball falls or someone says the wrong word, you may have the students start the verse over. Repeat with a new card until the verse has been recited several times.

Try using a larger spoon and balancing a small orange or boiled egg on it!

# **Egg Hunt**

Hunt for all the parts of the memory verse hidden in the eggs! This game can be played all year round. The plastic eggs just happen to be great little containers that can be hidden easily.

# Materials

- ☐ Strips of paper
- ☐ Plastic Easter eggs

# Instructions

Write the memory verse on strips of paper with one or two words on each strip. Put one strip inside of each plastic Easter egg. Hide all the eggs around the room.

Have the students search for the eggs and bring them back to their table. They will open the eggs and work together to put the verse in the proper order.

For a larger class, prepare more than one set of eggs (sorted by colors for different teams). Students can work in teams to collect and construct the verse.

# **Look Behind You**

"What does mine say?" "Turn around!" "You go here." Students help each other get in the right order according to the signs on their backs in this crazy group game.

#### **Materials**

- $\ \square$  Index cards
- ☐ Masking tape

# **Instructions**

Write one or two words from the memory verse on each index card. Tape cards onto students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing.

If you have more cards than students, tape more than one card in the proper order on some students. Repeat the game so all students get to participate.

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# Now You See It

Start out with all the words then erase them one by one. Can you still say the verse?

# **Materials**

- ☐ White board
- ☐ Marker and eraser for white board

# **Instructions**

Write the memory verse on the board. Recite the verse together. Choose a student to come up to the board and erase one or two words at a time. Have the class recite the entire verse each time another word is erased. Continue erasing words and reciting until all of the words are gone. Then ask students to try reciting the whole verse without any words left on the board.

# Popcorn

Students "pop" up as they say their part of the memory verse. Start out slowly and see how fast you can go!

#### Materials

☐ None

#### **Instructions**

Have students squat down in a circle. Begin by saying the first word in the memory verse. As you go around the circle,

have each student take turns "popping" up as they say the next word then squat back down. Repeat.

You may want to divide the class into two groups. Have the first group pop up and say the first word then squat back down. Then the second group pops up saying the next word and squats back down and so on until the verse is completed. Repeat—going faster and faster!

# **Review Card Relay**

"On your mark, get set, go!" Teams will race to put the memory verse cards in order.

#### **Materials**

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

# **Instructions**

Write one or two words from the memory verse on each index card. Make one set for each team. Divide the class into teams. Randomly lay out each set of cards facedown

on the floor—one set for each team. Put a piece of poster putty or tape on each one.

Have teams line up away from the cards. When the relay begins, the first student in each line will race to the cards, pick one up, and put it on the wall or board. As the relay continues, students will put each card on the board in the proper order. They may need to rearrange the cards to fit others

When finished, have the class read the verse aloud together.

# Stack Em Up

Teams of two will stack the cups in the right order. Add a timer or make it a race!

#### Materials

- ☐ Colored markers
- ☐ Foam or plastic cups with the memory verse written on them for each team
- ☐ Optional: timer

# **Instructions**

Turn each cup upside down so the stack will have a wide base. On the rim of each cup, write one or two words from the memory verse, including the reference. Make sure the words show when the next cup is stacked on top of it. (See picture at right.)

Mix up the cups and have teams stack them up in the correct order. Have teams race against each other or time them as they stack the cups in the correct order.



# **Your Turn**

Students recite the verse taking turns back and forth. Will they remember their parts?

#### Materials

☐ Optional: timer

#### Instructions

Pair the students together. Have each pair stand back to back. Allow pairs to take turns reciting the verse. One

student begins with the first word of the memory verse. Then the other student must say the next word. Keep going back and forth until the verse is completed. If a student makes a mistake or can't remember the right word, allow another pair to try.

After everyone has had a turn, mix up the pairs and repeat. Have students race against a timer for an extra challenge.

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# Lesson Review Games

These games are written for team play, however, they can easily be adapted for smaller classes.

Allow students to refer to the Lesson Theme Poster during the games.

# **Board Game**

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

# **Materials**

- ☐ Review Questions ☐ E
  ☐ Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit) 6
  ☐ Dice, numbered cards, or
- ☐ Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team
- Instructions

spinner

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

# **Box Toss**

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

# **Materials**

□ Review Questions□ Medium-sized cardboard□ Four beanbags□ Masking tape

# **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag

to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

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# **Draw Dice**

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

# **Materials**

☐ Review Questions ☐ Pencils or white board ☐ One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.) ☐ One die

# Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.

They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

# Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

# Materials

☐ Review Questions☐ Masking tape

☐ Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

# Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

# **Goofy Golf**

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

#### **Materials**

□ Review Questions□ Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers

☐ Masking tape☐ Ten sheets of paper

☐ Markers

☐ Rolled up socks

#### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less

depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

# Oh No

Not every roll of the dice will be good for the team. Answer the question, roll the dice, and be prepared to say, "Oh no!"

# **Materials**

☐ Review Questions ☐ Two dice

#### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns answering review questions. When a team answers correctly, have them roll the dice to determine their points. If a team does not answer correctly, give the answer and repeat the question later. Keep track of team scores.

Numbers aren't always a winner! If students roll:

2 or 3 that team gives 5 points away to the other team4 or 5 that team takes 5 points from the other team

6–10 face value

subtract 10 points from the team score

double the team score

(Note: no team can have less than 0 points.)

# Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

#### **Materials**

☐ Review Questions☐ Small paper strips

☐ Cup or basket

# Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper

to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

# Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

#### **Materials**

□ Review Questions□ A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

□ One beanbag□ Masking tape

☐ Two baskets or containers for cards

# **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the

masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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