



God's Word Is Our Foundation

1

Key Themes

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

Key Passage

- Psalm 19:7–11

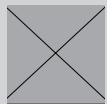
Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the Bible as the starting point from which we make decisions.
- List qualities of God's Word, including *perfect* and *true*.



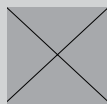
Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will color the God's Word Is Our Foundation coloring sheet.



Studying God's Word

page 5

The Bible is perfect and true, the completely trustworthy starting point for understanding the world. Though our own viewpoint is distorted, the Bible gives us wisdom and the Bible can change us.



Activity 1: God's Word Changes Us!

page 9

Students will play a game where they will point to the different parts of their bodies that are changed by the Word of God, using the phrases studied from Psalm 19:7–11.



Activity 2: God's Word Is True

page 11

Students will learn a rhythmic poem called "God's Word Is True." The poem reinforces belief in the truth of God's Word.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print God's Word Is Our Foundation coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- God's Word Is Our Foundation coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Board Work Outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one set of the Quarter Overview display material from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one God's Word Changes Us sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Poster putty
- Quarter Overview display material
- Pencils or crayons
- Lesson Board Work Outline
- God's Word Changes Us sheet for each student
- God's Word Changes Us answer key



GOD'S WORD CHANGES US!

- Use the God's Word Changes Us sheet from the lesson (see above).

- God's Word Changes Us sheets



GOD'S WORD IS TRUE

- Practice saying the poem so you know it well enough to lead it with enthusiasm.

- Student Take Home Sheets



Memory Verse

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

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

In order to best prepare your heart and mind for the lesson this week, take time to read and meditate on Psalm 19, 86:11, and 119:105.

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, 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 revealed 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; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name" (Psalm 86:11).

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's messages presupposed that the Scriptures were true.

He knew the Scriptures so well, 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. If we give up our starting point—our foundation—we will lose the battle before it begins. We must assume that the Bible is the trustworthy starting point from which we interpret all of life.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

We are no longer a culture that depends on God's Word. Today people doubt that the Bible's history is even true. The history of mankind shows over and over that when the Bible is rejected, "man himself becomes the measure of all things." How have we gotten to this age of man-centeredness?

Ever since the Garden of Eden, there has been a battle over the authority of the Word of God. The serpent asked Eve, "Did God really say that?" (Genesis 3:1). And the apostle Paul warns us that just as the serpent deceived Eve so our minds can be corrupted to believe lies that deny biblical truth (2 Corinthians 11:3).

The book of Genesis provides the foundation for the Bible and the gospel message of redemption. 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. Even many in the church have separated “church” life from “all other” life. 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 will 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.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, I know that your Word has all I need in order to trust and obey you. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Help me to be diligent to study your Word. Increase my confidence that your Word will guide me and open the eyes of the children to one day see that they can rely on your Word for direction. Thank you Lord for the reminder in this lesson that your Word should be my starting point in addressing all the issues in my life.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will color the God's Word Is Our Foundation coloring sheet.



Studying God's Word

Place the poster of the questioning person from the Quarter Overview display on the wall as you say:

Here you are on the first day of our new Bible learning adventure—this little person represents you! Through our study over the next weeks, you'll hear the answers to some questions that you may have wondered about like:

Place question bubbles from Quarter Overview display on wall around the person poster, reading them as you place them.

- Why do we have to use the Bible at all?
- Who wrote the Bible?
- Does the Bible have mistakes?
- How did we get the Bible?
- Lots of religions claim to have God's Word, so how do I know this Bible is true?
- Does God really even exist?
- How can I know what God is like?
- What is the Trinity?

You may leave this display on the wall for the next six weeks as you answer these questions.

There are answers to all these questions. Today we will begin by finding the answer to the first one—why do we have to use the Bible at all?

READ THE WORD

The best way to find answers is to begin with God's Word, the Bible. Turn to Psalm 19. We'll begin reading at verse 7 and read through verse 11. *Help children find Psalm 19. Encourage them to bring their Bibles each week. Read this passage aloud.*

Psalm 19:7–11

EXAMINE THE WORD

You know, it is good to read God's Word, but also great to study His Word. That is what we're going to do now.

Observe the Text

In this passage, God's Word—the Bible—is described in five different ways. There are some big words here, so listen closely.

► Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.



? What is the Word of God called in verse 7? There are two answers. *Law and testimony. Write on the board, "Law, Testimony." Also refer to the Memory Verse poster.*

? And in verse 8, what is the Bible called? There are two words again and they are pretty big words. You can look in your Bible and the answer is also on the Memory Verse poster. *Statutes and commandments. Write on the board, "Statutes, Commandments."*

? Have you heard the word "commandments" before? What do you think of when you hear it? *The Ten Commandments. Point to Ten Commandments poster.*

Here, the word "commandments" is talking about all of God's Word, the Bible, and everything in it.

? Now in verse 9 there is another name for God's Word. What is it? *Judgments. Write on the board, "Judgments."*

All these words are talking about the Bible. Let's say them again together: LAW, TESTIMONY, STATUTES, COMMANDMENTS, JUDGMENTS. Good job! *Refer to the words on the board.*

? And all those words are talking about what? *The Bible! Write on the board, "The Bible."*

When we look at what else the verses are saying, we see that the Bible does many things for us.

Hand out the sheet entitled "God's Word Changes Us." Give each child a pencil or crayon.

Look at the picture of a child on your worksheet. We are going to see that the Bible can change many things about us.

Let's look at the phrases to the left. These phrases are taken from the passage we read in Psalm 19. *Refer to the Memory Verse poster as you go through these phrases.*

The first one says, "converting the soul." When we talk about our soul, we are talking about who we really are on the inside. The Bible can change who we are on the inside. Instead of wanting our own way, the Bible can help us want to follow God's way. It can change our heart.

Do you see a heart on the picture of the child? Draw a line from the phrase "converting the soul" to the heart on the child. God's Word can change our heart.

The next phrase says "making wise."

? Do you want to be wise? What do you think it means to be wise? *Allow for answers.*

If the Word of God makes us wise, it means we are going to know the right things to do. Do you ever wonder what the right thing to do is? The Word of God can help you.

? Which part of our body has to do with our thinking and knowing? *The brain.*

Draw a line from the phrase "making wise" to the brain.

The next phrase is “rejoicing the heart.”

- ? “Rejoicing the heart” means His Word gives us joy that really can’t be explained. What part of the body shows everyone around us how joyful we are? *Our smile.*

Draw a line from the phrase “rejoicing the heart” to the smile on the child.

“Enlightening the eyes” means the Bible helps us understand—like light brightens a dark room. It helps us see things clearly so we are not confused.

- ? Where should we draw the line for the phrase “enlightening the eyes?” *To the eyes.*

God’s Word “warns” us. It tells us the things we need to avoid—the things that displease our holy God.

- ? When your parents warn you about things, what are they usually saying? *Give some examples here, “Don’t run into the street; don’t touch the hot stove; don’t hit your sister, etc.” Children will have some other examples.*

Many times when we are warned, we have to watch our hands or our feet, don’t we? The Bible warns us not to let our feet take us anywhere we shouldn’t go. It tells us not to let our hands touch things we shouldn’t touch. Draw a line from “warns” to the feet and hands of the child.

Wow, the Bible really does a lot for us, doesn’t it? If we read and obey the Bible it can change every part of us!

Discover the Truth

Now that we have seen what the passage says, let’s talk about the main idea—God’s Word changes us, making us wiser and happier from the inside out. Look at your worksheets. If we know God’s Word, what part of our bodies might show changes? *Allow children to answer: our brain, our eyes, our smile, our heart, and our hands and feet.*

That’s right. Our brain will change if we are wise—and God’s Word makes us wise. Our heart will change if our soul is changed—and God’s Word converts the soul. Our smile will change if we are rejoicing—and God’s Word makes us rejoice. Our eyes will change if they are enlightened—and God’s Word enlightens us. What we do with our feet and hands (how we behave) will change if we are warned not to do things—and God’s Word warns us.

We can’t figure things out on our own. We must rely on God’s Word and always start there to find answers. God’s Word helps us to make wise choices.

God’s Word helps us in all things because God knows all things. We say He is omniscient. This means He knows everything—past, present, and future. This is what we call an attribute of God.

OMNISCIENT
(Refer to Attributes poster)

There are many attributes of God, and we will be talking about them throughout the year. Can you find the attribute omniscient on this poster? What does it mean? *Point to the Attributes of God poster and have someone read the definition.*

God knows all things. And He has given us His Word so we can know Him better. We need the truth of God’s Word to help us understand the world we live in. We need God’s Word to help our brain and our heart to be obedient and to trust Him completely.

? So, when we have a question, where should we look for the answer? *The Bible, God’s Word.*

That’s right! We call this “putting on biblical glasses.” In other words, we begin to answer our question by looking in God’s Word to see what it says.

Putting on biblical glasses helps us to understand the world we live in. Like we just learned from Psalm 19—God’s Word “enlightens our eyes.” It changes how we view the world.

Let’s stand up and review what the Word of God does for us!





God's Word Changes Us!

MATERIALS

- God's Word Changes Us sheets used earlier in the lesson

INSTRUCTIONS

As you say each phrase, have the children point to the part of the body that the phrase refers to. Do it quickly like a game of Simon Says. If you have a class that catches on quickly, try pointing to one of the parts of the body and let the children try to remember the phrase. Refer them to the worksheets and/or the memory verse poster for help.

Let's all stand! I am going to repeat the phrases we learned from Psalm 19 and I want you to point to the part of the body that the Word of God will change if we let it. Listen carefully because I am going to go faster and faster! Remember, "converting the soul" is the HEART, "making wise" is the BRAIN, "enlightening the eyes" is the EYES,

"rejoicing the heart" is the SMILE, and "warns us" is the HANDS and FEET, so touch your FEET with your HANDS. Ready? Let's go!

Play the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Well, we have answered the first question, "Why do we have to use the Bible at all?" God makes it clear that His Word is very special and we need it to change our lives. Psalm 19 is a reminder of just how perfect God's Word is. *Refer to the Quarter Overview display if you posted it.*

So, we have read God's Word and studied God's Word, and we are going to memorize God's Word. Our memory verse for the next several weeks is Psalm 19:7–9. Let's look more closely at it.



READ THE WORD

Let's read Psalm 19:7–9 from the Memory Verse poster. These verses say a lot of things about the Bible. *Read the verses from the Memory Verse poster.*

Psalm 19:7–9

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? How does verse 7 describe God's Word? *Perfect and sure.*
- ? How does verse 8 describe it? *Right and pure.*
- ? And how does verse 9 describe it? *Clean, true, righteous.*

All those words tell us that God's Word can be trusted! We can always believe it. It is never wrong! And it will never be destroyed; it will endure forever! It is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true, and righteous. *Refer to the Memory Verse poster.*

Listen as I read Psalm 19:10–11 to you. This is referring to God’s Word. *Read the verses slowly.*

? What should we desire God’s Word more than? *Gold.*

? And what is it sweeter than? *Honey.*

God says listening to His Word is better than getting gold, or in your case better than the best toy you ever wanted.

God’s Word is also sweeter than honey! It is better than eating a candy bar!

Discover the Truth

We have talked today about how God’s Word can change us. It is very special. It even promises great rewards—not here on earth, but through all eternity with God. But not everyone looks at the Bible in the same way. Some people don’t believe it and don’t trust it to help them answer the questions they have.

I am going to read a short story about two friends. These two friends asked questions but they came to very different answers.

Two friends lay in the grass listening to the birds sing, watching them soar. They asked the question, “Where did the birds come from?” They didn’t know because neither of the friends was born when the first birds appeared on the earth.

To find the answer, the wise friend began by looking to God’s Word, where he read that God spoke and created birds each according to its kind on the fifth day of Creation. He concluded that the beautiful birds were designed by God on that day.

The foolish friend ignored the Bible and read a book written by someone who had lived long after creation—someone who was not there when the first birds appeared on the earth. That book said that birds were millions of years old and that they had evolved from dinosaurs. Although the friends both looked at the same birds, they had very different answers to their question.

? Where did each friend look for the answer to the question? *One looked in the Bible and one looked in a different book.*

The two friends had what we call different starting points. One began by using his “biblical glasses.” He believed that God would know the answer. After all, God is omniscient and He was there at creation.

The other friend listened to a man’s ideas—someone who wasn’t there at creation and doesn’t know all things.

? Who do you think we should listen to? *God.*

God’s Word makes us wise, so our BRAIN thinks the right things. God’s Word changes our HEART, so we want to believe what is right. God’s Word enlightens our EYES, so we see the way things really are. God’s Word

makes us rejoice, so we can SMILE no matter what happens. God's Word WARNS us, so we know when something is wrong. God's Word is true, right, and lasts forever!

These friends saw and heard the very same things—the sky, the birds, and the pretty sounds the birds made—but they had different starting points. The truth comes from God's Word—it is the only thing that is sure and right. We need to start there when we want answers to our questions.



God's Word Is True

MATERIALS

- Student Take Home Sheets

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and have the children turn to page 2.

We have a poem that will help us remember what we talked about today—that God's Word is true! Let's say it together. *Have the children stand and recite the poem on page 2 together. Start with just the first verse; perhaps that will be enough for them to learn at this age. Have them do hand motions or jump up and down. Make it action-packed and exciting!*

God's Word Is True

God's Word is true, I know it!
I want my life to show it.

God speaks the truth to all mankind,
A better source you cannot find.
God's Word is true, I KNOW IT!

Scripture, Bible, or God's Word,
Titles that you all have heard,
Breathed out by God who never lied,
Giving us a faithful guide.
God's Word is true, I KNOW IT!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Take this Take Home Sheet home with you today. Teach this poem to your friends, your parents, and your family. It will remind you (and them) that God's Word is true and that it should be your starting point to answer all of our questions.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

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

God's Word also changes us. God's Word makes us wise, so our BRAIN thinks the right things. God's Word changes our HEART, so we want to

➤ Each lesson has a Lesson Theme poster which should be posted in the classroom to highlight the main point. These will be used for review in future lessons.

believe what is right. God's Word enlightens our EYES, so we see the way things really are. God's Word makes us rejoice, so we can SMILE no matter what happens. God's Word WARNS us, so we know when something is wrong. *Point to parts of body while reviewing.*

God's Word is true, right, and lasts forever! We need to look at all of life through biblical glasses, using the Bible as our foundation in everything.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God's Word has the answers we need to questions we have. But, you need to know God's Word in order to know how to answer the questions. Your friends may not agree that God's Word gives answers. After all, it doesn't tell you what movie to watch or what bike to buy, does it? But what the Bible does tell us is that everything we do should honor God. The Bible tells us how to do that—by being obedient to God's Word. When we are trying to honor God, we will make wiser choices about everything we do.

Remember though, to know what God says, you will have to read the Bible. Each week I am going to give you one of these Student Take Home Sheets. *You should have passed these out to do the activity above. If not, pass them out now.*

It has a section called "Read the Word." It is in the center section. Everyone turn to it. This is something you will want to do with your parents or your older brothers or sisters. It will help you to read just a little bit of God's Word every day. That is the only way you will get to know God's Word better and be able to find the answers you need.

This Take Home Sheet also has the memory verse on it under "Learn the Word." We will begin memorizing the verse next week, but I think you should be pretty familiar with it after today's lesson. *Read it together several times and begin to memorize it together if you have time.*



➤ Remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

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



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for giving us His perfect Word.
- Ask God to help each of us to change our BRAIN, EYES, HEART, SMILE, HANDS, and FEET so we are pleasing to Him.