



God's Word Is Our Foundation

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Key Themes

- God's Word is the foundation for our lives.

Key Passages

- Psalm 19:7–8, 19:10

Lesson Focus

- God's Word is perfect and pure.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Children will “clean out” play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God is perfect and everything He tells us is true.

Song—Children will use hand and body motions while singing the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song and the God's Word is Perfect song.



Activity 1: Honey Pot Dot-to-Dot

Children will connect the dots to make a honey pot and then color the picture.



Activity 2: Clean and Dirty Water Jar

Children will paste and sprinkle dirt onto the Clean and Dirty Water Jar activity sheet.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Set play dough at each child's seat before class begins.
- Place small pieces of ribbon or paper in each container or ball of play dough.

- Play dough
- Ribbon or paper



CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Jar of clean water & a jar of dirty water
- Optional: Bring a jar of honey for illustration and snack
- Optional: Bring in some beautiful "gold" jewelry for illustration



HONEY POT DOT-TO-DOT

- Print one Honey Pot Dot-To-Dot coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Honey Pot Dot-to-Dot coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



CLEAN AND DIRTY WATER JAR

- Print one Clean and Dirty Water Jar activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Clean and Dirty Water Jar activity sheet for each student
- Dirt in a shaker cup
- Glue
- Optional: Crayons if you just have the children color the jars



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Snacks
- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review



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 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; 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 is 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, then "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 “clean out” the stuff such as ribbons and paper that you placed into the play dough. If time allows, let the children trade containers to clean out the play dough again. Talk to the children about how God’s Word can make us clean on the inside.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Flip Chart, the jars of clean and dirty water, gold jewelry, jar of honey, and any other props you need to teach the lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let’s pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I’m sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today, Adoration prayers are suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let’s just tell God how much we love Him and why He is great and worthy of our praise.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

I’ll start. Dear God, . . . *(insert personal prayer here.)*

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God they love Him.

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? **What is in this Bible?** *God's Holy Word!*
- ? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*
- ? **And all God's words in this Bible are what?** *True!*

Psalm 19:7-8

I'm going to read to you from Psalm 19 to find out more about God's true Word. Listen carefully! *Read Psalm 19:7-8 from your Bible, emphasizing "perfect," "sure," "right," "pure." Use expression.*

God's laws, or rules, are perfect. The Bible has no mistakes. *Hold up your Bible.*

It is perfect and pure, just like this jar of water. *Hold up the clean jar of water.*

- ? **Do you see anything in this water?** *No.*

You're right! This water is clean; there is nothing wrong with it! It is perfect! Now look at this jar of water. *Lift up the jar of dirty water.*

- ? **What do you see?** *Let the children answer.*

- ? **Is this jar of water clean?** *No.*

It is dirty! There is a problem with this water. It is not pure. It is not perfect. We cannot drink it. We cannot wash our hands with it. God's Word is like this clean jar of water. *Hold up the clean jar of water.*

God's Word is perfect. We should trust and obey God's Word because it is perfect. *Hold up the clean water again.*

Listen to what God's Word says. *Show the children your Bible. Point out the verse to them. Remind them this is God's Word! Read the first part of verse 7.*

- ? **Can you say "converting"?** *Have the children repeat the word.*

Converting means to change. God's perfect and pure law can change us from dirty on the inside to clean on the inside. *Hold up the jars of water again.*

- ? **What am I talking about when I say God's perfect law?** *Hold up your Bible for a hint. The Bible!*

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

What else does God tell us about His perfect law? We know it is perfect and pure! Listen again as I read from God's Word. It is from Psalm 19. *Read Psalm 19:10 emphasizing the words "gold" and "honey."*

- ? **This says that God's Word is better than what?** *Re-read the verse. Gold! Pass around some beautiful "gold" jewelry if you've brought it in or refer to the Flip Chart.*

That's right! Gold is like money. Money allows us to buy things we want and like—like this beautiful gold jewelry. Knowing God's Word is better than gold or any jewelry or all the money in the world.

- ? **What is God's Word sweeter than?** *Re-read this portion of Psalm 19:10. Honey! Hold up the jar of honey or refer to the Flip Chart.*

- ? **Have you ever tasted honey?** *Allow for answers.*

It is very sweet and yummy!

- ? **What other kinds of sweet and yummy things do you like to eat?** *Let the children answer.*

God's Word is better than all those treats! God's words are better than honey! God's words are good for us and we should want them! God's Word can change us!

God is perfect and His laws are perfect, too.

- ? **Can God make mistakes?** *No, God's words are perfect!*

- ? **God's Word is sweeter than what?** *Honey. Hold up the jar of honey or refer to the Flip Chart.*

- ? **What is God's Word better than?** *Gold. Hold up the jewelry or refer to the Flip Chart.*

I love God's Word. It is the only book in the world that is perfect, true, and never changes! But it can change us.

It is worth more than all the gold in the whole world. And it is more wonderful than all the honey or yummy treats in the whole world.

Remember that God's Word is perfect! It is a very special book!

- ? **One more time. When I say God's Word what do I mean? Which book am I talking about?** *Hold up your Bible for a hint. The Bible!*

That's right. And God's Word is perfect! It can change us!

SONG

Ok! We are going to learn two new songs to help us remember our lesson and memory verse today. As we sing, I will teach you some hand motions to go along with it, so watch closely! Our first song is called “God’s Word Is Perfect.”

The lyrics to both songs are on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Excellent singing! Now we are going to sing Proverbs 30:5. This is our memory verse. So we want to start our song by saying, Proverbs 30:5! I want to show you where this verse is in my Bible before we start to learn it. *Have the children say the reference a couple of times. Open your Bible to Proverbs 30:5 and let the children see where the verse is.*

► Sing both songs as time allows.

This is God’s Word. We are going to memorize a part of God’s Word. *Refer to the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the picture and repeat the verse with the children. Sing the song together.*

Very good! We’ll keep working on those songs until we know them perfectly. Everyone stand up and stand still. We are going back to our tables. I want you to move quietly and slowly. *You may want to show a finished sample of the coloring sheet before they go back to the table to complete it. Supervise the children going back to their chairs.*



Honey Pot Dot-to-Dot

Here is a special coloring sheet. I want you to connect the dots to make the picture. Then color the picture.

? Why is there a picture of honey on your paper? What did we learn is sweeter than honey? *Hold up the Bible for a hint. God’s Word.*

MATERIALS

- Honey Pot dot-to-dot coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

First connect the dots to make a honey pot. Then color the picture.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Honey is so delicious!

? What does the Bible say is better than honey? *God’s Word.*

God wants us to remember that His Word is perfect. And it is better than all the honey in the world. God’s Word can change us!



Clean and Dirty Water Jar

Do you remember the dirty and clean water jars from our lesson? *Show the jars again.* Now we are going to make our own!

MATERIALS

- Clean and Dirty Jar activity sheet for each student
- Glue
- Shaker of dirt
- Plastic knife or popsicle stick
- Crayons (optional)
- Wet wipes to clean hands before snack time

INSTRUCTIONS

Help each child put a small amount of glue on one of the jars and use a popsicle stick to spread the glue. Use a shaker of dirt to shake onto the glue. Shake off excess dirt. If you don't want to bring dirt in, just have the children color their jars with crayons.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? **What is wrong with the dirty water?** *It is not perfect. It is not pure.*

God's laws are perfect. It is worth all the gold in the world and is better than all the treats in the world. God's Word can change us.



Memory Verse/Snack

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Sing the song again. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Very simply restate the main points of the lesson. This could be done during the activity or at the end of the class. Present the Flip Chart again and summarize the lesson. The idea is for the children to leave with some understanding of the lesson focus.

God's Word is the Bible! It is pure and perfect. He makes no mistakes. We can trust God and what He says.

His Word can change us.

God's Word is sweeter than honey . . . and worth more than all the gold in the whole world!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD.

Your friends might not trust the Bible. But we can trust it because God says it is perfect and true.

GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Thank God that His Word is true
- Thank God that we can trust Him
- Praise God for His law that is better than gold and sweeter than honey
- Ask God to help us obey His perfect law

Do you still have more time? Add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

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

Song Sheet

GOD'S WORD IS PERFECT

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

God's Word is perfect. *(Are you sleeping?)*

Put your hands together and open them up like a book.

God's Word is pu-re. *(Are you sleeping?)*

Put your hands together and open them up like a book.

Yes it is! *(Brother John.)*

Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

Yes it is! *(Brother John.)*

Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

It he-elps us to know Him. *(Morning bells are ringing!)*

Tap pointer finger on the side of your head.

It he-elps us to love Him. *(Morning bells are ringing!)*

Form an X with your arms at your chest.

Yes it does! *(Ding, ding, dong.)*

Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

Yes it does! *(Ding, ding, dong.)*

Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

PROVERBS 30:5 MEMORY VERSE

(To the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

Proverbs 30:5! *(Shout!)*

Every word of God is pure, *(Here we go round the mulberry bush,)*

Stand up when saying "God is pure."

God is pure, *(The mulberry bush,)*

Sit down when saying "God is pure."

God is pure. *(The mulberry bush.)*

Stand up when saying "God is pure."

He is a shield to those who put, *(Here we go round the mulberry bush)*

Put your arm out in front of your body like a hook.

Who put their trust in Him. *(So early in the morning.)*

Point finger up.

Proverbs 30:5! *(Shout!)*

