

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

STUDENT WORKBOOK

1:1

answersingensis

believing it. defending it. proclaiming it.

Petersburg, Kentucky, USA

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Demolishing Strongholds Student Workbook

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LESSON

1

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS

PART 1

CAN WE REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

2 Timothy 4:2 begins by saying, “Preach the word.” The “WORD” in this verse is the Word of God, the Scriptures, the Holy Bible, and that’s what this series is about—sharing the TRUTH of God’s Word with a lost, deceived, disillusioned world. But how do we know if what God’s Word says really is the TRUTH?

In this lesson you will be given evidence, data, and historical facts that confirm the authenticity of the Bible. You’ll find out what biblical Christians believe about the world around them (their worldview) and how we as Christians can support our beliefs about the Bible and the origin of the world.

Before watching the DVD, however, let’s define some terms.

Doctrine—a rule or principle that forms the basis of belief; a body of ideas taught to people as truthful or correct

Epistemology—the branch of Western philosophy that studies the nature and scope of knowledge and belief

Origins—the study of the beginning of time, matter, and life

Revelation—God’s disclosure of Himself and His will to His creatures

Truth—being in accord with experience, facts, or reality; accuracy

World—secular or social life and interests as opposed to spiritual life

Worldview—how one views and interprets the world around him

Culture—the ideas, customs, etc. of a given people in a given period



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VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

In America right now, people talk about the fact that there's a _____ war. The creation—_____ issue is foundational to the culture war ... a war between two _____.



What happened in the _____ to produce this [shape]?

In the topic of _____, what we're trying to do is to say, "How do we _____ the present to the past?"

The message of evolution: "When you die, that's the end of you."

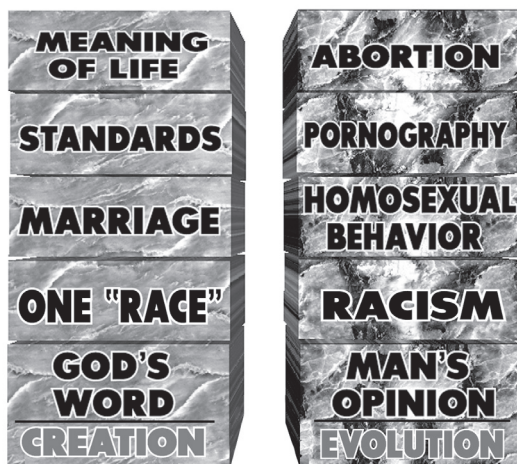
The message of the Bible: "God so _____ the world, He gave His only begotten Son that whoever _____ in Him should not _____, but have _____."



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Creationists and evolutionists all have the same earth, same _____, same animals, same _____ layers and canyons, same _____, etc . . . We all have the same facts. The real battle is over the same _____.

However, we have two different interpretations of the facts.



When we put on biblical glasses, we learn that revelation is the _____ to the past and the present.

Presuppositions (foundational starting points) if my worldview starts with God and the Bible:

1. Life is the result of intelligence (God).

DNA shows evidence of an intelligence (DNA is actually an information system—a code. Scientists know codes only come from an intelligence, and information only comes from information. Nobody's ever seen a code or information arise from matter.)

2. Fossils and rock layers are consistent with a catastrophic global flood.
3. The human genome maps show there's only one race. Evidence is inconsistent with the idea of humans arising from ape-like ancestors and different races (evolution).



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WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY . . .

Science: _____; it is observable, testable, and repeatable.

Faith: firm belief in something for which there is no _____.

Religion: a cause, a principle, a system of _____ held to with honor and _____.

GET INTO THE WORD

Let's take a closer look at key words used in the following verses. Throughout the next week, take the challenge of digging even deeper into the message and power of this passage.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

Inspiration: _____

Doctrine: _____

Complete: _____

Discuss:

1. In light of Paul's purpose for writing to Timothy, why do you think he was guided by the Holy Spirit to assert the authority of the Scripture?



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2. What Scripture is being referred to in these verses?

3. What are some of the doctrines you have learned since becoming a Christian?

“Christianity explains the facts of reality better than any other worldview **because it relies upon divine inspiration**. If the Bible is truly God’s special revelation to man, as we believe it is, then the only completely accurate view of the world must be founded on Scripture.”

—*The Battle for Truth* by Dr. David Noebel, p. 18

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



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FIND THE FOCUS

Whenever God gives us new information or repeats something we've heard in the past, He wants us to pay attention. Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you. (Ideas: Maybe you were made more aware of why you believe or should believe that the Bible is the **only** holy, inspired Word of God; or maybe it became apparent to you through Ken's talk that science—true science—and the Bible are on the same page.)

Whatever you write, be specific and be prepared to share it with the group.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMework

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:1.
2. Read over the article "Biblical Authority Unleashed" several times and be prepared to share three items you could use to defend the authenticity and accuracy of the Bible.



LESSON

2

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS

PART 2

CAN WE REALLY TRUST THE BIBLE?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

In 2 Timothy 4:2b, we are commanded to “Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

Let’s read how the Amplified Bible explains this verse and think about it a little more personally:

“Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready]...”

- Do you live each day as if it could be your last?
- Do your choices show that you are ready, willing, and able to speak up for the Lord without advance notice?
- Are you ready in the sense of knowing what you believe and why you believe it?
- Are you ready to defend your faith in relation to salvation, creation, daily life, etc.?

“...whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.]”

- Do you avoid being in conversations/situations in which your beliefs might be questioned or attacked?
- Do you know how to present your beliefs using God’s Word so that He can use His Word to convict others of the truth?



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“And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.”

- Do you have a concern and compassion for others and understand the urgency of reaching them for Christ?
- Do you pray for your unsaved friends regularly?
- Do you live your life so that others see Jesus Christ in your thoughts, words, and actions?

Are you prepared for spiritual battle? The commands presented in this verse are a sobering reminder that we need to ready ourselves by understanding our enemy and his tactics. In this lesson, you will be made aware of how evolutionists and evolutionary textbooks try to lead you to unbiblical conclusions about origins. You will also see clear evidence presented that supports biblical creation and be reminded of the fact that the Bible confirms what true science shows.

Before watching the DVD, however, let's define some terms.

Presupposition: A starting point accepted as true; an established principle or law of science, art, etc.

Straw Man: As a rhetorical term, “straw man” describes a point of view that was created *in order to be easily defeated in argument*; the creator of a “straw man” argument does not accurately reflect the best arguments of his or her opponents, but instead sidesteps or mischaracterizes them so as to *make the opposing view appear weak or ridiculous*.

An example of this is when person A says “I don't think children should run into the busy streets.” Person B responds “I think that it would be foolish to lock up children all day with no fresh air.” This insinuates that person A's argument is ridiculous and far more severe or extreme than it is.



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VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

How do you find out who's _____ [about origins]?

We can use _____ science and apply it to those interpretations of facts.

When we apply observational science to changes in dogs, it really confirms biblical _____ because dogs _____ dogs, elephants remain _____, etc. There's _____ evidence of a mechanism to change one _____ into another when you study genetics. When you study _____ and you study the rock layers, actually what you find over the earth is more consistent with _____ processes, NOT _____ of years of processes.

Definition #1 for Evolution—Dictionary definition: a process of _____ in a certain direction; an unfolding; i.e., _____.

True or False

“Before Charles Darwin, most people believed that God created all living things in exactly the form we see them today. This is the basis of the doctrine of creation.” (Quotation from a display in the *Natural History Museum* in London, England)

BEWARE OF THE STRAW MAN!

The evolution they are referring to is _____-to-_____ evolution, but all they define it as is _____. People get indoctrinated here!

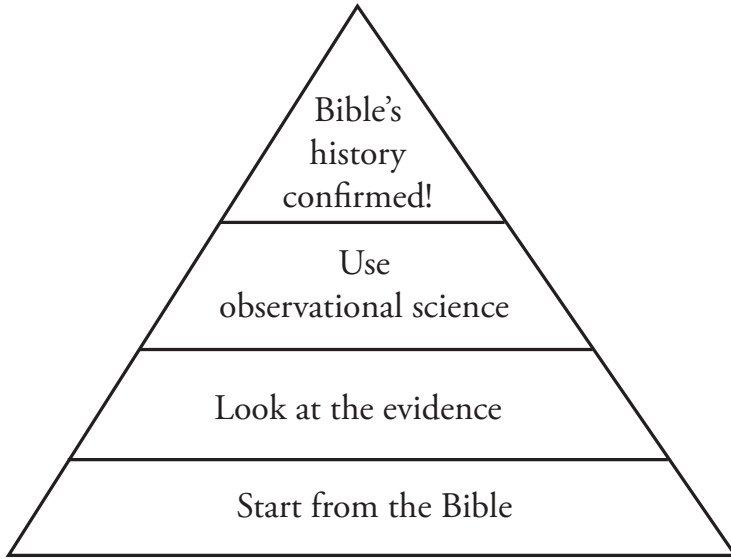
What Darwin observed was not a process of _____ that would change one kind into _____; he observed the hand of _____ in the phenomenal _____ that God placed there.

_____ science and _____ confirm the Bible's account of kinds; it _____ confirm molecules-to-man evolution! The Bible's history is _____!

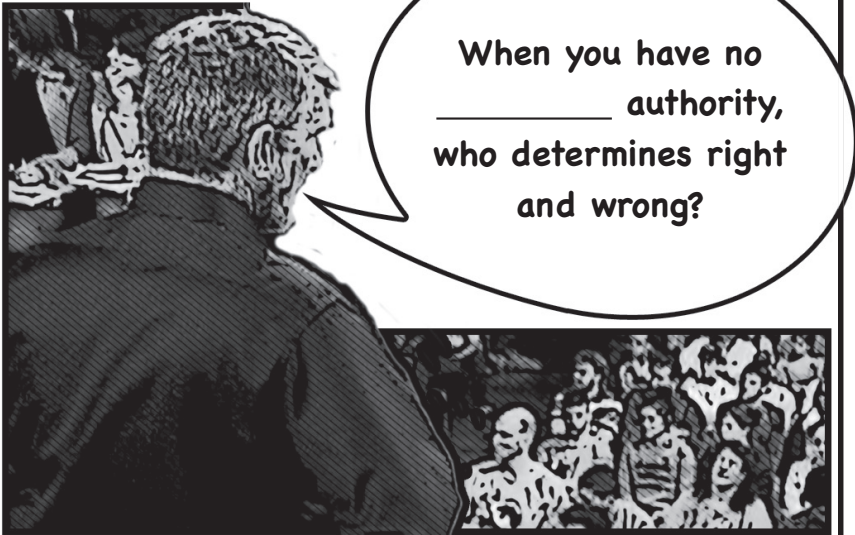
YOUR STARTING POINT DETERMINES YOUR WHOLE



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Quotation from Dr. Richard Dawkins: "My personal feeling is that understanding _____ has led me to atheism."



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The worldview battle is really a battle between the _____ and the anti-gospel.

Gospel	Anti-gospel
"the _____ news"	Man is just an _____
Jesus died on the cross & was raised from the dead for _____	When you die, that's it.
_____ is truth.	_____ determines truth.

GET INTO THE WORD

Read **Romans 1:19–20** and **Psalms 19:1**, then be ready to respond to the following items:

1. Discuss and write down two or three things that God has shown you in His creation to indicate He is the eternal Creator.

2. How do the "heavens declare the glory of God"? Give an example.

3. The phrase "without excuse" is literally, "without an apologetic" or "without a defense" (Greek *apologia*—the same word used for "answer" in 1 Peter 3:15). As Ken pointed out in this session, there



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is absolutely no evidence to support molecules-to-man evolution. In contrast, the evidence for creation is all around us. Discuss with the group and write down several examples that provide additional evidence of the divine creation.

Note: Even though people instinctively know there is a God (Psalm 19; Romans 1) by looking at creation, they still must be told what His name is. It is not enough to simply know and believe there is a Creator—we must know Him by name—thus, the Gospel.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

FIND THE FOCUS

Whenever God gives us new information or repeats something we've heard in the past, He wants us to pay attention. Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you. (Ideas: Maybe you were made more aware of how you have been indoctrinated by humanistic thought, or maybe it became apparent to you through Ken's talk that evolution is not supported by science but is a "blind faith" religion.)

Whatever you write, be specific and be prepared to share it with the group.



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1. _____

2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:2. Practice saying verses 1 and 2 together.
2. Complete any part of the lesson that you were not able to finish in class. Be prepared to discuss your answers.
3. Read Ephesians 4:14–15 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 to prepare your heart for next week's Bible focus.

LESSON

3

EVOLUTION IN POP CULTURE

PART 1

WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

In 2 Timothy 4:3, we are warned, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.”

Once again, the Amplified Bible can provide a detailed commentary on the content presented in this verse:

For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold...

Discuss and answer the following questions with the group and ask God to prepare your heart for the message He has for you in today's lesson.

What “time” does this verse remind you of?

Where can you go for sound doctrine? How do you know this?

In this lesson, you will come face to face with some of the false teachings presented to you in TV shows and movies you may watch or may



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have watched. The intent of this session is to get you excited about really getting to know God and His Word. We need to be equipped to stand against the obstacles that humanists and non-Christians use to try to trip us up. Knowing what you believe and why you believe it will enable you to develop the mind of Christ and overpower the influence of the media in your life.

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

We as the body of Christ have to start getting _____ about our _____. We need to get out into the _____ and start _____ people.

Evangelism is a _____ not a presentation. Are you _____? To do that we need to understand the way that the world is seeing us and how we can break down those _____ that keep us from being able to have _____ conversations with people (2 Corinthians 10:4–5).

The very first step in being able to be real with people and to talk with people and to have conversations with people is to _____ there's a _____ going on.

Without recognition there can be no _____.

“It is time to recognize that the true tutors of our children are not school teachers or university professors but _____, _____ executives, and _____ purveyors. _____ does more than Duke, _____ outweighs Stanford, _____ trumps MIT.”—University of Maryland Professor

Lot's Fall into Worldliness (Genesis 13:8–9)

1. “He lifted up his eyes.” – Lot looked around with his _____ eyes. He used his physical eyes to make a very important _____ (Proverbs 3:7; 16:25).



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Application: When you and I use our physical eyes, we use *our* wisdom; we can be _____ because the world can make things look really _____.

2. "He pitched his tent towards Sodom." – Lot didn't live __ the city because he wanted the best of both worlds.
3. In chapter 19 Lot's living _____ the city walls! –Years had passed between chapters 13 and 19; He didn't get sucked in all at once; it was a slow, gradual _____.

Application: What happens to us is many times we get sucked into the world:

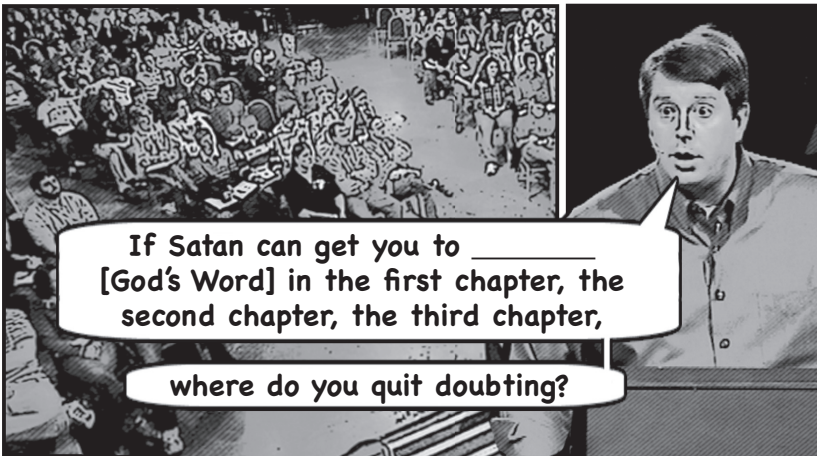
Slowly and gradually we start _____ the ways of the world.

We start _____ the world.

We start _____ the world's standards instead of the Word's standards.

KEY THOUGHT

"The vast majority of Christians do not behave differently because they do not _____ differently, and they do not think differently because we've never _____ them, _____ them, or held them accountable to do so."



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The Bible is like a _____ system and if you don't use it properly, you're not going to like the _____ that you get.

Satan's tool that's being used on our culture today to get us to doubt is _____ and evolution.

***Watch as Carl shares several clips from TV shows/movies that support evolutionary thought.*

CARL'S OBSERVATION ABOUT SCIENCE FICTION

Science fiction is a _____. You do not get from "There is a God" to "There is no God" just like that most of the time. There has to be a bridge—you can believe in God, He just used evolution; He just directed the Big Bang.

Opportunities (or obstacles?) for biblical conversations

Messages from the Media through:

Advertising

Movies

TV

Music

Internet

Recognize that when you open up your mind [when] watching a movie, you open up your mind to the messages inside of those movies. Be discerning and confront these messages with the Truth!

GET INTO THE WORD

Read Ephesians 4:14–15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12.

Discuss and answer the following items:

1. What does the word "deceive" mean in these passages?

2. Who is constantly trying to deceive us? What tactics does he use?

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3. According to Jeremiah 17:9 and James 1:14, what else can we be deceived by?

4. Name one or two things you can do to avoid being deceived by evolution's lies.

Throughout the next week, take the challenge of digging even deeper into the message and power of this passage.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

FIND THE FOCUS

Whenever God gives us new information or repeats something we've heard in the past, He wants us to pay attention. Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____



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2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:3. Practice saying verses 1–3 together.
2. Complete any part of the lesson that you were not able to finish in class. Be prepared to discuss your answers.
3. Read through the entire article on Inductive Bible Study before next week's lesson. Ask God to prepare your heart for deeper study of His Word.
4. Pre-read 2 Corinthians 10 and 2 Timothy 2 to prepare your heart for next week's Bible focus.

LESSON

4

EVOLUTION IN POP CULTURE

PART 2

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

1 Peter 3:15 says “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

By this time in the study of *Demolishing Strongholds*, you should be beginning to identify worldly influences in your day-to-day life. More importantly, you are becoming more aware of the false teachings perpetrated in the media and the humanistic worldview from which they stem.

Your challenge in this lesson will be to do something about the worldly influences in your life. This may include “raising the bar” in your viewing standards (TV/movies), pointing out the humanistic/evolutionary influences to fellow believers, and/or confronting the culture head-on to make an impact for Christ. Whatever role God may have you play, it will necessitate the need for really knowing His Word and knowing how to answer some of the tough questions non-Christians might come up with.

Before watching the DVD, however, let’s define some terms.

New Age: a broad movement of late twentieth-century and contemporary Western culture, characterized by an individual eclectic approach to spiritual exploration.

Syncretism: the attempt to reconcile opposing beliefs and to meld practices of various schools of thought; i.e., in the realm of religion to say that there are many ways to get to Heaven so that no one is offended.



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Wicca: the polytheistic nature religion of modern witchcraft whose central deity is a mother goddess. Wicca incorporate a specific form of witchcraft, with particular ritual forms, involving the casting of spells, herbalism, divination, and other magic.

VIEW THE DVD

Much of Carl's video presentation for this lesson is focused on movie clips. Though there will not be many notes to fill in, the ones chosen are to the point and powerful.

Be careful with Intelligent Design . . . , because unless you name the Name [of Jesus], the designer's not going to get you into Heaven. Jesus Christ—at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and tongue confess. . . ”

There's something that's even better than spider sense. It's called _____ sense.

- God has given us a _____.
- He's the only one who's _____ been there.
- He's given us a _____ book to be able to deal with the world that we're living in.

You can have Bible sense when you _____ from the Word of God to _____ the world that we live in, to have _____ to real issues.

We've been trained to put on those glasses to think like the _____. Think about it.

- Average time a child in America spends in school = _____
- Average time a child in America spends in front of the television set = _____
- Average time we spend in church = _____
(about 100–150 hrs. per year)



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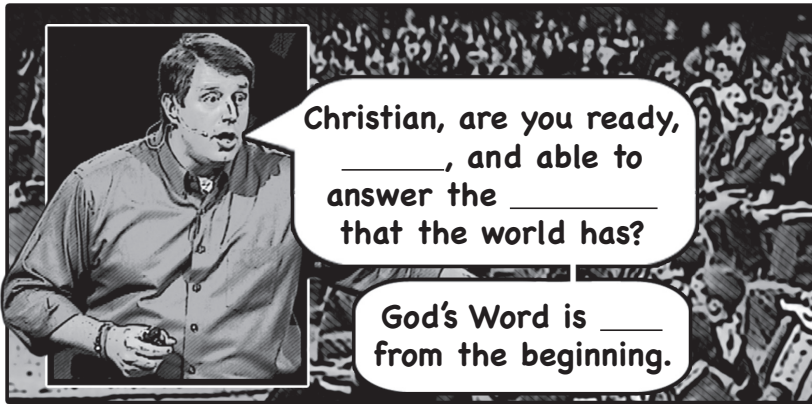
IN ORDER TO CONFRONT THE CULTURE

_____ the Word of God _____ from the _____ verse.
Use it as a real solid _____.

You need to have a _____, rational explanation of _____
you believe what you believe.

“ _____, not science, is the ultimate test of all _____
and the further evangelicalism gets from that conviction,
the less evangelical and the more humanistic it becomes.”

—Dr. John MacArthur



We need to get _____ and start thinking from the _____
of God—with no apologies, and have _____ from the Word of
God—*using* the culture, not being abused by the culture.

GET INTO THE WORD

2 Corinthians 10:3–5; 2 Timothy 2:15

Beginning with this lesson, our Scripture passage will be covered in much more detail as we work through the Inductive Bible Study process. Your assignment from last week was to read the context passages of our Scripture verses for this lesson, so we'll begin by discussing the overview of the passage.



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2 Corinthians 10: _____

2 Timothy 2: _____

Now let's take a closer look at the key verses. We'll answer as many of the six questions as we can, and we'll look for key words.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

How? _____



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Key Words: _____

CROSS-REFERENCES

Summarize each of the verses and relate them back to 2 Corinthians 10:3–5.
2 Timothy 2:3–4; Ephesians 6:13–18; Colossians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 4:4

What do these verses mean to me?

How am I going to apply these Scriptures to my life?

This reference will be assigned for homework for the next lesson. Take the time to get as much as possible from the study of this verse, keeping in mind the context in which it is found.

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____



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Key words

Diligent

Approved

Worker

Not ashamed

Dividing

Truth

CROSS REFERENCES

John 17:17; Psalm 119:160; John 14:6

What is this verse saying to me?

How am I going to apply this verse to my life?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

FIND THE FOCUS

Whenever God gives us new information or repeats something we've heard in the past, He wants us to pay attention. Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down

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a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMework

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:4. Practice saying verses 1–4 together.
2. Complete the Inductive Bible Study for 2 Timothy 2:15 from this lesson. Be prepared to discuss your answers.
3. Read through the article on death and suffering before next week's lesson.
4. Pre-read Colossians 2 to prepare your heart for next week's Bible focus.



LESSON

5

COUNTERFEIT REALITY

PART 1

IS THIS FOR REAL?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

2 Timothy 4:4 says, “and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

The more a person exposes himself to something that does not reflect God’s truth or the light of Christ, i.e., things that are honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report (Philippians 4:8), the easier it is to turn away from the truth and lose interest in knowing it and standing up for it.

This lesson is all about understanding that it’s more than just evolution we have to be aware of and watch out for in our society. Thoughts that emerge from evolution that cause us to rationalize sinful behavior and practices can lead us down a destructive path and keep us from making an impact on our culture.

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

Your _____ is your view of the world. . . It is your _____ for understanding existence.

We (Christians) are to be _____ in season and out of season. The bad news is it’s out of season to preach the _____. The worse news is it’s _____ season on Christians.

When you go out and you _____ the truth of the Gospel, you

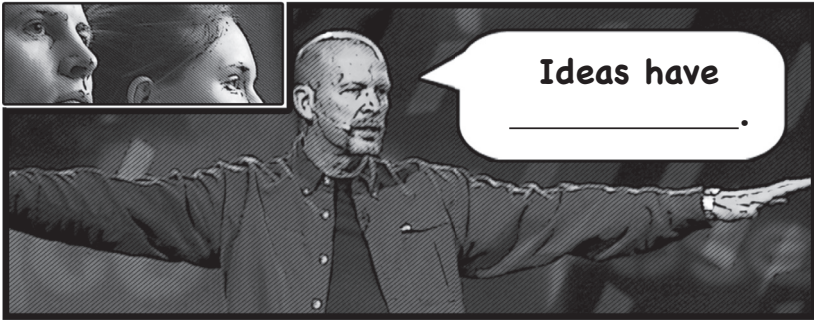


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proclaim that the _____ is true; people are going to come after you. Why?

Because they are immersed in a _____ reality. We have a _____ that is filled with “myth” information.

Secularism (indifference to or rejection of religion or religious considerations) is a belief that there may or may not be a _____, but even if there is a God, He’s _____ in history, art, science, literature, music, philosophy, etc. Secularism is not _____, [it] is a _____ system that is _____ and at the core of [it] is the question of _____.



Our assumptions determine our _____.

(As Bill gives the fact or assumption statements below, circle the correct response beside each statement.)

Dimensions of velociraptor fact assumption

Half-moon shaped wrist fact assumption

“No wonder these things learned how to fly.”
fact assumption

“Perhaps dinosaurs had more in common with modern-day birds than they did with reptiles.” fact assumption

“. . . you spot velociraptor, and you stand still because you think his visual acuity is based on movement just like T-Rex.”
fact assumption

That’s _____ on top of assumption on top of _____!



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

“bobbing his head like a bird” fact assumption

“Velociraptor is a pack hunter.” fact assumption

“The attack doesn’t come from the front, but from the side.”

fact assumption

Just because you have _____ teeth, does that necessarily mean you were designed to eat _____?

Six-inch retractable claw fact assumption

“slashes at you” fact assumption

We are immersed in a counterfeit _____, and we must realize that people like Dr. Grant are neither stupid, crazy, unintelligent, nor insane. They’re _____.

FYI:

*Science—knowledge; something observable, testable, and repeatable

*Science Fiction—elements of science with a lot of fiction (make believe)

GET INTO THE WORD

Colossians 2:8

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Colossians 2 key idea: Don’t be led into false teaching or legalism, but follow Christ completely.

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

Where? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

KEY WORDS

Underline or highlight these words in the verse above.

cheat

philosophy

deceit

tradition

principles

world

CROSS REFERENCES

Acts 17:18; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 1:16–17;

Galatians 4:3, 9–10; 1 John 2:15–17

What is this verse saying to me?

How am I going to apply this verse?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

FIND THE FOCUS

Whenever God gives us new information or repeats something we've heard in the past, He wants us to pay attention. Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:5. Practice saying verses 1–5 together.
2. Finish any parts of the lesson that were not completed during the lesson time.
3. Complete the Research Project before the next lesson (see below). Be sure to study the “Attributes of God” chart as well.
4. Pre-read 1 Corinthians 8 to prepare your heart for next week's Bible focus.

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

RESEARCH PROJECT

Choose a movie to watch with “biblical glasses” that your parents approve ahead of time. Try to think in advance of movies you know that might have evolution or humanistic thinking in it.

Name of Movie _____

Please write at least three ideas or statements from the movie that are factual and at least three that are assumptions. Also, note situation ethics (justifying wrong behavior because it might have a favorable result). Watch critically—you may be surprised at the amount of counterfeit reality the movie contains.

Facts	Assumptions	Situation Ethics
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Oftentimes we can be drawn into “Christianizing” a movie because some of the characters/themes resemble biblical ideas. When we educate ourselves about who God is and what He is like, we will be much less likely to fall for this type of counterfeit reality.

Take time to review the “Attributes of God” chart. Search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11), do deeper study, and really get to know God. Keep in mind that God’s character will never contradict itself. For example, if a movie character you think represents God lies, then that character is not a picture of our Lord.

Many movies lend themselves to spiritual discussions. For example, you could use a movie like “Star Wars” to initiate a conversation on the topic of “the Force” and explain how “the Force” cannot be representative of God. (Feel free to use the solid reasons Bill gave in his presentation.)

NOTE: For deeper study, you can find the full version of this chart with commentaries at www.preceptaustin.org/attributes_of_god.htm

LESSON

6

COUNTERFEIT REALITY

PART 2

TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Read Romans 1:21–22. The Amplified Bible elaborates upon the concept presented in these verses.

Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened.

In the last lesson, Bill Jack zeroed in on tactics used by humanists to support their theories, i.e., using assumptions and stating them as fact. At the end of the video presentation, Bill made a statement that provided a reasonable explanation for why they (evolutionists) would use counterfeit reality to deceive—they are blind, spiritually blind. They are not saved, and therefore will behave as someone who is influenced by sin and the characteristics of it.

This lesson will continue in the same vein of thought but will also challenge us to use our biblical glasses to be discerning and to be aware of our testimony to those who are not believers or who are new Christians. We have a responsibility to the Lord and to others.

You have been given a lot of information over the past few weeks. Your sense of awareness to the world's influence has been sharpened. Use the tools you've been given to chip away at this counterfeit reality.

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

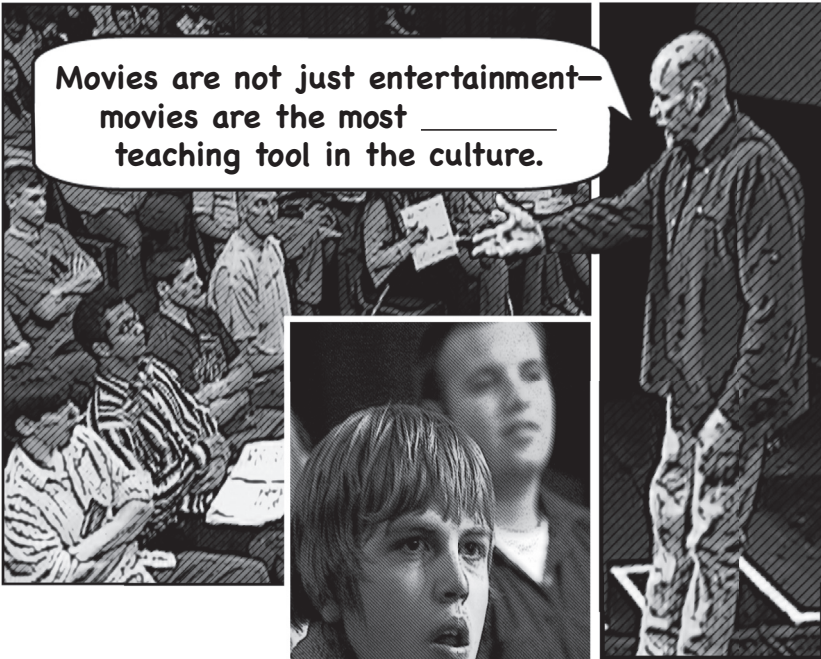
What is the difference between science and science fiction? Science fiction is _____ with elements of science. . .science is constrained by _____.

We who are steeped in a counterfeit reality must tell the world that your best time is after you _____ because you can then get to be with your _____ forever.

Matthew 11:25

We need to be people of the _____. We need to be wise in whom we _____. Are we going to trust God's _____ or man's wisdom? _____ your way through [a] film so you are not taken captive by counterfeit reality, but you can use it to start _____ with those around you.

**Movies are not just entertainment—
movies are the most _____
teaching tool in the culture.**



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

Romans 1:25b

This counterfeit reality affects our quest for _____ and significance.

Turn [conversations about movies] into a pulpit from which you can _____ the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“See to it that no one takes you _____ through philosophy or empty _____ according to the tradition of men ... rather than according to Christ.” Don’t get _____!

The best prison to build is a prison in which the prisoner doesn’t even realize he’s in prison, because he’ll never try to _____.

We are all prisoners of our _____.

If your assumptions are false, it could be _____ . . .
_____ kills people!

BILL’S CONCLUSION

We are steeped in a counterfeit reality, and we have to take what is common to the _____ just like Paul did in Acts 17, and we have to turn it into a _____ from which we proclaim the _____ of the Word of God.

GET INTO THE WORD

1 Corinthians 8:1–2

“Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.”

1 Corinthians 8 key idea: Though we have freedom in Christ to live as we would like, we need to make sure our behavior does not become a stumbling block to other Christians or to non-Christians.

Who? _____

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

KEY WORDS

Underline or highlight these words in the verse above.

idols

knowledge

puffs up

edifies

knows

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:6. Practice saying verses 1–6 together.
2. Finish any parts of the lesson that were not completed during the lesson time.
3. Read the handout about extraterrestrials before next week. If you have internet access, go to the Answers In Genesis website for further information on this subject (www.answersingenesis.org/go/aliens).
4. Pre-read John 3 and Acts 17 to prepare your heart for next week's Bible focus.

ANSWERS TO DIFFICULT ISSUES

PART 1

FOSSILS: FACT OR FICTION?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

2 Timothy 4:5a says, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions.” The Greek word for “watchful” in this verse means “to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, and circumspect.”

- Temperate: steady, restrained
- Dispassionate: fair, objective
- Circumspect: careful, alert

In other words, Paul’s charge to Timothy (and in turn, God’s charge to all believers) is to “keep your head” in times of hardship or trouble.

This series of lessons is providing you with many tools to discern truth from myth, increasing your knowledge of the enemy’s world system, and equipping you with the Word of God upon which your faith should be founded and solidified. Often, an arsenal such as this can generate a righteous indignation against the evolutionistic/humanistic worldview. When you realize how evolutionists have indoctrinated our schools and culture with false claims, it can stir up your anger. We must guard our hearts to exhibit the self control of a Spirit-filled Christian. The Scriptural command, “Be angry and sin not” means to be angry at the sin, not the sinner. Satan would like nothing better than to discredit our message of truth through a lack of self-restraint when dealing with the opposition. Claim Scripture with confidence: “For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a *sound mind*” (2 Timothy 1:7).

In lessons 7 and 8, Carl Kerby makes an incredible presentation of the evidence for the biblical account of creation and the Flood through the



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

fossil record. He first reminds us of our great commission to share the good news of the Gospel message. To do this effectively, he challenges us to affirm our faith by always making the Word of God our starting point. When we do this, we have an unshakable foundation upon which to stand and will be able to discern between the scientific facts and evidence we encounter and the fiction of speculations and misleading artwork.

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

As a Christian, do you realize that you are a _____ of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Fossils are one of those areas that many, many difficult _____ come from.

2 Timothy 4:1–4

What does the world accuse Christians of believing? _____

But the Word of God says that when we start from His Word, we should end up with _____.

When you start learning to look at things through the lens of God's _____ and start learning how to figure out what's _____ and what's not real, you get excited!

John 3:12

Your starting point is going to _____ the way that you _____ the world that you live in.

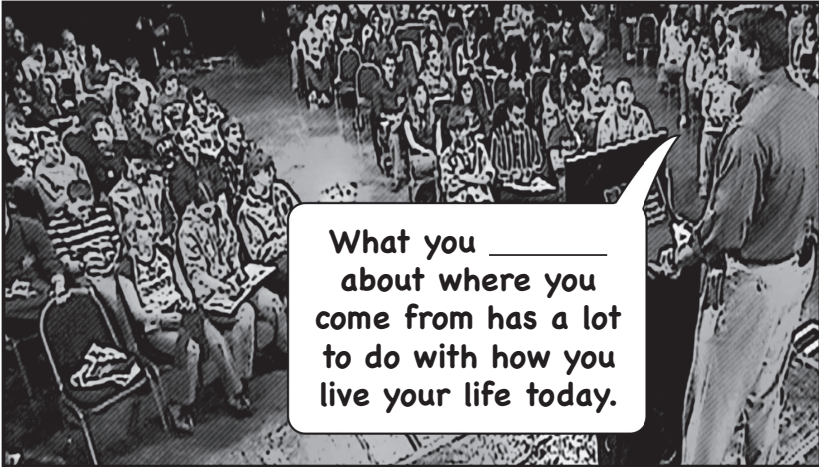
The Word is true—_____ is the only one who's always been there. He told me what happened, and when I _____ with His word, and then I go to the world that I live in, I will understand the world _____ than somebody who says there is no God. . .

My bias, my axiom, my _____ absolutely _____ the way that I understand fossils, stratigraphic layers, light from the furthest star—all of those things!



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

Carl discusses the concept of going through a museum and looking for the evidence that's presented for the evolution side . . .



Is it in the facts? No, it's in the fiction, it's in the _____, the reconstruction.

"Everybody knows fossils are _____. _____ will sing any song you want to hear." That means you can take the same bone, give it to five different people, and they will look at it and come to five different _____ based upon what their bias or presupposition is.

Watch carefully as Carl covers the gaps in the fossil record, a biased scientific observation from *Earth Magazine*, and how fossils are formed.

If God _____ sin the way that He said that He did in the past ... we should find a _____ of it—and we do.

GET INTO THE WORD

John 3:12

"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

CONTEXTUAL KEY IDEAS

John 3—Nicodemus, a ruler of the Pharisees, visits Jesus by night to discuss spiritual things. He recognizes that Jesus has been sent from God. Jesus gives Nicodemus a very clear Gospel message and answers his deep questions. In verse twelve, Jesus makes a very relevant connection between believing the earthly things He speaks of, and believing the spiritual truths of the Bible. You can't believe one without the other.

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

KEY WORDS

tell

earthly

believe

heavenly

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?

Acts 17:11

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

CONTEXTUAL KEY IDEAS

Acts 17—This chapter encompasses Paul and Silas' visits to Thessalonica and Berea, and then Paul's experiences in Athens, including the speech he gave on Mars Hill. The first half of this chapter clearly emphasizes the importance of deep personal Bible study for believers.

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

KEY WORDS

Fair-minded
Scriptures

received
so

readiness

sought

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:7. Practice saying verses 1–7 together.
2. Complete the Inductive Bible Study for Acts 17:11.
3. Read the article about radiometric dating before next week's lesson. Write down any questions or comments you may have in the margins as you are reading.
4. Pre-read Revelation 4 to prepare your heart for next week's Bible focus.

LESSON

8

ANSWERS TO DIFFICULT ISSUES

PART 2

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

2 Timothy 4:5b boldly states, “Do the work of an evangelist.” *Webster’s New World Dictionary* defines “evangelist” as “a bringer of good news.” Evangelism is defined as a “zealous effort to spread the gospel.”

In light of the context of this verse, it is even more vital to share the saving work of Christ at a time such as this when people are not “enduring sound doctrine and are turned unto fables.” Are you living your faith? Are you finding opportunities to turn conversations into a pulpit for sharing the evidence of an all-knowing, merciful Creator? Now more than ever Christians need to be proactive in communicating the truth of God’s Word.

In this lesson, Carl Kerby continues his focus on fossils and how they provide yet another area of science that confirms the biblical account of Creation. Carl will also show the evidence that refutes the idea that fossilization requires long periods of time.

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

If evolution is true, this is what it should show from the secular quotes:

“_____ provide the only historical documentary evidence that life has evolved.” (** see contradictory statement below.)



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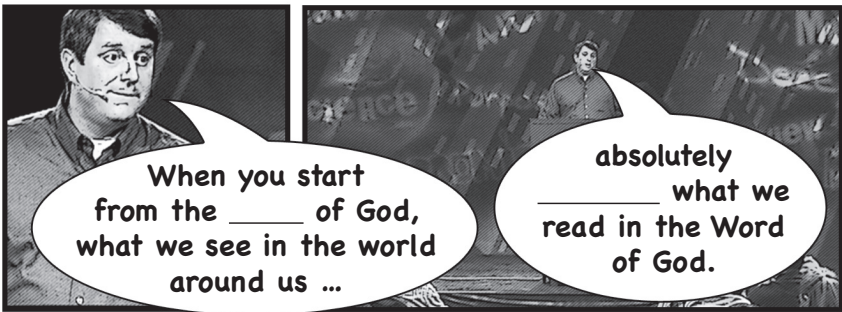
(Note: As Carl shows the charts displaying the fossil evidence, it will become painstakingly apparent that the fossil record does not provide enough evidence to support evolutionary claims.)

THINK ABOUT IT!

Christian, why are we so willing to sell out the Word of God, the _____ that changeth _____, for something that every time they find a new _____ somewhere, it _____ everything we've known for a hundred and fifty years?

What does the _____ really show? People have always been _____; monkeys have always been monkeys ...

When you look at the charts, it's almost always the same—_____ evidence where _____ is supposed to have happened.



**“The gradual change of _____ species has never been a part of the _____ for evolution.” No real evolutionist uses the fossil record as evidence in _____ of the theory of evolution.

They even disagree about what evidence to consider for their side!

The only place you will find evidence for evolution is in the _____.

Carl revisits the question of “Why would a loving God allow death, pain, and suffering? and explains that they (evolutionists) have been blinded to the Gospel because of the “millions-of-years” bias presented by evolution.

When you teach _____ of years of death and suffering, and that’s how we got man, that absolutely _____ what the Word of God

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

teaches. The Word of God teaches that _____ action—sin—led to death and _____.

Fossils—friend or foe? Fossils are our _____ when we use the Bible as real history to explain them because ... we see that bats have always been bats, cats have always been cats, and that is that. God's _____ is _____ from the beginning.

GET INTO THE WORD

During this lesson's Bible study, we will be applying an inductive method of study based on the "golden rule of interpretation" (refer to lesson 12 for further explanation on biblical hermeneutics—the principles for accurate interpretation of the Scriptures).

The golden rule of interpretation is: "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense." Therefore, take every word at its primary, usual meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and fundamental truths, clearly indicate otherwise.

We take the Bible at face value, or plainly, in the same way that we read other literature. This is a common sense approach. We understand that history is history, poetry is poetry, metaphors are metaphors, etc. The Bible is written in many different literary styles and should be read accordingly.

After reading these verses and their cross references and discussing their plain meaning, write down the message you believe God has for you in them.

Revelation 4:11

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Cross-reference: Acts 14:15

What do these verses mean/say?



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

How can I apply these verses?

Revelation 10:6

“And swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer.”

Cross-reference: Jeremiah 10:10

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?

Ephesians 6:17

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

Cross-references: Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 49:2; 1 Peter 1:23

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1.

2.

HOMEWORK

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 4:8. Practice saying verses 1–8 together.
2. Finish any parts of Lesson 8 that did not get completed during the lesson time.
3. Read the article “Only Three Ways to Make an Apeman.” Write down any questions or comments you may have in the margins as you are reading.
4. Pre-read Colossians 2, Hebrews 9, and 2 Corinthians 10 to prepare your heart for next week’s Bible focus.



LESSON

9

SIMPLE TOOLS FOR BRAIN SURGERY

PART 1

MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

In 2 Timothy 4:5c, Paul exhorts Timothy to “fulfill your ministry.” The Greek word for “fulfill” is *plerophoreo* (*play-rof-or-eh’-o*) meaning “to carry out fully (in evidence), i.e., completely assure (or convince), entirely accomplish: most surely believe, fully know (persuade).” Since apologetics is the branch of theology having to do with the defense and proofs of Christianity, it sounds as if this charge encompasses the idea of fully communicating one’s faith so that the ministry of reaching the lost for Christ can be realized.

You’ve been given many ideas in prior lessons as to how you can defend and share your faith. In this lesson, Bill Jack presents another platform that can be used to impact your culture for Christ. In addition, Bill will give you four specific questions that you can learn to use effectively to cause your opponent to think seriously about his/her own beliefs.

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

Christians ought not to be ignorant of anything around them.

Four questions that will stand you in good stead no matter what the topic



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WARNINGS:

1. Christians are to speak the _____ . . . in _____ . . . by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Do _____ use these questions as a _____, but as one would use a crowbar.

Aristotle said that those who wish to _____ must ask the right preliminary—the right beginning—questions.

The Four Questions

1. What do you mean by what you're saying?
2. How do you know that what you're saying is true?
3. What difference does what you're saying make in your life? (or So what?)
4. What if you are wrong? (or What if you're wrong and you die?)

PASCAL'S WAGER

"If I as a Christian am _____ about there being a God, then all I've done is live my life by a set of rules out of a book that has provided nothing but good and _____ for mankind, and when I die, that's all there is. But, if you as a non-Christian are wrong about there not being a God and you die, are you willing to _____ the consequences?"

What is a humanist?

Humanists

- believe _____ is supreme
- do not believe in God—atheistic
- deny anything _____



Sometimes
the best
you can do
is simply get
people to
_____ about
their own
position.



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- believe man is inherently _____
- believe we can build a civilization by each person deciding for himself what is _____ and what is _____

Consider the only three answers that could be used to answer, “What happens when you die?”

1. _____—you die, you rot, you stink, and become extinct
2. _____ or Hell
3. Reincarnation

GET INTO THE WORD

As you embark on this lesson’s study of key verses brought out in Bill’s talk, your focus will be once again to interpret these verses at face value. Work in small groups, discuss the context of these verses, and come to a consensus on the meaning. Your leader will guide you through a final discussion to ensure that your interpretation is in line with the intended interpretation for these verses.

Colossians 2:8

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

**Cross References: Jeremiah 29:8; Matthew 15:2–3;
Hebrews 13:9**

What do these verses mean/say?



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

How can I apply these verses?

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Cross References: Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?

2 Corinthians 10:5

“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;”

Cross References: Isaiah 2:11

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1.

2.

HOMEWORK

1. Review 2 Timothy 4:1–8.
2. Finish any parts of the lesson that did not get completed during the lesson time.
3. Read the article “General Humanist Beliefs” in preparation for next week’s DVD presentation.
4. Pre-read Romans 1 to prepare your heart for next week’s Bible focus.

SIMPLE TOOLS FOR BRAIN SURGERY

PART 2

THE UNCLUT VERSION

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

In 2 Timothy 4:6–7a, the Apostle Paul writes,

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight . . .”

Wow! What an incredible testimony! Paul knows that he has done God’s will and served Him faithfully. He knows he is close to death, and he is ready to meet his Lord. This is a peace that passes all understanding. Though he still refers to his Christian walk as a “fight,” he is completely at peace because he is confident that he has fulfilled God’s purpose for his life and is now ready to “be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8). When a Christian walks according to God’s will and actively lives and shares his faith, he too can have the confidence conveyed here by Paul.

In this session, Bill Jack will be interviewing a humanist and an atheist. As you observe, you will hear some philosophies that have no basis in truth, or evidence to support them. Try to view these individuals through the eyes of Jesus, i.e., see them as lost and in need of Christ, and notice how blinded they are by their false religion.

At the end of this lesson, you will find some very sound advice from Ken Ham, President of Answers in Genesis, on how to effectively talk to an evolutionist using the Bible as your starting point.



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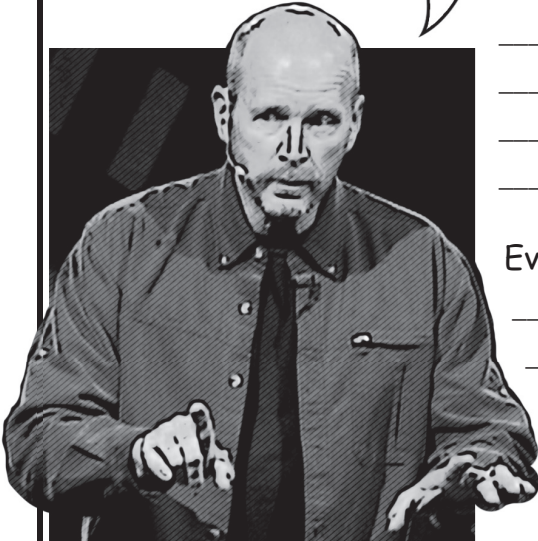
VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

During this video, write down some of the words/phrases used by the humanist and the evolutionists at the “Freedom from Religion” booth at the People’s Fair in downtown Denver.

Humanist Ideas:

Too often not only are we soft-headed, but we are hard-hearted ... We ought to be thinking God’s thoughts after Him. We ought to be the most tender-hearted towards people.



Evolutionist Ideas:



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

GET INTO THE WORD

Write down and reference key phrases from **Romans 1** that refer to creation, evolution, and consequences. God is very clear in these verses, and it's important that you understand the cause and effect present in this key passage of Scripture.

Creation _____

Evolution _____

Consequences _____

Isaiah 55:11

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

Cross reference: Isaiah 46:10



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

What do these verses mean/say?

How can I apply these verses?

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1.

2.

HOMEWORK

1. Review 2 Timothy 4:1–8.
2. Complete the Inductive Bible Study for Isaiah 55:11.
3. Read the article “Debate Terms.”
4. Pre-read Revelation 5 and Colossians 3 to prepare your heart for next week’s Bible focus.



LESSON

11

SPECIAL FORCES FOR THE SAVIOR

PART 1

A MINORITY REPORT

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

“I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7b).

In spite of opposition, persecution, prison, beatings, shipwreck, weariness, hunger and thirst, cold, and numerous other perils (2 Corinthians 11:23–27), Paul endured as a servant and soldier of the Lord. His faith never wavered. Why is that?

If you have never read all of Paul’s epistles, let this be a challenge to you to do so. Not only will you discover why he was so committed to Christ, you’ll also learn foundational Christian doctrine that is vital for all believers. Paul was consistent in his witness because his starting point was *always* God’s Word. He knew a joy and peace only God can give because he had a heart of gratitude for what the Lord had done for him. Paul’s example to us is to know the Bible and know the God of the Bible.

You are about to see and hear Dr. Charles Ware who uses this inspiring session to get us to acknowledge what an awesome God we have. He also calls us to stand firm in our faith as a Christian minority. We are called out to stand up for Jesus, and we are to be prepared for the opposition we face. We must be ready to answer their questions and accusations.

TERM TO DEFINE:

Jim Crow laws—*Jim Crow laws* were state and local laws enacted in the Southern and border states of the United States and in force between 1876 and 1964 that restricted access of African-Americans to public facilities. *Jim Crow*, or the *Jim Crow period* or the *Jim Crow era* refers to the time during which this practice occurred. The most important laws required that public schools be segregated



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

by race, and that most public places (including trains and buses) have separate facilities for whites and blacks. School segregation was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education*. All the other Jim Crow laws were repealed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

VIEW THE DVD

(Watch for the key thoughts that complete the statements below and fill them in as you watch and listen.)

Revelation 5

You need to understand that you're partnering with a God who ultimately _____ this battle, and you'll go on to be amongst those thousands of thousands, ten thousand times ten thousand as we worship Him who alone is _____!

_____ Forces are not majorities, they are _____.

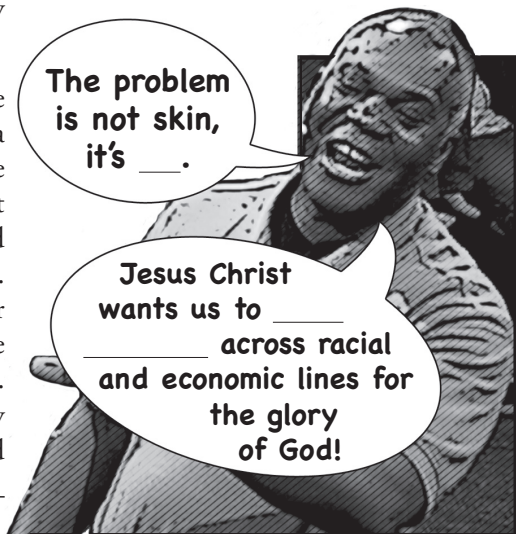
Dr. Ware wants to "challenge you to dream a bit, to _____ about what a sovereign all-powerful God can do through a minority, what he can do through one person like you."

Listen carefully as Dr. Ware gives deep insight into understanding the cultural differences we may encounter in America.

In the Scriptures, the _____ of God were a called-out group. Those who come to faith in Christ _____ of their sins and come to faith in Christ. They are brought together as one in Christ. We are the _____ of God. We stand against a society . . . that has a culture and a worldview that _____

**The problem
is not skin,
it's ____.**

**Jesus Christ
wants us to _____
_____ across racial
and economic lines for
the glory
of God!**



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our God and denies the _____ of His Word. We're not to be _____, but we're to be unified on biblical _____.

Do you know that one of the strongholds of your society is that they're continually attacking Christianity based upon bigotry and _____?

Expect _____. . . 2 Timothy 2: "Endure hardness as a good soldier."

DISCUSSION/THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

1. Maybe the only cultural difference of which you could be a victim has to do with your Christian worldview versus the anti-Christian worldviews. Are you prepared to stand alone or be a leader in this minority? If not, what's holding you back?
2. Less than 6% of Protestant churches are what we can call multiethnic or multicultural. Why do you think that is? Examine yourself. Are you biased or prejudiced?

GET INTO THE WORD

Each of the passages for today's lesson has a different thrust. The first one is focusing on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Answer the following questions after reading the passage to gain a deeper understanding of the context of this passage as you apply the contextual principle of hermeneutics.

Revelation 5:6-14

The apostle John describes Jesus as what animal? _____

Why? _____

What is the purpose of the book of Revelation? _____



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Jesus is called “worthy” to receive what seven blessings from His people?

The events of the book of Revelation will usher in the restoration of all things to God’s created perfection and the consummation of all His purposes in creation. What an all-wise God we have, and what a wonderful future we have to look forward to!

How can I apply these verses?

The second passage reminds us of who we are in Christ and how we are to exemplify the “new man” within us.

Colossians 3:10–15

v. 10 Whose image are all believers created in? _____

v. 11 What point is Paul trying to get across here? Who is to be the center of our thoughts?

vv. 12–14 List and explain in your own words the godly character traits we are commanded to attain. After your leader gives deeper insight into these traits and their biblical significance, be sure to add to your notes. What you see, hear, say, and do will remain in your memory much longer than if you are only listening.

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

How can I apply these verses?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



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FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Review 2 Timothy 4:1–8.
2. Finish any parts of the lesson that did not get completed during the lesson time.
3. Read the article “Is There Really Just One Race?”
4. Read Romans 1 again to prepare your heart for next week’s Bible focus.

LESSON

12

SPECIAL FORCES FOR THE SAVIOR

PART 2

THE "DREAM" TEAM

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

Today, we will first take a closer look at 2 Timothy 4:8, the final verse in our memory passage. By itself, it could lead one to believe that all believers might be entitled to a "crown of righteousness" when we stand before the Lord; however, within the context of the passage and the Apostle Paul's life, it is apparent that this special reward is presented to those who have stayed faithful and committed to serving the Lord, and as a result, "love his appearing."

What an encouragement it is to read 2 Timothy 4:8, the final verse in our memory passage:

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Dr. Joe Temple, Bible teacher for over 50 years, in his sermon series on "The Five Crowns" makes the following observation: "Every man who loves the appearing of the Lord will receive the crown, because you cannot love His appearing without fighting a good fight. You cannot love His appearing without running a good race. You cannot love His appearing without guarding the faith."

Because as Christians we believe that this life is simply preparation for eternity, we have a goal and a hope. Our work is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58) and it *shall* be rewarded (2 Chronicles 15:7; 1 Corinthians 3:10–15) by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Even when we fall,



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and we *will* fall, we can come to God's throne of grace, confess, receive restored fellowship with our Lord (1 John 1:9), and carry on His work with renewed wisdom and experience (James 1:2-5).

In this second session of "Special Forces for the Savior," Dr. Ware reiterates the concept that Christian people make mistakes and fail because we live in a sinful, fallen world. He states that, "God has revealed in His Word that some of the people He has used in His mercy and His grace to accomplish His will have been people of clay feet. They have fallen. God has (through their experiences) shown me . . . the pattern that I need to follow." Dr. Ware then uses the acronym DREAM to show us the pattern God has established for those whom He has called to demolish the strongholds of the world's belief system.

VIEW THE DVD

(There are no notes to fill in for this session, but students may want to jot down some thoughts during the DVD.)

Understand (that) just because one (or more) of God's people fell, it doesn't mean that _____ is unfaithful. God has been working His _____, in His _____ and His grace, through ordinary fallen sinners for years, and still is!

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Will you have a biblical worldview that you can both “lip” and live in such a way that others will be convinced you’re for real—you’re genuine?



GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Part of the application is studying for yourself, getting to know the subject that you will be defending. Become a Berean and search the Scriptures for yourself (Acts 17:11). Discuss what areas would be good for an in-depth personal study.
2. Discuss the difference between the original definition of tolerance (to respect others as people while not agreeing with their beliefs/practices) and the current cultural definition (to condone or agree with others' beliefs/practices without sharing them).
3. Dr. Ware states that the greatest marketing tool for Christianity is the love we have for one another. Discuss with the group what you believe this conveys.
4. Are you prepared to defend your faith from God's Word? Are you ready to commit to the authority of God's Word?
5. What did Dr. Ware mean by: “God doesn't have fans. We are all players”?

GET INTO THE WORD

In this lesson, we are going to apply some of the hermeneutic principles to Romans 1, the chapter we looked at in Lesson 10. Our focus will be Principle #3: The Scripture interprets Scripture Principle. Listed below are cross-references to most of the verses in this chapter. You will work in small groups to share the responsibility of looking up the verses and



DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

comparing them with the corresponding verse from Romans 1. Do as many as you have time for and try to get to the rest of them throughout the next week.

1:2 (cf. Luke 1:70; Titus 1:2) _____

1:4 (cf. Hebrews 9:13–15) _____

1:5 (cf. Ephesians 3:8–9) _____

1:9 (cf. Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2)

1:13 (cf. Romans 15:22; 1 Thessalonians 2:18)

1:16 (cf. Acts 3:26; 1 Corinthians 1:18)

1:17 (cf. Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11)

1:19 (cf. John 1:9; Acts 14:17) _____

1:20 (cf. Psalm 19:1) _____



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1:21 (cf. 2 Kings 17:15; Ephesians 4:17)

1:22 (cf. Jeremiah 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:20)

1:23 (cf. Psalm 106:20; Jeremiah 2:11)

1:24 (cf. Psalm 81:12; 1 Peter 4:3)

1:26 (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:5)

1:27 (cf. Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9)

1:28 (cf. Ephesians 5:4)

1:30 (cf. 2 Timothy 3:2)

1:31 (cf. 2 Timothy 3:3)

1:32 (cf. Romans 6:21, 23)



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What is the overall message of Romans 1 in light of the comparable Scripture? _____

How can I apply these verses? _____

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

HOMEWORK

1. Review 2 Timothy 4:1–8.
2. Finish any parts of the lesson that did not get completed during the lesson time.
3. Read the article about biblical hermeneutics—the principles of accurate interpretation of the Bible.
4. Write down one or two things you've learned from God's Word and be prepared to share when you come to the final class for Lesson 13.



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

The Christian life can be a real battleground! Throughout his epistles, Paul uses military terminology to emphasize the Christian's role and goes as far as to relate our spiritual "equipment" to that of earthly armor and weapons (Ephesians 6:10–18).

Paul's first letter to Timothy is filled with encouragement for a young Christian man who was facing many difficult problems in his place of service for the Lord.

"One of the key words in 1 Timothy is 'charge,' sometimes translated 'commandment' (1:3, 5, 18; 4:11; 5:7; 6:13, 17). It was a military term, referring to an order to be passed down the line. God had entrusted the Gospel to Paul (1:11), who had passed it along to Timothy (1:18–19; 6:20). Timothy was 'charged' to guard this treasure (2 Timothy 1:13–14) and pass it along to faithful people who would, in turn, entrust it to others (2 Timothy 2:2)."

—*Weirsbé's Expository Outlines*, p. 619.

1 Timothy 4:16 is one of those charges given to Timothy:

"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

Just like you, Timothy lived in a day and age where false teaching, worldly philosophies, and heresies permeated his culture.



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In this verse, Paul emphasizes the necessity of first *examining yourself* to find out where you are spiritually and where you are going.

Next, he focuses in on *examining your doctrines* to make sure they are in line with God's Word.

Finally, the challenge shifts from examination to *application*—*continue, remain faithful, persevere in your faith and the teachings of God’s Word.*

Why? It's about salvation—yours and others'. In Christ alone is eternal security, love, joy, and peace.

VIEW THE DVD

To culminate our study of what it takes to demolish strongholds, we will watch Bill Jack as he does some man-on-the-street interviews and demonstrates how one might use the “The Four Questions.” Below are lines for you to take notes. Be sure to jot down any questions or comments that you find helpful or interesting. Remember, it is through the work of God’s Word that He can break down the barriers and demolish the strongholds of opposing worldviews.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

GET INTO THE WORD

Look back over the previous lessons and pick two or three verses that have really challenged your faith through this study. Discuss them with the group and use your discussion as a springboard to share how this series of lessons has made a difference in your walk with and service for God.

What verses have really spoken to you throughout the *Demolishing Strongholds* course?

How will you apply or how have you already applied what you've learned?

DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

FIND THE FOCUS

Think for a moment ... look back over the notes you have for this lesson, and write down a couple of things that were an encouragement or a challenge, or that stood out to you.

1. _____

2. _____

A FINAL WORD

Now you can say with Paul, “I have finished my course,” though this “course” was quite insignificant compared to Paul’s journey through life. The challenge to you now is to stay faithful and to use what you have learned. You now have several important tools with which to arm yourself.

1. Your sword, God’s Word, is your offensive weapon against the opposition you will face in life. Read it, learn from it, and apply it.
2. The information you have gleaned from this course has better equipped you to defend your faith, counter the skeptics, and challenge nonbiblical worldviews.
3. Use the Answers in Genesis website where you will find over 5,000 free articles with faith-building content to engage and equip you.

Matthew 25:21

*His lord said to him,
“Well done, good and faithful servant;
you were faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your lord.”*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

There are many excellent resources that can encourage you in your walk with the Lord and equip you to defend your faith in a hostile environment. Some suggested resources are listed here.

Ken Ham, General Editor, *The New Answers Book 1* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006).

Ken Ham, *Pocket Guide for Effective Evangelism* (Petersburg, KY: Answers in Genesis, 2006).

Brian Edwards, *Nothing But the Truth* (Welwyn, UK: Evangelical Press, 2006).

Roger Patterson, *Evolution Exposed* (Petersburg, KY: Answers in Genesis, 2006).

Ken Ham, General Editor, *The New Answers Book 2* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008).

Greg Bahnsen, *Always Ready* (Atlanta: American Vision, 1996).

Questions booklet series by Answers in Genesis

These resources are available from www.AnswersBookstore.com or by calling Answers in Genesis at 1-800-778-3390.



