

BOOK 1: CREATION-JOSEPH

Answers •
Family
Bible Devotional
A faith-building walk
through the Bible

MIKE & LIBBY WILD



Answers
IN GENESIS®

Answers Family Devotional

ISBN: 978-1-9844-0295-0

Copyright © 2021 Answers in Genesis. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher. For more information write: Answers in Genesis, PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048

Back cover photo by Bonnie Hill. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Core questions from lessons 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, Bonus 2, 14, 15, 17 adapted from the Westminster Catechism (public domain).

Core questions from lessons 18, 19, 23, 28, 31, 38 adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism (public domain).

Contents

Introduction	5
1 God's Word Is Our Foundation	9
2 God's Word Guides Us	14
3 God Preserves His Word	18
4 God's Word Is Complete	23
5 Who Is the God of the Bible?	27
6 We Can Know God Exists	32
7 The Seven C's of History	37
8 God Creates	41
Bonus: Angels Created	46
9 God Creates: Days 1 and 2	51
10 God Creates: Days 3 and 4	56
11 God Creates: Days 5 and 6	60
12 God Creates: Adam and Eve	65
13 Stewards of God's Creation	70
Bonus: Lucifer and the Angels Fall from Grace	74
14 Corruption	79
15 God's Mercy and Provision	84
16 The Age of the Earth	90
17 Cain and Abel	95
18 Hearts of Man	100

19 Catastrophe	105
20 God Saves Noah	110
21 The Ark	115
22 The Global Flood	120
23 A New Beginning	125
24 The Ice Age	130
25 Confusion: Dispersal at Babel	135
26 One Race: The Human Race	141
27 Job	146
28 God Calls Abram	152
29 God's Covenant with Abraham	157
30 Sodom and Gomorrah	163
31 Abraham and Isaac	168
32 Isaac and Rebekah	173
33 Jacob and Esau	178
34 Jacob Steals the Blessing	182
35 Jacob's Dream from God	186
36 Jacob's Family Grows	190
37 Joseph's Early Years	196
38 God Blesses Joseph	201
39 Joseph's Rise to Power	206
40 Joseph Forgives His Brothers	212



Introduction

A strong, foundational understanding of God's Word is the only answer for our families and future generations.

As Christian parents, we can list dozens of ways that the godless culture around us threatens the well-being of our children. However, instead of focusing on the negative and helplessly watching children walk away from the church, we can proactively build a strong and sure foundation in our children—a foundation built on the unchanging Word of the unchanging God.

Teaching God's Word clearly, systematically, and consistently provides an anchor for our children to cling to in an age of skepticism. Understanding God's Word enables our children to understand their sinfulness before a holy God and their need for a savior. Understanding God's Word prepares and equips them to face the anti-biblical culture around them and to emerge resolute in their faith.

Our children are our first disciples, and if we want them to thrive in a world that grows more hostile to the gospel every day, they must know why they believe what they believe. In order for our children to remain steadfast in God's Word, they must know it for themselves.

God and his true story are the focal point of this Bible devotional. We will be discovering the historical events given in the Bible as they happened (chronologically), bringing attention to God's attributes and grand plan. We will be tracing redemption through the Bible as well as seeing God's amazing purposes (and how we fit into them) as it applies from before the beginning until the consummation of the ages.

While this is not a comprehensive devotional on every biblical topic, it will enable your family to study the clear, consistent, and thematic teachings in God's Word.

God has given us everything we need for life and godliness so that we might teach our children to walk in a manner worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). Let us study together as families for the glory of our good and gracious God!

How to Use This Devotional

This devotional is the first in a series of five books that covers material from the beginning all the way to the consummation of the ages and the new creation. The goal is for you to develop a biblical perspective of the world past and future, understand God's redemptive plan which was set in place from the beginning, and realize God's purpose for you and your family.

These devotions have been carefully created based on over 20 years of real-life experience raising four boys in biblical truth while church planting cross-culturally in Asia Pacific. Credit must be given to Trevor McIlwain for his curriculum *Beginning on Firm Foundations* which we taught from for many years in a tribal context. Trevor's work gave us much inspiration toward the creation of this devotional.

For you to get the most out of this devotional, we offer these guidelines.

1. Don't rush. This might be the hardest challenge you face!

Make sure that you set aside in your daily or weekly schedule the appropriate time to read and discuss each devotion. You and your children will need that time to marinate on each lesson. It won't take long for your family to "taste and see that the Lord is good!" Soon you will see the constant patterns and themes that permeate the Bible from beginning until the end. You may want to spend several days on one devotion, depending on your schedule. Feel free to pause any of the devotionals at any time and save the rest of it for the following day.

2. Read the core questions.

The core questions are foundational truths of the Christian faith. We encourage you to begin each lesson with the core question. You might even make it a goal as a family to memorize a few.

3. Read all scripture portions.

God's Word is where the power lies. We know that the clear reading of God's Word will not return void in the hearts of the hearers. Make it a practice to differentiate the reading of scripture and the devotion sections. When you get to a scripture reading, look it up in your Bible. This is a good opportunity for dad, mom, or older siblings to have a part in the devotion by taking turns reading the Bible portions. From the first day, we want to point clearly to the authority of God's Word and allow it to do its work in the hearts of our children. Some devotionals have longer passages to read than others. Feel free to read as you have time and pick up with the next portion the following day.

3. Don't skip devotionals.

These devotions are based on over 20 years of Bible teaching in different languages, cultures, and contexts. Each is important and builds on the previous one. Each has purpose and will direct your family toward a confident biblical worldview. If you are faithful to read and teach from each one, we trust that by God's grace the same good results that we witnessed among our own children and the remote Wano tribe will be seen among your own children and loved ones.

4. Go over the review questions.

The review questions are a crucial part of this devotional. You can gauge whether your children are comprehending the lessons by how they answer. We recommend that you not only end each devotion with the questions, but start tomorrow's with a quick look back at the previous lesson's questions. You will be amazed at comprehension retention by following this principle!

5. Encourage discussion with your children and loved ones.

During the body of each devotion, or during the review questions, encourage your children to discuss what they are hearing. This allows them to feel a part of the study and to show what they are learning.

6. Review throughout the day.

Look for opportunities to review or back up teaching that you are learning through your study of God's Word together with your children. This shows them that all times are good times to discuss God's Word, not just during the devotion time. Impart a holistic, Christian worldview by reinforcing and living out what you are learning through this devotion.

May the Lord bless you and your family as you embark on this chronological journey through the Bible. Keep on the path until the end and you will be rewarded by a truly biblical worldview which is the foundation for living lives that glorify the Lord.

Mike and Libby Wild



7

God's Word Is Our Foundation

Is there absolute truth? How can it be known?
*Absolute truth can only be found through the revelation
of God in his written word (Psalm 25:4–5).*

Read Psalm 19:7–11.

Questions in Life

Several thousand years ago, a man was asked, “Where were you when I made the earth? Tell me if you know.”

Do you know the answer to that question? How did the earth form? When did time begin? What caused the oceans to gather together? Where did the water come from? How did the mountains get to their places? Why is there such an amazing variety of food? Where did all the animals come from? How were the stars placed in the heavens? Are angels and demons real? Where did they come from? Why do tornadoes ravage the plains and hurricanes destroy the shores? Why is there sickness, pain, suffering, and death in the world? What is sin and how does it affect us? How does God view us? Do we form our own destiny? What is our purpose in life?

Can Truth Be Found?

It does not matter where we live, what culture we call our own, what language we speak, or at what stage of life we are in, an absolute truth exists that can answer these hard questions and bring us ultimate joy and everlasting peace in any circumstance. This truth helps us form an accurate way of viewing the world and the cultural issues confronting us. This truth guides us through every decision of our lives. This truth leads us to life everlasting. What is this truth and where can we find it?

Truth Is Found in God's Word, the Bible

Let's go back to the question asked. "Where were you when I made the earth?" The answer to this question can only come from the one who asked the question and who made the earth—the Creator God who gave us his message in the Bible. The truth that we are looking for can only be found in God and his message to us. The Creator God is truth and alone holds the truth and all the answers that we seek. He alone was there in the beginning, so he alone can tell us about what happened in the beginning. He alone knows all things, and so he alone can explain why things are the way they are today. When we begin to truly understand God, we can grasp a right perspective of our place in the world and how we fit into his great plan. God is the hero of his story, and as we learn more and more about him, he is faithful to open our eyes and hearts to really know him.

This truth that we find in God and his message to us is a great treasure that is worth more than all the treasures that have ever been discovered. Truth is well worth searching for, discovering, and making our own.

God has preserved his message over the ages, and he continues to reveal himself to us today through his words that were written down in the Bible. The God of the Bible is one who can be known; he isn't a distant God but a God who is always near. He wants us to know about him and to know him personally, and that is why he has given us his message, which is found in the Bible.

Inspired by God, Written down by Men

God is the author of the Bible, and he chose men to pen his message. The Bible is made up of 66 books and was written by about 40 men over roughly 1,500 years. God could have written the Bible himself and given it to man; however, he chose to work through men. These men were called prophets. God chose these men and inspired them to write down exactly what he intended. Sometimes God would speak to these men directly. Sometimes he would give them thoughts to write down. And sometimes he spoke to them through dreamlike visions. In any case, what is amazing is that even though many of the men who wrote the Bible did not know each other and lived at different times and even lived in different lands, all of their writings agree with each other. There are no contradictions or inconsistencies in anything God inspired them to write! We accept that the Bible is inerrant and infallible. *Inerrant* and *infallible* mean the inspired Word of God is without error. It will not lead us astray spiritually if we are diligent to stay true to what the Bible teaches.

God did not *need* mankind to write down the Bible, but in his goodness, he desired to partner with man to write down his message. Although he no longer partners with men to write down his message, today he continues to work through men and women to see his will fulfilled and his purposes accomplished.

Sadly, there are still many people in the world today who do not have access to God's Word because it has not been translated into their languages. Thankfully, God is using people to translate the Bible into different languages in order to reach those still waiting to hear what God has to communicate to them. The preserved, literal words of God are precious and meant to be read and shared by all people. We can thank God that we have his words in our own language. It is a great privilege!

As we learn about who God is and what he is like (his character), we will see that God does not do anything without purpose and design. Each turn of history has had its purpose. History itself is the unfolding story of how God is working among mankind to reveal himself and make his name known and praised. Through the biblical scriptures, God has preserved the truth for all generations and revealed himself so we can know him, his character, his purposes, and his plan to redeem a people to himself for all eternity.

Discuss

1. Who laid the earth's foundation? Who knows all and can give us the answers to all of life's many questions? *God laid the earth's foundations. He alone was there in the beginning, so he alone can tell us how everything began. God alone is also the one who knows everything, so he alone can give us the answers to all of life's many questions.*
2. Does God want to communicate with people? If so, how does he do that? *Yes, God wants to communicate with people. That is why he gave us his special words which we find in the Bible.*
3. Who is the author of the Bible? *The Creator God is the author.*
4. Did God write the words in the Bible? *God chose certain men to write down his words.*
5. How many men and over how long a time period was the Bible written? *Written by about 40 men over about 1,500 years.*
6. How could a book, written over such a long period and by so many people, stay one continuous storyline? *Since God is the author of the Bible, he arranged the books and accounts into one whole consistent storyline.*
7. Where can the greatest truth be found? *In the Bible.*

Pray & Praise

