

— Homeschool Edition —

Answers

BIBLE CURRICULUM

TEACHER

YEAR 1 // CREATION—JOSEPH



Answers Bible Curriculum

Year 1 • Homeschool Teacher

Copyright © 2021 Answers in Genesis.

ISBN: 978-1-9844-0287-5

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission from publisher other than: (1) the specific pages within the book that are designed for single family/classroom use, and (2) as brief quotations quoted in a review.

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.

Printed in the USA.

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Schedule</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>1 God's Word Is Our Foundation</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>2 God's Word Is True</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>3 God's Word Is Our Authority.</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>4 We Can Know God</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>5 The Seven C's of History.</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>6 God Creates the Universe</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>7 Creation Week</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>8 God Creates Adam and Eve</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>9 Corruption.</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>10 Effects of the Fall.</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>11 The Gospel Is Good News</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>12 Cain and Abel</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>13 Catastrophe.</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>14 Noah Builds an Ark</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>15 God Floods the World</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>16 The Flood Ends</i>	<i>105</i>
<i>17 Confusion</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>18 Review: Creation to Babel</i>	<i>117</i>
<i>19 Dispersion from Babel</i>	<i>123</i>
<i>20 Job's Suffering</i>	<i>129</i>
<i>21 God Calls Abram</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>22 Abram and Lot</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>23 God Seals His Covenant</i>	<i>147</i>
<i>24 Sodom and Gomorrah</i>	<i>153</i>
<i>25 Isaac: Child of Promise.</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>26 Abraham's Test</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>27 A Bride for Isaac</i>	<i>171</i>

28 Jacob and Esau	177
29 Jacob's Family Grows	183
30 Jacob Returns to Canaan	189
31 Joseph Becomes a Slave.	195
32 God Blesses Joseph	201
33 Joseph Rises to Power	207
34 Joseph Forgives His Brothers	213
35 Israel's Blessing	219
36 Review: Job to Joseph	225
Appendix	
Memory Verse List	232
Memory Verse Games	235
Lesson Review Games	237

—Year 1—

Introduction and Schedule

Introduction to Answers Bible Curriculum

It is our responsibility as Christians to raise the next generation to stand firmly on the foundation of God's Word in every aspect of life. As our culture becomes increasingly anti-Christian, it is imperative that we prepare our children to face those challenges confident that the Word of God is true, accounts for the things we see in the world around us, and is relevant to our everyday lives.

Answers Bible Curriculum (ABC) is a 4-year chronological journey through the entire Bible—from the creation account in Genesis to the new heavens and new earth in Revelation. Using the 7 C's of History as a framework for understanding the history of the universe and recognizing God's redemptive plan throughout Scripture, ABC emphasizes the historical reality of biblical

accounts, the authority of God's Word, and the application of God's Word to everyday life.

Unlike many homeschool Bible curricula, ABC doesn't just teach a collection of stories or moral lessons. Rather, this curriculum teaches students that the Bible is the history book of the universe. Each account is treated as a real event that truly happened, just as the Bible describes. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetic material and historical background that confirm the accuracy of the biblical record.

By looking at the chronological history described in the Bible, students will be equipped to stand on the foundation of God's Word, defend their faith, and discuss how each account connects to the larger narrative and God's redemptive plan.

Course Description

Year 1 of Answers Bible Curriculum for Homeschool covers the biblical chronology from creation to the life of Joseph. Accounts covered in this course are found in the books of Genesis and Job.

Year 1 begins by establishing God's Word as the foundation and authority for the Christian. Students will learn why we can trust God's Word, how God preserves his Word, and why it is important to study the Bible and live by its

truths. Building on this foundation, students will develop a truly biblical worldview by studying the accounts of Genesis as true history and discovering how those accounts connect to the gospel and to their own lives.

Year 1 chronology includes creation, the fall of man into sin, the global flood, the judgment at Babel, and the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Other notable accounts include Cain and Abel, the suffering of Job, and Lot's experiences in Sodom.

Curriculum Components

Answers Bible Curriculum for Homeschool provides all the necessary elements for an engaging biblical education. The curriculum consists of the following components:

Teacher Guide—One year of Bible lessons, complete with a lesson overview, background material, lesson content, and comprehension questions

Student Workbook—Age-appropriate activity pages that reinforce lesson content, guide students to make connections, and encourage life application

Test and Answers book—Educational assessments through age-appropriate tests and quizzes, along with answers to

the student pages (included with Student Workbook)

Posters—Timelines and wall posters that provide visual reinforcement of biblical chronology and important themes (included with Teacher Guide)

Building Blocks—An exclusive video series that illustrates main lesson objectives with engaging demonstrations (access included with Teacher Guide)

Memory verse music—Songs produced by Seeds Family Worship and available as MP3s, lyric videos, and split-screen videos with hand motions and lyrics (access included with Teacher Guide; CDs, DVDs, and downloads also available for additional purchase)

How to Use This Curriculum

The flexible design of Answers Bible Curriculum for Homeschool equips you to confidently teach deep biblical concepts while allowing easy adaptation to any homeschool environment.

While you can use the curriculum exactly as written, we encourage you to put your own personal touches on it, tailoring the experience to your student(s).

Leading the Lesson

Whether you have one student or one in every grade, this Teacher Guide equips you to confidently teach in-depth biblical truth in any homeschool setting.

Preparing a Lesson

Every lesson begins with an overview page to help you prepare your lesson. Read through the lesson focus, objectives, and key passages to become familiar with the biblical text and the main ideas of the lesson.

Teaching tips provide ideas for adjusting the lesson content for various learning levels. These may include ideas for hands-on activities, challenges for external research, or visual aids for more complex ideas.

Every lesson, excluding review lessons, includes an optional object lesson or introductory activity. These can be used as desired to excite students about the topic or illustrate important biblical concepts.

The Prepare to Share section of the lesson is intended to equip you with scriptural and historical background for the lesson, as well as draw attention to opportunities for apologetic teaching. You may wish to share some of this material with your older students.

Teaching a Lesson

The lesson is designed to be used with all your students—no matter the age. Older students could read through the lessons on their own, if desired, or help you as you teach younger siblings. You

might also consider using the lesson as a family Bible study at the beginning of each week.

This curriculum is based on the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible, but you may read the scripture verses in any translation you choose. When you come to the instruction to read a Bible passage, encourage your students to find the reference and read the verse aloud. This is a great opportunity to help them become familiar with how to find things in the Bible and to see for themselves what Scripture says.

Throughout the lesson, you will come across questions that are highlighted in red. These provide an opportunity to pause and engage your student in thoughtful discussion.

Certain words are defined throughout the curriculum. These are generally terms that are used in the Bible or in theological study but may be challenging for some students. Definitions are given in bold text. If desired, collect these as vocabulary or spelling words.

Each lesson concludes with a short application section and three application questions. Use these

to discuss with your student how the biblical truths from the lesson connect with their everyday lives.

Reviewing a Lesson

Following each lesson is a set of comprehension questions. These questions, without the answers, appear in the student workbooks in adapted form. Have your student(s) answer the questions aloud after the lesson to ensure your student has a grasp of the account and its major points. Use the review questions in the Student Workbook at any time during the week to review the lesson.

The student activity pages offer opportunity for review and reinforcement, but you may wish to employ more intentional review methods, especially in preparation for quizzes or tests. In the appendix of this Teacher Guide, you will find some review games. These games use the comprehension questions and can be easily adapted for number and age of students. Use a game to review a single lesson or make the games comprehensive by including questions from previous lessons.

Student Activities

Overview

The Student Workbook includes an overview page for each lesson, providing the lesson focus, key passages, and objectives. Students may refer to these elements to help them remember the lesson.

Students can use the check list to mark each activity complete. You may use this page to assign certain activities each day or to collect grades.

Space is provided for students to write their memory verse each week. This provides a memorization technique as well as a location for easy referral as they study through the week. You may need to write the verse for younger students.

Activity Sheets

Activity pages are provided for independent work throughout the week. Younger students may need help reading instructions. Perforated

pages allow you to tear out individual pages, but you may wish to keep them in a folder or binder for easy reference when it is time to review.

Study Notes may be completed on the same day as the lesson for immediate reinforcement. Alternatively, you may wish to use the Study Notes as the first activity on another day to help the student remember the lesson from a previous day.

Additional activity pages will be completed on the other days, according to the schedule you set.

Review Questions

The final student page for each lesson contains review questions. These are similar to the comprehension questions in the Teacher Guide, but have been adapted for each level. Levels 2–5 include writing lines for answering the questions. For level K–1, read the questions

aloud to quiz your student. If you have students with similar abilities, let them use the questions to quiz each other.

Special Features

Level K–1 includes a coloring or activity sheet for each lesson. You may allow them to work on

this page while they listen to the lesson, or you can use it as another activity during the week.

Level 4–5 includes optional challenges that can be used to encourage students to study certain topics further. These often provide opportunities for students to practice research skills, like looking up information.

Flexible Elements

Posters

Use these wall posters to enhance the lesson and provide visual reminders of important truths. Refer to the posters as you teach the lessons. The timelines are especially important to helping students understand the connection of events throughout the Bible. If you have space, hang the posters on the wall where they can be easily referenced. If not, remember to unfold the timeline to show as you teach or review the lessons. Posters are included with the Teacher Guide.

Building Blocks

Building Blocks is an exclusive video program featuring Bryan Osborne and Avery Foley, writers and speakers for Answers in Genesis. Each episode, approximately 10 minutes long, employs engaging visual demonstrations to illustrate the main objectives of the corresponding lesson. Preview the episode before each lesson and decide where you want to use it. Watch the video as an introduction before you teach the lesson, to reinforce the ideas after the lesson, as a review in the middle of the week, or to sum everything up at the end of the week. You can access *Building Blocks* by following the instructions on the enclosed card.

Memory Verses

Committing God's Word to heart is an important aspect of building a solid biblical foundation. A suggested list of memory verses is included in the appendix of this Teacher Guide. Determine how many Bible verses you want your student to memorize through the year, depending on the ability of each student. You may assign verses to certain weeks of the year, or wait for your student to master one verse before assigning a new one.

Have students begin the memory process by reading the verse and copying it into the provided space in the Student Workbook each week. Work with your student to find the most appropriate memorization techniques.

The appendix of this Teacher Guide includes memory verse games that can be used to help students memorize verses and review those previously committed to memory. These games can also be used to memorize the books of the Bible. You might consider including memory verses in your review games, as well.

For each year of ABC for Homeschool, 10 of the recommended memory verses have been put to music by Seeds Family Worship. These engaging videos—complete with exciting visual effects, on-screen lyrics, and fun hand motions—are available on Answers TV (see enclosed card for access) or the Answers in Genesis online bookstore.

Grading

We recommend assigning points for correct answers on worksheets, quizzes, and tests. You may choose to assign points for memory verses.

Optional Resources

Answers Family Bible Devotional—Use this devotional to bring your family together, building a biblical worldview and cementing the truths your student is learning in ABC for Homeschool.

Books of the Bible products—Use the Books of the Bible flashcards, trading cards, or coloring book to help students learn about the books of the Bible and memorize their order.

Answers TV—With live and on-demand video content from Answers in Genesis, the Creation Museum, and the Ark Encounter, Answers TV offers several programs for kids, including *Unlocking Science*, *Hike & Seek*, *Out and About*, and *Schus Off!* These and other programs will be valuable supplements to your homeschool curricula.

Answers online bookstore—Find a variety of apologetic and faith-affirming resources on many of the topics covered in this curriculum.

Extension Ideas

Vocabulary & spelling—Challenge your student to learn the definition and spelling of new words found throughout the Bible and this curriculum.

Writing—Challenge students to practice writing at whatever level is appropriate. Younger students can write out their memory verse to practice letters. Encourage older students to think through issues and write a response to questions of apologetics or application. Give creative writing prompts where appropriate. For example, students could pretend to be one of Noah's sons and write a diary about the time before the flood.

History—As a chronological curriculum, ABC provides glimpses of historical details. Consider arranging your student's study of history so it corresponds with the accounts in the Bible. For example, students could learn about Sumer and ancient Egypt as context for the lives of Abraham and Joseph.

Geography—Consider getting a Bible atlas with maps of biblical regions throughout history. As you study the movement of God's people, use the maps to visualize what was happening and connect those historical places to those that can be found today.

Scheduling Your Classes

On the following pages, you will find a suggested schedule based on a 36-week year with coursework completed on three days each week. This curriculum can easily be expanded to fill four or five days each week. We encourage you to adapt this schedule as necessary to include Bible memorization, family Bible study, extra review, and any other elements you wish to include.

To use the provided schedule, fill in the Date field according to your preferred pace. You can keep track of your progress by checking off each day on the schedule. If you have a single student, the schedule may also double as a grade book. Quizzes and tests are shaded gray.

Typical Week

Day one: Use the Teacher Guide to complete the lesson with your student. Have your student complete the Study Notes in their workbook to review and reinforce the lesson content.

Day two: Have your student complete two or three activity pages in their workbook.

Day three: Have your student complete any remaining activity pages and answer the review questions in their workbook.

On weeks with a quiz, you may decide to do the quiz after the review on day three or to allow an extra day for the quiz. On these weeks, you may consider making the review time comprehensive.

Review Week

Day one: Use the Teacher Guide to complete the review lesson with your student.

Day two: Choose your method of review. Use the comprehension questions, student review

activities, a review game, or another favorite method of review.

Day three: Administer the test.

Suggested Schedule

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Task</i>	✓	<i>Grade</i>
Week 1		Lesson 1: God's Word Is Our Foundation / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 2		Lesson 2: God's Word Is True / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 3		Lesson 3: God's Word Is Our Authority / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 4		Lesson 4: We Can Know God / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 5		Lesson 5: The 7 C's of History / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Review and Quiz		
Week 6		Lesson 6: God Creates the Universe / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 7		Lesson 7: Creation Week / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 8		Lesson 8: God Creates Adam and Eve / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 9		Lesson 9: Corruption / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Task</i>	✓	<i>Grade</i>
Week 10		Lesson 10: Effects of the Fall / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 11		Lesson 11: The Gospel Is Good News / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Review and Quiz		
Week 12		Lesson 12: Cain and Abel / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 13		Lesson 13: Catastrophe / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 14		Lesson 14: Noah Builds an Ark / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 15		Lesson 15: The Worldwide Flood / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 16		Lesson 16: The Flood Ends / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 17		Lesson 17: Confusion / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Review and Quiz		
Week 18		Lesson 18: Review Lesson		
		Review		
		Test for Lessons 1–18		

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Task</i>	✓	<i>Grade</i>
Week 19		Lesson 19: Dispersion from Babel / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 20		Lesson 20: Job's Suffering / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 21		Lesson 21: God Calls Abram / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 22		Lesson 22: Abram and Lot / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 23		Lesson 23: God's Covenant with Abram / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 24		Lesson 24: Sodom and Gomorrah / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Review and Quiz		
Week 25		Lesson 25: Isaac: Child of Promise / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 26		Lesson 26: Abraham's Test / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 27		Lesson 27: A Bride for Isaac / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Task</i>	✓	<i>Grade</i>
Week 28		Lesson 28: Jacob and Esau / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 29		Lesson 29: Jacob's Family Grows / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 30		Lesson 30: Jacob Returns to Canaan / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Review and Quiz		
Week 31		Lesson 31: Joseph Becomes a Slave / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 32		Lesson 32: God Blesses Joseph / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 33		Lesson 33: Joseph Rises to Power / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 34		Lesson 34: Joseph Forgives His Brothers / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Student Activity Page and Review		
Week 35		Lesson 35: Israel's Blessing / Study Notes		
		Student Activity Pages		
		Review and Quiz		
Week 36		Lesson 36: Review Lesson		
		Review		
		Test for Lessons 19–36		

—Year 1—

God's Word Is Our Foundation

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

Lesson Focus

The Bible is God's perfect and true Word. If we study the Bible and use it as our foundation, it will guide us and change our lives.

Key Passages

Psalms 19:7–11; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain why the Bible is true and can be trusted.
- Recognize the importance of careful study of the Bible.

Building Blocks

Join Bryan and Avery as they demonstrate foundational truths from the Bible.

Teaching Tips

- ☐ Show younger students how to read a Bible reference and how to find the passage in the Bible. Explain how the Bible is organized into books, chapters, and verses.
- ☐ Challenge older students to memorize the books of the Bible. Have them find references without using the table of contents. See if they can find a verse in a certain time limit. 10 seconds is a good goal.

Optional Introductory Activity

Before the lesson, hide a treasure (a bag of candy or another treat) somewhere in the house. Have your student(s) ask up to 20 yes or no questions about where the treasure is hidden before you let them search. Or you may choose to give them clues as they search. Once the treasure is found, point out that verses in the Bible are like hidden treasure. Sometimes we have to ask questions or get information to discover their meaning.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

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.

We are called to study diligently what has been revealed and apply it to the way we live our lives. Within the pages of Scripture, we find many exhortations to use what God has revealed in a way that honors him.

Paul tells us that Scripture is useful for doctrine—teaching Christian truth; reproof—telling us when we are wrong; correction—showing us how to correct our wrong actions; and training in righteousness—teaching us how to obey God (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

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

Historical/Apologetics Background

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

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

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

When we study Scripture, we practice *hermeneutics*—the process of trying to understand what the Bible means. Learning proper hermeneutics opens a whole new world of truth found in the Bible. As we seek to understand what God has said, we should not import our own ideas into Scripture but rather

allow Scripture to inform and evaluate our ideas. Drawing ideas out of the text is called *exegesis* (*ex*- meaning “out of”), while adding our ideas into the text is called *eisegesis* (*eis*- meaning “into”).

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

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

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

To **interpret**, we look at the passage in light of what the rest of the Bible has to say on the same topic. We may identify cross-references, cultural considerations,

specific word meanings, context, commentaries, or parallel passages that tell of the same account or provide the same idea. We should be careful during the interpretation stage because there is always the danger of trying to read our own ideas into the text.

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

Ultimately, Scripture is to be the source of truth in our lives. Evangelical tradition is built on the belief that every Christian can read and understand

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

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

God's Word Is Our Foundation

We are about to begin an epic exploration! We're going to explore the Bible. The Bible is a very big book made up of 66 smaller books. And it may seem overwhelming to even think about understanding it all. But it is worth studying, so we're going to take it little by little because it is a very special and important book.

Why do you think the Bible is so important?

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

What is a foundation?

Whenever a house is built, the first step is to lay a foundation. That's the solid part that stays firm on the ground. Then the house is built on top of the foundation. A house needs a good foundation so that it is safe to live in—so it won't fall down! Let's find out how God's Word is like a foundation for our lives.

God's Word Is Perfect

King David wrote many songs, or psalms, that show how much he loved God and treasured his Word. As we read Psalm 19, listen for all the ways David described God's Word.

Read Psalm 19:7–11

You should have noticed five different words: law, testimony, precepts, commandment, rules. All of these words refer to God's Word, the Bible.

This passage also uses eight different words or phrases to describe God's Word or tell us what it is like: perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more to be desired than gold, sweeter also than honey.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." There are no mistakes in God's law. His perfect Word revives the soul. That means it can change our hearts and our desires. We no longer want the things we used to want. We want what will honor God. The law of the Lord can change our hearts forever!

"The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." Testimony is another word for God's Word. God's Word is sure. We can trust it to make us wise. We must go to God's Word for wisdom because we really aren't very wise by ourselves. And we need help making the right choices.

“The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.” The precepts, or commands, of God will make our hearts rejoice. His Word gives us joy as we follow it and try to obey it.

“The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.” God’s commands are always pure and clean, with nothing wrong in them, just as pure, clean water has no dirt in it. His Word enlightens the eyes. Just as light brightens a dark room, God’s Word shines light on the things around us. It helps us to see truth more clearly, and we begin to understand more as we learn about God.

“The rules of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.” God’s rules—the Bible—are true and righteous. They can be trusted and will always lead us in the right direction.

God’s Word Is Profitable

It is important to study God’s Word if we are going to build our life on its foundation. First we must observe, or look at, the text to see what it says. Then we interpret the text to understand what it means. Then we apply what it teaches by obeying what we’ve learned.

That might sound like a lot of work, but it really isn’t that hard. The simplest way to understand what you read is to ask five quick questions: who, what, when, where, and why. These are often called the Five Ws.

We’re going to practice with this next passage.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Sometimes when we answer these five questions about a verse we are reading, we need to look at some other verses in addition to what we just read. This is called looking at the **context—the text that goes with ours**. When you read a book, you don’t just read a word or a sentence. To understand what’s going on, you have to look at the paragraph, the chapter, and even the whole book.

We need to look at the beginning of the book to answer the *who* questions: who wrote the book and to whom was it written?

Psalm 19:10 tells us that God’s Word is more to be desired than gold. The Bible is very important to God. And he wants it to be very important to us as well. The Bible says that God’s Word is worth more than gold, and it is sweeter than honey. It is worth learning about!

Verse 11 tells us that God’s Word warns us to live lives according to what God says—lives that honor and please God. If we pay attention to this warning and obey God’s Word, God promises a great reward.

Every word of God’s Word is holy and true and good. We need to trust God and his Word over everything else we read or see or hear! God’s Word is the foundation we should stand on as we face challenges and hard things in life.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1–2

Right away, we see that the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to a young man named Timothy.

Now look back at 2 Timothy 3:16 to answer the *what*. What was Paul writing to Timothy about?

Paul said he was writing about Scripture—God’s Word, the Bible. And what he writes is true of all Scripture, not just part of it.

Now let’s answer a *where* question. Where was Paul while he wrote this letter? We need to look at some more context.

Read 2 Timothy 2:9

This verse gives us a clue. Paul said he was suffering in chains as a criminal. So, where would he be bound with chains and suffer like a criminal?

Paul was in prison! He was writing to Timothy while he was a prisoner in Rome.

Sometimes you have to search and act like a detective to answer these simple questions. But when you do, it really helps you understand God’s Word better.

Look at 2 Timothy 3:17 again. This verse answers another question. It tells us *why* Paul was writing to Timothy about God's Word. Paul wanted to encourage Timothy. Timothy was a man of

God. And Paul wanted him to be equipped, or prepared, to do good works for the Lord.

What else can we learn from these verses?

God's Word Is Profitable

When the Bible uses the word "scripture," it is referring to the Bible or parts of the Bible.

Where does Scripture come from?

Look again at 2 Timothy 3:16. Scripture is breathed out by God himself. That means that the Bible is given by inspiration of God. **Inspiration is direction that is breathed out by God's Holy Spirit.** We don't hear "breathed out" very often. I can't breathe out my influence onto other people. I can't direct them by breathing on them. But God can! And that is exactly what he did! He used the power of his Holy Spirit to guide the minds of the writers so they could write what he wanted them to write. This makes the Bible different from every other book on earth because it came from God.

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

Then Paul listed four things that explain how God's Word can help us. These words tell us why the Bible is still very meaningful today, even after thousands of years. But since we don't use these phrases very often, we're going to figure out what they mean.

Teaching refers to learning the truths in the Bible. A word for **God's teachings, or truths,**

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

Our next word is **reproof, which means to show us our sin.** God uses the Bible to show us when we do wrong things, when we disobey God and sin against him.

Now we move on to correction. You probably know what that means. Once we have been reproofed for our sin and we understand what we're doing wrong, we need to be corrected. God's Word offers **correction, showing us how to change and to turn from our sins.**

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

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

Application

The Bible is the starting point from which we make decisions. We need to learn to use it to guide us in everything we do and think! It is like no other book ever written.

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

Have you ever tried on someone else's glasses? What did everything look like?

When you look through glasses that aren't yours, it often makes everything blurry and hard to see. But the right glasses can help us see things more clearly.

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

- 1 As we study God's Word, what are the five questions we can ask to help us understand what God is teaching us?
- 2 We are often tempted to think that we know how to make the best choices on our own. Where can you find the perfect truth to help you make the right choices?
- 3 If a friend asks you why we should read the Bible, what would you tell him or her?

Possible answers: 1) Who, what, where, when, why. 2) God's Word, the Bible. 3) It is God's Word to us! The Bible is like a foundation because we can build our lives on the truth it gives us. It's worth studying because it can change us to be more like Jesus.

Comprehension Questions

1. What book should be our starting point or foundation? *The Bible*
2. According to Psalm 19, what are some other words used to describe God's Word? *Law, testimony, precepts, commandment, rules.*
3. Why can we trust the Bible? *It is God's Word. It is true. It is perfect.*
4. What does the Bible help us see more clearly? *Truth*
5. God's Word is more valuable than? *Gold*
6. What does the Bible give us that helps us make decisions? *Wisdom*
7. How did David describe God's Word? *Perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, worth more than gold, sweeter than honey*
8. Why is it so important to study the Bible? *It is the only way we can truly know God. It can guide us and change us. It makes us wise, helps us see the truth, brings us joy, trains us to be prepared to do good works for the Lord.*
9. What are the five questions we should ask to help us understand the Bible better? *Who, what, when, where, why*
10. What phrase is used to describe what God did to inspire the text of the Bible? *Breathed out*
11. What does "profitable" mean in 2 Timothy 3:16? *Helpful*
12. What is another word for God's truths or teachings? *Doctrine*
13. What does "reproof" mean? *Showing us when we are sinning*
14. What does "correction" mean? *Showing us how to change our ways and do things the correct way*
15. What does "training in righteousness" mean? *Teaching us how to obey God*
16. Paul knew that the Scripture would help prepare Timothy for what? *Good works*