



VIDEO BIBLE STUDY

TEEN & ADULT



TEACHER GUIDE

TEEN & ADULT TEACHER GUIDE

Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
God is . . .	GR+8	ALL+MY+T	RUE+LEARN-N	E+MAN+YOU+L	TRUSTY-Y+WORD-D+THEE
Lighthouse Lesson Focus	God is GREAT! He is the one and only God, the awe-inspiring Creator.	God is ALMIGHTY! He is all knowing, all powerful, and all present.	God is RULER! He is the majestic king who is holy and perfect.	God is EMMANUEL! He is the loving and good Savior who came to earth.	God is TRUSTWORTHY! He is our rock. We should praise, thank, worship, adore, and live for him.
Medallion of the Day	Number 1	Letter O	Crown	Heart	Diamond
Bible Passages	Paul in a City of False Gods Acts 17:16–34	Jonah and God Almighty Book of Jonah Psalm 139	Isaiah's Vision of God Isaiah 6:1–3 Psalm 8	God Comes to Earth (Gospel Presentation) Select Scriptures	David Trusts God 1 Samuel 17
Treasured Verses	Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3	Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27	And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" Isaiah 6:3	But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8	Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5–6
Apologetics Focus	There's only one God as revealed in the Bible. You can't make up a god of your choosing.	Nothing is too hard for God.	God is the same in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament. He was and is and always will be in charge.	God is three-in-one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though there is mystery to this, God is knowable.	God is bigger and greater than our unanswered questions. We can trust him.
Animal Pals	Camo the Chameleon	Flip the Flapjack Octopus	Clark the Great White Shark	Jam the Immortal Jellyfish	Trusty the Macaw
Deep Sea Science	Rainbow Water Mystery Color	Can Crushing Diving Octopus	Diaper Duty Shark Float	Lava Lamps Sea Snakes	Salty or Fresh? Jewel Treasures
Deep Sea Crafts	Tropical Tree Glass Gem Magnets	Shell Necklace Splash Octopus	Wind Chime Great White Game	Mini Diorama Gospel Sand Art	God's Attributes Rock Seek and Find Treasure
Ride the Tide Games	Island Ambush Island Olympics	Fish Out of Water Sharks and Minnows	Glory Corners Tropical Relays	Triple Play Take Heart	Buccaneer Barriers What's the Treasure?
Tropical Treats	One and Only Bread Seascape Snacks	Pail of Whales Omni Os	Shark Teeth Moon and Star Sammies	Heart Melts Jolly Jellyfish	Hidden Treasure Treats Treasure Maps
Cool Contests	Swedish Fish Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	God of Wonder Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Teen/Adult Guide

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Contents

Handy Helps	3
Fun in the Sun.	3
Your Role.	4
Frequently Asked Questions	4
Terms to Know	4
Tips for Teachers	5
Lighthouse Lessons.	5
Memory Verse Songs	5
Day 1: GR+8	6
Devotion 1 God Is Great	7
Introduce It	8
Teach It	8
Apply It	11
Biblical Christianity	11
Day 2: ALL+MY+T	13
Devotion 2 God Is Almighty	14
Introduce It	15
Teach It	15
Apply It	18
Marks of a Cult	19
DAY 3: RUE+LEARN-N	20
Devotion 3 God Is Ruler	21
Introduce It	22
Teach It	22
Apply It	24
Secular Humanism.	25
DAY 4: E+MAN+YOU+L	27
Devotion 4 God Is Emmanuel	28
Introduce It	29
Teach It	29
Apply It	33
Sharing the Gospel with Muslims	33
DAY 5: TRUSTY-Y+WORD-D+THEE.	35
Devotion 5 God Is Trustworthy.	36
Introduce It	37
Teach It	37
Apply It	40
The New Age Movement.	41

Handy Helps

Fun in the Sun

What is it about a tropical island that is so captivating—the beach, sunny skies, sparkling water, and awesome resorts? Or how about the beauty, sunsets, island animals, and glittering stars? It certainly is a special place on earth.

On *Mystery Island*, prepare to be thrilled from the top of your sun-drenched head to the tip of your sandy toes as we explore an intriguing and mysterious tropical paradise while tracking down the one true God.

Day 1: God is GREAT!—As we stop in Acts 17 and find a city full of idols, we'll hunt for clues about our great God and discover we must have the right view of him. We can't make up a god of our own choosing.

Day 2: God is ALMIGHTY!—Our mighty God knows everything, is everywhere, and has the power to do anything. As we study Psalm 139, we focus on the three big Os of God—his omniscience, his omnipotence, and his omnipresence.

Day 3: God is RULER!—We'll check in with Isaiah and realize God is not like us. Our minds will be blown away by his vastness, beauty, and holiness.

Day 4: God is EMMANUEL!—God is high and mighty, Lord of all creation. And yet, he also came to earth (Emmanuel means “God with us”) and desires a relationship with the people he has made. He is good and he loves us.

Day 5: God is TRUSTWORTHY!—With the account of David, we'll learn that God is great, God is good, and God is perfect in all things, so we can trust him with our lives. He is our rock.

From the minute our islanders arrive at *Mystery Island*, they'll find fun waiting to happen. The day begins at the **Islander Assembly**, a supercharged opening complete with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

Lighthouse Lessons, the teaching time. Here, islanders will track down truths about the one true God and discover he is a priceless treasure.

Tropical Treats, the snack spot. Islanders will enjoy island eatables at this yummy spot.

Ride the Tide Games, the recreation location. At this location, islanders attempt fun surf and sand challenges.

Deep Sea Science and Crafts, the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array of activities to choose from: electrifying science experiments to explore, creative crafts to invent, high-energy songs to sing, fun memory verse games to play, or mission time to investigate (for those who want to spend more time than is given during the Assembly).

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the **Islander Assembly** for the closing that includes more singing, a Creature Feature, contest results, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the kids' day. The drama features two siblings who are invited to an island treasure hunt as part of their inheritance from a rich uncle. In the midst of their search, much mystery, intrigue, adventure, and humor occur, and valuable lessons are learned.

So grab your beach tote, and let's head out for some fun in the sun at *Mystery Island*!

Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be soft-hearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator. Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun!

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and to understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it! May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

Your Role

Your role as the teacher is outlined in the following pages. This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives.

The best fit for this job is someone who enjoys teaching teens and adults and does the following:

- Plans and prepares the daily lessons for VBS.
- Enthusiastically engages in delivery of the lessons during VBS week.
- Prays over all aspects of this job.

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Mystery Island* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/mifaq.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here's a list of some of the most common terms to know.

Islanders: The kids at VBS. Islanders are put in groups named after tropical islands (e.g., Puerto Rico, Bora Bora, Fiji).

Group Guides: Adults who guide the islanders from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.

Lighthouse Keepers: Teachers at the Lighthouse Lesson time.

Lighthouse Lessons: Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.

Islander Assembly: Spot where everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.

Deep Sea Science and Crafts: Rotation site where kids make crafts, perform science experiments, sing songs, learn memory verses, and explore missions around the world.

Tropical Treats: Indoor or outdoor site where island eatables are served.

Ride the Tide Games: Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) to dive into surf and sand games.

Treasured Verses: Daily memory verses.

Animal Pals: Friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.

Creature Feature: Daily time during the opening or closing assembly when we marvel together at God's design of various thematic animals.

Toddlers: 2–4 year olds.

Pre-Primaries: 4–6 year olds, or kids who are age 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.

Primaries: 6–9 year olds, or kids who have completed grades 1–3.

Juniors: 9–12 year olds, or kids who have completed grades 4–6.

For multi-age K–6th teams, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

Tips for Teachers

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).
2. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening his Word and sharing it daily with the students. Walk worthy!
3. Read through all your lesson plans in advance. Begin to pray and plan now, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
4. In this guide:
 - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
 - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
5. It's helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
6. Attend the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
7. Call the students by name. Name tags help with this.
8. Make sure to keep eye contact as you share the lessons, helping each student sense your warmth and caring.
9. Students will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as he wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
10. Use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
11. Show love. All students, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day, and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and a handshake.
12. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the students under your care.
13. Notice the good. Students want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
14. Students generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses.
15. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Lighthouse Lessons

Students will be learning a lot from God's Word when they're at the Bible Lesson Time. This session is written as a 90-minute period, divided into these sections:

- **Introduce It!** (5 minutes): Each day, the students will be greeted with something interesting that captures their attention and begins the teaching of the day's lesson.
- **Teach It!** (30-35 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time by a teacher.
- **Apply It!** (5 minutes): This is the practical application time.
- **Remember It!** (5 minutes): This is the memory verse review time.
- **Fill It!** (45 or more minutes): Choose from the following to fill your time—video and discussion (60 minutes), snack (5 minutes), game (5 minutes), experiment (5 minutes).
- **DVD:** Three discs are included with your leader guide. These DVDs can be used in your DVD player or on a computer.

Memory Verse Songs

We have created songs for each of the memory verses. Singing Scripture is an excellent way for students to easily learn their Bible verses. We suggest using the songs (either video or audio) during the Remember It! time in each lesson. The Leader Pack (DVD, DVD-ROM, Music CD) comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately (contemporary: 11-8-069; traditional: 11-8-063). This includes song motion

videos, song lyric videos, and an audio CD. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (AnswersBookstore.com). Student CDs in packs of 10 are also available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (11-8-070; 11-8-064). The option you choose will determine which type of media device you use to play it.

DAY 1

GR+8

GOD IS GREAT!

BIBLE PASSAGE

Paul in a City of False Gods
Acts 17:16–34

LESSON FOCUS

God is GREAT! He is the one and only
God, the awe-inspiring Creator.

APOLOGETICS FOCUS

There's only one God as revealed in the Bible—you
can't make up a god of your own choosing.

TREASURED VERSE

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and
his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3

Today's Lesson at a Glance

INTRODUCE IT!

TEACH IT!

- Puzzle: Book Cipher
- God is Creator—Acts 17

APPLY IT!

- Small Group Time

REMEMBER IT!

- Memory Verse review

FILL IT!

- Video and other options

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Acts 17:16–34 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and print puzzle worksheets for your students.
- Visit AnswersVBS.com/mifaq for more information on there being only one God—the God of the Bible.
- Pray.

Devotion 1 God Is Great

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

At *Mystery Island*, we're encouraging our kids to discover the one true God. But . . . how do we know the one true God even exists? It's a question that has crossed the mind of every believer at some point—sure, I believe in God, but how do I know the God I love and serve is truly the one true God?

Before we answer that question, let's go a bit further by asking another question: how can we know anything? How do we even know to question the surety of God's existence? Here's the answer: apart from the perfect, truthful, unchanging, eternal God of the Bible, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3) and from whom come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 9:10), we cannot know anything.

Think about it.

If, as some suggest, there is no god—no ultimate standard of truth and knowledge—and we are simply the product of random processes operating on chemicals over time, then the thoughts in our brains are nothing more than the product of random chemical interactions. How could we know anything?

If, as others suggest, our universe is ruled by a god who is not eternal (Mormonism, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, ch. 14, p. 305–6) or who is deceptive (Islam, *Koran* 3:54, 8:30), how could we be sure that what we know is true today will still be true tomorrow?

The one true God of the Bible has created each person in his image and given us the ability to think rationally, to question thoughtfully, to know truth fully. And he has revealed himself to everyone so that no one is without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). Those who deny his existence or seek to change him into a false version of himself are

willfully ignorant, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

We can know the one true God exists because we have the ability to know in the first place. And we can praise him that he freely gives wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5). This week, let's be quick to seek wisdom from the one true God as we teach our children to know the one true God and embrace him fully.

May we be thankful as the Puritans were, not only that we can know things, but also that the one true God has enabled us to know him.

Glorious God,
I bless thee that I know thee.
I once lived in the world, but was ignorant of its
Creator,
was partaker of thy providences, but knew not the
Provider,
was blind while enjoying the sunlight,
was deaf to all things spiritual, with voices all around
me,
understood many things, but had no knowledge of
thy ways,
saw the world, but did not see Jesus only.
O happy day, when in thy love's sovereignty
thou didst look on me, and call me by grace.
Grant that I may always weep to the praise of mercy
found,
and tell to others as long as I live,
that thou art a sin-pardoning God,
taking up the blasphemer and the ungodly,
and washing them from their deepest stain.

—(Excerpt from "The Great Discovery"
in *The Valley of Vision*)

Introduce It (5 min)

Welcome to Mystery Island!

I hope you dressed for adventure, because we have an arduous journey before us. Today, and all week, we will be scouring for hidden treasures.

What do you think of when you hear “treasure hunt”? Allow answers.

You might think of an adventurous archaeologist chasing legendary artifacts hidden deep in caves and dungeons, protected by traps of all kinds. You might think of a trail of clues that lead through a variety of locations before ending at the mother lode. You might think of a swashbuckling pirate with a cryptic map to buried treasure. Well, this week we will be going on a treasure hunt more important than any other, searching for treasure far more valuable than gold or rare artifacts.

What are the two necessary pieces for any treasure hunt? Allow answers. No matter what, a treasure hunt requires a treasure to hunt and something to provide direction. This can be a map, clues, or GPS coordinates. But there must be some way for you to know where or how to search.

This week, we will uncover what Paul speaks of as the mystery of God. Who has a Bible? Please read Romans 16:25–27. Allow a volunteer to read. **According to Paul, how will we find the answers to the mystery of God?** It has been revealed to us through the prophetic writings, or the Word of God.

So make sure to bring your Bibles every day, because that is the key to all the treasures we will find this week. The Bible reveals truth about who God is and this week we will be tracking down the one true God. Each day we will focus on a specific treasure, or truth about God.

What are some ideas that people have when they think about who God is? Discuss answers. Answers may include: a best friend, the big guy upstairs, a bully, a genie in a bottle, or distant and uncaring.

There are many ways that people view God that are incorrect, and we will encounter a few of these this week. But we can't make God be who we want him to be. He is who he is. We'll be tracking down the truth about him all week, looking to Scripture as our authority. Knowing what God is really like is the most important thing about you, because it determines how you live your life. And it also determines your eternity.

Teach It (30–35 min)

So let's get started with our first treasure. I have a puzzle for you to solve. It may be tricky, but I trust you will be able to figure it out. **Remember, the Bible is the key to understanding God's truth.** Have students work in small groups to solve the puzzle. Challenge students to solve the cipher themselves, but if they are having difficulty, be prepared to offer hints, such as “how many books are in the Bible?” If time is short, you may wish to provide the cipher key.

Use the provided clue to decode the cipher and complete the puzzle, uncovering today's truth about God.

46.8.6.24	C	1 Corinthians 8:6
2.20.11.20	R	Exodus 20:11

- ☐ Book Cipher, 1 per person
- ☐ Writing utensils, 1 per person
- ☐ Bible

1.1.1.10	E	Genesis 1:1
19.33.6.11	A	Psalms 33:6
44.17.24.1	T	Acts 17:24
23.40.28.17	O	Isaiah 40:28
51.1.16.21	R	Colossians 1:16

Answer: Creator

Cipher Key: A.B.C.D where A is the numbered order of the book in the Bible, B is the chapter, C is the verse, and D is the order of the word in the sentence based on the ESV. To solve the puzzle, you must take the first letter of each of the words indicated. For example: 1 Corinthians is the 46th book in the Bible. The 24th word in 1 Corinthians 8:6 is Christ, so our first letter is C.


Did any of you take the time to read the verses as you worked through the puzzle? If you did, you probably noticed that they all referred to the answer to the puzzle, showing that God is the Creator of all things. One of the verses in your activity was from Acts chapter 17, which is where we will be focusing now. Have someone read Acts 17:16–34.

Right off the bat, we need to answer a question. When you read verse 16, is there anything you want to ask? Allow answers. Whenever we look at a passage, it is important to understand its context. So, when we see that Paul was “waiting for them,” we should immediately wonder who is “them” and why is he waiting on them? Can anyone answer those questions? Skimming through the previous verses should reveal that Paul was waiting on Silas and Timothy to join him. When the people of Thessalonica and Berea were agitated against Paul, the Christians quickly sent him away, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. Paul had sent word for them to rejoin him, and so he awaited their arrival.

Paul was traveling through his second missionary journey. After being chased out of Thessalonica and Berea, Paul was taken to Athens, the Greek capital. As he was waiting for his friends to rejoin him, he spent some time in the city. What did he observe and how did he react to it? He saw that the city was filled with idols and he was greatly concerned or upset that so many people were following false gods.

You are probably familiar with certain aspects of Greek mythology. What do you know about the Greek view of the gods? Discuss answers. The Greeks believed that there were many gods, each with a different domain of influence and various degrees of power. These gods supposedly lived far away on Mount Olympus dealing with their own family drama, generally only interacting with humans when it benefitted them or for malicious pleasure. I’m sure you’ve heard myths that illustrate that point. There are two main things we need to notice here. First, the Greeks invented these gods in order to explain certain things in the world and then they worshipped the idols they created based on those gods. Second, these gods were violent, selfish, deceitful, and even downright wicked. Unlike the holy and righteous God of the Bible, the Greek gods were described as behaving in the same way as depraved humans, just with more power and therefore greater consequence.

For example, Cronos is said to have hurt his father and swallowed his own children so they wouldn’t become too powerful and take his throne away from him. Zeus is said to be king of the Greek gods. His symbol is the lightning bolt, because he supposedly throws them down to earth in fits of anger. He is



supposed to be the most powerful of the Greek gods. Nike was worshipped as the goddess of victory. Her desire to win was so strong that she was often willing to be unfair and cheat. Apollo, Zeus' son and the god of light and truth, supposedly could bring people back to life, but he had a really bad temper. And let's not forget Poseidon, the god of the sea, who was known to sink ships or drown people on a whim. He was described as moody and unpredictable; you never knew when he was going to whip up a storm because he was upset.

As Paul walked through the city, he saw all these statues and temples devoted to some god or another. As he saw these hopeless people who worshipped ideas they had created in the vain hope that perhaps the god would be appeased and withhold unfavorable actions, his heart broke for them. He knew that there was only one true and righteous God who could offer the peace, hope, and truth that the Greek people were searching for. He knew the true God and he wanted everyone to know him.

What did Paul do next? Allow answers. He first sought out his own people, going to the synagogue, where the Jews worshipped and learned. They already knew the Scriptures and Paul reasoned with them, showing them how the Scriptures pointed to Jesus. But he didn't only speak with the Jews. He also took his message out into the marketplace daily, speaking with anyone who was there.

What was the challenge of speaking with the Greeks? Discuss answers. They didn't have the background of knowing the Scriptures. What Paul was saying didn't make sense to them.

We see from the remarks of the philosophers that they didn't quite understand what he was sharing about the resurrection of Jesus. They called him a babbler and thought that he must be preaching about a foreign deity. Epicureans were materialists who believed that the highest good was pleasure. Stoicism was a naturalistic philosophy that taught freedom from passion (both pleasure and pain) by following reason. The people of Athens prided themselves on their acquisition of knowledge and wisdom, and so these Epicurean and Stoic philosophers invited Paul to come speak about this new idea with them in the Areopagus, the location of the Athenian court.

Standing in the presence of the city's leading men, Paul shared the gospel. His approach, though, is noteworthy. He spoke to his audience, beginning with what they thought they knew. Paul pointed out that in their attempt to appease all the gods, they had even built an altar to the unknown god. And really, that was their problem—the gods they had invented could not be known. But Paul knew the one God that they didn't, and he proclaimed the truth of the Creator God to them. Paul's God created all things, is Lord of all things, transcends mankind, and yet draws near to man. It is God's desire to be found by men (v. 27), unlike the myths dwelling in Olympus. This one true Creator God commands us all to repent in order to be judged righteous through the work of one man, Jesus, who rose from the dead to provide assurance of this salvation.

God existed before time itself existed. Everything that is created was made by him. He created us; we didn't make him. Neither can we make him into what we want him to be. He is who he is, and he has revealed himself to us through his Word so that we could know him. If we seek the one true God, we'll find that he is not far from us, but he wants to have a relationship with us.

You know, many people consider God a mystery, but he can be known, and he wants to be known. Of course, we'll never know everything about God—he's too

big and too great—but we can know him enough to understand who he is and to have a personal relationship with him. This week, I hope you will not only get to know about God but get to know God. Remember—this is the most important thing about you—to know God, and to think rightly about him.

Apply It (5–10 min)

There are several main ideas I want you to walk away from this lesson with. First, there is only one true God, the awe-inspiring Creator. Second, God has revealed himself to us in the Bible, and we must let Scripture inform our understanding—we cannot make up a god of our own choosing. Third, we must know God and what the Bible reveals about him if we are to share with others the one true God.

Use the following discussion questions in small groups or as a class to review the lesson and determine how the truths apply to our lives today.

Our idols today rarely look like gold and stone statues. What are some idols that you have created and set up as objects of worship in your life? Discuss answers, drawing attention to things we may justify or fail to think of as idolatry. An idol can be anything we trust in or prioritize more than God: money, friends, status, video games, screen time, etc.

How can Paul’s approach to sharing the gospel in Athens inform how we share with others? Discuss answers. Paul was brokenhearted for the lost, bold to share, and faithful to teach daily and in every environment (i.e., synagogue, marketplace, and Areopagus). Also, he spoke to his audience, recognizing that they did not have a foundation of knowledge of the biblical God. Unlike the Jews, the Greeks didn’t know who God was, so Paul began by explaining that he was Creator. Likewise, we must make sure people know that we are talking about the one true Creator God, not some idol they have invented.

Do you know who God really is? How can you know? We can know what God is really like because he has revealed himself to us through his Word. As we study the Bible more deeply, we will come to know the God of the Bible more fully.

You may or may not know much about God, but do you know him personally as Lord and Savior? Discuss answers. Consider giving a testimony or sharing the gospel. Although Thursday’s lesson will be devoted to a gospel presentation, we encourage you to present the gospel in every lesson. If appropriate, you may choose to follow up with a question like, “Is your relationship with God evident to those around you?”


Biblical Christianity (DVD, 67 min)

The Bible clearly teaches us that there is one God, the creator of everything, who is great and awe-inspiring. We can know who he is, and we can know him personally. Throughout this week, we will be contrasting some false views of God with the true God of the Bible. But if we are to recognize false views of God, we must first be familiar with the true view of God. Our video today talks about biblical Christianity. Pay attention to how terms are defined and where these truths come from. The better you understand biblical Christianity, the more prepared you will be to engage in conversation with those who believe in false religions.

Play the video *Biblical Christianity* and then use the following questions to discuss the ideas presented.

1. How can we discern the difference between truth and error?

- ☐ DVD player
- ☐ Disc 1, *Biblical Christianity*

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2. How have you seen the emphasis on sincerity of thought over substance of belief in our culture? In what ways have you been impacted by that cultural idea?
 3. Why might it be important to distinguish between Christianity and biblical Christianity?
 4. What are the critical areas of understanding in biblical Christianity?
 5. Why is a correct view of God's glory important?
 6. How would you explain or describe the glory of God?
 7. Why is God's role as Creator so significant to biblical Christianity?
 8. How would you describe the state of mankind within biblical Christianity? Why is this understanding necessary for the gospel?
 9. What is the danger of minimizing the wretchedness of man?
 10. How does the Bible reveal the deity of Jesus?
 11. Why does biblical Christianity demand that Jesus was God?
 12. Can you be a Christian and deny the resurrection of Jesus? Why or why not?
 13. If Jesus had not risen from the grave, which Christian doctrines would be undermined?
 14. How is the gospel of grace a culmination of all the previous critical doctrines of biblical Christianity?
 15. What is the cost of salvation?
 16. From where is the authority of Scripture derived?
 17. Why is the authority of Scripture so important to biblical Christianity?
 18. How would you explain or defend the authority of Scripture?

Fill It!

Choose from the following activities to fill your remaining class time. Memory verse review ideas are on the last page of this guide.

Game

Check the game guide for suggestions. Choose one appropriate to your situation.

Snack

Instead of coffee and doughnuts, serve snacks that also teach an important point. Check the snack guide for more information on today's suggested snacks.

Experiment

The experiments given in the science and crafts guide are geared toward children. However, if your teens or adults would like to participate, see the science and crafts guide for more information.