

SMALL GROUP APOLOGETICS STUDY

# answers FOR LIFE



STEVE HAM  
WITH TERRY CAVE

1:1

answersin**genesis**  
Petersburg, Kentucky, USA

LEADER  
GUIDE

*Answers for Life Leader Guide*

Copyright © 2008 Steve Ham

No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

ISBN 10: 1-60092-174-4

ISBN 13: 1-60092-174-2

Cover design: Ingrid Beyer & Tommy Moore

Text design: Diane King

Editors: Steve Fazekas, Stacia McKeever, Terry Mortenson, Lori Jaworski, Gary Vaterlaus

For more information write:

Answers in Genesis

2800 Bullittsburg Church Rd

Petersburg, KY 41080

Printed in the United States of America

[www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)

## Acknowledgment

---

I give a great deal of thanks to my good friend Terry Cave. I originally designed this course with his need of salvation in mind. After Christ miraculously transformed him, Terry helped me to adapt the course to communicate in an even more relevant way to others seeking the same answers. His assistance in sessions 2 and 5 was particularly helpful. Without his help, the impact of this course would greatly diminish.

Thank you Terry (and Julie) for your friendship and support and your passion for others who need to know Christ's salvation.



# Contents

---

Introduction . . . . . vii

Session One: Is the Bible Relevant? . . . . . 1

Session Two: Who Does God Say He Is? . . . . . 11

Session Three: The Bible & Science: Is It Credible? . . . . . 23

Session Four: Why Is There Death & Suffering in the World? . . . . . 35

Session Five: What Is So Important about Jesus?. . . . . 45

Session Six: Do You Need to Go to Church to Be a Christian? . . . . . 59





# INTRODUCTION

## Course Overview

---

I developed this course over a period of two years with four separate groups of participants. The first participant was my friend Terry. I designed a study so that I could provide answers to the questions Terry had about life. They were questions about the relevance and authority of the Bible, death and suffering, and science and origins. We had been discussing spiritual issues for many years, but these questions were a roadblock for Terry in hearing the message of Jesus Christ. I looked through other courses on Christianity but found that none of them really gave answers for the questions most relevant to our culture and time—the questions most people are really asking. I'm delighted to report that at the end of the course, the Lord saved Terry—and his wife!

After using this course with four small groups, I was overjoyed that the Lord used it to bring many participants to Himself. I wanted to make this available for others to use.

*Answers for Life* is for people who want to share the gospel with friends, family, or colleagues, and want to give a full understanding of the credibility of the message. The aim is to show that the evidence we see today is explained by the historical accounts given in the Bible and thus gives credibility to the central message of hope in Jesus Christ. Participants can then be introduced to an everlasting and life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

You can use this course with non-Christians, who need to hear the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, and also with Christians who are looking for answers to life's crucial questions. *Answers for Life* is for people who want to deal with real issues about the Bible and the message and person of Jesus Christ.

## How Can It be Used?

The course can be used in a one-on-one setting or in a small group of people. It is designed to be used in the home to allow a comfortable and hospitable environment for people to seek answers to real questions.

*Answers for Life* provides an overview of each topic; suggested additional reading material on each topic is given throughout the course. This reading is recommended but not required.

The course is also designed to be conversational. Some questions simply allow people to state their view; others are designed to find out what the Bible says on the topic.

It is important that the facilitator always approach the topic from the perspective of biblical

authority. This course is fundamentally about what the Bible has to say, not what human beings think. It is the Bible that will ultimately show God's true authority.

## The Importance of Questions

*Answers for Life* is designed to engage the participant and offers many opportunities for the participant to ask questions. Be sure to facilitate an atmosphere in which the participant is free to question, disagree, and express his point of view.

You may not know the answer to every question but that's OK! Simply write down the question, research the answer, and share it during the following session. For questions that are relevant to subjects covered in later weeks, discern whether to answer the question immediately or to politely ask the participant to hold the question until the appropriate session.

If the program is being run with a group, it may be necessary to answer some questions individually rather than hold up the other members of the group.

While participants are entitled to share their opinion, they need to realize that you will be sharing the Word of God with them—this may not always agree with their view. But in this course we accept the Bible's authority. We may not like what we find in the Bible, but we must allow God's Word to speak to us, rather than imposing our ideas on it. The teaching in this course will be based on the starting point that the Bible is true and authoritative. We will be learning to understand how the Bible explains the world we live in and how it is relevant to our lives.

## "Christianese"

Because this course is designed to be an introduction to the Bible and Christianity, your participants may not be comfortable with discussing spiritual issues, or may not understand Christian terminology. Try to avoid using "Christianese" (for example, we take it for granted that people understand the word *sin*; instead use terms to explain that sin actually means "disobedience to the commands of God"). Be sure that the environment is welcoming and encourages discussion.



## Materials

---

For each session, you will need:

- ∞ DVD player
- ∞ *Answers for Life* DVD
- ∞ *Answers for Life* Leader Guide
- ∞ *The New Answers Book*
- ∞ *More than a Carpenter*
- ∞ Copies of additional relevant material for each participant
- ∞ Writing utensil

For each session, the participant will need:

- ∞ *Answers for Life* Participant Workbook
- ∞ *The New Answers Book*
- ∞ *More Than a Carpenter*
- ∞ Writing utensil

## Session Format

---

There are six sessions in the *Answers for Life* course. Each session is approximately 90 minutes long. There are three parts to each session:

- ∞ Video Introduction (3 minutes): Steve Ham introduces the session with a short video.
- ∞ Discussion Time (80–85 minutes): This section contains discussion questions and answers. Text in normal fonts (including verses and questions) is in both the leader guide and the participant workbook.

Comments to the teacher look like this.

Answers to questions look like this.

Please read through the lesson thoroughly before your session begins. Make note of any areas you'd like to elaborate on. Carefully research any questions that come to your mind.

- ∞ Video Close (3 minutes): Steve Ham closes the session with a short video.