



# Introduction

## About ABC

### **Mission**

*Answers Bible Curriculum* was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God’s Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

### **Overview**

The 2009 book *Already Gone* by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer (and the scientific study on which the book is based) reveals the reasons why young people are leaving the church. In much of the teaching today in our churches, the Bible is disconnected from the real world, and the authority of Scripture is undermined and replaced with secular reasoning using man’s ideas.

The church has failed to teach the Bible as relevant fact. We have—intentionally or unintentionally—taught the Scriptures as nothing but “stories” that relate to spiritual matters but have avoided engaging the challenging questions from the secular world that bombard church children and adults the other 166 hours of their week. As a result, children are beginning to doubt the Bible—and the gospel message that it presents—as early as elementary school. Many studies confirm that more than 60% of young people leave the church after they graduate from high school.

*Answers Bible Curriculum* is designed and written to provide answers to the questions and issues that confront youth (and adults) in school, in the media, from friends, at work, etc. It is our hope and prayer that God will be pleased to use this curriculum to instill a lifelong trust in the Bible and in the God who authored it.

## **Guiding Principles**

Certain principles guided our writers, editors, and reviewers as we developed *Answers Bible Curriculum*. These principles are reflected in the teaching, activities, and illustrations presented throughout the curriculum.

### **We can trust all of God's Word beginning in Genesis.**

- God's Word is true; God does not lie.
- The historical record of the Bible is confirmed often by historical, archaeological, and scientific support.

### **God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.**

- God's sovereignty is demonstrated in history as He fulfills His purposes through people and events.
- God's attributes (including His holiness, justice, love, and mercy) are demonstrated through His dealings with people.

### **The Bible presents true history.**

- The Bible presents real history, showing the unfolding plan of God to redeem a people for Himself.
- The historical accounts of the Bible intersect with secular history.

### **We must carefully and accurately interpret the Bible.**

- The proper use of hermeneutics helps us understand the Bible accurately.
- Understanding the Bible requires time and effort.

### **God's plan of redemption is woven throughout Scripture.**

- God's plan of redemption is presented throughout the Bible, beginning in Genesis.
- Many accounts in the Old Testament connect to the New Testament and point to Jesus and the gospel message.

### **We must be ready to give a defense for what we believe.**

- Students and adults must be equipped with answers to questions skeptics ask.
- We can use science, history, archaeology, etc. to confirm the accuracy of the biblical record.

### **We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches.**

- God's Word is applicable today.
- We can learn from scriptural examples of obedience (and disobedience) to God's Word.
- Believers are called to walk in obedience to God's Word.

## **Bible Version**

*Answers Bible Curriculum* uses the English Standard Version of the Bible.

## **Scope & Sequence**

*Answers Bible Curriculum* is a 200-lesson curriculum that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first 120 lessons survey the Old Testament, and the final 80 lessons survey the New Testament. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

## **Summary**

- 200-lesson, four-year curriculum (50 lessons per year); but take as long as you need to complete it
- Available in six age levels: Pre-K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Middle School, High School, Adult
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—all ages study the same Scriptures each week
- Based on the English Standard Version (ESV)

# How to Use ABC

## Components

*Answers Bible Curriculum* includes all the necessary elements for you to teach your students with excellence while engaging them in the learning process. The Teacher Kit for each unit of lessons includes the following items:

**Teacher Guide**—Ten lessons with lesson overview, lesson background material, lesson preparation instructions, scripted lesson, activity instructions, etc. The tenth lesson of each unit is a review lesson.

**Student Take Home Sheets**—Sample set of nine full-color, two-page take home sheets with lesson review and memory verse activities.

**Lesson Theme Posters**—Nine full-color, illustrated, 8.5 x 11 posters depicting the main point of each lesson. On the back of each poster is the Lesson Focus, Key Passages, and What You Heard in the Word. These posters are used for teaching and reviewing the lessons.

**Memory Verse Posters**—Two 17 x 22 posters per unit with the memory verses.

**Classroom Posters**—These large classroom posters enhance the lessons and provide visual reminders of important truths. The posters for Unit 1 include:

- The Books of the Bible
- The Attributes of God
- Game Board

## Optional Resources

You may purchase these additional resources from [AnswersBookstore.com](http://AnswersBookstore.com) or by calling 800-778-3390.

**Books of the Bible Flashcards**—Sixty-seven 5 x 7 flashcards. Each card has a colorful illustration on the front, and the back features key facts about each book's author, date of writing, key people, main message, and what each book reveals about God and His character.

**Books of the Bible Trading Cards**—The same as the Flashcards, but each card measures 2.75 x 4.

**Books of the Bible Coloring Book**—Children will have fun coloring these scenes based on the accounts of Scripture. All 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are represented.

**Seven C's of History Timeline**—This large wall chart covers biblical and historical events from Creation (4004 BC) to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. It follows the chronology of Archbishop James Ussher and helps students to understand the flow of history and to see how biblical events fit with secular events.

## Teacher Digital Resources

When you purchased *Answers Bible Curriculum*, you received access to a digital library that contains items such as student class notes, game and activity instructions, lesson illustrations, video clips, PowerPoint presentations, review questions, and skits. These may be accessed at [MyAnswers.com/abc-resources](http://MyAnswers.com/abc-resources) using the Resources Code inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide. Be sure to leave enough time to look at the Lesson Preparation section of the lesson so that any needed items can be printed or gathered prior to class.

You may also purchase these resources on a USB flash drive from [AnswersBookstore.com](http://AnswersBookstore.com) or by calling 800-778-3390.

## Memory Verse Songs

We teamed up with Seeds Family Worship to produce original Memory Verse songs! You can access MP3s, lyric videos, and split-screen hand-motion/lyric videos for the two Memory Verse songs in this unit at [MyAnswers.com/abc-resources](http://MyAnswers.com/abc-resources) using the Songs Code inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide. CDs and DVDs for students and teachers are available for purchase at [AnswersBookstore.com](http://AnswersBookstore.com) or by calling 800-778-3390.

## Teacher Guide

We have designed the lessons so that they are easy to teach and provide everything needed to successfully guide your students in

understanding the Bible and knowing God—the author of the Bible. Here is a breakdown of what is included in each lesson and how to get the most out of it as you prepare and teach.

## Lesson Overview

**Lesson Focus**—Each lesson has a short statement with the main theme of the lesson for that week.

**Key Passages**—These are the Bible passages that will be studied in the lesson. Sometimes it is just one passage, but often it is several passages. Your teaching will be more rewarding and fruitful if you commit to familiarizing yourself with the Key Passages before class.

**Objectives**—Each lesson teaches specific learning objectives. These are what we hope (expect!) the students will understand by the end of the lesson.

**Memory Verse**—Students will work on memorizing two passages per unit. Our hope is that this will enable the students to really learn these Scriptures—to hide them in their hearts—and to know them well enough that they will be able to recite them from memory not only at the end of the unit but at the end of the year!

## Lesson Preparation

This handy chart shows you everything you need to do to prepare for each week’s lesson and the materials needed. Be sure to consult this several days before class so you can choose games, gather supplies, and print materials from the Teacher Digital Resources.

**Optional Supplements**—Many of the lessons include optional hands-on activities, a PowerPoint presentation, and/or video clips. These should be previewed and then incorporated into the lesson where appropriate. Slide numbers provided in the lessons are for the PowerPoint presentations.

All pages that are instructions for the teacher will have the word “Teacher” in the footer, while student pages will have the word “Student.” This should make it easy for an assistant to know which pages get multiple copies for students.

**Large Group/Small Group Suggestions**—While the lessons are written for graded classrooms, we have included suggestions for what order to teach the lesson elements for churches that use a large group/small group format.

## Prepare to Share

We have provided background information to help you understand the biblical and historical context of the passage being studied. Where appropriate, we have also included apologetics information that will confirm the truth of the Scriptures. You can get more information on many of the lessons and topics by accessing the Online Resource Page at [AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://AnswersBibleCurriculum.com). We encourage you to be prepared for teaching each week by taking advantage of these resources.

## Lesson Elements

The lessons are broken down into several elements to make it easier for you to teach and to allow for flexibility. We realize that some teachers have the luxury of a full hour or more for Sunday school, while others may have only 20 minutes of teaching time. We have planned our lessons to take about 45–50 minutes to teach. Of course, this will vary greatly depending on your class size, student maturity level, etc.

**Come On In**—The Come On In activity is something for the students to do while they are arriving. The intent is to provide order as children come into the room by giving a specific assignment.

For the first five units, your students will be learning the books of the Bible in order. There are a number of games you can choose from for the students to play. Some games use the Books of the Bible Flashcards (additional purchase); other games require you to print flashcards from the Teacher Digital Resources.

**Memory Verse**—We encourage you to practice the Memory Verse every week with your students. Sing along with the Memory Verse Song lyrics or hand-motion video or the MP3.

There are also a number of games you can choose from for the students to play. Some games use Memory Verse Flashcards or other

materials you can print from the Teacher Digital Resources.

**Studying God’s Word**—This is the main teaching part of the lesson. We have written it in a Say–Ask format. Inexperienced teachers, or substitutes, will easily be able to step in and teach the lesson by following the script, while experienced teachers will want to become familiar with the content and “make it their own.” Throughout the lesson you will see margin notes with teacher tips, definitions, and other lesson elements. These are included to assist you in planning and teaching the lesson.

**Lesson Review**—We encourage you to review the lesson with your students. Each lesson includes a set of Review Questions. There are a number of games you can choose from for the students to play to help review the lesson. These can be found in the Teacher Digital Resources or in the Appendix at the back of this Teacher Guide.

**Applying God’s Word**—This is an essential element of each lesson and should not be skipped. It reviews the lesson and presents relevant application points. The sections include:

- **What You Heard in the Word**—A summary of the lesson’s main points restating the information that addressed the objectives.
- **God’s Word in the Real World**—A discussion on how God’s truth can be applied to your students’ lives, how they can share these

truths with others, and how they can answer questions from a skeptical world.

**Group Prayer Time**—We encourage you to pray with your students before they are dismissed. Use the prayer points as a springboard for your own prayers—appropriate for your class. If time allows, you may want to take prayer requests from your students.

## ***Student Take Home Sheets***

Each lesson (Pre-K–Grade 5) includes a full-color, two-page Student Take Home Sheet. The Student Take Home Sheets are designed to encourage review of the lesson, family study and discussion, and reflection on how the lesson, information, and Bible can be applied to real-life situations. A sample set comes in the Teacher Kit. Additional sheets are available for purchase.

## ***Online Resource Page***

We have established pages on our website where you, your students, and their parents can find links to articles with more background information on some of the lessons. This page can be found at [AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://AnswersBibleCurriculum.com). This is also where we will post any corrections, additional worksheets, supplementary materials, etc. It is our prayer that these lessons will encourage you, challenge you, and enable you to teach God’s Word effectively, and that your students will develop a lifelong faith, founded on God’s holy Word. To God be the glory!

# **Limited License to Reproduce**

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materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

## Leading a Child to Christ

Many of the lessons present an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with your students. Every teacher should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming followers of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

### Before

**Pray.** Salvation is God's work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to Him.

**Prepare.** Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

### During

The gospel is clearly presented in many of the lessons. You may give a group invitation or choose to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. When you explain the gospel, please keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- Use your Bible to explain the plan of salvation. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible open and marked ahead of time with the appropriate Scriptures.

Avoid abstract phrases like "asking Jesus into your heart." Instead, use terminology like "becoming a child of God." Most children still

think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.

- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel, determine if the child has an understanding of his sin. This is very important. A child who cannot verbalize sin, who does not seem to be repentant toward God because he is a sinner, or who does not realize that he must turn away from his sin cannot fully understand his need for a Savior. Ask questions about sin that require more than "yes" or "no" answers:
  - Do you know what sin is? Can you explain it to me?
  - Can you think of some sins you have done?
  - Are you sorry for your sins? Who are you sorry to?
  - Why are you sorry for your sins?
  - What do you think you should do about these sins in your life?
- If you are not satisfied that God has revealed to this child that his sin is an offense against our holy God, we recommend that you present a booklet we have developed for children that explains the gospel further. It is called *How Can I Become a Child of God?* and can be ordered from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com) or printed from the Online Resource Page at [AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://AnswersBibleCurriculum.com).
- If the child does seem to be sincerely sorry for his sins, you can proceed with more questions like the following:
  - Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
  - Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?

- Why should God let you into His family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what he does but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and Resurrection of Jesus.)
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents (if they are followers of Christ) about what it means to become a child of God. Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no specific prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not be ready to make a decision for Christ but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are His children. Read 1 John 1:9 with children who want to confess sin and encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are forgiven when they repent.

## After

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
  - How long does God keep His children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
  - Can anything separate God from His children? (Romans 8:38–39)
  - What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)
  - What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves His children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with the booklet *Growing Up in God's Family* (available at [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com)), and share the following:
  - Read your Bible, and obey what you read. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion on the presentation page.)
  - Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
  - Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
  - Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls.

# Unit I Syllabus

<b>Lesson 1</b>	God's Word Is Our Foundation	Psalms 19:7–9; Proverbs 30:5
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Attributes of God	Psalms 90:2; Jeremiah 32:17; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalms 115:3, 36:5, 96:13, 86:5; Romans 5:8
<b>Lesson 3</b>	We Can Know God Exists	Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13–14; Romans 1:20
<b>Lesson 4</b>	The Trinity	Genesis 1:1–2; John 1:1–3, 1:14; Matthew 3:16–17
<b>Lesson 5</b>	God's Word Guides Us	2 Timothy 3:16
<b>Lesson 6</b>	God Preserves His Word	Matthew 4:4, 19:3–4; Luke 24:27; Jeremiah 36:1–3, 36:22–23, 36:32
<b>Lesson 7</b>	God's Word Is Complete	John 14:25–26, 21:24; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Revelation 22:18–19
<b>Lesson 8</b>	Don't Change God's Word	Deuteronomy 18:20–22; Galatians 1:8–9
<b>Lesson 9</b>	The Gospel Is Good News	Romans 3:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:8; Luke 13:3
<b>Lesson 10</b>	Review	



# 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 perfect and true. If we use it as our foundation, it will guide us and change our lives.

## *Key Passages*

Psalms 19:7–9; Proverbs 30:5

## *Objectives*

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that the Bible is true and can be trusted because it is God's Word.
- List qualities of God's Word.

## *Memory Verse*

**Psalms 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Match    | <input type="checkbox"/> I Have You Have |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Race     | <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Speed Round   | <input type="checkbox"/> Next in Line    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcard Take Away | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn         |

## **Memory Verse**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down the Line   | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Hunt        | <input type="checkbox"/> Review Card Relay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You | <input type="checkbox"/> Stack Em Up       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now You See It  | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Turn         |

Play the Memory Verse song (audio or video) to help your students learn the Memory Verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Studying God's Word**

Print one Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

Write out Psalm 19:7-9 on the board.

Bring masking tape. Place long strips on the floor to create a "balance beam" (about 5 feet long and 4-6 inches wide) for the Introduction.

## **Lesson Review**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Game    | <input type="checkbox"/> Goofy Golf   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Toss      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oh No        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draw Dice     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick a Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four in a Row | <input type="checkbox"/> Toss for It  |

## **Go to Prayer**

Dear Lord, I know that you have given us your Word, and it provides all we need in order to trust and obey you. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help my students to fall in love with you and your Word. Move in their hearts and give them understanding so they will allow God's Word to guide their lives.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 1*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a **large group/small group** format:

### **Large Group**

Reading the Reference  
Introduction  
Studying God's Word

### **Small Group**

Come On In  
Memory Verse  
Optional Activity  
Lesson Review  
Applying God's Word  
Group Prayer  
Take Home Sheet



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Ever since Satan in the form of a serpent cast doubt on God's instructions in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1–4), people have questioned the authority of God's Word. As descendants of Adam, we have inherited a sinful nature (Romans 5:12, Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8–10), which corrupts our human reasoning, questions God's authority, and prevents us from embracing the truth.

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.

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.

Our response to God and His Word should be to join the Psalmist in praying, "Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name" (Psalm 86:11).

## 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.

Jesus set the example for us in this way of thinking through His life, ministry, and teaching. All of Jesus' messages presupposed that the Scriptures were true.

He knew the Scriptures so well that learned men marveled (John 7:15). He quoted Scripture as historical fact, referencing some of the most attacked accounts in the Bible, including creation (Matthew 19:4–5), Noah and the Flood (Matthew 24:37–39), Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15, 11:23–24),

Lot and his wife (Luke 17:28–32), and Jonah and the fish (Matthew 12:39–41).

He said the writings of Moses are more powerful than even someone rising from the dead (Luke 16:29–31).

He defended Himself against Satan with God's Word (Matthew 4:4–10).

In the same way, 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.

Disregarding the Scriptures would result in disaster because our foundation would be destroyed. Our starting point is and must always be the Bible. We see the importance of this from the very beginning.

Even in the Garden of Eden, the battle was over the authority of the Word of God. The serpent asked Eve, “Did God really say that?” (Genesis 3:1).

We are facing a crisis of unbelief among young people in our culture today. One reason for this is that so many have discounted the book of Genesis. They are asking, “Did God really do that?” and being told, “No, He did not, and you don’t have to believe it.”

This is a sad state of affairs. It wasn’t too long ago that Genesis was taken literally and there was little controversy over its interpretation. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the history of Genesis came under attack by scientists who began to accept the idea of millions of years of history rather than the thousands of years God records in His Word.

This interpretation brought compromise in the areas of biology—Darwinian evolution replacing God’s creation of kinds; geology—millions of years replacing the Flood history of Genesis; anthropology—man descended from ape-like ancestors replacing God’s creation of man in His own image;

astronomy—the big bang replacing God’s amazing account of speaking the universe into existence.

As our culture has adopted these secular views, the Bible has been disconnected from reality and consequently is becoming less and less relevant—especially to the younger generations. These compromises have torn down the foundations of biblical authority and trust in God’s Word. The result? Jesus gave us the answer when He asked Nicodemus, “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” (John 3:12)

Many no longer believe the earthly things that Jesus was referring to. And, consequently, even the heavenly things—redemption, hope, eternity with God, forgiveness, Christ’s Resurrection, the Trinity, and judgment—are no longer of any interest to us. It is time to get back to the foundational beliefs of the Word of God, beginning in Genesis.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

## Slide #1

### **Come On In**

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

*We encourage you to practice the memory verse with your students by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song (audio or video).*

## Slide #2

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

### **Introduction**

- ? **What do you know about the Bible?** *Allow discussion.*

*Refer to your Bible and the Books of the Bible Poster. This is a really big book! Actually, there are 66 small books in this one big book. Look here at this poster. Every one of these “books” is a different book inside of the Bible. There is a lot to read. And it is ALL true! We are going to keep this poster up here all year and see if we can learn the names of these different books that make up the one Bible, which is God’s holy Word!*

- ▶ Pass the Class Notes out to the students when appropriate. Encourage your students to complete them as the lesson continues.

- ? **What books of the Bible do you already know?** *Allow discussion. Let students tell about the books they know. Point them out on the Books of the Bible Poster.*

*All of these books are God’s holy Word! I love this book! And I pray that you will come to love it, too! We are going to study this book and learn about so many things!*

*As we study God’s Word, we will see that it is the only book that we can use as a solid foundation for our lives.*

- ? **What do I mean by that? What is a foundation?** *Allow discussion.*

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Whenever someone builds a house, the first thing they need to do is to lay a foundation. That’s the solid part that stays firm on the ground. Then when they build on top of that foundation, their house will be stable and strong.*

*As we live each day, there will be choices and hard decisions to make. And we all want to make the right decisions so we can grow strong and obey and not do the wrong things. So if we want to please God and follow Him each day, we must look to His true Word as the foundation for our lives—it will help us stand firm and strong.*

*Let’s play a game to show how important it is to have a firm foundation. I need two volunteers. Choose two students to come to the front.*

## Slide #3

If you haven't already, place long strips of tape on the floor to create a "balance beam" (about 5 feet long and 4 inches wide). Direct students to stand facing each other on opposite ends of the tape. **OK. In this game, you're trying to get the other person to step off the tape using only one hand. With your other hand, you'll hold one foot behind you, so you'll be hopping on one foot. Not a very firm foundation, is it?! Ready? Go!** Cheer for students as they hop toward each other and try to push each other off the tape. Declare a winner once a student comes off the tape.

Wow! That was pretty hard to stay on the tape while hopping on one foot and getting pushed by someone else! But that is kind of like the tough decisions we have to make every day in life. We may feel like we're getting picked on by others or pressured to do things we don't want to do. When we are trusting in ourselves and our own wisdom, it's like we're standing on one leg. It's hard to stay on the right path and make wise decisions.

Choose two new volunteers. Direct them to stand facing each other at opposite ends of the tape. Now, let's try the game again, but this time, you can keep both feet on the ground. You still have to keep one hand behind your back though, as you try to get the other person to step off the tape. Ready? Go! Students should be able to stay on the tape longer than in the previous game. You may have to end the game because no one can win or because a student gets too aggressive. Have students return to their seats once one steps off the tape.

Good job! It was much easier to stay on the tape when you had the firm foundation of two feet on the ground.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Many people try to live life without paying any attention to God's Word, so they don't have a firm foundation they can trust to help them make good choices. The Bible is God's Word, and we can trust everything it says! And if we believe it and obey it, and use it as our foundation to guide us every day, it will change us forever!



## Studying God's Word

### God's Word Is Perfect

#### Psalm 19:7-9

But don't just take my word for it! Let's see what God's Word has to say. We are going to read Psalm 19:7-9. Open up your Bibles to the book of Psalms. It's close to the middle of the Bible. Remember, you can use the table of contents in the front of your Bible to help you. *Open your Bible to Psalm 19. Show the students the passage. Choose students to read the verses.*

OK. So, here are those verses we just read written on the board. We are going to study them today and see what they mean!

- ? What book of the Bible are these verses from? *Psalms.*

#### Slides #4-6

- Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.
- Write Psalm 19:7-9 on the board. As you teach the rest of the lesson, refer to these verses. Point out the words you are discussing by circling and underlining them.

? That's right! This is from the book of Psalms. What are these verses talking about? *Hold up your Bible to give a hint! The Bible.*

Yes. These verses are telling us something about the Bible—God's Word! But the word Bible is not even in these verses. There are five different words here that mean "Bible."

? Can you tell me what they are? *Allow discussion.*

## Slides #7–9

I am going to circle all the words in these verses that are talking about the Bible, or God's Word. OK? I want you to repeat each word after me.

First, there is "law." *Psalm 19:7. Circle the word; have students repeat it.*

Here is "testimony." All of these words are talking about the Bible. *Psalm 19:7. Circle the word; have students repeat it.*

This verse talks about "precepts." *Psalm 19:8. Circle the word; have students repeat it.*

? And, what are these words talking about? *God's Word. The Bible!*

Let's keep going. Here is another word. It is "commandment." *Psalm 19:8. Circle the word; have students repeat it.*

And the last one! "Rules." *Psalm 19:9. Circle the word; have students repeat it.*

All of these words are talking about God's Word. Where do we go to find God's Word? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*

## Slide #10

We know these verses are talking about the Bible, which is God's Word. Now let's take a closer look.

*Refer to Psalm 19:7 on the board. Now underline the words you are discussing. This says the law of the Lord is perfect! Underline "perfect."*

? But what does it say this law does? *Revives the soul! Underline "reviving the soul" on the board.*

? What does that mean? *Allow discussion.*

Well, reviving the soul is another way of saying that it changes the heart! The Word of God will change our hearts if we read it, believe it, and obey it!

OK. Let's go on!

*Refer to Psalm 19:7 on the board. Now this says the testimony—the Word of God—is sure, making wise the simple. Underline "sure" and "wise" on the board.*

? So, what does that mean? *Allow discussion.*

If we study the Word of God, it will help all of us to be wise in the things about God. That means it will help us know the right things to do that will please God.

- ? Look at #1 on your Class Notes. What does the Bible change? Can someone read that? *Assign a student to read and answer. Heart. Have students complete #1.*

 Slide #11

Now, draw a line from #1 to the part of the body on the picture that this is talking about—the heart! The Law of the Lord—the Bible—changes the heart. *Have students draw a line from #1 to the boy's heart.*

- ? So, look at #2 on your Class Notes. Can someone read that for us? What can God's Word do? *Assign a reader. Wise. Have students complete #2.*
- ? Which part of the body does the thinking, knowing, believing, and learning? *Allow discussion. The brain!*
- ? Right! So draw a line from #2 to the part of the body that we think with—where the brain is! The testimony of the Lord helps to make us wise! Where should your line go? *To the head! Have students draw a line from #2 to the boy's head on the drawing.*

*Refer to Psalm 19:8 on the board. This next part says the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. Underline the words "right" and "rejoicing."*

 Slide #12

- ? What does it mean, that God's Word rejoices the heart? *Allow discussion.*

God's Word rejoices the heart—it brings us joy!

*Refer to Psalm 19:8 on the board. And there is one more thing here that tells us what God's Word can do for us. This last one says that the commandment of the Lord is pure, and it enlightens the eyes. Underline the words "pure" and "enlightening."*

- ? What does that mean—that God's Word enlightens our eyes? *Allow discussion.*

Enlightened is a big word! And it means that God's Word teaches us. God's Word helps us to see and understand what is really true. Someone read #3 for us on your Class Notes. What do God's precepts bring to us? *Assign a reader. Joy. Have students complete #3.*

 Slide #13

- ? When you have joy how do you show it? How can you tell if someone is full of joy? *Allow discussion. They smile!*

Of course! We can tell when someone has joy because they would probably smile a lot.

- ? So, where should you draw your line from #3? *To his smile!*
- ? Will someone read #4 on the Class Notes? What does the commandment of God help us do? *Assign a reader. See. Have students complete #4.*
- ? What do we see with? *Eyes.*
- ? OK. So, where should we draw the line for #4? To what part of the boy's body? *His eyes.*

That's right. God's Word helps us to see what is true!

 Slide #14

*Refer to Psalm 19:9 on the board. Now, these are all ways the Bible can change us. But we also talked about the rules of the Lord here in Psalm 19:9. And this says that the rules—or all the words of the Lord—are true! Underline “true.”*

- ? Why can we trust that all the words of the Lord—the whole Bible—are true? Whose words are they? *God’s words.*

That’s right. The Bible is God’s Word! And all the rules, or words, of God are true!

 Slide #15

- ? Will someone read #5 on the Class Notes for us? What is the answer there? *Assign a reader. True. Have students complete #5.*

- ? And where should the line from #5 go on the picture? Where can we find the true, pure, right, sure, and perfect words of God? *In the Bible!*

Yes! Draw a line from #5 to the Bible the boy is holding.

The Bible is the Word of God! It is true! It will help us answer questions we have about life. And when we study it, believe it, know it, and trust it, it will change us!

Look back at what we’ve done on the Class Notes. Look at the picture again. What can knowing and trusting the Bible do for us? It can change your heart! It can make you wise! It can bring joy to your life. And it can help you see what is really true and what is important to know.

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## **God’s Word Is True**

 Slide #16

*Refer to the verses on the board—Psalm 19:7–9. We have one more verse to look at. We already talked about these different words—law, testimony, precepts, commandment, and rules.*

- ? What are these words talking about? *The Word of God. The Bible.*

### **Proverbs 30:5**

 Slide #17

That’s right. These are all words that talk about the Bible. Turn to Proverbs 30:5. Proverbs is right after Psalms. *Help students find the verse. Let’s read that verse now. Assign a reader.*

- ? *Hold up your Bible. This says the words of God proves true. How many of God’s words are true? It is right at the beginning of the verse. Every word.*

Yes! EVERY word of God is proven to be true. This is God’s holy Word. We can trust it completely because it is completely true!

 Slides #18–19

- ? Who will read #6 for us on the Class Notes? How many of God’s words are true? *Assign a reader. Every. Have students complete #6.*

- ? OK. This verse tells us something about God. What does it call God? *He is a shield.*

- ? Who is God a shield to? The answer is right there in the verse. Do you see it? *Those who take refuge in Him.*
- ? What does that mean? What is a refuge? *A place of protection and safety.*
- ? What does a shield do? *Allow discussion. Protects. Guards against attack.*

➤ Reread the portions of the verses that answer the questions so the students can hear the answers from the Bible.

If we put our trust in God and have faith in His Word, then He will be our shield. He will protect us and guard us. He will help us to see the truth of His Word, and His Word will help us obey Him.

- ? Look at #7 on your Class Notes now. Who will read that one? How will you complete it? *Assign a reader. Shield. Have students complete #7.*

 Slide #20

The Bible tells us many things about God. In this verse, it says that God is a shield to all who trust in Him and His Word. That doesn't mean that we will never get hurt, but it does mean that God will always be with us to help us and guide us even through difficult times. Every part of God's Word is holy and true and good. We can trust God and His Word as our foundation to help us stand firm all through our lives. It will hold us up better than anything else we ever read or see or hear from anyone else!



## Lesson Review

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a Lesson Review Game.*



## Applying God's Word

### ***What You Heard in the Word***

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and Psalm 19:7–9 on the board. The Bible can be trusted above everything else we might read, hear, or even see on TV or in a movie! Those things are all made up from people's ideas. But God's Word is perfect, it is sure, it is right, it is pure, and it is true!*

 Slide #21

When we trust God's Word and believe it, it WILL change us! It can change our hearts to love the things that God loves. It can make us wise! It can bring very special joy. And it will help us see what is really true.

*Hold up the Bible. We are going to learn so much from this book! And we can be sure that because this is God's Word, every word of it is true.*

### ***God's Word in the Real World***

God's Word is true, and it can change all of us! Many people don't believe the Bible is the true Word of God. But we know that God can be trusted. He said His Word is true. And God can't lie!

- ? But it doesn't do us any good if we just leave our Bibles sitting on shelves getting dusty. Can you think of some ways you can learn more of God's Word and use it as the foundation for your life? *Allow discussion. Reading,*

*practicing book order, memorizing, listening to biblical teaching, looking for answers in it.*

God gave us His Word to use so it can change us and help us know Him better. Reading the Bible, learning where to find the books in the Bible, memorizing verses, listening to good teaching that uses the Bible right, and looking in the Bible for answers to our questions are all great ways to learn more about God's Word. We do a lot of these things here in class, but I want to encourage you to also do these things during the week when you're at home, either by yourself or with your family.

God's Word is important, and we should think about it that way. It's true, and it can change your life.

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## **Group Prayer Time**

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Thank God for giving us His perfect and true Word.
- Ask God to open the hearts of your students to believe this true Word.



# Attributes of God

*We know who God is through His Word.*

## *Lesson Focus*

God's attributes are demonstrated and described in Scripture. We must understand God for who He is according to His Word.

## *Key Passages*

Psalms 90:2; Jeremiah 32:17; 1 Samuel 2:2; Psalms 115:3, 36:5, 96:13, 86:5;  
Romans 5:8

## *Objectives*

Students will be able to:

- Describe some of the attributes of God.

## *Memory Verse*

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Match    | <input type="checkbox"/> I Have You Have |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Race     | <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Speed Round   | <input type="checkbox"/> Next in Line    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcard Take Away | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn         |

## **Memory Verse**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down the Line   | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Hunt        | <input type="checkbox"/> Review Card Relay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You | <input type="checkbox"/> Stack Em Up       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now You See It  | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Turn         |

Play the Memory Verse song (audio or video) to help your students learn the Memory Verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Studying God's Word**

Print the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use. | <input type="checkbox"/> One set of Scripture Sheets. Students will read these during the lesson and attach them to the board. |
|--|--|

Bring in tape or poster putty.

## **Lesson Review**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Game    | <input type="checkbox"/> Goofy Golf   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Toss      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oh No        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draw Dice     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick a Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four in a Row | <input type="checkbox"/> Toss for It  |

## **Go to Prayer**

Father God, holy Creator of the universe, you are incomprehensible in all your ways. As we study your Word, help us to learn more about you. Please allow my students to grasp some of your amazing power, wisdom, and knowledge! Help them to see your love, mercy, holiness, and justice in the truth of your gospel. Bring them to salvation through your perfect, spotless Son.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 2*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a **large group/small group** format:

### **Large Group**

Introduction  
Studying God's Word  
Optional Video Clip  
Real World Skit

### **Small Group**

Come On In  
Memory Verse  
Optional Activity  
Lesson Review  
Applying God's Word  
Group Prayer  
Take Home Sheet

# Optional Supplements

## *Hands-On Activities*

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Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Real World Skit  
Students will read a short skit discussing God’s attributes.
- Attributes Matching Game  
Students will play a card matching game to review some of God’s attributes.
- Coloring Sheet  
Students will color as you review today’s lesson with them.
- Justin & Jessie Story—*God & Binoculars*  
Justin and Jessie learn that God is unsearchable.

## *Video Clips*

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Preview the recommended video(s) before class. If appropriate, show to your class and discuss before, during, or after the lesson.

- Mystery of Life (2:28)

## *PowerPoint*

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You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching.

## Notes

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# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

What is God like? How can we presume to answer this question? Our God is incomprehensible—He can never be fully understood. In fact, as believers we anticipate an eternity of discovering new things about Him.

David said of Him, “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3). And, “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all” (1 Chronicles 29:11). We can’t say it any better than the Apostle Paul, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways” (Romans 11:33)! The glimpses of God we observe from His Word are far from complete.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Because there is no way to comprehend the vast depth of our holy God, we are at risk of conjuring up in our minds what we want Him to be. This is not acceptable. We can only begin to know who God is by the revelation of His Word.

One attribute of God is all-loving (1 John 4:7–21). But this attribute has been skewed by many Christians and non-Christians alike. The tendency of many is to make God a type of butler—one who waits at our beck and call and exists in order to answer our demands for blessing and comfort. In our world today, we seldom witness the awe and wonder His very name deserves.

This attitude reeks of misunderstanding the holiness of God. His holiness demands that He despise each and every sin committed. Knowing His frightful hatred for sin should bring us to a reverent and godly fear of the one who is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28–29). Only true fear of the Lord will bring knowledge (Proverbs 1:7).

Question 4 of the historic Westminster Shorter Catechism, penned in the 1640s asks, “What is God?” The answer? God is a Spirit (John 4:24), infinite (Jeremiah 23:24), eternal (Psalm 90:2), and unchangeable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17), in His being, wisdom (Psalm 147:5), power (Revelation 19:6), holiness (1 Samuel 2:2), justice (Psalm 7:11), goodness (Psalm 107:8), and truth (Deuteronomy 32:4).

When the Lord descended in the cloud to speak with Moses, He gave testimony to His very character—He proclaimed Himself as merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness, always truthful, forgiving, and at the same time, just—not clearing the guilty (Exodus 34:6–7).

Knowing God and knowing that He is perfect in every one of His attributes is imperative to maturing in the Christian faith. That is why we have incorporated teaching these attributes as part of this Bible curriculum, so the next generation will know, love, honor, revere, and fear the God of all creation!

It is not until we fear God for who He is that we will humbly begin to understand the depths of His love—which is beyond all love. It is amazing that He would love us so much to send His only Son to die a horrible death in order to provide forgiveness to all who would believe (John 3:16). Because of the depth of His love, He was willing to offer the life of the one who committed no sin, yet was made sin for us—despicable sinners—so that we could be made the righteousness of God (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

God is love, yes. But His definition of love goes way beyond the scope of ours. His love is demonstrated in the gospel—that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

The gospel through Jesus Christ was God’s plan from the very beginning. When God created Adam and Eve in the very good world, they saw God clearly. But when they disobeyed God, they were no longer

welcome to walk with Him (Genesis 3:23–24). They were thrown out of the garden because God cannot dwell with evil or wickedness (Psalm 5:4). But even then, God revealed His plan—His love—to redeem a people to Himself through the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). Everyone who would repent of their sins and turn to the Savior would be forgiven and given an inheritance with Christ.

Others have wanted to see God as Adam and Eve did. We read that Moses was once bold enough to ask to see more of God (Exodus 33:18). And we know that Moses would die if He saw the face of God. However, Moses did get a glimpse of God’s glory pass by as Moses hid in the cleft of the rock (Exodus 33:22–23).

Jesus came to reveal God to sinners. The Bible tells us that in Jesus, we know of God yet have not seen Him: “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”

(John 1:18). And Paul wrote to Timothy, describing God as the one “who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen” (1 Timothy 6:16).

God keeps Himself in unapproachable light. We cannot see Him as Adam and Eve once did. But He promises one day we will. And what a day that will be when His children will be like Him, for they will see Him as He is (1 John 3:2)! How we long for the day we will once again see God, talk with Him, and enjoy the fellowship that was originally intended but broken because of sin. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

## Slide #1

# Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

# Memory Verse

*We encourage you to practice the memory verse with your students by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song (audio or video).*

## Slide #2

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Introduction

## Slide #3

? *Refer to Lesson 1 Theme Poster. Last week we talked about God’s Word. What book is God’s Word? *The Bible.**

- ▶ Pass the Class Notes out to the students when appropriate. Encourage your students to complete them as the lesson continues.

**Yes! The Bible is the Word of God! It is our foundation and will help us answer questions we have about life. And when we study it, believe it, know it, and trust it, it will change us! God’s Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, and true! It is not like any other book ever written! And it is the only thing that will help us turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus!**

**We need to trust God’s Word more than anything else we read or see or hear! But before we can do that, we need to trust God. And we can’t trust God until we know who He is.**

? *So, where can we find out about God? Allow discussion. *The Bible.**

## Slide #4

*Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. We can learn about God through His Word, the Bible. So today we are going to look at some verses from the Bible and find out some of the great things about God! We are going to talk about some of God’s attributes.*

- ▶ Don’t forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

# Studying God’s Word

## ***What Is God Like?***

- ▶ As you proceed, have students bring the Scripture Sheets to the board and read them. Mark the sheets as you answer the questions. Write the appropriate attribute on the board under each sheet.

*Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This poster lists some of the attributes of God. An attribute is a special word that describes what someone is like. We will be using this poster all year as we learn from God’s Word and see how God shows Himself to us through the Bible.*

*Pass out the Scripture Sheets to several students. We have a lot of Bible verses to read today, so I am going to pass out these Scripture Sheets. Hold onto them, and when we get to your verse, you can put it on the board. These verses are from different books of the Bible. But we know that no matter*

what we are reading in God’s Word, we will be learning something about God.

### Psalm 90:2

- ? Let’s start with Psalm 90:2. Who has that verse? Will you bring that up and put it on the board? *Have student attach the verse to the board.*
- ? Who will read that for us? *Assign a student to read Psalm 90:2.*
- ? Refer to the verse. According to this verse, how long has God been around? *Since before the mountains were brought forth; before the earth was formed; from everlasting to everlasting. Underline these words on the Scripture Sheet.*  
That’s right! God existed even before the creation of the world! God has always been there.
- ? But how long will God be around? What does everlasting mean? *Lasting forever.*

 Slide #5

This verse tells us that God always has been and always will be—forever! He is from everlasting to everlasting!

*Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What we just described is an attribute of God. We just learned that God is eternal. Write “eternal” under the Scripture Sheet on the board.*

We are going to do #1 on the Class Notes now. The Class Notes today are actually a crossword puzzle. As we work on them together, you will read the sentence, find the answer in the Word Bank, and fill in the answer where it belongs in the puzzle.

- ? Someone read #1 for us. What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #1.*  
So God is eternal. He was there before the whole universe was made. And He will always be—forever! He had no beginning, and He will have no end!
- ? Who created the world and the whole universe? *God!*

### Jeremiah 32:17

 Slide #6

- ? That’s right! Who has Jeremiah 32:17? Will you bring that up? *Have student attach the verse to the board.*  
Let’s read this together. *Read the verse together with the students.*
- ? This tells us the Lord God made the heavens and the earth. How did God make the heavens and the earth? By His what? *Great power and outstretched arm. Underline the words in the verse.*  
God created the heavens and the earth by His great power!
- ? And someone read this last sentence here in the verse. What does that say? *Assign a reader. There is nothing too hard for God.*  
Wow! God created the whole universe and everything in it by His great power, and nothing is too hard for Him. He is all-powerful!

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. There is an attribute that tells us that God is all-powerful. That attribute is omnipotent. Say that with me. It's kind of a fun word to say—om-ni-po-tent. Repeat the word a couple times. Write "omnipotent" under the Scripture Sheet on the board.

- ? Let's go to #2 on the Class Notes. Who will read that for us? What is the answer? Assign a reader. Omnipotent. Have students complete #2.

 Slide #7

### 1 Samuel 2:2

- ? Let's move on. Who has 1 Samuel 2:2? Will you bring that to the board? Have student attach it to the board.

And let's read this verse together. Read the verse with the class.

- ? Do you see an attribute in this verse? Look carefully! Allow discussion. Holy. Underline the word holy on the Scripture Sheet and write "holy" under the Scripture Sheet on the board.

- ? This verse says God is holy. But who is holy like the Lord? What does it say here? No one! Mark the Scripture Sheet.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. God is holy. And there is no one holy like the Lord! Holy means that God is set apart, or separate—He is special. There is no evil in Him at all—God cannot sin, and God hates sin!

- ? That brings us to #3 on the Class Notes. Will someone read that? What word goes there? Assign a reader. Holy. Have students complete #3.

God is holy. There is no one else like Him. And because He is holy, He cannot stand sin; He hates sin. But there is still a lot more to God! Let's keep going.

 Slide #8

### Psalm 115:3

- ? Who has Psalm 115:3? Will you bring that up to the board? And we can all read it together! Have student attach the verse to the board and read the verse together.

- ? Look at what we just read! Where is God? In the heavens. Mark the Scripture Sheet.

- ? What does God do there? All that He pleases. Underline the words on the Scripture Sheet.

- ? Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Our holy God is in heaven! And He does whatever He pleases. This describes another attribute of God. What is it? Look at the poster. Allow discussion. Sovereign. Write "sovereign" under the Scripture Sheet on the board.

God is sovereign. That means that God is God—no one else is like Him or ever could be! It means God is the one who controls all things! Every person, plant, animal, drop of rain, gust of wind, ray of sunshine! God is in control of everything that happens. He has all power and authority over everything and everyone. He does all that He pleases. Only the one true God can do this. And there are no other gods but Him!

- ? OK. Let's fill in #4 on the Class Notes. Who will read that for us? *Assign a reader. Sovereign. Have students complete #4.*

I hope you are beginning to see that God is amazing! It is worth studying and learning about Him. It is good to know who He is!

### Psalm 36:5

🖥️ Slide #9

- ? Let's look at Psalm 36:5. Who has that? Will you bring it up? *Have student attach it to the board. Who will read this verse for us? Assign a student to read the verse.*
- ? This verse mentions two of God's attributes. Do you see them here? check the Attributes of God Poster. What are they? *Loving and faithful. Underline the two attributes on the Scripture Sheet.*
- ? Let's talk about God's faithfulness. Write "faithful" under the Scripture Sheet on the board. How far does God's faithfulness reach? What does this verse say? *To the clouds!*
- ? Wow! What do you think that means? *Allow discussion.*

Well, it means that God's faithfulness is huge! We know it's something we can trust. God's faithfulness will never fail.

- ? So what does faithful mean? Someone read #5 on the Class Notes. That will tell us. And you can fill in #5 on the puzzle. *Assign a reader. Faithful. Have students complete #5.*

God's faithfulness makes Him so different from you and me. We might try to keep our promises, but we don't always do it. But God does! We can always trust Him to do what He says He will do!

### Psalm 96:13

🖥️ Slide #10

- ? Let's look at another verse. We have just a few more. Who has Psalm 96:13? Will you bring that up and put it on the board? *Have student attach the sheet to the board.*
- Read this with me. *Read the verse together.*
- ? The Bible says God is coming back to earth. What will He do when He returns? *Judge the world. Underline those words on the Scripture Sheet.*
- ? What is the attribute of God that has to do with judging and punishing sin? See if you can find it on the poster. *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Just. Write "just" under the Scripture Sheet on the board.*
- ? Yes. God is just. Look at #6 on your Class Notes. What does it mean when we say God is just? Someone read that please. And then fill in #6. *Assign a reader. Just. Have students complete #6.*

God is just. That means that God is fair and must do what is right. And when it comes to sin, it means that God must judge sin. Sin is bad. It is evil in God's eyes. He hates sin. And when we talk about God being just, we are saying that He must punish everything that is evil—and that means all sin!

So we've looked at a bunch of verses straight from the Bible. And they all tell us something about God. We've learned that God is eternal, omnipotent, holy, and sovereign. And we've also read that God is faithful and just.

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## ***God's Attributes Shown to Us***

Let's talk some more about what it means that God is just. If God **MUST** judge all sinners—and we are all sinners—does that mean we will all be judged by God? Let's find the answer to that question.

🖥️ Slide #11

### **Psalm 86:5**

- ? Who has Psalm 86:5? Bring that up now, and we'll read it. *Have student attach the verse to the board. Read the verse together.*
- ? What does this say about the Lord? There are three things listed here. **What are they?** *Underline the words as you answer the question. The Lord is good, forgiving, and abounding in love. Write "forgiving" under the Scripture Sheet.*
- ? Let's go back to our Class Notes. Will someone read #7 for us? *Assign a reader. Forgiving. Have students complete #7.*

God is forgiving. Even though we are all sinners, He is willing to forgive us of our sins because He is abounding in love.

- ? What does abounding mean? Do you know? *A great amount: much.*

God's love is great. He has a huge amount of love—more than we can imagine. But He showed us just how much love He has in a very special way.

🖥️ Slide #12

### **Romans 5:8**

- ? Let's read about that together. Who has Romans 5:8? Bring up that Scripture Sheet. *Have student attach the Scripture Sheet to the board. Read the verse together.*
- ? How did God show His love for us? What does this verse say? *He sent Jesus to die for us. Underline "died for us" on the Scripture Sheet. Write "loving" under the Scripture Sheet on the board.*

We learn from this verse that God loved sinners so much that He sent His own, perfect Son—Jesus—to die so sinners could be saved from the punishment of sin and become children of God. That is amazing love! And there is nothing better God could do for His children than forgive them and welcome them into heaven forever!

- ? Will someone read #8 on your Class Notes? Then let's finish the crossword puzzle. *Assign a reader. Loving. Have students complete #8.*

Sinners can be forgiven and live in heaven because God loved them so much that He sent Jesus to die in their place and take their punishment on the Cross.

Refer to the *Attributes of God Poster*. What we talked about today, and even all of these other attributes on this poster, only scratch the surface of who God is. Actually, we can never completely understand how great God really is! In every one of these attributes, He is better than anything we could imagine. He is perfect in all of His ways! God is so great, there will always be more to learn about Him. There's a big word for that. Look at the bottom of your Class Notes.

- ? See that word? What is it? Help students pronounce "incomprehensible."
- ? And what does it mean? The answer is on your Class Notes. *God is greater than we can imagine!*

 Slide #13

We serve a very great God. He is perfect in every way. We will never know everything there is to know about Him. And we will never completely understand Him. But He has given us His Word that tells us what we need to know about how great, perfect, and incomprehensible He is.



## Lesson Review

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a Lesson Review Game.*



## Applying God's Word

### *What You Heard in the Word*

Refer to the *Lesson Theme Poster* and the *Attributes of God Poster*. God is not like anyone else we know—His attributes are amazing! We can get to know God by studying His Word—the Bible.

God has so many attributes! He is eternal, omnipotent, holy, loving, faithful, sovereign, just, forgiving, and so much more! In every one of these attributes, God is better than anything we could imagine. He is *incomprehensible*! There will always be more about Him that we don't know yet.

### *God's Word in the Real World*

God is greater than anything we can think or imagine. And that is why we must read God's Word so we can understand Him better. This is very important because if we don't know who God really is, we may make mistakes about Him.

For example, some people doubt God and don't trust Him when bad things happen. They find it hard to believe that God really is good. But we know from the Bible that God IS good and faithful and sovereign. God is in control of ALL things, and His plan is perfect—even when we don't understand it, we can still trust Him.

 Slide #14

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Then there are some people who don't believe that God created the entire universe just by speaking it into existence. But we know what the Bible says; God cannot lie, and He is omnipotent. He has power to do whatever He wants.

See how learning from God's Word can help us know God better? We can trust God and His Word.



## Group Prayer Time

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Praise God for who He is—our almighty, holy God.
- Thank God for His holy Word—where we can learn of Him and Jesus.



# We Can Know God Exists

*God is the eternal Creator and is clearly seen in the order of the universe.*

## *Lesson Focus*

God, the only eternal being, makes sense of the entire universe. The order seen in creation points to a Creator who is the one and only true God.

## *Key Passages*

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13–14; Romans 1:20

## *Objectives*

Students will be able to:

- Explain that only God can be eternal and exist outside of time.
- Connect the order in the universe to the existence of God.

## *Memory Verse*

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Match    | <input type="checkbox"/> I Have You Have |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Race     | <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Speed Round   | <input type="checkbox"/> Next in Line    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcard Take Away | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn         |

## **Memory Verse**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down the Line   | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Hunt        | <input type="checkbox"/> Review Card Relay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You | <input type="checkbox"/> Stack Em Up       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now You See It  | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Turn         |

Play the Memory Verse song (audio or video) to help your students learn the Memory Verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Studying God's Word**

Print one Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

Bring the following items:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures of creation such as mountains, the stars, oceans, trees, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Building blocks in a box                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A watch or cell phone  | <input type="checkbox"/> A small structure made of building blocks |

## **Lesson Review**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Game    | <input type="checkbox"/> Goofy Golf   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Toss      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oh No        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draw Dice     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick a Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four in a Row | <input type="checkbox"/> Toss for It  |

## **Go to Prayer**

Father God, you are the Creator of all things. All of creation testifies that you are the omnipotent one. Lord, as we study this week, open the hearts of my students to see your majesty in the wonders of creation. Bring them to a saving faith in you.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 3*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a **large group/small group** format:

### **Large Group**

Introduction  
Studying God's Word  
Optional Video Clip  
Real World Skit

### **Small Group**

Come On In  
Memory Verse  
Optional Activity  
Lesson Review  
Applying God's Word  
Group Prayer  
Take Home Sheet

# Optional Supplements

## *Hands-On Activities*

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Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Real World Skit  
Students will read a short skit discussing the big bang.
- Eternal Chain  
Students will create a paper chain with no beginning and no end to remind them that God is eternal.
- Coloring Sheet  
Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Justin & Jessie Story—*Baby Plants & Birthday Cake*  
Justin and Jessie learn that God is the eternal Creator.

## *Video Clips*

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Preview the recommended video(s) before class. If appropriate, show to your class and discuss before, during, or after the lesson.

- Specially Designed by God (6:51)
- Creator Clearly Seen (4:43)
- Chameleons (2:04)

## *PowerPoint*

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You may want to use the PowerPoint presentation provided to enhance your teaching. Locate images of creation, such as mountains, the stars, oceans, trees, etc., and show these when discussing Romans 1:20.

## Notes

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# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

“How do I know God exists?” This is a question that has been and will be debated as long as sinners occupy the earth. First of all, as Christians who walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), we do not need to prove the existence of God. The Bible says that we accept God by faith—that we believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). Because the Bible is our basis for all we believe, we believe in God as presented in the Bible.

God’s Word begins with the proclamation that He and He alone existed from eternity past: “In the beginning, God . . .” (Genesis 1:1). If He had wanted to prove Himself to the world in a way our minds could grasp, He could have done that. God saw no need to explain further. Belief in Him as the one true God comes by faith and trust in Him and His Word.

Genesis 1 continues to describe this God who spoke the entire universe into existence. The order we see in creation—from the stars, solar systems, animal and plant life, to the natural laws of gravity, motion, and thermodynamics—gives evidence of an omnipotent Creator. There is no other explanation. The universe is not a result of random chance. It was created by one who was not created. There had to be someone who never came into being. There had to

be a Creator. God—the one true God—is that Creator, who was and is and is to come (Revelation 4:8).

As we look to the Scriptures, we see that God described Himself to Moses as “I AM WHO I AM,” which essentially means *the one who is and will be* (Exodus 3:13–14). The eternal, self-existent nature of God is revealed through His Word and simply assumed. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John records that the Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8). What more do we need? This describes the only holy, omnipotent, omniscient God of the universe—who was and is and always will be. He is not bound by time as we know it. He created time in the beginning (Genesis 1:1).

God in His mercy has also specifically revealed Himself through His incredible creation. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). And the Apostle Paul tells us that since the creation of the world, God’s invisible attributes have been seen through creation, revealing His eternal power and Godhead—leaving those who do not believe in Him without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). God does indeed exist. His existence is confirmed in Scripture and through His creation—and the wrath of God will be revealed from heaven against all who suppress the truth of His existence in unrighteousness.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

Look around you; what do you see? An amazingly designed universe—from the single cell to the vast and immeasurable solar system. And yet the debate for a Creator of such things rages. We can rest in God’s Word, “In the beginning, God . . .” (Genesis 1:1). We know that if something exists, it was somehow created into being. And as Christians we know who that Creator was. But what of folks who state there was no Creator—it all began with a bang, a very “big bang,” one that allegedly occurred billions of years ago in one tiny speck of mass and energy, a speck that would one day become everything we see today?

This story of the big bang originated with an attempt to completely discount the Bible and its account of our Creator God. Christians who buy into

it need to understand the atheistic beginnings of this secular story and why it cannot be “added” to the biblical account of Genesis 1 without destroying the Bible’s integrity.

From a practical standpoint, have you ever blown something up and then observed the pieces reassembling into a complex . . . anything? No, when buildings are demolished, they pretty much end up in a heap of debris with no order or design. And yet, the big bang proposed by some has produced intricate life and more. In fact, this notion claims that out of a random explosion and expansion of matter billions of years ago, life in its complexity and beauty—from the human body to the ant, from the wonder of the solar system to the universe beyond—has been organized

and arranged into the complex world we live in today by nothing more than random, natural processes.

But, we know that the very existence of design, order, natural laws, and principles in the universe demands that there was a Creator—an organizer, a designer—not a big bang. That Creator can only be the one true Creator God. The only one who has declared Himself the Creator (Genesis 1), and the only one who proclaims that He Himself is sustaining the universe—personally maintaining life and upholding all things by the word of His power (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). This Creator, our God, is truly worthy to receive glory and honor and power—for He created all things, and by His will they exist and were created (Revelation 4:11)!

However, from the very beginning, people have wanted to be their own gods—and Satan is the primary encourager of this. The God of the Bible demands obedience, reverence, and accountability. The serpent asked Adam and Eve, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1). Adam and Eve listened to the serpent, disregarding God’s Word, and sin, deceit, pride, evil, hatred, death, and suffering entered the world.

God will one day judge the sin of the world in righteousness (Psalm 96:13). Those who believe God’s Word know this to be true. However, many doubt the very existence of God and do not fear His judgment. These atheists boldly turn from the greatest commandment—“You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3)—to pursue the imaginings of their own minds.

In many ways, our culture has been shaped by these people who claim there is no God. We’ll look at a few of them here.

Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, although not a proclaimed atheist, was influenced immensely by his atheist grandfather Erasmus. Darwin’s idea of evolution has changed the course of human history

and is one of the greatest attacks on the Word of God in our modern time.

Karl Marx, referred to by some as the greatest thinker in all of history, once stated that religion is the opiate of the masses—impotence of the human mind to deal with occurrences it cannot understand.

Sigmund Freud, considered by some as psychology’s most famous figure, believed that religion was nothing more than an expression of underlying psychological neuroses and distress.

More recently, Madalyn Murray O’Hair was instrumental in removing prayer from the public schools in 1963. She believed that religion has caused more misery to all of mankind in every stage of human history than any other single idea.

And today we have those who are referred to as the “new atheists”—men such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens (now deceased)—and they are aggressively going after your children, your liberties, and your faith! Dawkins, a scientist and an active leader in this movement, believes that one of the things wrong with religion is that it teaches us to be satisfied with answers which are not answers at all. These men and others have accused Christians of “child abuse” for teaching their children the Bible and passing on their faith.

The worldview of these atheists is dangerous to our culture. However, as Christians we are confident in the promises of the Word of God. We must not lose heart. We must be committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and enthused about keeping God on His throne as Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all (Colossians 1:17). God has assured us that His Word is settled forever and His faithfulness will endure to all generations (Psalm 119:89–90).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

## Slide #1

# Come On In

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

- ▶ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

# Memory Verse

*We encourage you to practice the memory verse with your students by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song (audio or video).*

## Slide #2

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Introduction

*Refer to Lesson 1 Theme Poster. We looked in God’s Word and found some words that describe it.*

## Slides #3–4

- ▶ Pass the Class Notes out to the students when appropriate. Encourage your students to complete them as the lesson continues.

- ? What were those words? What is God’s Word really like? *Perfect, sure, right, and true.*

God’s Word can be trusted. And it should always be our foundation. The Bible can change us if we take time to read it. It can bring joy, change our heart, and make us wise!

- ? Why can we trust the Bible? Who is the Bible about? *Allow discussion. God.*

- ? Refer to the Lesson 2 Theme Poster and the Attributes of God Poster. **And why should that matter to us? What is God like?** *Allow discussion. Name some attributes from the poster.*

Our God is all these things and so much more! Not only do these attributes describe Him, but He is perfect in all of them. We talked about God being “incomprehensible.” Remember that word? Say it with me. *Repeat the word together—incomprehensible.*

- ? What does the word *incomprehensible* mean? *Allow discussion.*

It means that we can’t completely figure God out. There will always be something about Him that we don’t know yet. There are a lot of things about God that we cannot completely understand. But God has given us the Bible to help us understand what we need to know. We are going to talk more about that today! So let’s get started.

- ? Have you ever wondered where the world came from? How do you think the world got here? *Allow discussion. Listen carefully to what the students have heard.*

- ? A lot of people have ideas about where the world came from. One very popular idea is called the big bang. How many of you have ever heard of the big bang? *Show of hands.*

The big bang is an idea that says billions of years ago there was a huge explosion in space, and all the parts and pieces from that explosion came together to form the world.

*Bring out building blocks in the box. Hmmm. Let's try that. Of course, we're not going to blow anything up, but we'll use these blocks to see if this theory might work. I need a volunteer to help me. Choose a volunteer to come stand beside you.*

In this box I have a bunch of building blocks. I want you to create something from them just by dumping them onto the floor, like an explosion, and we'll see what happens. *Have student shake the box and dump the blocks onto the floor without touching them.*

- ? What did you build? What is it supposed to be? *Allow answers from volunteer. If time allows have another student try to build something in the same way.*
- ? I want to show you something. *Show building you made from blocks before class. Can you tell what it is? Allow answers.*
- ? Where do you think it came from? Did it just appear? Did it come from an explosion? *Allow discussion.*

Obviously it didn't just appear here all by itself. Someone had to build it, right?

- ? So do you think the whole world and everything in it could have come from an explosion like the big bang? *Allow discussion.*

When we look at creation all around us, even at this building I made with the blocks, you know someone had to have made it. It couldn't have just appeared or put itself together after an explosion. But many people believe that the big bang started the world.

- ? So where can we find out the TRUTH about how the world was made? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Today we're going to talk about what the Bible says about the beginning of the world and who was there. Does anyone know the first four words in the whole Bible? Let's take a look.*

 Slide #5



## Studying God's Word

### *God Was in the Beginning*

- ? What book of the Bible would that be in? *Genesis. Have students open their Bibles to the beginning of the book of Genesis.*

#### Genesis 1:1

- ? Take a look at Genesis 1:1—the very first verse in the Bible. Who will read that for us? *Assign a student to read the verse.*
- ? What are the first four words? *In the beginning, God.*

► Don't forget!  
Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

 Slide #6

- ▶ Encourage your students to bring their Bibles to class. If appropriate, have them read the lesson Scriptures.

That's right. These are the first words in the first verse of the first chapter of the first book of the Bible! These words tell us what happened in the very first hours of the world's history.

OK. Now let's ask some questions about what we read so we can understand it correctly. Are you ready? Look at the verse to find the answers.

- ? Who was there in the beginning? *God.*
- ? Why would God be the only one there? *Allow discussion. Because God hadn't created anything yet.*

That's right. God was the only one. This was the beginning of time as we know it—before anything else was there. This is when God started to create the universe by the power of His voice. And the Bible tells us that it was only about 6,000 years ago.

- ? So, what was before this? *Allow students to answer.*
- ? Check in your Bibles again. Does it say, "In the beginning, God and someone else"? *No!*

No, it doesn't. Someone read Genesis 1:1 again. *Choose a student to read.*

Only God was there—that was it. God is. God always was. God always will be—because only God is eternal.

- ? But what does that mean? Eternal is one of the attributes of God. Will someone read what that means from the Attributes of God Poster? *Assign a reader. Always was and always will be.*

That means God has always existed, and He will always be. He is the only eternal being. In His Word, He said, "In the beginning, God . . ." so we know that God was already there in the beginning, and He was the only one there.

Take a look at your Class Notes. Look at #1. You will see some jumbled words at the bottom of the page. You'll need to put those words in order to figure out the answers.

- ? Who will read #1 for us? Who was there in the beginning? Now look for the #1 scrambled word. Unscramble it to find the answer. *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #1.*
- ? Who will help us with #2 now? What does eternal mean? Find the #2 scrambled word for the answer. *Assign a reader. Always. Have students complete #2.*

 Slide #7

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## **God Is Eternal**

Let's move on. We will finish the Class Notes later. Turn to the book of Exodus. That is the second book in the Bible. It's right after Genesis.

We're going to read a little about Moses in Exodus 3:13–14. Find those verses in your Bibles.

In these verses, God was talking to Moses. He was telling Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land—a beautiful country God had prepared for them.

But Moses was afraid to lead the people because he didn't think they would listen to him or want him to be in charge. God told Moses that He would be with him. But Moses still wasn't feeling too sure. Let's read what Moses asked God and how God answered him.

### Exodus 3:13–14

 Slides #8–9

? Listen carefully and follow along as we read Exodus 3:13–14. Who will read for us? *Assign students to read the verses.*

? Moses asked God a question in verse 13. What did Moses ask God? *Reread the end of verse 13 if necessary. What is your name?*

Yes. Moses asked God what His name was so he could tell the people.

? What is God's answer in verse 14? *He said, "I AM WHO I AM" and "I AM has sent me to you."*

Right. God said His name is I AM. When God said this, He was telling Moses that He is the one who is and always will be. God Himself was telling Moses that He is eternal.

? What does that mean when we say God is eternal? We already mentioned it. Look back at your Class Notes or on the Attributes of God Poster. *Always was and always will be.*

God is the only eternal one. He always was. Remember in Genesis 1:1? God was in the beginning. He is the great I AM. Something or someone had to be here before anything else came to be. There had to be someone who never had a beginning—someone who was there when creation began. Someone who commanded everything to be!

That someone is the one and only true God. He is God of creation, He is the God of Moses, and He is the same God for us today. And He will always be the same God forever. God is the only eternal one. He is the Creator of absolutely everything!

? Go back to your Class Notes. Who was God talking to in Exodus? Will someone read #3? Find the #3 jumbled word. Un-jumble it for the answer! *Assign a reader. Moses. Have students complete #3.*

 Slide #10

? And what about #4. What is God's name? *Assign a reader. I Am. Have students complete #4.*

? Now #5. What does this tell us about God? Will someone read that? *Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #5.*

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## Creation Reveals the Creator

- ? We are going to read one more verse. It's from the book of Romans. Who can find the book of Romans on the Books of the Bible Poster? *Have someone find Romans on the poster.*
- ? What book is before Romans? *Acts.*
- ? And what book is after Romans? *1 Corinthians.*
- ? Are these books in the Old Testament or the New Testament? *New Testament.*

Slide #11

### Romans 1:20

- ? Turn to Romans 1:20. Will someone read that? *Assign a reader.*
- ? This verse tells us that since the creation of the world something about God has been clearly seen. Can anyone tell me what it is that is clearly perceived, or seen, about God? *His invisible attributes.*
- ? What would some of those invisible attributes be? Remember, we talked about the attributes of God—take a look at the Attributes of God Poster. *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Talk briefly about some of the attributes including eternal.*

These are some of God's "invisible attributes." We don't see them because we don't see God. But we know that God exists and that these attributes describe Him because of what the Bible tells us.

- ? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.* This verse mentions God's eternal power! Which attribute has to do with God's power to do all that He wants to do? *Omnipotent.*

That's right! We talked about this word before. God is omnipotent—all-powerful to do whatever He wants to do. And that includes creating the whole universe!

- ? Look in Romans 1:20 again. What helps us see God's eternal power? *Reread the verse if necessary. Allow discussion. Creation—the things that have been made.*
- ? Creation reminds us of God's power. What are some things in creation that help us see just how omnipotent God is? *Allow discussion. The ocean, storms, lightning, tornadoes, hurricanes, rainbows, Grand Canyon, mountains, etc.*

*Show the creation pictures you brought in. These all show God's amazing power! And yet this is just a small bit of God's power. God's power is "incomprehensible!" It's much greater than we can imagine.*

Slide #12

- ? That brings us to #6 on the Class Notes. Who will read it for us? What do the wonders of creation show us about God? Find the #6 scrambled word. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Power. Have students complete #6.*

Do you see what this verse in Romans is telling us about God? When we look at creation, we know there must be a Creator! Let me explain.

? Do you see what I have here? What is it? *Show the children a watch, cell phone, or other technological item.*

? What can you tell me about this (cell phone or other)? *Allow discussion.*

That's very good! You told me lots of things about this (item)! There is one thing no one mentioned about this (item), though. But I know it is absolutely true.

? Do you know what it might be? *Allow discussion.*

I know that somewhere there is someone who made this (item). I know that this (item) did not just appear out of thin air!

What would you say if someone told you that this (item) just suddenly appeared, and no one made it? Or that they just dumped some parts and pieces on the floor, and it made itself? You would think they were crazy! Because you know that it takes a lot of work, time, brains, and energy to make something like this.

Well, that's what this verse is saying about God! When people look around at the world, they do know that someone had to have made all the things they see. Nothing could have appeared on its own. God is the omnipotent Creator!

All we have to do is look around at all the things that God has made, and we will see God's power—His omnipotence. Because of the world and the whole universe that God created, we know that there has to be a Creator.

*Show creation pictures again.* God is clear in creation because everything in creation makes sense. The stars, planets, animals, plants in your mom's garden, your pet dog, your baby sister, the crazy looking bugs and lizards in your backyard, the human body—everything is designed to do what it is supposed to do. It is all in order and put into place the way it should be.

? Go back to your Class Notes. What is the answer to #7? Find the answer and unscramble the word. *Assign a reader. Creation. Have students complete #7.*

We know there is a Creator God because there is order in the universe! This fact brings us back to the big bang—an idea that a lot of people believe in. But we don't find it anywhere in the Bible.

Remember the blocks? Could we actually make anything out of the blocks by "exploding" them all over the floor? No! (Except for making a mess.)

When we look around and see the universe and everything designed in a special way to do what it is supposed to do, we need to remember that only God could have created it all to make sense. There is no way creation could be the result of a big bang. This is nothing but a lie. And people who teach this want to turn us away from God's Word and His truth.

And that is what God's Word tells us in Genesis 1 and in Romans 1. We know that God exists because of the amazing universe that only He could have created!

► Bring out your cell phone, watch, or other "techy" item.

- ? Now let's finish our Class Notes. Look at #8. Who will read that for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Bang. Have students complete #8.*



## Lesson Review

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a Lesson Review activity.*



## Applying God's Word

### *What You Heard in the Word*

Slide #13

- ? *Show the Lesson Theme Poster. We looked at Genesis 1:1. Who was in the beginning? God.*

- ? That's right. And what did the first verse in the Bible tell us about God? What attribute of God did we talk about? *Eternal.*

Yes. God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end. He always was and always will be.

- ? And what did God create? *Everything!*

That's right. God is omnipotent. His amazing creation shows us His power! When we see the creation around us, we know that someone had to make it all—and that someone was God.

When we think about these things—that God is the only one who is eternal—we realize that He is the only one true God. God was not created by anyone or anything. God always was and always will be.

### *God's Word in the Real World*

If you never heard about the big bang before, you will.

- ? Does the big bang make sense to you? *No!*

*Refer to building blocks again. No, it makes no sense at all. We found that out by just dumping the pieces on the floor and hoping they'd put themselves together. Did that work? Of course not!*

- ? What do you need to do to make something from blocks? *Allow discussion.*

Every piece has a certain place, doesn't it? You have to put the pieces in the right order to make something correctly. And when we look at the creation around us, we can see that someone put the pieces in the right order.

- ? And who is that someone? *God.*

We know the universe couldn't have possibly come into existence any other way. There had to be someone who was already there in the beginning. And that someone is the one who created everything. That someone is God. God is eternal—He is, was, and always will be!

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## **Group Prayer Time**

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Thank God for the truth of His Word.
- Thank God for His creation that proclaims His glory and His attributes.





# The Trinity

*There is one God in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*

## *Lesson Focus*

The Trinity refers to one God in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three of these Persons of the Trinity were present at creation.

## *Key Passages*

Genesis 1:1–2; John 1:1–3, 1:14; Matthew 3:16–17

## *Objectives*

Students will be able to:

- Name the three Persons of the Trinity.
- Recognize that all three Persons of the Trinity were present at creation.

## *Memory Verse*

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

# Lesson Preparation

## **Come On In**

Choose a Come On In Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Match    | <input type="checkbox"/> I Have You Have |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Race     | <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Speed Round   | <input type="checkbox"/> Next in Line    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcard Take Away | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn         |

## **Memory Verse**

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Down the Line   | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg Hunt        | <input type="checkbox"/> Review Card Relay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You | <input type="checkbox"/> Stack Em Up       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now You See It  | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Turn         |

Play the Memory Verse song (audio or video) to help your students learn the Memory Verse.

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

## **Studying God's Word**

Print the following:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use. | <input type="checkbox"/> One set of Lesson Illustrations. |
|--|---|

Bring in tape or poster putty.

## **Lesson Review**

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and gather necessary items.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Game    | <input type="checkbox"/> Goofy Golf   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Toss      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oh No        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draw Dice     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick a Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four in a Row | <input type="checkbox"/> Toss for It  |

## **Go to Prayer**

Father God, what a mystery you are. The Trinity—three Persons in one—Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Please give me wisdom, Father, to present this amazing truth in such a way that the students in my class will grow in their understanding of who you are. Lead them to a knowledge that will bring them to worship you as only you deserve.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 4*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

We recommend the following order for churches using a **large group/small group** format:

### **Large Group**

Introduction  
Studying God's Word

### **Small Group**

Come On In  
Memory Verse  
Optional Activity  
Lesson Review  
Applying God's Word  
Group Prayer  
Take Home Sheet



# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The word *Trinity* is not found in Scripture, but the concept of the Trinity is clear in its accounts. It is an important doctrine of the Christian faith, advocating that God eternally exists as three Persons. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God—but there is only one God. Because of our finite minds, this concept is impossible to fully understand and/or explain. Let's consider a few things.

There is only one God. "I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God" (Isaiah 45:5). See also Isaiah 46:9; Galatians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 8:5–6.

All three Persons of the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are called God. In *Christ* dwells all

the fullness of deity bodily (Colossians 2:9). The *Holy Spirit* and *God* are both referred to as God (Acts 5:3–4).

All three Persons of the Trinity are eternal. *God* is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2). The throne of *the Son* is forever and ever (Hebrews 1:8). *The Spirit*, too, is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).

All three Persons of the Trinity are Creator. Genesis 1:1–3 clearly references that *God* and the *Spirit of God* were present at creation. John 1:1–5 brings *Christ*—the second Person of the Trinity—into the picture at creation. He was in the beginning with God, and all things were made through Him. Colossians 1:15–17 again confirms that *Jesus Christ* is the firstborn over all of creation. And by Him all things were created. This passage also reiterates the eternity of Christ.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

The Bible, while not using the term Trinity, plainly teaches that while there is but one true God, He consists of three separate yet equal Persons—and all were present at creation. In fact, the term "Trinity" did not become a formal doctrine of the Church, by name, until the fourth century. This fact has led to numerous debates over the origin of this word and its validity as a doctrine of Scripture.

Many teachers in the history of Christianity have twisted the concept of the Trinity. To misunderstand the nature and character of God is a serious problem. When this misunderstanding leads to a compromise in the true understanding of the gospel, the mistake can rightly be called a heresy—a doctrine that leads to damnation.

A brief look at some of the historical heresies built around the doctrine of the Trinity follows. In all cases they deny either the oneness of God, the distinction between the Persons of the Trinity, or the full deity of one or more Persons of the Godhead.

**Modalism:** This idea suggests that God acts in three different "modes" but is only one Person. God appeared as the "Father" in the Old Testament, as "Jesus" in the earthly ministry, and as the "Spirit" in the present age. Presently, some Pentecostal groups hold to Modalism.

**Arianism:** Named for the fourth-century teacher Arius, this view teaches that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were created by God the Father. This idea was condemned at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

**Adoptionism:** This view teaches that Jesus was an ordinary man until, at His baptism, He was adopted by the Father and given supernatural powers and the status of "Son of God." Some Unitarians hold this view today.

**Unitarianism:** This view holds that there is a single God with no distinct Persons. Whether Jesus or the Father is God varies, but many present-day Unitarians reject the pre-existence of Jesus, insisting that He began to exist at the virgin birth.

Church councils were called to deal with mutations of the truth that were being spread in the early church. As a result, the doctrine of the Trinity was codified in the Nicene Creed in 325, and later in the Athanasian Creed. Both of these creeds are the basis of an orthodox understanding of the relationships within the Trinity.

Even today we see how misunderstanding the Trinity can skew the gospel by denying the biblical understanding of atonement, justice, and the effect of Christ's work on the Cross.

We often hear people speak of God: God is good; God will answer our prayers; God is in control; God has a plan. Yet many of these same people seldom speak the name of Jesus Christ—and may not even believe that salvation comes through Him alone. They deny and fail to understand the important doctrine of the Trinity—three Persons in one God.

These people discount the significance of who Jesus is—that He is 100% fully God and 100% fully man. Specifically, there are many who claim that Jesus Christ was merely a man—a prophet; the first created being; a sinless, good person—but not God in human flesh. The significance of the doctrine of the Trinity eludes them.

And yet, the New Testament is abundantly clear that Jesus is God. Jesus claimed to be one with the Father (John 10:30–33); He used the title of “I AM” from the Old Testament (John 8:23, 8:58); He demonstrated His power over nature, disease, demons, and death (Matthew 8); and He forgave sins—something only God can do (Mark 2:1–11).

Upon seeing the resurrected Christ, Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28), and Jesus did not rebuke him but affirmed him for saying so. And finally, the Jewish leaders recognized Jesus’ claims to deity and tried to stone Him for it (John 5:18, 8:59); ultimately they had Him crucified for supposed blasphemy.

Why is it important to believe Trinitarian doctrine and specifically that Jesus is both God and man? Our very salvation requires it. The death of a mere man (no matter how noble) could not provide the purchase price required to redeem other men from their sins against an infinite God. But because Jesus is God, is eternal, and is infinite, He alone is able to satisfy the penalty for those sins by His death.

In addition, Jesus had to be fully human in order to redeem Adam’s fallen race—the human race. The substitutionary atonement required that Jesus Christ must die as a man to bear judgment for the sins of men. Only the God-man could bridge the gap and bring both God and man together. As a man, He lived a perfect life and is qualified to be our High Priest and Savior (Hebrews 2:17, 7:24–28).

Many discussions surround this important doctrine and can cause division in the church. This is a mysterious doctrine that cannot be comprehended by the human mind. We know that God has revealed the primary truths of the Trinity in His Word. With that in mind, we must be willing to allow that there are secret things that belong to the Lord our God, which have not been revealed (Deuteronomy 29:29).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

## Slide #1

- ▶ After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.

## **Come On In**

*As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.*

## **Memory Verse**

*We encourage you to practice the memory verse with your students by playing a memory verse game or singing the memory verse song (audio or video).*

## Slide #2

**Psalm 119:89–90** Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

## **Introduction**

### Slides #3–5

- ▶ Pass the Class Notes out to the students when appropriate. Encourage your students to complete them as the lesson continues.

*Refer to Lesson 1 Theme Poster.* **We have talked about the Bible. God’s Word can change us if we allow it to be our foundation—where we go to find answers in life.**

*Refer to Lesson 2 Theme Poster.* **The Bible is God’s very Word to us! And although God is incomprehensible—more than we can understand or even imagine—the Bible tells us enough about Him that we know we can trust Him.**

*Refer to Lesson 3 Theme Poster.* **And, we know God exists because we know that there had to be someone who was here in the beginning—someone who spoke everything into existence. As we look around at the beauty and order in creation, we know in our hearts and minds that there is a God—an amazing Creator!**

### Slide #6

- ▶ Pass out the five Lesson Illustrations.
- ▶ Don’t forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* **Today, we are going to learn something else about God, something that is very difficult for even the smartest people to understand.**

*Pass out the five Lesson Illustrations.* **We’ll start by looking at a special word. I have five pictures here that will help us understand the lesson a little better. I am going to pass these out to five of you, and when we get to them you will come up and put them on the board.**

## **Studying God’s Word**

### **“T-r-i” Means Three**

### Slide #7

- ? So, let’s get started. Do you know what I mean by the word *Trinity*? Write the word on the board. Allow answers.

### Slides #8–12

- ? Well, that is what we are going to learn about today. Who has picture #1? Will you bring that up and put it on the board please? Have the student attach the picture to the wall or board with tape or poster putty.

*Refer to the Lesson Illustration.* These letters, “t-r-i,” are called a prefix. When they’re together like this, they mean “three.” So when you add this prefix to the beginning of a word, that lets us know that it has something to do with the number three.

- ? Who has picture #2? Can you bring that up? *Have the student attach the picture to the wall or board.*
- ? What do you see on this picture? *A triangle.*
- ? Right! And how many sides does a triangle have? *Three. Count the sides with the students.*
- ? Do you see the prefix “t-r-i” on this word? *Yes.*
- ? So what does “t-r-i” mean? *Refer to picture #1. Three.*  
That’s right. This is a triangle—it has three sides.
- ? Who has the next picture, #3? *Have the student attach the picture to the wall or board.*
- ? What is this a picture of? *A tricycle.*
- ? See the letters “t-r-i” on that word? Why would we call it a *tri*-cycle? *It has three wheels.*
- ? That’s right. It has three wheels. We have a couple more pictures. Who has picture #4? Bring that one up, please. *Have the student attach the picture to the wall or board.*
- ? What is this animal called? *Triceratops.*
- ? Right. Why does it have *t-r-i* in its name? What does it have three of? *It has three horns.*
- ? Three horns, right! And the last one, who has picture #5? Bring that up. *Have the student attach the picture to the wall or board.*
- ? What is this word? *Triple.*
- ? Yes. This ice cream cone is called a “triple scoop.” Why is that? *It has three scoops of ice cream.*  
That’s right. The prefix “t-r-i” before a word means three. And here we see a triangle, a tricycle, a triceratops, and a triple ice cream cone. All have three of something!
- ? Now, let’s look at our Class Notes. Who will read #1 for us? What does *tri* mean? *Assign a reader. Three. Have students complete #1.*
- ? *Refer to the word “Trinity” you put on the board. So I said we were going to discuss something called the “Trinity.” What three letters does that word start with? T-r-i.*

 Slide #13

 Slide #14

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## ***The Trinity Was Present at Creation***

Right! So, we know it's got something to do with the number three. We are going to complete the triangle diagram you see on your Class Notes. But before we do that, let's look at God's Word and find out what we should put there.

### Slide #15

#### **Genesis 1:1–2**

Turn in your Bibles to the first chapter of Genesis. That is at the very beginning of your Bible. We're going to read Genesis 1:1–2. *Assign students to read verses 1–2.*

- ▶ Encourage your students to bring their Bibles to class. If appropriate, have them read the lesson Scriptures.

**?** First of all, when did this happen? *In the beginning. At the time of creation.*

**This is the very beginning! At the time of creation. And these verses are telling us something about the Trinity.**

**?** Who is mentioned in Genesis 1:1? *God.*

**?** What did God do in the beginning? *Created the heavens and the earth.*

Right. The Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth. So, on your Class Notes, fill in the middle circle in the Trinity triangle.

**?** Who is the Creator? *God. Have students complete the circle.*

**?** How many gods created the world? *One.*

Yes. There is only one true Creator God. But we will see that the Bible tells us the one true God is a Trinity.

**?** What does that mean? That God is a Trinity? *Allow discussion.*

**That means He is actually three Persons in one God. And we can find that truth as we study God's Word.**

**?** Look in Genesis 1:2. Someone else is mentioned there. Who is it? *The Spirit of God.*

**The Spirit of God was with God at the creation. And this was in the beginning. But we know there is only one true Creator God, right?**

**?** Go back to the Class Notes now. Let's answer #2. Who will read it? Who was with God at creation? *Assign a reader. Spirit. Have students complete #2.*

**And now look at the bottom circle on your Class Notes and add the "Holy Spirit" as Creator. *Holy Spirit. Have students complete the bottom circle on the Trinity diagram.***

**So, we have God the Creator . . . and the Holy Spirit as the Creator. But remember, there is only ONE God! Now let's look at another part of the Bible to find out what to put in the other two circles.**

### Slide #16

- ▶ As you complete the diagram on the Class Notes, you may want to write the words or even copy the diagram on the board so the students can follow what you are saying and doing.

### Slide #17

### Slide #18

## John 1:1–3

Slide #19

Turn in your Bibles to John chapter 1 in the New Testament. We will read verses 1–3. *Assign readers or read the verses to the students after they have found them.*

- ? This verse starts just like Genesis 1:1 did. What are the first three words to John 1:1? *In the beginning.*

Yes. Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 are both talking about the same time. They both say, “In the beginning.” That means at the time of creation. Creation is the beginning of everything in the universe.

➤ Reread the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

- ? Look at John 1:1 and tell me what was in the beginning? *The Word.*

Right! And it says the Word was with God in the beginning, and the Word also was God. Oh! So the Word is God! Could the Word be one of the three Persons of God? Let’s find out.

- ? Look back in John 1:3. What does this tell us about the Word? *Allow discussion. All things were made through Him.*

Yes. So everything in the entire universe was made by this Person who is called the Word. If all things were made through Him, He must have been there at creation, too!

## John 1:14

Slide #20

Let’s see if we can tell who the Word is. Turn to John 1:14 in your Bibles. Listen while I read it. *Read the verse to the students.*

- ? It says the Word became flesh. What does that mean? *Allow discussion.*

“Became flesh” means He became a man. He was born on the earth, and He lived with people.

- ? So, who is the Person who was at creation, who made all things, and who came to earth as a man? Who is the Word who became flesh and lived among us? *It was Jesus Christ!*

- ? Take a look at #3 on the Class Notes. Will someone read that? Who is the Word? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #3.*

Slide #21

- ? Jesus is the Word. How else do we know Him? Who is He? *Allow discussion. The Son of God.*

That’s right! John 1:14 tells us that Jesus is the only Son from the Father. The Father is also God!

Do you see? In the beginning at creation, we see God the Father, Jesus the Son (also known as the Word), and the Holy Spirit.

Take a look at the Trinity triangle again on the Class Notes. Let’s finish the other two circles. In the top left you can put “Father.” God is the Father and the Creator.

Slide #22

And in the last circle, the one on the right, you can put the word “Son.” Jesus is the Son of God. AND He is the Creator. *Have students complete the diagram.*

- ? One God created the heavens and the earth. But that one God is made up of three Persons. Who are those three Persons? Look at the Trinity triangle. *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

Right! They were all there at creation. And even though these verses don't use the word Trinity, we know there were three Persons at creation—three Persons—yet only one God!

🖥️ Slide #23

- ? Now will someone read #4 on the Class Notes? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Trinity. Have students complete #4.*

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## ***The Trinity at Jesus' Baptism***

I'm going to read a little more. This is Matthew 3:16–17. Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. Find those verses in your Bible and follow along as I read.

🖥️ Slides #24–25

### **Matthew 3:16–17**

I want to read this because it will help us see one more thing about these three Persons in the Trinity. *Read Matthew 3:16–17 to the students with enthusiasm so they can picture what was happening.*

- ? What was Jesus doing in these verses? Look in Matthew 3:16. *He was being baptized.*
- ? It says that Jesus saw the Spirit of God. What did the Spirit of God do? Look again in Matthew 3:16. *Descended like a dove and came to rest on Him.*
- ? And whose voice was heard from heaven? Here's a hint; He said, “This is my beloved Son.” *God, the Father.*

➤ Reread the verses if necessary, as you ask these questions.

That's right. In these two verses we see again the three Persons of the Trinity. The Son—Jesus—was baptized; the Father's voice was heard from heaven; and the Spirit appeared in the form of a dove.

Earlier we saw the three Persons of God all doing the same thing—creating the earth. But here we see them all doing different things.

- ? Where was the Father? *In heaven.*
- ? And what was He doing from heaven as Jesus was baptized? *Watching Jesus' baptism. Speaking from heaven.*
- ? Where was the Son, Jesus? *On earth; getting baptized.*
- ? Where was the Holy Spirit? *Landing on Jesus in the form of a dove.*

Refer to the Trinity diagram on the Class Notes. You will finish it in the Applying God's Word section below. **These are the three Persons of the Trinity. And it is clear that they are different Persons. They are each unique. But together, they are one God.**

 Slide #26

It can be very confusing trying to remember who is who and trying to understand that the three different Persons make up the one holy God. Here's one way to remember the Trinity: when we talk about God in heaven, we mean God the Father. When we talk about God on earth, we mean Jesus the Son. And when we talk about the one sent to help us obey, we mean God the Holy Spirit. Three Persons, each with His own job—but they all make up the one true God.



## Lesson Review

*We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a Lesson Review activity.*



## Applying God's Word

### What You Heard in the Word

OK. Let's review quickly.

- ? Show the Lesson Theme Poster. **There are three Persons in one God. Who are those three Persons?** *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*
- ? **Who was there at creation?** *God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*
- ? **And what is the word that means three Persons in one God?** It starts with the letters t-r-i. *The Trinity.*

 Slide #27

This is not easy to understand, but it is something we see in the Bible. God is made up of three different Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all God. But they each have a different role in God's plan. They each do different things.

Let's finish the Trinity diagram. Look at the three spaces that connect God the Creator in the center with the three other circles. In those spaces I want you to write the word "Is" because the one true God is the Father, and He is the Son and He is the Holy Spirit. *Have students fill in the spaces.*

 Slide #28

- ? **But are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all the same?** *No.*

They are all God, but each one is very different, and they have different jobs! So, on the outside of your triangle, there are lines connecting each of the three circles. In each of those lines, put the words "Is Not" to remind you that the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father, and the Holy Spirit is not the same as the Son or the Father. They are all separate Persons, but all are the one Creator God. *Have students fill in the spaces.*

► Complete the Trinity diagram as you finish the lesson.

## ***God's Word in the Real World***

The Trinity can't really be explained because God is not like anything in the world. It is not an easy thing to understand. But God is incomprehensible—remember? There are things about Him that we can't even imagine.

Some people don't believe in the Trinity because they can't figure it out. But those people don't believe God's Word. They don't trust that His Word is true. But we do trust God and His Word. We know His Word is true because God cannot lie. And we have faith that God is three Persons in one great God—just like His Word says.

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



## **Group Prayer Time**

*Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.*

- Praise God that He exists as our all-powerful God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Thank God that He created the world through His great power.