



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 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 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 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 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 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 also 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. 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. 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!

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for 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 or printed from the Online Resource Page at 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), 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

Lesson 1	God's Word Is Our Foundation	Psalms 19:7–11; Proverbs 30:5
Lesson 2	Attributes of God	Psalms 90:2; 1 Samuel 2:2; Romans 5:8; Psalms 36:5, 115:3, 96:13, 86:5; Exodus 20:2–3
Lesson 3	We Can Know God Exists	Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13–15; Romans 1:20–21
Lesson 4	The Trinity	Genesis 1:1–3; John 1:1–5, 1:14; Matthew 3:16–17
Lesson 5	God's Word Guides Us	2 Timothy 1:1–2, 2:9, 3:16–17
Lesson 6	God Preserves His Word	Luke 24:25–27; Jeremiah 36:1–4, 36:22–23, 36:32
Lesson 7	God's Word Is Complete	John 14:25–26, 21:24–25; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Revelation 22:18–19
Lesson 8	Don't Change God's Word	Deuteronomy 18:20–22; Acts 17:10–11; Galatians 1:6–9
Lesson 9	The Gospel Is Good News	1 Corinthians 15:3–5; Revelation 4:11; James 2:10; Romans 3:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:8; Mark 1:14– 15; Acts 16:30–31; Luke 13:3
Lesson 10	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 19:7–11; 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 the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Class Notes for each student. Keep the answer key for your use. | <input type="checkbox"/> One Scripture Sheet for each student. |
|--|--|

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, 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

Introduction
Studying God's Word
Optional Video Clip

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

- ▶ 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.

Slide #3

Introduction

- ? *Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* **How many of you have ever read all the way through the Bible?** *Show of hands.*
- ? **How many of you like to explore new things or new places?** *Show of hands.*

Well, get ready because we are about to begin an exploration! We're going to explore the Bible and learn new things about God, His Word, Jesus, God's plan, and much more. This is an important journey we're going to take. You see, many people do not trust or love God's Word. They don't realize it is the only book that can give us the real and complete history of mankind and the whole universe! In fact, God's Word is really the only book that CAN be completely trusted. And that has never changed! It is the only book that tells us how God can change a sinful heart, offer forgiveness of sins, and give eternal life to all who believe in Jesus Christ. No other book can do that.

Now, the Bible is a very big book! And it may seem overwhelming to even think about understanding it all. But it is worth studying, so we're going to take it little by little because it is a very special and important book.

- ? **Why is God's Word so important?** *Allow discussion.*

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.*

Whenever a house is built, the first step is to lay a foundation, usually stone or concrete. That's the solid part that stays firm on the ground. Then the house is built on top of the foundation.

Let's play a game to demonstrate the importance of a firm foundation. I need two volunteers. *Choose two students to come to the front.*

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! 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. If time, allow a few other students to try.

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 attacked by others or pressured to do things we don't want to do. When we are relying on ourselves and our own wisdom, it's like we're standing on one leg. It's hard to stay on the right path!

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. As we live each day, there will be choices to make, and we all want to make the right decisions. 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.

Studying God's Word

God's Word Is Perfect

Psalm 19:7–11

- ? Pass out the Psalm 19:7–11 Scripture Sheets to the students. We are going to start our lesson by reading Psalm 19:7–11. This psalm tells us about the Bible. Who will read those verses for us? Assign readers.

Very good. It's important to read AND study God's Word, so we are going to study the passage.

Look through the passage again on your Scripture Sheet. In these verses there are five different words that are used to refer to God's Word.

- ? Who can tell me what they are? As you find the different words, circle them on your paper. Have students answer one at a time as they find the words: law, testimony, precepts, commandment, rules. Have the students circle the words on their Scripture Sheets.

Slides #4–6

- Pass out the Class Notes and Scripture Sheets. Students will be reading and marking these sheets during the lesson.
- Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

- ?** Great. And what does this passage tell us about God's Word? There are eight different words or phrases that describe God's Word or tell us what it is like. As you find these words, underline them on your paper. Who can give me one? *Choose students to answer. Perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more to be desired than gold, sweeter also than honey. As students answer, have them underline the words on their Scripture Sheets.*

Wow! God's Word is amazing! And something this wonderful can surely change those who read it, love it, and believe it. And these verses tell us how and why we can be changed forever by the Word of God.

 Slide #7

We are going to start our Class Notes now, reviewing what we have read and thinking about how God's Word can change us. Keep your Scripture Sheets handy. You will be using those to help you answer the questions.

- ?** Take a look at #1 on the Class Notes and at the beginning of Psalm 19:7. The Law of the Lord is perfect. What does the perfect Law revive? *The soul.*
- ?** What does "reviving the soul" mean? *Allow discussion.*

It means God's Word changes our desires. We no longer want the things we used to want. We want what will honor God. The Law of the Lord can change our hearts forever!

- ?** So, how will you answer #1? *Choose a reader. Soul. Have students complete #1.*

Take a look at the second part of Psalm 19:7 on your Scripture Sheet. This says the testimony of the Lord is sure.

- ?** How will you complete #2 on your Class Notes based on this verse? What does the sure testimony of God's Word make us? *Choose a reader. Wise. Complete #2.*

- ?** So what does that mean? Where should we go to get wisdom? *Allow discussion.*

The verse says the testimony of the Lord brings wisdom. Testimony is another word for God's Word. We must go to God's Word for wisdom because we really aren't very wise by ourselves. And we need help making the right choices.

- ?** Let's move on! Will someone read the first part of Psalm 19:8? *Assign a reader.*

- ?** And how will you answer #3 on the Class Notes based on that verse? *Choose a reader. Joy. Complete #3.*

The precepts of the Lord (remember, that is His Word) give us joy that really can't be explained. God's Word will rejoice our heart.

- ?** What does Psalm 19:8 tell us about the pure commandment of the Lord? Look at your Scripture Sheet. *The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

? What does that mean, “enlightening the eyes”? *Allow discussion.*

“Enlightening the eyes” means the Bible helps us understand—like light brightens a dark room, God’s Word shines light on the things around us. It helps us to see truth more clearly, and we begin to understand more as we learn about God.

? Who will read #4 on the Class Notes and give the answer? *Assign a reader. Enlightens. Complete #4.*

Slide #8

? Now look at Psalm 19:9. The second half of that verse says something about the rules of the Lord. What are they? *True and righteous.*

? Good. So, how will you fill in #5 on the Class Notes? *Choose a reader. True. Complete #5.*

God’s rules—the Bible—are true and righteous. They can be trusted. And they are to be desired. We should want to know and understand them.

? Someone read Psalm 19:10 again for us. It tells us what God’s Word is worth! *Assign a reader.*

? Now, look at #6 on your Class Notes. According to Psalm 19:10, what is the answer to that? *Choose a reader. Gold. Complete #6.*

Slide #9

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

? Who will read Psalm 19:11 for us? *Assign a reader.*

? That verse is telling us two things about God’s Word. What are those two things? *We are warned by them. There is reward in keeping them.*

God’s Word, His rules, His testimonies—they warn us. They warn us that we should live lives according to what it says—lives that honor and please God. If we pay attention to this warning and obey God’s Word, God promises a great reward.

? Will someone read #7? Based on Psalm 19:11, what does God’s Word do? *Choose a reader. Warns. Complete #7.*

? What is your favorite part about God’s Word from the verses we studied today? *Allow discussion.*

Every Word of God is special. God’s Word is meant to change us in many ways. And it will change us if we read it, believe it, love it, and try to live our lives according to it.

We need the truth of God’s Word to help us understand the world we live in. There is no book like it. As you get to know it better, it will become your favorite book and the foundation you stand on as you face challenges and hard things in your lives.

God's Word Is True

Refer to the Scripture Sheets. OK. 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.*

Slide #10

Proverbs 30:5

That's right. These are all words that refer to God's Word. We have one more verse to look at. Turn to Proverbs 30:5 in your Bibles. Let's read that verse now. *Assign a reader.*

- ? This says the Word of God proves true. How many of God's words are true? Look at the verse again. *Every word.*

EVERY word of God is true. This is God's holy Word. We can trust it completely because it is true!

Slide #11

- ? Who will read #8 for us on the Class Notes? Which words of God are true? *Assign a reader. Every. God. Have students complete #8.*

- ? These are the words from the one true God. Don't you think He would be the best one to go to when you have to make choices in life? *Yes.*

- ? OK. This verse also 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. *Those who take refuge in Him.*

- ? What does it mean that God is a shield? What does a shield do? *Allow discussion. Protects. Guards against attack.*

Remember this verse is about God's Word. 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 #9 on your Class Notes now. Who will read that one? How will you complete it? *Assign a reader. Shield. Have students complete #9.*

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 need to trust God and His Word over everything else we read or see or hear! God's Word is the foundation we should stand on.



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

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Remember how we said God's Word is our foundation? The Bible is the starting point from which we make decisions. We need to learn to use it to guide us in everything we do and think! Psalm 19 tells us that God's Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more valuable than gold, and sweeter than honey! It is like no other book ever written.

If we read and study God's Word, it will change us. It changes our soul; it makes us wise; it brings joy to the heart; and it allows us to see truth more clearly—like light shining in the darkness.

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

On the other hand, if we know God's Word, we will learn to make wise choices—choices that will honor God and glorify Him. His Word will help us understand what is true and what is not as we hear and learn new things. This is very important because so many people do not use the Bible as their foundation, and you will hear them say many things that are false. But if you read God's Word, you will gain more and more confidence to stand for God's truth. It takes commitment to read and learn the Word. I pray you will make that commitment today to search for answers in the one true History Book of the Universe—God's Word—the Bible.

God's Word in the Real World

This week you will be faced with many decisions: how to treat your family, what to watch on television, and what you ought to believe. You will be tempted to think that you know what is best for you.

- ? But where can you find the perfect truth to help you make the right choices? *The Bible.*

That's right. God's Word is the perfect truth, and it is the only place we can get real wisdom—God's wisdom. That is a wisdom way better than our own.

Knowing what the Bible says prepares us to be ready to answer important questions we may get from our friends, families, neighbors,

 Slide #12

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

classmates, and others. Knowing God’s Word will change us! It brings joy, changes our hearts, and gives wisdom. It is the only book we can trust as our foundation to stand on—even in times of trouble—because it comes from God who has promised to be our shield when we put our trust in Him.



Group Prayer Time

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

- Thank God for giving us His perfect Word, which can make us wise.
- Ask God for the faith to believe what His Word tells us and for the wisdom to defend it.



Attributes of God

God's attributes are demonstrated and described in Scripture.

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

Psalm 90:2; 1 Samuel 2:2; Romans 5:8; Psalm 36:5, 115:3, 96:13, 86:5;
Exodus 20:2–3

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe some of the attributes of God.
- Explain why it is important to understand who God is according to the Bible.

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.

Write the following false ideas about God on slips of paper or index cards to use in the Introduction: Santa Claus, Mean Judge, Genie, Old Grandfather, Many gods.

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 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, mercy, love, and knowledge! Help them to see your love, mercy, holiness, and justice in the truth of the gospel. Bring them to salvation through your perfect 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

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

- **Attributes Matching Game**
Students will learn some of the attributes of God while they play a matching game.
- **Real World Skit**
Students will read a short skit discussing some of God's attributes.
- **Coloring Sheet**
Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- **Word Scramble**
Students will unscramble words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock.

Video Clips

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

- God's Power (5:15)
- Mystery of Life (2:29)

PowerPoint

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

Notes

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).

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 amaz-

ing 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 Jesus, who committed no sin yet was made sin for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

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!

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 passing by as he 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.

Slide #3

Introduction

Refer to Lesson 1 Theme Poster. Last week we talked about God’s Word.

It is where we should start for all our decisions—especially the tough ones. It is the foundation we should stand on and trust. God’s Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, and righteous! It is not like any other book ever written! And God’s Word can change us. In fact, it is the only thing that will help us turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus!

But before we can trust God’s Word, we need to trust God. We can’t trust God until we know something about Him.

- ▶ Pass out the Class Notes to the students when appropriate. Encourage your students to complete them as the lesson continues.
- ▶ Prepare cards or slips of paper with the false ideas about God written on them for the students to select.

? *Bring out the prepared slips of paper/cards with false ideas about God. Many people have wrong ideas about God, who He is and what He is like. Let’s look at a few of these false ideas, which I have written on these slips of paper. Who will read one for us? Then we’ll see if you can tell what is wrong with each one. Choose a volunteer to read an example. After each one, ask students what kind of god this would be and how it is not true according to the Bible. After a brief discussion, choose another volunteer and move on to the next example. See the list below for a summary of the false ideas and the key problem with each:*

- *Santa Claus: kind and jolly, gives gifts to those who are good. Although God is loving, He is also just and must punish sin. God gives gifts out of His kindness and mercy.*
- *Mean Judge: strict and harsh, only gives punishment and never shows mercy. This idea ignores God’s loving character. Although God is just and must punish sin, He loved us so much He sent His only Son to save us from our sin.*
- *Genie: appears when summoned and grants wishes. Although God wants us to bring our requests to Him, treating God as a genie ignores the relationship God wants to have with His children.*
- *Old Grandfather: kind old man sitting in heaven. This idea ignores God’s amazing power, wisdom, and care for us. We should fear the Lord because He is our powerful Creator.*

- *Many gods: there are many gods or ways to get to heaven; none is better than the others. This idea is common today because people think they are being tolerant by saying there are many ways to God. But the Bible makes it clear that repentance and belief in Jesus is the ONLY way to heaven.*

? So, where can we find the truth about God so we won't believe the wrong things? *The Bible.*

Right! We can learn more about God through His Word. And the more we know about God the more we know we can trust His Word!

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



Studying God's Word

The Bible Declares God's Attributes

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Today we are going to look at God's Word and see some of the things we can learn from it about God! We are going to discuss what are called "God's attributes."

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This poster lists some of the attributes of God. God is amazing! We will be referring to this poster all year as we learn from God's Word and see how God reveals Himself to us through the Bible.

The verses we are going to read today are on your Class Notes. The Bible is all about God. And whatever part we are reading in it, we can be sure it will tell us something about who God is!

Psalm 90:2

? Let's start with the first verse on your Class Notes—Psalm 90:2. Will someone read that verse? *Assign a reader.*

? According to this verse, how long has God been in existence? *Allow discussion. Since before the earth was formed. From everlasting. Forever.*

That's right! God existed even before the creation of the world. God has always been.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This describes one of God's attributes. He is eternal.

? What does that mean? Someone read the definition for #1 and fill in the blank on your Class Notes. *Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #1.*

1 Samuel 2:2

? Let's move on. Will someone read the next verse, 1 Samuel 2:2, on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader.*

? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.* Which attribute do you see in this verse? *Holy.*

? Who is holy like the Lord according to this verse? *None! No one!*

Slide #4

► Bring out the Attributes of God Poster. Refer to it as you discuss the verses and attributes presented in this lesson.

Slide #5

Slide #6

There is no one like the Lord! The idea of God being holy is that He is set apart or separate—He cannot sin. What that means is that He is removed from everything that is sinful. God hates sin! There is no evil in Him at all—and He will not tolerate or be near things that are evil.

- ? Will someone read #2 on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader. Holy. Have students complete #2.*

God is holy and hates sin. That is very bad news for all of us because the Bible tells us we are ALL sinners. But, God is more than that. Let's move on.

Slide #7

Romans 5:8

- ? Will someone read Romans 5:8 on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader.*
- ? *Refer to Attributes of God Poster. Which attribute of God are we reading about here? Allow discussion. Loving.*
- ? **How did God demonstrate His love for us?** *Allow discussion. He sent Jesus to die while we were still sinners.*

Yes! Because God hates all sin, we deserve God's punishment. But God loves sinners so much that He was willing to have His own perfect Son—Jesus—die so sinners could be saved.

- ? Will someone read #3 on your Class Notes and fill in the blank? *Assign a reader. Loving. Have students complete #3.*

So, God always wants what is best for His children—He loves them. And the most amazing act of God's love is seen in Jesus! God, who is perfectly holy and hates sin, sent His perfect, sinless Son, Jesus, to die for sinners. THAT is amazing love! He did that to make a way for us to be forgiven., Instead of going to hell because of our sin, we can go to heaven if we believe and trust in Jesus. God's love shows that He wants what is best for His children—and that is to spend eternity with Him! That is the most wonderful gift we could ever ask for.

Slide #8

Psalms 36:5

- ? **What is next?** Will someone read Psalm 36:5 on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader.*
- ? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This verse mentions two of God's attributes. What are they? Steadfast love and faithfulness.*
- ? We already discussed love, so we are going to talk about God's faithfulness. How far does God's faithfulness extend, or reach? *To the clouds!*
- ? **What do you think that means?** *Allow discussion.*

It means that God's faithfulness is something we can trust. It is huge! It will never fail.

Go ahead and fill in #4 now on the Class Notes. Someone read the definition of "faithful." *Assign a reader. Faithful. Have students complete #4.*

God is faithful—He will always keep His promises. That is different from you and me. We may try to keep our promises, but we don't always do it. But God does! He cannot lie. He is always faithful. We can always trust Him to do what He says He will do!

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

Psalm 115:3

 Slide #9

- ? Will someone read Psalm 115:3 for us? *Assign a reader.*
- ? Where is God? Look at what we just read! *In heaven.*
- ? What does God do there? *All that He pleases.*
- ? So, do any of you know what attribute this might be? *Allow discussion.*
- ? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. This verse is talking about God's sovereignty. Look at #5 on your Class Notes. What is the answer? Will someone read it? Assign a reader. Sovereign. Have students complete #5.*

When we say that God is sovereign, what we are really saying is that God is God—and no one else is or could ever be! When we talk about God's sovereignty, we are talking about His control and authority over all of creation—everything! Every person, plant, animal, drop of rain, gust of wind, ray of sunshine! God is in control of everything that happens on the earth. He has all power and authority over everything and everyone that exists. Only the one true God can say this. And there are no other gods but Him!

Psalm 96:13

 Slide #10

- ? There is so much to know about God! We will talk about just two more attributes. Will someone read Psalm 96:13 on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader.*
- ? This says God is coming back to earth. What will He do one day? *Allow discussion. Judge the earth.*
- ? What will God judge the people and the earth by? *His righteousness and His faithfulness.*

So, God will judge the earth. He will judge it according to His righteousness and His faithfulness.

- ? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What attribute of God does this describe? Just.*
- ? Go ahead and complete #6. We are talking about God being “just” here. What does that mean? Someone read the definition for us from the Class Notes. *Assign a reader. Just. Have students complete #6.*

God is just. That means that God must do what is right. God must be just because He is holy. God hates sin, and He must judge it because sin is evil in His eyes. The Bible says that the judgment, or the punishment,

for sin is death. All sin offends God. And God’s “just” punishment has to be that sinners will die and be separated from Him forever!

This does not sound like good news, does it? God’s justice MUST come on all sinners! And we are all sinners. But there is more to God than that. Let’s continue.

Slide #11

Psalm 86:5

- ? Will someone read Psalm 86:5 on the Class Notes? *Assign a reader.*
- ? What does this say about the Lord? There are three things listed here. What are they? *The Lord is good and forgiving and abounding in steadfast love.*
- ? Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Hmmm. Which attribute is this verse describing? *Allow discussion. Merciful.*
- ? Go ahead and fill in #7 on the Class Notes. What do we mean when we say that God is merciful? Will someone read #7 for us? *Assign a reader. Merciful. Have students complete #7.*

So, God shows kindness to sinners. All sinners are miserable. Sometimes they don’t even know they are in this state, but they are. And that is because they are headed for God’s eternal judgment because of their sin.

- ? But God is merciful! How has God shown kindness to sinners? Look at Psalm 86:5 again. What is God ready to do for sinners? *He is ready to forgive.*
- ? The Lord God is good. He is ready to forgive sinners. How can sinners be forgiven? *Through Jesus.*

That’s right. Look back at #3 on your Class Notes. Someone read the definition of God’s love. *Assign a reader.*

- ? God loves sinners! How did God show His love to sinners? Look there at Romans 5:8. *By sending Jesus to die.*

These two attributes—mercy and love—go together very well. God showed His love by sending Jesus. God shows His mercy by forgiving sinners of their sin—even though they deserve punishment.

When sinners turn to Jesus in repentance and faith—and turn away from their sin—God shows mercy to them. He will not punish them like they deserve. Instead, God grants them forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. We could talk a very long time about who God is and what the Bible tells us about Him. What we talked about today and all of the other attributes on this poster only scratch the surface of who God is. We can’t even begin to understand how great God really is. He is so great, there will always be more to learn about God.

In every one of these attributes, God is greater than we can imagine. He is incomprehensible! That means we can never completely understand all of His love, His mercy, His holiness, His wisdom, or His sovereignty. He is beyond all of our understanding—He is incomprehensible!

- ? Will someone read #8 on the Class Notes? Let's remember this big word and how it describes an even bigger, greater God than we can imagine!
Assign a reader. Incomprehensible. Have students complete #8.

Slide #12

We Must Worship the True God

Before we end this wonderful lesson on God, I want to talk about why we need to know these things about Him.

- ? Why is it important that we learn who God is from His Word? *Allow discussion.*

Exodus 20:2–3

Slide #13

- ? Turn in your Bibles to Exodus—near the beginning of the Bible. Who will read Exodus 20:2–3? *Assign a reader.*

- ? Who is speaking in these verses? *Exodus 20:2. The Lord.*

This is the Lord God speaking to the Israelites. He was reminding them that He brought them out of Egypt—out of slavery!

- ? What was God's command to these people? Look in Exodus 20:3. *You shall have no other gods before me.*

God commanded that the people love and serve only Him. He is the only true God! If anyone worships anything else, God will have to judge him. God deserves all honor and glory! God commanded that the people have no false gods!

But, if we are not careful to study who the true God is, to learn about His attributes, and to understand that He is incomprehensible in all His ways, we may be led to worship false gods, or even make up our own false gods.

I don't mean statues made of gold. I mean a false god we might make up in our heads, like the false ideas we talked about at the beginning of the lesson—a "Santa Claus" god who would never punish sin or a "Mean Judge" god who never shows mercy to sinners. Maybe we would make up a false god who couldn't be in control of everything because we can't understand why bad things happen. Or maybe it is a false god who couldn't have the power to speak the universe into existence because people tell us this can't be how it happened.

Sometimes it is hard to even imagine who God is. He truly is incomprehensible. And that is why we must turn to His Word so we can understand Him better. That is where we will get a glimpse into His amazing power, glory, and might! If we study who God is from the Bible, it would be a lot harder for us to make up a false god in our minds—a god who could never be the Creator God we know and worship.

 Slide #14

- ? Let's finish our Class Notes. Will someone read #9? *Assign a reader. False. Have students complete #9.*



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

Refer to the Class Notes and the Attributes of God Poster. God is not like anyone else. His attributes are amazing, and we can only begin to know God by studying His Word—the Bible.

There are so many attributes that describe Him. He is eternal, holy, loving, faithful, sovereign, just, merciful, and so much more!

In every one of these attributes, He is better than anything we could imagine. God is incomprehensible! That means that we cannot even imagine how great He is. We can only begin to understand all of His attributes. There will always be more about Him that we don't know yet.

But that should not keep us from wanting to learn more! If we don't know the God of the Bible, we will end up making up a god in our minds that is far less wonderful. God has made it clear—we can have no other gods before Him. He is the almighty Creator of the universe, and only He deserves all our praise.

God's Word in the Real World

We serve a wonderful, powerful, gracious, merciful God. And we can only know Him the way He wants us to know Him by studying His Word. Many people want to talk about God's love, but they don't talk about any of His other attributes. You may hear people say God wants to give you whatever you want because He loves you. This is like the "Genie" idea of God.

God does love His children, and He wants what is best for us. He knows what we really need, which is often different from what we think we need. And He has shown us the most amazing love.

- ? What did God do to show us how much He loves us? Go back to #3 on your Class Notes. The answer is in Romans 5:8. *He sent Jesus to die for sinners.*

That is the most perfect act of love. Jesus was perfect. He never sinned—not even once. He did not deserve to die. He did not deserve God's punishment.

 Slide #15

- You may want students to reread the Class Notes or read from the Attributes of God Poster.

But we do deserve it. God would be perfectly right to judge us and send us to hell for our sins because He is holy and just. But, He didn't do that! Instead He showed us His love and mercy when Jesus died so that we could be forgiven of our sins and go to heaven.

If we will humble ourselves, repent of our sins—being truly sorry and turning away from sin—and receive Jesus by believing and trusting in Him, then the forgiveness and love of God will be ours.

► 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 for who He is—our almighty, holy God.
- Thank God for His holy Word, where we can learn of Him and Jesus.
- Pray that the students will come to a saving knowledge of God through Jesus Christ and His Word.



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 3:13–15; Romans 1:20–21

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 for the Introduction:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building blocks in a box | <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

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.
- Coloring Sheet
Students will color as you review today's lesson with them.
- Word Search
Students will search and find words from today's lesson. Make it a challenge: have students race against each other or the clock to find all the words.

Video Clips

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)
- Backyard Variety (2:38)

PowerPoint

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

Notes

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

Slides #3–4

Refer to previous Lesson Theme Posters. So, our exploration continues! God’s Word should always be our foundation. It is where we should turn to find answers to the questions we have every day in life. The Bible can change us if we read it regularly. It can bring joy, change our soul, and make us wise! As we get to know the Word of God, it will become worth even more to us than precious gold!

- ? Why can we trust the Bible? Who is the Bible about? *Allow discussion. God.*
- ? And why should that matter to us? What is God like? *Allow discussion.*

Slide #5

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Our God is all these things and so much more. We talked about God being “incomprehensible.”

Incomprehensible:
greater than we
can imagine

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

God is greater than anything we can imagine. We can never completely understand all of His love, mercy, holiness, wisdom, or sovereignty because He is so great! But God has given us His Word so we can start to learn about these things as we get to know who He is. So let’s continue exploring the Bible today and see what more we can find out about God.

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

- ? 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 theory. 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 over billions of years.

Bring out building blocks in the box. Hmm. 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.



Studying God's Word

God Is Eternal

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Does anyone know the first four words in the whole Bible? What book of the Bible would that be in? Go ahead and take a look. Genesis.
- ? And what are the first four words? "In the beginning, God . . ."

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. That's correct. These are the first words in the first verse of the first chapter of the first book of the first Testament in the Bible! Please turn to that verse in your Bibles.

Genesis 1:1

- ? Will someone read Genesis 1:1 for us? Assign a reader.

These very first words of the Bible tell about the very first hours of the world's history. Let's examine them more closely.

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

Slide #6

Slide #7

? Who was there in the beginning? *God. Some may say the Trinity—which is true. God is three in one.*

? Why is God the only one there? *Allow students to answer. Because God has always existed, and He hadn't created anything yet.*

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

? So, what was before this beginning? What existed before anything was created? *Allow students to answer. God.*

Before this—before Genesis 1:1—God was. He always was. God is eternal. That means He has always existed, and He will always exist. He is the only eternal being. The Bible tells us, “In the beginning, God . . .” and that was it. God is. God always was. God always will be. He is eternal.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Let's read the definition of eternal together from the Attributes of God Poster. Always was and always will be.

 Slide #8

? Look at your Class Notes. Today we have a crossword puzzle. Will someone read #1 for us? What word completes that sentence? Then you'll write that word in the puzzle. *Assign a reader. Beginning. Have students complete #1.*

God was in the beginning! God is eternal! He is not bound by time in any way. He created time, but He existed before He created it. So we could say He exists outside of time as we know it.

? Someone read #2 from the Class Notes. What is this attribute? *Assign a reader. Eternal. Have students complete #2.*

This can be very confusing, I know. But remember, when we talked about God's attributes, we said He was incomprehensible! He is beyond our understanding. We can't figure Him out. He is greater than anything we can imagine!

God Is Outside of Time

Let's move to the next book (after Genesis) in the Bible, Exodus. We're going to read a little about Moses. God had sent Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land—a beautiful country God had prepared for them.

However, Moses was afraid to lead the people as God told him to do. Moses didn't think the people would listen to him or want him to be in charge. God assured Moses that He would be with him. But Moses still had his doubts. Let's read what Moses asked God and how God answered him.

Exodus 3:13–15

🖨 Slides #9–11

- ? Find Exodus 3:13–15. Will someone read that for us? *When everyone finds it, have one or more students read it.*
- ? What did Moses ask God? *What shall I say to the people of Israel? Who should I say sent me? What is your name?*
- ? What is God’s answer in Exodus 3:14? *He said I AM WHO I AM and I AM has sent me to you.*

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

The Bible is clear. God is the eternal one—the one who always was, the great I AM. Something or someone had to be here before anything else came to be. Do you see that? 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 we worship today. He always was, and He always will be. God exists! He is the only eternal one. He is the Creator of absolutely everything—including time! And He is not bound by time as we know it because He always has been.

- ? Will someone read #3 on the Class Notes? What did God say to Moses? *Assign a reader. I AM. Have students complete #3.*

🖨 Slide #12

Creation Reveals God’s Existence

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Now turn to Romans 1:20–21. It’s in the New Testament. Romans is an epistle, or letter, that was written by the Apostle Paul. This is something God wanted Paul to write to people who said they didn’t believe in God. Let’s see what God had to say to them.

🖨 Slides #13–14

Romans 1:20–21

Let’s read Romans 1:20–21. *Assign readers.*

- ? Now who did I say Paul was talking about in this part of his letter? *People who did not believe in God.*
- ? OK. Look carefully at verse 20. What are clearly seen? *His invisible attributes.*
- ? Whose invisible attributes? Who is “his” referring to in this verse? *God.*
- ? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What are some of those invisible attributes? Remember, we talked about the attributes of God—take a look at the poster. Talk briefly about some of the attributes.*

These are “invisible attributes.” We don’t see them. And we don’t see God. But we know that God exists, and we know that these attributes describe Him because of what we read in the Bible.

Slide #15

- ? So, look again at Romans 1:20. How long have God’s invisible attributes been clearly seen? *Since the creation of the world.*
- ? Before going on, let’s go back to the Class Notes. Will someone read #4? What kind of attributes are these? *Assign a reader. Invisible. Have students complete #4.*
- ? And what about #5? How long have God’s attributes been clearly seen? *Assign a reader. Creation. Have students complete #5.*
- ? Now look back at Romans 1:20. What can be understood by looking at the things that are made—or by creation? *God; His eternal power; His divine nature.*

When Scripture refers to God’s divine nature, that is talking about the attributes of God.

- ? So, what does this verse say about all those people who say there is no God? It is at the very end of Romans 1:20. *They are without excuse.*
- ? They are without excuse! Why? Look at the beginning of Romans 1:21. Did these people know God? *Yes.*
- ? How do they know God? What could they see around them? *Romans 1:20. God’s attributes in creation.*

Slide #16

- ? Creation clearly shows us that there is a God. Go to #6 on the Class Notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Excuse. Have students complete #6.*
- ? They know who God is because of what God made—God tells us that. But how did these people act toward God? The answer is in Romans 1:21. There are four different things they did. Who can answer one? *They did not honor Him as God.*

? And another? *They did not give thanks to Him.*

? What about their thoughts? What does this say about them? *Their thoughts were futile.*

Yes. Their thoughts were futile. This means their thoughts had no purpose. They made no sense because God was not a part of them. They did not believe in God.

? And the last one? What is that? It is about their hearts. *Their foolish hearts were darkened.*

? Why would God call them foolish and dark? *Allow discussion.*

They are foolish because God’s creation makes it clear that there is a God! That is the only way it could have come to be. And everyone can

see that! But even though they see it, they still deny God and His truth—they choose not to believe it. They know better but refuse to admit it.

- ? Before we move on, look at your Class Notes again. What is the answer to #7? Take a look back at Romans 1:21 for help. *Assign a reader. Honor. Have students complete #7.*

 Slide #17

- ? And what about #8? Will someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Foolish. Have students complete #8.*

There is a very important lesson here in just these two verses! Even back when Paul wrote this letter—and that was nearly 2,000 years ago—people were claiming that there was no God.

Creation shows us God’s eternal power and His divine nature in a big way. Because of the very universe that God created, we know that there has to be a Creator.

- ? Have you ever noticed how orderly and perfect the universe is? *Yes/no.*

Think about it. The stars, solar system, plants, animals, the human body—everything is designed to do what it is supposed to do. It is all perfectly organized and designed. Color, variety, and even the smallest detail all point to an eternal God with a plan and the power to make it all perfectly. In Romans 1:20–21, God is saying that when we look at all of His creation we must think of Him, our Creator. If people say they don’t believe in God, they are denying what they know just by looking around them.

- ? Someone read #9 on the Class Notes. What does creation show us? *Assign a reader. Creator. Have students complete #9.*

 Slide #18

- ? People who refuse to believe that there is a God came up with the big bang theory. But we saw from our blocks that order doesn’t come from disorder like an explosion. The big bang is nothing but a lie. And people who teach this want to turn us away from God’s Word and His truth.

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. There is no way it was the result of a big bang. 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!

- ? Go to #10 on the Class Notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #10.*



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 #19

? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. What an exciting lesson! First we looked at Genesis 1:1. Who was “in the beginning”? *God.*

That's right. God was in the beginning—before He created anything. God is the only eternal being, and He is not bound by time. God was not created by anyone or anything. God is the Creator of all and has always existed. And God's creation shows us some of His attributes—like His wisdom, power, faithfulness, and mercy.

When we look at the order in the entire universe, we can see that there had to be someone who is eternal—and that is the one who created it all.

God's Word in the Real World

People who do not believe in God or that He created the universe often believe the lie they call the big bang theory. It says a powerful explosion put everything in the universe together, over billions of years, into perfect order. But this is nonsense! Explosions never put things together, they always break things apart. It's like when we dumped the blocks out of the box; nothing was created—it just made a mess!

So, we need to be ready with an answer if people start to tell us about the big bang theory. They teach it to try to convince others that God's Word is not true! But we know that God's amazing divine nature—His attributes—are clear to everyone through His creation.

We need to tell people the truth—that God is our Creator. There had to be someone who always was so He could begin to create. There had to be someone who didn't have any beginning because that is the one who began time as we know it. And that someone is God. God had no creator. He didn't need one because He always was. He alone is the great I AM.

► 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 His creation that proclaims His glory and His attributes.
- Pray that the Lord will give us courage to stand against the false theories of man that deny God's existence.



The Trinity

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 Persons of the Trinity were present at creation.

Key Passages

Genesis 1:1–3; John 1:1–5, 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"/> Next in Line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Book Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Speed Round | <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcard Take Away | <input type="checkbox"/> I Have You Have |

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"/> Stack Em Up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review Card Relay | <input type="checkbox"/> Look Behind You |
| <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 name tags or labels and pens for each student.

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* all the

fullness of deity dwells 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.

Slides #3–5

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

Introduction

Refer to Lessons 1–3 Theme Posters. We’ve been talking about the Bible. God’s Word can change us if we allow it to be our foundation in life. In Lesson 2, we learned that the Bible is God’s very Word to us! Although God is incomprehensible—greater than we can imagine—the Bible tells us enough about Him that we know we can trust Him. And in Lesson 3, we know God exists because there had to be someone who was here in the beginning 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!

Pass out pens and a name tag or label to each student. On your name tag, I want you to write three names you go by. My given name is _____ (say your name), but I also go by _____ (fill in with appropriate name such as Mom, Husband, Teacher, Daughter/Son). Maybe you have a fun nickname your friends or family call you, or maybe you are known by a position you play in sports (goalie) or an instrument you play (pianist). Allow students to write names on their tags and put them on.

Let’s hear some of the names you go by. Allow several students to share their names.

- ? Even though we sometimes go by more than one name, that doesn’t mean we are more than one person, does it? *No!*

Today we are going to be talking about one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity. Unlike each of us with our name tag, each Person in the Trinity is unique and distinct.

It’s important to understand that there is ONE God consisting of three Persons. There are NOT three Gods. But the three Persons of the Trinity are also not just three roles or parts of God. We came up with three names for ourselves, but the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are unique Persons.



Studying God's Word

The Father and the Holy Spirit Are God

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The Trinity is something that is difficult even for adults to understand, and any human analogy is going to fall short of explaining the Trinity. But we want to learn about the Trinity because it is in the Bible.

I like to think of the Trinity like this: God in heaven is our Father. When God came to be born on the earth, He was Jesus, the Son. After Jesus left the earth, He sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us see God's truth and obey God.

- ? We are going to put that on the Class Notes under the word "God." Look at #1. What is another name for God in heaven? *Father. Have students complete #1.*
- ? And what about #2 in that first section? Who is God on the earth? *Jesus. Have students complete #2.*
- ? And #3? Who is God who helps us to see the truth and obey God's Law? *The Holy Spirit. Have students complete #3.*
- ? There are three Persons in one God! God the Father. God the Son. God the Holy Spirit.

Slide #6

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

Slide #7

Genesis 1:1-3

Slide #8

- ? The Trinity is not easy to understand. But we can believe it by faith because the Bible says it is true. Turn to Genesis 1:1-3. Will someone read that? *Assign readers.*
- ? This passage tells us about the Trinity—although it doesn't use the word "Trinity." There are two Persons of the Trinity in this verse. Who are they? You can find them in the first two verses. *God and the Spirit of God.*
- ? What is God doing in Genesis 1:1? *Creating the heavens and the earth.*
- ? What is the Holy Spirit doing in Genesis 1:2? *Hovering over the face of the waters.*
- ? When did this take place? Look at Genesis 1:1. *In the beginning.*

This is in the very beginning before anything was created and only God existed. But notice we read here that there also was a "Spirit of God." This Spirit of God IS God. And this verse tells us about two of the three Persons of the Trinity.

- ? What did God do in Genesis 1:3? *He said, "Let there be light."*

That's right. How did that light appear? What did we just read? *He spoke it into existence—He created by the power of His Word.*

- ? Yes. This was the beginning when God created the universe. And this tells us two things about God Himself. What are they? *God is the Creator, and there is a Spirit of God.*

Slide #9

- 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.

These verses tell us about two Persons of the Trinity. God the Father spoke, and there was light. And God the Holy Spirit was there also, hovering over the waters.

Let's begin to fill out the diagram on the Class Notes. In the center circle write "God the Creator," and in the circle straight down from that write "Holy Spirit the Creator." *Have students complete two circles in the diagram.*

That is what we just read in Genesis 1:1–3. God the Father was in the beginning, and God the Holy Spirit was there also. But let's move on and see who else was a part of the beginning of creation.

Jesus Is God

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to John 1:1–5. John is the fourth gospel in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, then John.

Slides #10–11

John 1:1–5

These verses tell just a little more about creation and the mystery of the Trinity. *Assign readers.*

- ? Who wrote this book of the Bible? *John.*
- ? Who was John? *Allow students to answer.*

This John was not John the Baptist. This John was one of Jesus' very best friends and one of His apostles. God inspired John to write about Jesus' life in this book. And this book was written not long after Jesus died—about 50 years later.

- ? There are two Persons mentioned in John 1:1. Take a look. Who are they? *God and the Word.*
- ? John is talking about something that happened at a certain time. When did this happen? *In the beginning.*
- ? What did John mean by "in the beginning"? Remember what we read in Genesis 1:1? It is the same thing in Genesis and in John. *In the beginning means at creation.*
- ? OK, now in John 1:1, who was there in the beginning with God? *The Word.*
- ? What does it say about the Word? *The Word was with God.*

Slide #12

- ? Take a look at your Class Notes. We are moving to the second part, under "The Word." How will you complete #4? *Assign a reader. God. Complete #4.*
- ? But what else does John 1:1 say about the Word? Who was the Word? *The Word was God.*

- ? Look at #5. What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. God. Complete #5.*
The Word was God? Interesting. Someone read John 1:3–4 again. It tells us about this Word who was God. *Assign a reader.*
- ? What was made through the Word? It is in John 1:3. *All things.*
- ? And what was in the Word? That is in John 1:4. *Life.*
- ? What was the life? *John 1:4. The life was the light of men.*
- ? And where did this light shine? The answer to that is in John 1:5. *The light shines in the darkness.*

OK. Let's go back to the Class Notes and write down what we just read about the Word.

- ? Will someone read #6 for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. All. Have students complete #6.*
- ? And what about #7? What was in Him? Look in John 1:4. *Assign a reader. Life. Complete #7.*
- ? Now remember, all of these verses are talking about “the Word.” And #8? What was that life? It's also in John 1:4. *Assign a reader. Light. Have students complete #8.*
- ? And the life that was light—where did it shine? Someone read #9. *Assign a reader. Darkness. Complete #9.*
- ? Let's see. Who is the Word? Does anyone know? Who created all things? Who brings life? Who is the light of men who shines in the darkness? *Allow students to answer. Jesus, the Son of God.*

 Slide #13

John 1:14

 Slide #14

- ? Yes! Jesus, the Son of God. Look forward just a bit in your Bibles to John 1:14. It tells us more about the Word—about Jesus! Will someone read that for us? *When everyone gets to the verse, assign someone to read it.*
- ? What does this tell us the Word did? *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

He became flesh. Jesus did that, right? He was born as a baby and became a man. And John 1:14 says that Jesus is God's Son. He is full of grace and truth!
- ? So, someone read #10 on the Class Notes. What did the Word become? *Assign a reader. Flesh. Have students complete #10.*
- ? And #11? Who is the Word? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Complete #11.*
- ? So, John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word.” What did John mean by the beginning? *Creation.*

 Slide #15

The creation, right! Jesus was the Word, so Jesus was in the very beginning.

- ? Back in Genesis 1:1–3, who else was in the beginning? *God the Father and the Spirit of God.*

So, we know only God was in the beginning. He is the Creator. And there could only be one Creator. Genesis tells us it was God and the Spirit of God. John tells us “the Word” was God’s Son. And God was His Father.

This can only mean that there is one God—and three Persons in God. And they were all present at creation.

Slide #16

- ? Who were the three Persons present at creation? *God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus.*

Right! Now look at the diagram on your Class Notes. We already have God the Creator in the center, right? And the Holy Spirit the Creator written in. We saw both of them at creation in Genesis 1:1–3.

Now in John 1 we’ve seen that God is the Father. And He is Creator. Write “Father the Creator” in the circle on the left. And the Son—Jesus (or the Word)—is the Creator. Put that in the circle on the top right, “Son the Creator.” *Have students complete final two circles in the diagram.*

Even though none of these verses say the word Trinity, we can see that there were three different Persons involved in creation—God the Father, the Spirit of God (or the Holy Spirit), and Jesus, the Son.

There is only one God—we know that. But there are three Persons who make up God. And each of these three Persons was there at creation.

Slide #17

Look at your Class Notes again. Inside each of the three spaces leading to the word “God” I want you to write the word “Is.” I want you to remember that even though there are three Persons in the Trinity, they are all the one true God. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. And all three of these Persons who make up one God were present at creation. *Show the answer key or write the diagram on the board to show them where to write “Is” three times.*

And that is the Trinity! But there is just a little bit more.

The Baptism of Jesus

There are times in Scripture, like the creation, where all three of the Persons of the Trinity are clearly mentioned and are all there. We are going to read about one of those times now.

Slides #18–19

Matthew 3:16–17

- ? Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 3:16–17. Will someone read that for us? *Assign a reader.*
- ? What had Jesus just done in Matthew 3:16? *He had been baptized.*

- ? Someone came down on Jesus in the form of a dove. Who was that?
Matthew 3:16. The Spirit of God.
- ? And what was heard from heaven after Jesus was baptized? *A voice.*
- ? What did that voice say? *Matthew 3:17. This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*
- ? Whose voice was it that the people heard? *Matthew 3:17. God, the Father.*

That’s right. A voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son.” This was God the Father. In these two verses, we see that all three Persons of the Trinity were present at Jesus’ baptism. The Son—Jesus—was baptized; the Father’s voice—God’s voice—was heard from heaven; and the Spirit appeared in the form of a dove.

These are the three Persons of the Trinity. But each of them was doing something different at the same time. They are different Persons. They are each unique. You see, the Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.

To help you remember this, I want you to fill in the last spaces in your diagram. Along the outside of the triangle—on all three sides—write “Is Not.” *Have students complete the diagram.*

 Slide #20

- ? Who are the three Persons of the Trinity? *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

There are three Persons, yet they are one God. Look back on your Class Notes at the first three sentences. Remember that when we talk about God in heaven, we mean God the Father. When we talk about God on the earth, we mean Jesus, the Son. And when we talk about the one sent by Jesus to help us obey, we mean God the Holy Spirit. All three of these Persons are God. But all three are different from each other and do different things.

 Slide #21



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

- ? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. There are three Persons in one God. Who are those three Persons? *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*
- ? And what do we call this idea of three Persons in one God? *The Trinity.*
- ? Did we see the word *Trinity* in any of the verses we read today? *No.*

 Slide #22

That's right. The word *Trinity* is not used in God's Word. But, we did see that all three Persons are mentioned in God's Word.

- ? What is the Bible talking about in Genesis 1 when it says "In the beginning"? *Creation.*
- ? Yes. And who was present at creation? *God the Father, the Spirit of God, and Jesus, the Son of God.*
- ? Does this mean there are three Gods? *No.*
- ? How many Gods are there? *Only one.*

Like I said, 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 the one true God. But they each have a different role in God's plan, and they each do different things.

God's Word in the Real World

The Trinity can't really be explained because God is not like anything in the world. People can't begin to understand how great God is!

But we saw today that God's Word makes it very clear that God is three Persons in one—even if we don't fully understand that. Those three Persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Some people might wonder about the Trinity because they can't figure it out. It doesn't make sense if you don't believe God's Word and if you don't trust Him. But we do trust God and His Word. We know His Word is true—God cannot lie. And we have faith that God is three Persons in one great God—just like the Bible teaches.

- 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.