



MASTERBOOKS® CURRICULUM

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Printed in USA

First printing: January 2023

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Master Books, P.O. Box 726, Green Forest, AR 72638
Master Books® is a division of the New Leaf Publishing Group, Inc.

ISBN: 978-1-68344-306-3
ISBN: 978-1-61458-807-8 (digital)

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About the Author



Israel Wayne and his wife Brook are homeschooling parents to eleven children.






Israel Wayne is also an author and conference speaker who has a passion for defending the Christian faith and promoting a Biblical worldview. He is the author of *Education: Does God Have an Opinion?*, *Pitchin’ A Fit! Overcoming Stressed-Out Parenting*, *Raising Them Up - Parenting for Christians*, *Answers for Homeschooling - Top 25 Questions Critics Ask*, *Questions God Asks*, and *Questions Jesus Asks*.

Since 1995, Israel has traveled the nation speaking on family, homeschooling, revival, discipleship, and cultural issues. He is a frequent guest on national radio and television programs and has been featured as the keynote speaker at numerous conferences. Israel also serves as the Director of Family Renewal, LLC (FamilyRenewal.org) and is the Site Editor for ChristianWorldview.net (a Christian apologetics site).

Using This Course

Features: The suggested weekly schedule enclosed has easy-to-manage lessons that guide the reading, worksheets, and all assessments. The pages of this guide are perforated and three-hole punched so materials are easy to tear out, hand out, grade, and store. Teachers are encouraged to adjust the schedule and materials needed in order to best work within their unique educational program.

Basics and Beyond: What do you believe about God? And why? God set the standard for our lives, and it's vital we understand that eternal truth. In Foundations in Faith, you will examine these standards and learn to grown in your own faith through prayer and study plans for the Bible, stewardship of money, to a more enriched faith life through spiritual disciplines.

Features		Course Objectives:
	Quick, targeted lessons – 20 to 30 minutes, 5 days a week.	Explore important foundational insight into crucial aspects of biblical truths
 	Includes worksheets and answer keys; incorporates numerous passages of God's Word	Develop a deeper understanding of the purpose and importance of church doctrine
	Incorporates four tests – one for each quarter	Learn to discern biblical truth from cultural assumptions and popular faith myths
	A one-year course designed for grades 7-12	Master spiritual disciplines that enable you to go deeper in your faith and understanding.

Course Description

We all believe we somehow have a better understanding today of things than people did in the past. But, in reality, we as Christians continue to be confused about how God and His Word work in our lives. We make the same mistakes as Adam and Eve, the Israelites wandering the wilderness, and those whom the Apostles tried to teach. We, as did they, see heresies and misconceptions become “faith fads” over and over again.

Church leaders in the past confronted these mistruths by making clear what the Bible says. They did this through gatherings where foundational doctrines were gathered to serve as a clear benchmark of biblical truths that believers could hold up against popular teachings to see if they aligned with God's Word.

We have lost touch with these doctrines and creeds. We have separated ourselves from this foundational truth for easier, faster, more appealing presentations of the faith. We have lost sight of God's truth, and it's time to get rooted in foundational faith again!

How to Use This Book

Each lesson is two pages and includes a mix of doctrinal sources, biblical text, and teaching. The student will need a Bible to look up various verses on particular worksheets and explore other verses suggested throughout the course. Testing occurs after every quarter and tests are found in the back of the book.

Other Information: Students will answer questions in several ways during this course. Questions without numbers are a way for students to explore their faith and their perceptions of biblical truth. Only those questions that are numbered will feature answers in the answer key. The NKJV was used to create the course. If your student prefers a different version, please remember to adjust answers regarding Scriptures to your preferred version.



Required for this Course:

- *Great for God: Missionaries Who Changed the World*, by David Shibley.
- A New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible (for verse fill in the blank questions, etc.)

Note to Parents - About This Course: There are some questions we wanted to address to the parent or teacher of this course to help provide some clarity regarding what kind of a curriculum this is.

Q. Is this course denominationally affiliated?

No, this course is published from a broad Protestant Evangelical perspective and is not denominationally affiliated but is respectful to the diversity of denominations within the Body of Christ.

Q. What theological bias is in this course?

Our bias is that the 66 books of the Protestant Bible are the inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of God and are the final authority for salvation and all of life and practice.

Q. How do you decide which theological views are the correct ones?

Our goal in this curriculum is to accurately represent what has been held by all true Christians throughout the entire church age. We are focused mainly on primary doctrines, and not so much on secondary doctrines (those that do not impact salvation). We seek to avoid sectarian divisiveness on secondary doctrines. When those issues (modes of baptism, or different views on the end times, for example) are mentioned in the curriculum we seek to address them informationally with the purpose of instructing the student on what various Christians teach and believe, rather than to persuade the student to a particular viewpoint through a polemic and didactic approach.

Q. Why do you utilize the historic creeds, confessions, and catechisms so much? Don't you believe Scripture is all we need?

We believe Scripture is all we need for salvation and for life and godliness. Many of the confessions make this same assertion. We do not view creeds, confessions, or catechisms as being in any way equal to Scripture in authority, but we do see them as being helpful tools (in the same way we view a local church's statement of faith or a pastor's sermon as being helpful, but not equal to Scripture itself). Many of the creeds and confessions were written by church councils who were seeking to correct errors that had arisen in the church. The authors spent significant time and prayer seeking to get the wording just right to reflect biblical accuracy. We find the wording of many of their statements to be helpful to provide concise and clear declarations about what we believe.

Q. Do you agree with all the statements or tenets contained in all the creeds, confessions, or catechisms from which you quote?

No, we do not. In fact, it would be impossible to do so. Some of the confessions were written to refute other historic confessions, so many of them are actually adversarial to each other (hence decisive evidence they are not without error). We quote them broadly to demonstrate the diversity of the Protestant tradition and to give students an awareness of the streams of Christian influence that have helped lead western Christianity to where it is today.

Q. Do you see this curriculum as being a replacement for denominational or church doctrine materials for youth?

We are deeply respectful of the role of the local church in the life of the believer. Our curriculum seeks to point students back to conversations with their parents and their local church leaders to discover what it is their church tradition believes on these issues. While we would welcome churches using this curriculum for the instruction of their youth, we simply want to supplement the work of local churches in their discipleship by equipping parents to pursue additional discipleship at home. It is our goal to teach the basics on which all true Christians believe, and we trust local churches to teach their own distinctives and doctrinal perspectives on secondary issues through their own published materials.

Q. Why did you choose the NKJV as the Bible translation? Does it have to be used or can we choose a different version?

You are welcome to use whichever Bible translation you prefer with this curriculum, but worksheet exercises are based on the NKJV as are the answer keys. We chose the NKJV because of the preference of the Textus Receptus manuscripts from which it is drawn by some church groups, and the universal familiarity so many have with the KJV. The language is similar but updated for easier understanding. If you use a different translation (KJV or other), you may have to make adjustments for this when grading. If so, don't stress; the student will learn the core material adequately regardless of the translation they use.

Q. What is the *Great for God* book and does it need to be used as a part of this curriculum?

The book shares the biographies of 23 missionaries who dared to do big things out of a heart of love for

God. These stories comprise approximately two-thirds of the Christian heroes stories from which the student will learn. Additional lessons on heroes not contained in that book have been written by the author, Israel Wayne. It is our strong recommendation that you purchase a print or ebook version of *Great for God* from the Master Books website as it is an important supplement to this course.

Q. This does not seem like a typical Bible curriculum. What makes it different?

A typical Bible curriculum is focused on teaching

what could be called “Old and New Testament Survey.” It teaches the books of the Bible, the chronology or timeline, the genres or different types of literature, etc. This is really not a Bible curriculum in that sense. It is a Bible doctrine curriculum that teaches theology. It seeks to give students an overview of the primary doctrines (core teachings) contained in the Bible. This is a simplified introduction to what is known as “Systematic Theology.” So, it uses the Bible extensively, but focuses on the teachings of the Bible, rather than mere information about the Bible or mere historical information contained in the Bible.

Introduction for Students

Q. What is a “Bible Doctrine / Theology” curriculum?

The word “theology” means “the study of God.” The primary purpose of studying the Bible is to know God (see John 17:3). There is no higher purpose in life than to come to truly know the living God who created all things.

Bible doctrines are truths or teachings that God has revealed about Himself in the pages of Scripture. Doctrine helps us to understand who God is, how He relates to us, and how He wants us to relate to Him and others.

Q. What can I hope to have gained by the time I finish this course?

You will know God better. While life application (applying the Bible to your everyday existence) is important, knowing God is not a means to something greater. It is an end in and of itself. God created us to have relationship and fellowship with Him. We do that best when we truly understand Him as He is. When you think about your best relationships (parents, siblings, friends, etc.) the reason you enjoy them as much as you do is because you truly know them on a deep level. That takes time, but it also takes information. You can’t truly serve someone you don’t love, and you can’t love someone you don’t know; so, knowing God comes before loving and serving Him.

Once you come to know who God is and what He has done for you, you can’t help but love Him and desire to worship and serve Him with your whole life. So, the final goal of this course is simply to help you to know God better through His word. Everything else (direction, purpose, meaning, service, worship, adoration, fellowship, etc.) will follow naturally from the relationship that will form as you seek to know

God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible.

Q. What do I do if I come across something in this course that is different than what I have been taught, or believed, previously?

All of us grow spiritually as we come to know God better through the Bible. That process of growth often involves our changing our views on various issues as we learn. Being willing to be corrected is a vital part of spiritual growth and maturity. This course will expose you to beliefs that have been held by true confessing Christians from the time of the first century. There are many differing and opposing ideas held today by many church denominations, and while we want you to be aware of that, it is not our purpose in this course to sort all of that out.

If on some point you are exposed to teaching in this curriculum that is new or that you have not heard, we encourage you to talk with your parents about it. Perhaps they can go with you to talk to your church elders or pastor to see what your local church or denomination teaches on that topic. It is the desire of this author and publisher to be respectful of the place of spiritual authority parents and local church leaders hold in the lives of young people, and it is not our desire to replace, or create contention in, those relationships.

Q. What should I do when there are prompts where I explore aspects of my personal faith?

Our goal is for you to write whatever you want to God. There are many guided questions, but we encourage you to add anything you want to on top of the standard material covered by the curriculum. They are important for helping you to truly own your own faith.

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
First Semester – First Quarter					
Week 1	Day 1	Read Introduction for Students • Page 12 and Lesson 1: What Is Doctrine? • Pages 13–14 • <i>Foundations in Faith</i> (FiF)			
	Day 2	Read Lesson 1: What Is Doctrine? • Pages 15–16 (FiF)			
	Day 3	Read Lesson 1: What Is Doctrine? • Pages 17–18 (FiF)			
	Day 4	Read <i>Great for God</i> (GfG) • Pages 9–13 Lesson 1: Complete Worksheet • Pages 19–20 (FiF)			
	Day 5	Review Lesson 1. Save the pull-out the complete Study Notes section on pages 361–372 to refer to during this course.			
Week 2	Day 6	Read Lesson 2: Who Created Christian Doctrine? • Pages 21–22 (FiF)			
	Day 7	Read Lesson 2: Who Created Christian Doctrine? • Pages 23–24 (FiF)			
	Day 8	Read Lesson 2: Who Created Christian Doctrine? • Pages 25–26 (FiF)			
	Day 9	Read Lesson 2: Church History Biography: Irenaeus; The Rule of Faith Pages 27–28 (FiF)			
	Day 10	Read Lesson 2: The Apostles Creed and The Apostles • Pages 29–30 (FiF)			
Week 3	Day 11	Read Lesson 3: How Do We Know the Bible Is True? • Pages 31–32 (FiF)			
	Day 12	Read Lesson 3: How Do We Know the Bible Is True? • Pages 33–34 (FiF)			
	Day 13	Read Lesson 3: How Do We Know the Bible Is True? • Pages 35–36 (FiF)			
	Day 14	Read about Rowland Bingham • Pages 15–18 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 37–38 (FiF)			
	Day 15	Review Lessons 2 and 3. Begin memorizing Psalm 23. A copy is included in the Study Notes.			
Week 4	Day 16	Read Lesson 4: All Truth Is Revealed • Pages 39–40 (FiF)			
	Day 17	Read Lesson 4: All Truth Is Revealed • Pages 41–42 (FiF)			
	Day 18	Read Lesson 4: All Truth Is Revealed • Pages 43–44 (FiF)			
	Day 19	Read Lesson 4: Church History Biography: Martin Luther • Pages 45–46 (FiF)			
	Day 20	Review Lesson 4 including General Revelation/Special Revelation. Continue memorizing Psalm 23.			
Week 5	Day 21	Read Lesson 5: The Bible Was Written to Be Understood • Pages 47–48 (FiF)			
	Day 22	Read Lesson 5: The Bible Was Written to Be Understood • Pages 49–50 (FiF)			
	Day 23	Read Lesson 5: The Bible Was Written to Be Understood • Pages 51–52 (FiF)			
	Day 24	Read Lesson 5: The Bible Was Written to Be Understood • Pages 53–54 (FiF)			
	Day 25	Lesson 5: Church History Biography: William Tynedale • Pages 55–56 (FiF)			
Week 6	Day 26	Read Lesson 6: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 1 • Pages 57–58 (FiF)			
	Day 27	Read Lesson 6: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 1 • Pages 59–60 (FiF)			
	Day 28	Read Lesson 6: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 1 • Pages 61–62 (FiF)			
	Day 29	Read about Bill Bright • Pages 19–26 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 63–64 (FiF)			
	Day 30	Review Lessons 5 and 6. Continue to memorize Psalm 23.			
Week 7	Day 31	Read Lesson 7: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 2 • Pages 65–66 (FiF)			
	Day 32	Read Lesson 7: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 2 • Pages 67–68 (FiF)			
	Day 33	Read Lesson 7: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 2 • Pages 69–70 (FiF)			
	Day 34	Read about William Carey • Pages 27–30 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 71–72 (FiF)			
	Day 35	Review Lesson 7. Practice reciting Psalm 23.			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 8	Day 36	Read Lesson 8: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 3 • Pages 73–74 (FiF)			
	Day 37	Read Lesson 8: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 3 • Pages 75–76 (FiF)			
	Day 38	Read Lesson 8: How Can I Understand the Bible? Part 3 • Pages 77–78 (FiF)			
	Day 39	Read about Amy Carmichael • Pages 31–34 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 79–80 (FiF)			
	Day 40	Review Lesson 8. Practice reciting Psalm 23. Begin preparing for Quarter 1 Test next week.			
Week 9	Day 41	Read Lesson 9: Old Testament vs. New Testament • Pages 81–82 (FiF)			
	Day 42	Read Lesson 9: Old Testament vs. New Testament • Pages 83–84 (FiF)			
	Day 43	Read Lesson 9: Old Testament vs. New Testament • Pages 85–86 (FiF)			
	Day 44	Read about Jim Elliot • Pages 35–40 (GfG) • Complete Worksheet Pages 87–88 (FiF) • Review Lesson 9.			
	Day 45	Complete Quarter 1 Test • Pages 329–330 (FiF)			
First Semester – Second Quarter					
Week 1	Day 46	Read Lesson 10: The Importance of Church History • Pages 89–90 (FiF)			
	Day 47	Read Lesson 10: The Importance of Church History • Pages 91–92 (FiF)			
	Day 48	Read Lesson 10: The Importance of Church History • Pages 93–94 (FiF)			
	Day 49	Read Church History Biography: John Foxe • Pages 95–96 (FiF)			
	Day 50	Read about Charles Fuller • Pages 41–44 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 97–98 (FiF)			
Week 2	Day 51	Read Lesson 11: Introduction to Creeds • Pages 99–100 (FiF)			
	Day 52	Read Lesson 11: Introduction to Creeds • Pages 101–102 (FiF)			
	Day 53	Read Lesson 11: Introduction to Creeds • Pages 103–104 (FiF)			
	Day 54	Read Lesson 11: Church History Biography: Athanasius of Alexandria Pages 105–106 (FiF)			
	Day 55	Read Lesson 11: Introduction to Creeds • Pages 107–108 (FiF)			
Week 3	Day 56	Read Lesson 12: Confessions • Pages 109–110 (FiF)			
	Day 57	Read Lesson 12: Confessions • Pages 111–112 (FiF)			
	Day 58	Read Lesson 12: Confessions • Pages 113–114 (FiF)			
	Day 59	Complete Worksheet Pages 115 (FiF) • Read about H.B. Garlock Pages 45–48 (GfG) • Complete Worksheet Pages 116 (FiF)			
	Day 60	Review lessons 10, 11, and 12 including memorizing parts of The Nicene Creed.			
Week 4	Day 61	Read Lesson 13: Exploring Catechisms • Pages 117–118 (FiF)			
	Day 62	Read Lesson 13: Exploring Catechisms • Pages 119–120 (FiF)			
	Day 63	Read Lesson 13: Exploring Catechisms • Pages 121–122 (FiF)			
	Day 64	Read about Adoniram Judson • Pages 49–52 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 123–124 (FiF)			
	Day 65	Review Lesson 13. Continue to memorize parts of The Nicene Creed.			
Week 5	Day 66	Read Lesson 14: Church Traditions and Confirmations • Pages 125–126 (FiF)			
	Day 67	Read Lesson 14: Church Traditions and Confirmations • Pages 127–128 (FiF)			
	Day 68	Read Lesson 14: Church Traditions and Confirmations • Pages 129–130 (FiF)			
	Day 69	Read Lesson 14: Church Traditions and Confirmations • Page 131 (FiF) Read about Eric Liddell • Pages 53–56 • Complete Worksheet • Page 132 (FiF)			
	Day 70	Review Lesson 14. Continue to memorize The Nicene Creed.			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 6	Day 71	Read Lesson 15: All of Creation (Cosmology) • Pages 133–134 (FiF)			
	Day 72	Read Lesson 15: All of Creation (Cosmology) • Pages 135–136 (FiF)			
	Day 73	Read Lesson 15: All of Creation (Cosmology) • Pages 137–138 (FiF)			
	Day 74	Read Lesson 15: All of Creation (Cosmology) • Pages 139–140 (FiF)			
	Day 75	Read Lesson 15: Church History Biography: Dr. Henry M. Morris II Pages 141–142 (FiF)			
Week 7	Day 76	Read Lesson 16: The Fall of Man (Original Sin) • Pages 143–144 (FiF)			
	Day 77	Read Lesson 16: The Fall of Man (Original Sin) • Pages 145–146 (FiF)			
	Day 78	Read Lesson 16: The Fall of Man (Original Sin) • Pages 147–148 (FiF)			
	Day 79	Read Lesson 16: The Fall of Man (Original Sin) • Pages 149–150 (FiF)			
	Day 80	Read about Paul Little • Pages 57–60 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 151–152 (FiF)			
Week 8	Day 81	Read Lesson 17: Who Is God? • Pages 153–154 (FiF)			
	Day 82	Read Lesson 17: Who Is God? • Pages 155–156 (FiF)			
	Day 83	Read Lesson 17: Who Is God? • Pages 157–158 (FiF)			
	Day 84	Read about David Livingstone • Pages 61–64 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 159–160 (FiF)			
	Day 85	Review Lessons 15, 16 and 17. Practice reciting The Nicene Creed. Prepare for Quarter 2 Test next week.			
Week 9	Day 86	Read Lesson 18: The Trinity • Pages 161–162 (FiF)			
	Day 87	Read Lesson 18: The Trinity • Pages 163–164 (FiF)			
	Day 88	Read Lesson 18: The Trinity • Pages 165–166 (FiF)			
	Day 89	Read about Lottie Moon • Pages 65–68 (GfG) • Complete Worksheet • Pages 167–168 (FiF) • Review Lesson 18.			
	Day 90	Complete Quarter 2 Test Pages 331–332 (FiF)			
Second Semester – Third Quarter					
Week 1	Day 91	Read Lesson 19: Jesus, the Son of God • Pages 169–170 (FiF)			
	Day 92	Read Lesson 19: Jesus, the Son of God • Pages 171–172 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 93	Read Lesson 19: Jesus, the Son of God • Pages 173–174 (FiF) Continue to memorize Matthew 3:16.			
	Day 94	Read about John R. Mott • Pages 69–72 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 175–176 (FiF)			
	Day 95	Review Lesson 19 main concepts and worksheets.			
Week 2	Day 96	Read Lesson 20: Jesus Paid It All • Pages 177–178 (FiF)			
	Day 97	Read Lesson 20: Jesus Paid It All • Pages 179–180 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 98	Read Lesson 20: Jesus Paid It All • Pages 181–182 (FiF) Continue to memorize Luke 3:16.			
	Day 99	Read Lesson 20: Jesus Paid It All • Pages 183 (FiF) • Read about Bob Pierce Pages 73–78 (GfG) • Complete Worksheet • Page 184 (FiF)			
	Day 100	Review Lesson 20 main concepts and worksheets.			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 3	Day 101	Read Lesson 21: Jesus' Death and Burial • Pages 185–186 (FiF)			
	Day 102	Read Lesson 21: Jesus' Death and Burial • Pages 187–188 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 103	Read Lesson 21: Jesus' Death and Burial • Pages 189–190 (FiF) Continue to memorize John 3:16.			
	Day 104	Read about Warren Shibley • Pages 79–81 (GfG) Complete the worksheet • Pages 191–192 (FiF)			
	Day 105	Review Lesson 21.			
Week 4	Day 106	Read Lesson 22: The Resurrection • Pages 193–194 (FiF)			
	Day 107	Read Lesson 22: The Resurrection • Pages 195–196 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 108	Read Lesson 22: The Resurrection • Pages 197–198 (FiF) Continue to memorize 1 Corinthians 3:16.			
	Day 109	Read Lesson 22: The Resurrection • Pages 199–200 (FiF)			
	Day 110	Review Lesson 22.			
Week 5	Day 111	Read Lesson 23: The Holy Spirit • Pages 201–202 (FiF)			
	Day 112	Read Lesson 23: The Holy Spirit • Pages 203–204 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 113	Read Lesson 23: The Holy Spirit • Pages 205–206 (FiF) Continue to memorize Ephesians 3:16.			
	Day 114	Read Lesson 23: The Holy Spirit • Pages 207–208 (FiF)			
	Day 115	Read about Oswald J. Smith • Pages 89–93 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 209–210 (FiF)			
Week 6	Day 116	Read Lesson 24: Salvation: Being Born Again • Pages 211–212 (FiF)			
	Day 117	Read Lesson 24: Salvation: Being Born Again • Pages 213–214 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 118	Read Lesson 24: Salvation: Being Born Again • Pages 215–216 (FiF) Continue to memorize Colossians 3:16			
	Day 119	Read C.T. Studd • Pages 95–98 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 217–218 (FiF)			
	Day 120	Review Lessons 23 and 24.			
Week 7	Day 121	Read Lesson 25: Justification and Sanctification • Pages 219–220 (FiF)			
	Day 122	Read Lesson 25: Justification and Sanctification • Pages 221–222 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 123	Read Lesson 25: Justification and Sanctification • Pages 223–224 (FiF)			
	Day 124	Read Lesson 25: Justification and Sanctification • Pages 225–226 (FiF) Continue to memorize Acts 3:16.			
	Day 125	Read about Hudson Taylor • Pages 99–104 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 227–228 (FiF)			
Week 8	Day 126	Read Lesson 26: The Church • Pages 229–230 (FiF)			
	Day 127	Read Lesson 26: The Church • Pages 231–232 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 128	Read Lesson 26: The Church • Pages 233–234 (FiF) Continue to memorize 2 Timothy 3:16			
	Day 129	Read Lesson 26: The Church • Page 235 (FiF) • Read about William Cameron Townsend • Pages 105–110 (GfG) • Complete Worksheet • Page 236 (FiF)			
	Day 130	Review Lessons 25 and 26.			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 9	Day 131	Read Lesson 27: Baptism and Communion • Pages 237–238 (FiF)			
	Day 132	Read Lesson 27: Baptism and Communion • Pages 239–240 (FiF) Begin memorizing your 3:16 verse.			
	Day 133	Read Lesson 27: Baptism and Communion • Pages 241–242 (FiF) Continue to memorize 1 John 3:16.			
	Day 134	Read about Dawson Trotman • Pages 111–116 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 243–244 (FiF) • Review Lesson 27.			
	Day 135	Complete Quarter 3 Test • Pages 333–334 (FiF)			
Second Semester – Fourth Quarter					
Week 1	Day 136	Read Lesson 28: Growing Strong Through Spiritual Disciplines Pages 245–246 (FiF)			
	Day 137	Read Lesson 28: Growing Strong Through Spiritual Disciplines Pages 247–248 (FiF) • Begin memorizing John 15:1-2.			
	Day 138	Read Lesson 28: Growing Strong Through Spiritual Disciplines Pages 249–250 (FiF) • Continue memorizing John 15:1-2.			
	Day 139	Read Lesson 28: Church History Biography: John Bunyan Pages 251–252 (FiF)			
	Day 140	Read Lesson 28: Church History Biography: John Bunyan (continued) Pages 253–254 (FiF)			
Week 2	Day 141	Read Lesson 29: Prayer • Pages 255–256 (FiF)			
	Day 142	Read Lesson 29: Prayer • Pages 257–258 (FiF) • Begin memorizing John 15:3-4.			
	Day 143	Read Lesson 29: Prayer • Pages 259–260 (FiF) • Continue memorizing John 15:3-4.			
	Day 144	Read Lesson 29: Church History Biography: John “Praying” Hyde Pages 261–262 (FiF)			
	Day 145	Review Lessons 28 and 29.			
Week 3	Day 146	Read Lesson 30: Bible Study • Pages 263–264 (FiF)			
	Day 147	Read Lesson 30: Bible Study • Pages 265–266 (FiF)			
	Day 148	Read Lesson 30: Bible Study • Pages 267–268 (FiF) Begin memorizing John 15:5.			
	Day 149	Read Lesson 30: Bible Study • Pages 269–270 (FiF) Continue memorizing John 15:5.			
	Day 150	Read Lesson 30: Church History Biography: Robert Murray M’Cheyne Pages 271–272 (FiF)			
Week 4	Day 151	Read Lesson 31: Worship • Pages 273–274 (FiF)			
	Day 152	Read Lesson 31: Worship • Pages 275–276 (FiF) Begin memorizing John 15:6.			
	Day 153	Read Lesson 31: Worship • Pages 277–278 (FiF) Continue memorizing John 15:6.			
	Day 154	Read about Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf • Pages 117–120 (GfG) Complete Worksheet • Pages 279–280 (FiF)			
	Day 155	Review Lessons 30 and 31.			

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 5	Day 156	Read Lesson 32: Evangelism • Pages 281–282 (FiF)			
	Day 157	Read Lesson 32: Evangelism • Pages 283–284 (FiF) Begin memorizing John 15:7–8.			
	Day 158	Read Lesson 32: Evangelism • Pages 285–286 (FiF) Continue memorizing John 15:7–8.			
	Day 159	Read about Samuel Zwemer • Pages 121–124 (GfG) Complete the worksheet • Pages 287–288 (FiF)			
	Day 160	Review Lesson 32.			
Week 6	Day 161	Read Lesson 33: Generosity (Stewardship) • Pages 289–290 (FiF)			
	Day 162	Read Lesson 33: Generosity (Stewardship) • Pages 291–292 (FiF) Begin memorizing John 15:9–10.			
	Day 163	Read Lesson 33: Generosity (Stewardship) • Pages 293–294 (FiF) Continue memorizing John 15:9–10.			
	Day 164	Read Lesson 33: Generosity (Stewardship) • Pages 295–296 (FiF)			
	Day 165	Read Lesson 33: Generosity (Stewardship) • Pages 297–298 (FiF)			
Week 7	Day 166	Read Lesson 34: Church History Biography: R.G. LeTourneau Pages 299–300 (FiF)			
	Day 167	Read Lesson 34: Good Works — Serving • Pages 301–302 (FiF)			
	Day 168	Read Lesson 34: Good Works — Serving • Pages 303–304 (FiF) Continue memorizing John 15:1–10.			
	Day 169	Read Lesson 34: Good Works — Serving • Pages 305–306 (FiF) Practice reciting John 15:1–10.			
	Day 170	Read Lesson 34: Good Works — Serving • Pages 307–308 (FiF)			
Week 8	Day 171	Read Lesson 35: Church History Biography: John Wesley Pages 309–310 (FiF)			
	Day 172	Read Lesson 35: Self-Denial • Pages 311–312 (FiF)			
	Day 173	Read Lesson 35: Self-Denial • Pages 313–314 (FiF)			
	Day 174	Read Lesson 35: Self-Denial • Pages 315–316 (FiF)			
	Day 175	Read Lesson 35: Self-Denial • Pages 317–318 (FiF) Review Lessons 33, 34, and 35.			
Week 9	Day 176	Lesson 36: The Second Coming • Pages 319–320 (FiF)			
	Day 177	Lesson 36: The Second Coming • Pages 321–322 (FiF)			
	Day 178	Lesson 36: The Second Coming • Pages 323–324 (FiF)			
	Day 179	Read How Should We Now Live? • Pages 125–135 (GfG) • Complete Worksheet • Pages 325–326 (FiF)			
	Day 180	Complete Quarter 4 Test • Pages 335–336 (FiF)			

WHAT IS DOCTRINE?

WHAT IS DOCTRINE?

In this book, we are going to study Bible doctrine. The word “doctrine” simply means “teaching.” Our goal is to discover the most important beliefs that we must hold to as Christians. We need to know:

- > What we believe
- > Why our beliefs are true
- > How to share those beliefs with others

Some people say it doesn’t matter what you believe about the Bible as long as you love Jesus. Let’s think about that for a minute. Suppose someone loves Jesus but believes that Jesus didn’t rise from the dead. Would that person love the Jesus of the Bible? Or suppose someone loves Jesus but believes Jesus sinned during His life on Earth. Is that person loving the same Jesus the Bible talks about?

Those beliefs (Jesus living a sinless life and rising from the dead) are Bible doctrines. They are either true or false. They can’t be “kind of” true. It is impossible to avoid doctrine (teachings regarding the Bible). We all believe doctrines whether we are aware of it or not. The question is: Are our doctrines true or false? We want to make sure we hold to true doctrines.

WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

Another word that is often used to describe our beliefs is “theology.” Theology means “the study of God.” As Christians, we study who God is, what He is like, and what He has done. Perhaps we can think of theology as a chain, with each link being made up of doctrines. What we believe about the Bible—Creation, God, sin, salvation, and life after death—are all doctrines (or links) that make up a chain of our theology (our understanding of God). Everyone does theology. Is our theology true or false? Our goal should be to learn good theology (believing

the right things about God) rather than wrong or bad theology.

The goal of this curriculum is to help you to grow in your faith. Faith means “belief” or “trust.” Some people trust in the wrong things. They trust in things that will fail them and let them down. You can be sure that Jesus will never fail you, and you can trust the Bible. It matters who we put our faith in. When I was a boy, a friend told me that I should stick my tongue on a frozen metal pole to see what would happen. Thankfully, I didn’t do it, but another friend did and got his tongue stuck. It really damaged his tongue! My friend had faith and trust in the advice of someone who just wanted to pull a prank on him and shouldn’t have been trusted. That is called “blind faith.” As Christians, we don’t follow blind faith. We can trust that God will never lead us in the wrong path. This course will help you to better know why you can trust God and His Word.

It is vitally important to know why what we believe is true. Belief is not the same as a feeling. Our beliefs should be based on solid truth, not merely something we heard that sounded good. This often calls us to search and investigate!

Since it often takes hard work, it can become easy to push it off until a more convenient time. Our own life situations and relationships with others tend to bring our beliefs (or lack thereof) to the surface. There will be a test. Yes, there will be tests in this course, but more importantly, in your life. Some of the “questions” on the “test” of your life beliefs you’ll ace! But some are challenging. People will ask you hard questions. And that’s why this course was created. We want you to take the time to prepare and understand why Christians believe the way they do so that you can develop Biblically solid beliefs and convictions.

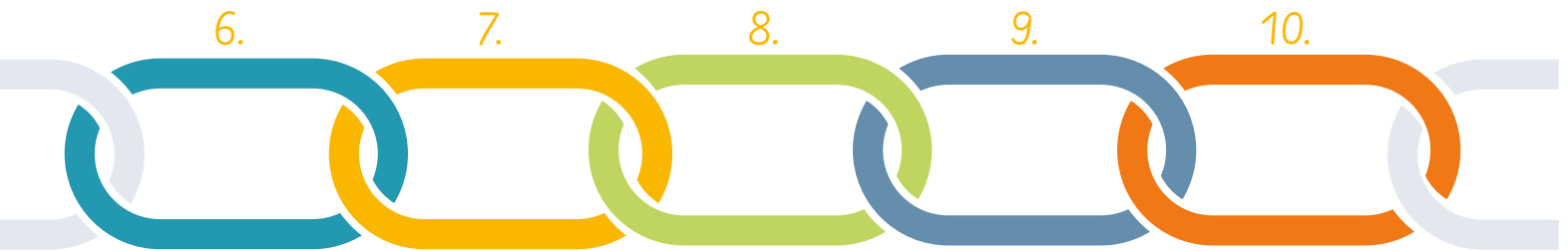
Match the word with its definition.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| _____ 1. doctrine | a. belief or trust |
| _____ 2. theology | b. teaching |
| _____ 3. faith | c. the study of God |

True and False – circle the correct answer. If a statement is false, mark up the statement to make it true.

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 4. Our beliefs should be based on solid truth. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. Belief is the same as a feeling. | TRUE | FALSE |

Complete the chain. Fill in the theological chain with the five examples of doctrine listed in what you read. There is no specific order needed.




Unscramble the following words from today's lesson.

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| conictoniv | thglooy | leifbe | enodctris |
| 11. | 12. | 13. | 14. |

-> **Doctrine**

In order to learn more about the Lord, we need to become students of the Word. Consider this verse in relation to our first topic of “What is doctrine?”:

“(T)hat we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting” (Ephesians 4:14).


Confusing Questions

Do you think people who teach false doctrine usually do so on purpose to intentionally deceive others or on accident because they simply don't know any better? Please explain.

Bible Check

John 7:16

What do you think it was like to be part of the early church? This verse gives us some information:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2:42).

Believers in the early church followed closely the doctrine of the Apostles, who followed the doctrine of Jesus. But, from whom did Jesus receive His doctrine? The Bible gives us the answer:

Copy verse John 7:16.

We are even told that many people will choose to hear false teaching rather than hold on to true doctrine:

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Multiple choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. Who gave Jesus His doctrine?
 - a. Jewish Tradition
 - b. God
 - c. The Apostles
 - d. The temple priests
2. Who gave the Apostles their doctrine?
 - a. Jesus
 - b. The New Testament
 - c. Each other
 - d. Angels
3. In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, why are people not willing to endure sound doctrine?
 - a. Social media
 - b. No time to read the Gospel
 - c. Their own desires
 - d. Someone's bad influence
4. Which of these results is not listed in 2 Timothy 4:3-4?
 - a. Have itching ears
 - b. Turn ears from truth
 - c. Stop going to church
 - d. Turn aside to fables

Fill in the blanks:

5. "And they continued steadfastly in the _____ doctrine and _____, in the breaking of _____ and in _____" (Acts 2:42).

--> **Bereans**

The Bereans gathered daily to hear public Scripture readings and study them together. Church leaders are given by God to help us learn sound doctrine, but they are imperfect. We need to be like the Bereans who would check the Scriptures themselves to see if what the Apostle Paul was teaching was in line with the Scripture they did have.

“These (the Bereans) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Fact Check: Let’s look at one of Paul’s writings in the New Testament and find the basis for his teaching from within the Old Testament. This is the process the Bereans would have used to “fact check” the preachers of their day. This example was about the argument of faith in Christ saving you or works saving you. His example uses the context of God’s promise to Abraham and Abraham’s faith in God:

Old Testament

*Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed in the LORD, and **He accounted it to him for righteousness.** (Genesis 15:5-6)*

New Testament

*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore **“it was accounted to him for righteousness.”** (Romans 4:20-22)*

1. Compare the the phrases that have been highlighted in the verses above. Paul was quoting from the book of Genesis. Does the meaning of the New Testament verses line up with the Old Testament verses?

2. Why do you think Paul commended the Bereans for “fact checking”?

3. And why do you think that same concept is important today? Give one example.

-> What Does the Bible Say about Doctrine?

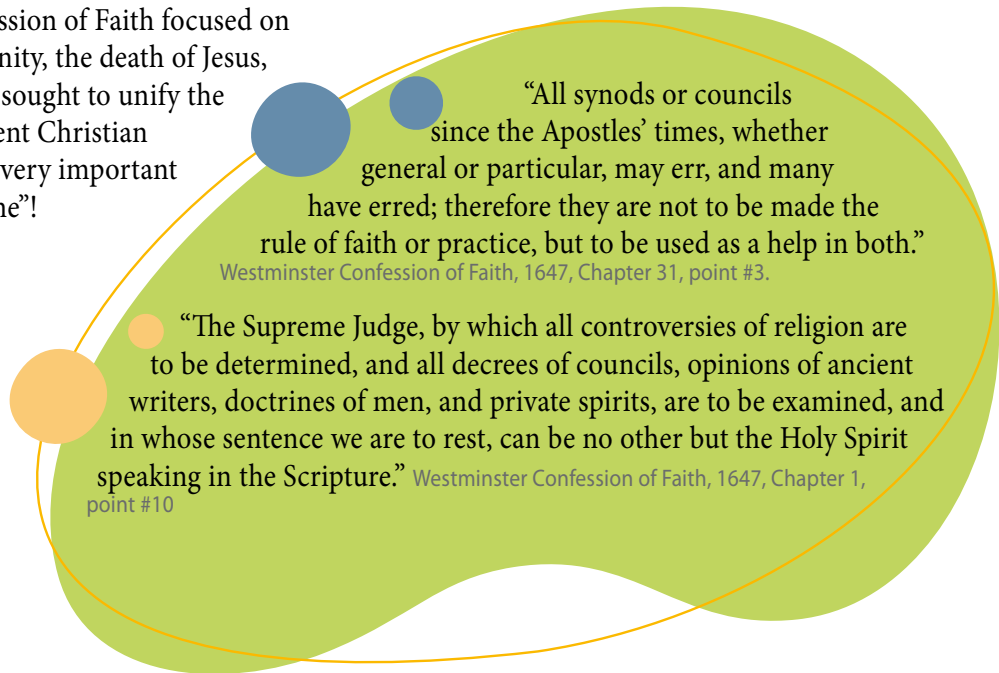
“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed” (1 Timothy 4:6).

-> Why It Matters!

As you see, even the Bible talks about doctrine, and in particular, “good doctrine.” Doctrine should be based on principles and history recorded in God’s Word. It is why we are studying doctrine in this course.

The Westminster Confession of Faith focused on doctrine such as the Trinity, the death of Jesus, and His resurrection. It sought to unify the religious views of different Christian groups in England. It is very important to discern “good doctrine”!



Prompt

Write a brief practice letter to a friend or sibling explaining to them why it is important for them to develop a correct doctrine.

Some people say we shouldn’t teach doctrine, but instead we should only teach about Jesus. The verses above reveal that God encourages the teaching of sound doctrine and the avoidance of false doctrine.

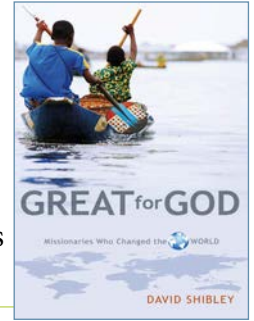
Every teaching in the Bible—Old Testament and New Testament—ultimately points to Jesus as the center of all Biblical truth, so good doctrine is, ultimately, all about Jesus.

-> *Great for God*

Read pages 9-13, Introduction, then answer the following questions.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following quote? Why or why not?

“A call to greatness in no way contradicts the strong teachings of Scripture regarding humility and servanthood. It does require that our definitions of greatness and success be biblical. Jesus’ view of greatness stands in polar antithesis to the world’s view.”



True and False – circle the correct answer. If a statement is false, mark up the statement to make it true.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 2. Christ’s servants never pursue greatness for its own sake. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. The quote “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God” was written by William Penn. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. In today’s warped world we have traded greatness for mere celebrity. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. Do you think this quote is true or false? Your decision carries huge consequences — for you and for your generation. | TRUE | FALSE |

Match the word with its definition.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| _____ 6. “He must increase, but I must decrease.” | a. John 3:30 |
| _____ 7. “Histories make men wise.” | b. Francis Bacon |
| _____ 8. “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” | c. William Carey |



9. Share your thoughts on the following quote from James Emery White:

“Do we mark our years by dedication to God and his eternal purposes, or do we strip our lives of any sense of calling and answer only to the voice of an autonomous individualism? Do we live in light of the great redemptive drama, selflessly giving ourselves to the advance of the kingdom and the building of the Church, or do we find ourselves drifting into a narcissistic hedonism that makes all spiritual alignments a consumer affair?”

My Personal Journey:

Doctrine was developed because of false ideas and heresies in the early church. Many people would say that we live in an information-saturated world where all kinds of details and opinion are readily available at our fingertips with the internet and social media. Have you read things that aren't true online? Why might there be a greater need to actually know true doctrine and important creeds of faith instead of just what you read online? Share your thoughts.

And finally, write down one question you have about faith or living a faith life.

Lesson 10 THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH HISTORY

“Neither may we consider any writings of men, however holy these men may have been, of equal value with those divine Scriptures, nor ought we to consider custom, or the great multitude, or antiquity, or succession of times and persons, or councils, decrees or statutes, as of equal value with the truth of God, since the truth is above all; for all men are of themselves liars, and more vain than vanity itself. Therefore, we reject with all our hearts whatsoever does not agree with this infallible rule, as the Apostles have taught us, saying, Prove the spirits, whether they are of God. Likewise: If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house.” The Belgic Confession, A.D. 1561, ARTICLE 7

When we study Bible doctrine, it is important to understand that no authority (even a historic creed or confession) is higher than the Scriptures themselves. The Bible (God’s revelation of Himself) is our source for all true knowledge about God and salvation.

With that said, we are living today with 2,000 years of church history to which we can refer to help us learn how other Christians over time have understood various teachings contained in the Bible. At times, Christians have sadly misunderstood and wrongly interpreted the Bible, but they have often gotten it right and have fixed huge errors that were embraced by previous generations. We can learn from both the successes and failures of the Christian Church over the ages.

When studying the Bible, it can be helpful to consult what godly writers from the past had to say about portions that confuse us. Many Christian authors have written what are called “commentaries” on the Bible. Commentaries are books that contain Bible scholars’ comments on verses of the Bible to help explain the meaning (from their point of view).

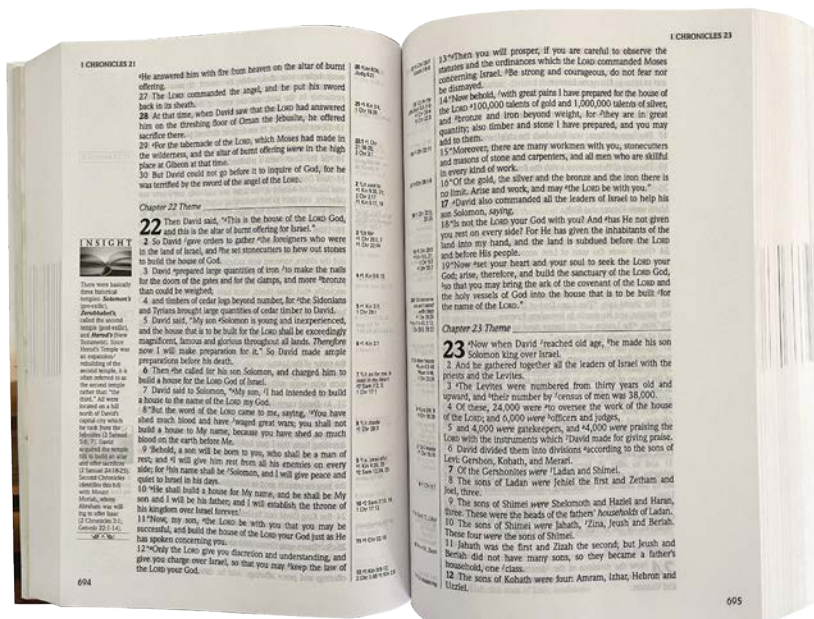
Many Bibles have study notes in the margins or at the bottom of the page that provide us with additional information. Sometimes they draw

from archaeology or tell us something about the original languages in which the Bible was written. Often, they explain to us the primary ways in which different church denominations or theological groups have understood these verses.

All of these resources are useful and helpful if they are drawn from wise and trusted sources. In the end, however, we must go back to the text of God’s Word itself and make sure that the human interpretation (ours or someone else’s) does not conflict with the clear teaching of the Bible (in its proper context). The Scripture is set apart from the writings of men because it is inspired by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:12).

THE TRUE SOURCE

You’ve probably heard it said that “God doesn’t have grandchildren.” This is a simple way of saying that the salvation of parents isn’t automatically transferred to their children. Each person must repent and surrender to the Lord for himself. Clearly, that doesn’t mean the faith of parents has no bearing on their children! In fact, it can be a tremendous benefit for children to grow up in the teaching and instruction of Christianity by believing parents.



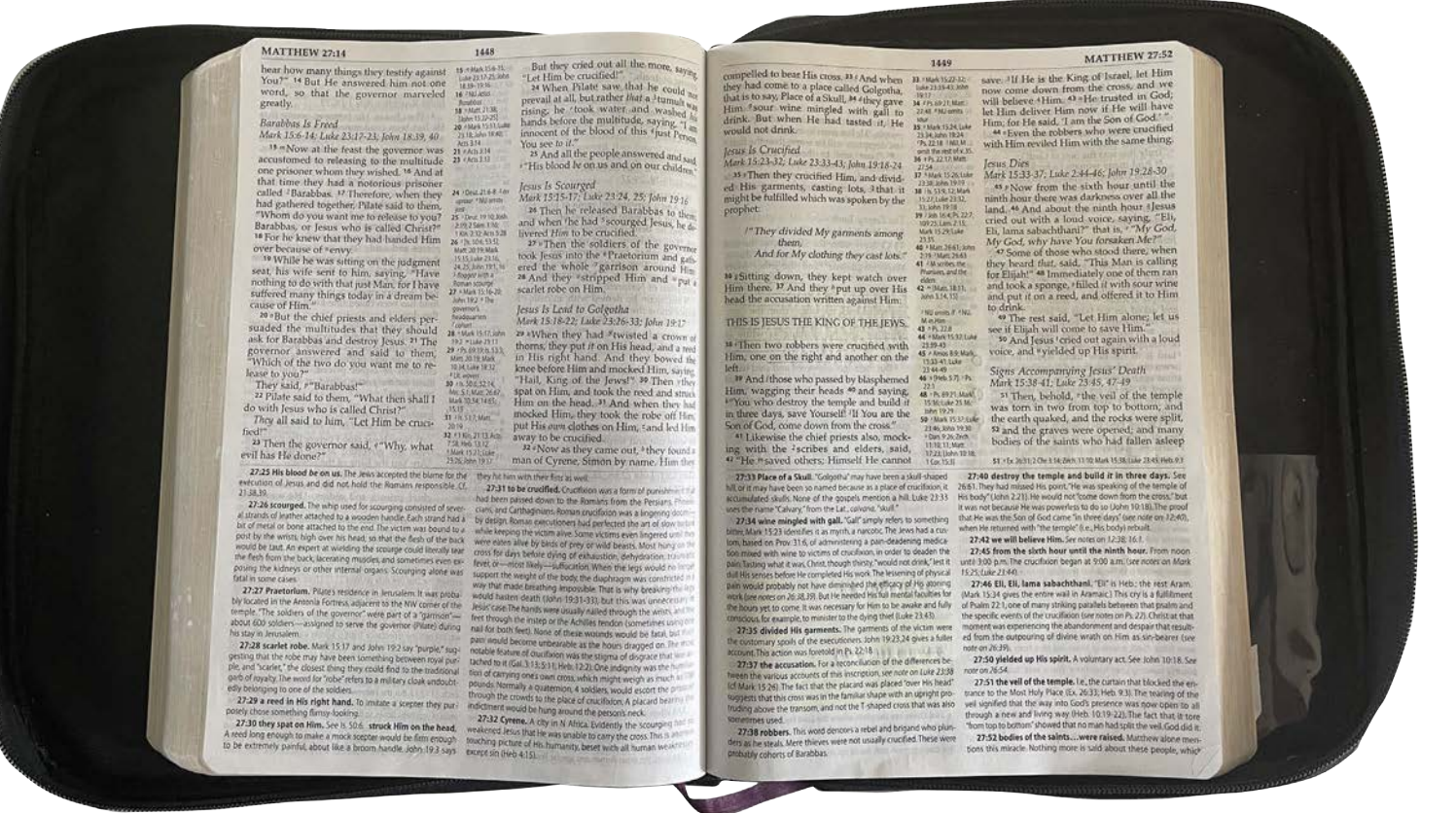
However, each one of us has the responsibility to submit to the truth and follow Christ from our own hearts. Our parents and grandparents can't do that for us.

John 14:26 says, *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.* It is vital for our growth in the Lord that we directly learn from the Bible. Nonetheless, it is also extraordinarily beneficial not to be a loner

in our intake of truth. Why not? Well, we're faulty. We're prone to taking things in from a self-interested perspective. That is not to say the majority vote on an understanding of Scripture makes it right! Nonetheless, when we look over the rich heritage we have from centuries of faithful Christians who wrestled through doctrine and sought to understand, we gain insight and clarity from their hard work.

True and False – circle the correct answer. If a statement is false, mark up the statement to make it true.

- 1. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself. TRUE FALSE
- 2. The Bible is our source for all true knowledge about God and salvation. TRUE FALSE
- 3. The Scripture is set apart from the writings of men because the Holy Spirit inspired it. TRUE FALSE
- 4. Commentaries are books with scholars' comments on verses of the Bible to help understand the meaning. TRUE FALSE



A CLOSER LOOK AT MARTIN LUTHER

Let's look a little closer at Martin Luther, especially in consideration of his remarkable and timely stand for aligning with the Bible instead of the established church. When we think of church history, Luther's impact by sparking the Protestant Reformation can't be underestimated.

When Luther began studying the Bible for himself, he started to question the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church (of which he was a monk and a scholar). He began to see things they were teaching and doing that were not consistent with what the Bible clearly said. He had written a list of things he thought were concerning and, on October 31, 1517, posted what became known as the *95 Theses* on the church door at Wittenberg.

Luther could have never anticipated what a raging fire he had ignited with his little spark. He was called to a trial by the Catholic church leaders. The event was called "The Diet of Worms." As you may remember from a previous lesson, the city (in Germany) was named Worms (pronounced "verms"), and a "diet" was an assembly of leaders who gathered to make decisions. In this case, the diet was going to decide if Luther was a heretic (false teacher) and, therefore, needed to be put to death.

On April 17, the leader of the diet, a Catholic theologian named Johann (John) Eck, called Luther to account for his writings. They laid 25 of Luther's writings (books and pamphlets) on a table. He was told he could not speak except to answer direct questions. Then he was asked if he would renounce his writings.

Luther explained that his writings were of various kinds. All of them contained references from Scripture. Was he supposed to renounce even the Bible verses in them as well? Eck left him no room for nuance. He had to renounce all of his writings or face the judgment from the church leaders. Luther asked for time. He was given until the next day.

The Importance of Church History



When he entered the trial the next day, he made a defense for why he could not renounce all his writings entirely. In the final words of his appeal, he gives us a wonderful model for how we should stand on our own biblical convictions. While realizing we could be wrong in our understanding, we should, like Luther, draw from the Bible itself as the final authority for our life and practice. Luther's example from church history is immensely helpful in seeing how Scripture trumps all fallible human understanding.

Since your most serene majesty and your high mightinesses require of me a simple, clear, and direct answer, I will give one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the council because it is as clear as noonday that they have fallen into error and even into glaring inconsistency with themselves. If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's Word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen" (Martin Luther's Speech at the Imperial Diet in Worms, April 18, 1521, emphasis added).

In defense of his writings, Luther explained that his teachings needed to be proven wrong by the Bible itself, not by the opinions of popes or councils.

Multiple choice. Circle the correct answer.

1. What first led Martin Luther to begin questioning some doctrines in the Roman Catholic Church?
 - a. Reading/studying the Bible for himself
 - b. Shaving his head like a monk
 - c. Nearly being struck by lightning
 - d. Saying prayers in Latin

My Personal Journey:

What has someone asked you questions about your faith?

How have you defended your faith to family or friends?

2. Why is important to compare what you believe to the Bible rather than something another person has written?

FAITH IN GOD ALONE

This week we are learning how important it is for us to use the Bible as our source. It is the standard we use to compare against other writings of faith. As we learned earlier in this course, Romans 1:17 had a powerful impact on Martin Luther's life. When Luther read Romans 1:17, his eyes were opened by

the Holy Spirit to see that reconciliation with God did not come by performing church requirements but by faith in God alone. He wrote down the word **sola**, in the margin of his Bible, meaning in Latin "alone," indicating his newfound understanding that faith alone brings reconciliation to God.

Short Answer.

1. Why is it so important to reference all teachings and perspectives back to the Scriptures?

2. What did Luther believe was a surer foundation than people's opinions and church traditions?

3. What can we gain from the biblical understanding of those who've gone before us?

Remember the statement Luther made in defense of his writings?

"Since your most serene majesty and your high *mightinesses* require of me a simple, clear and direct answer, I will give one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the council, because it is as clear as noonday that they have fallen into error and even into glaring inconsistency with themselves. *If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's Word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen.*"

Let's find some important points in the statement above and highlight them:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> clear and direct | <input type="checkbox"/> clear as noonday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fallen into error | <input type="checkbox"/> glaring inconsistency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> not convinced by proof | <input type="checkbox"/> cogent reasons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brought into subjection to God's Word | <input type="checkbox"/> neither can nor will retract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cannot be either safe or honest | <input type="checkbox"/> to speak against his conscience |

Now circle the following word/phrases:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> my faith | <input type="checkbox"/> conscience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Scripture | <input type="checkbox"/> God help me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> subjection to God's Word | |

There is wisdom in looking at the ways of the older generations. Look up and read Jeremiah 6:16.

Fill in the blanks:

4. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the _____ and _____, and _____ for the _____ where the _____ way is, and walk in it; then you will find _____ for your _____....'" (Jeremiah 6:16).

-> *God Is Unchanging*

Have you ever heard someone saying that the Bible is too old to be relevant in today's world? Or something similar to: "The culture now is so drastically different than when the Bible was written that we can't apply it in the way it was written. People are dealing with much more complex issues than they ever did. What pastors taught even just 100 years ago no longer applies. What we need is a rewriting of the Bible for a new generation." These examples highlight how important it is for Christians to be discerning.

There is danger in saying the infallible Word of God can't apply today. God is unchanging, and His Word applies to all people, in all places, at all times. People have always dealt with complicated forms of sin, and the world is not truly more complex than it ever was. A re-interpretation or rewriting of the Bible — in other words, throwing out its meaning and redefining it for today — doesn't answer the fact that we have all the same human problems throughout time, and the Word of God applies in its original teaching.



Luther's theses are engraved into the door of All Saints' Church, Wittenberg

-> Church History Biography - John Foxe



Church History

Hero:	John Foxe
Birth:	1516 in Boston, Lincolnshire, England
Death:	1587 (aged 69–70) in London, England
Legacy:	Published the accounts of martyrs of the Christian faith in the classic <i>Foxe's Book of Martyrs</i> , including the persecution of Protestants in England
Quote:	"...princes, kings, monarchs, governors, and rulers of this world... with all their strength and cunning have bent themselves against this church... the church, notwithstanding all this, hath endured and held its own."

John Foxe

One of the greatest works of Christian literature and church history is *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. Published in 1563, it tells the story of faithful Christians from the time of the Apostles through the early Protestant Reformation who gave their lives for their faith in Christ.

Foxe showed great academic promise as a young man going to college in Oxford, England, when he was only sixteen. He learned Latin and Greek and obtained a master's degree. When he was twenty-nine, he became a Protestant. This was a major turning point in his life as he reevaluated his theological beliefs.

In 1538, Foxe witnessed a Christian named William Cowbridge being burned at the stake under orders of British King Henry VIII for leading communion without a state license. During his reign, King Henry burned sixty-three individuals! His son, Edward VI, even though he was a Protestant, ordered two Anabaptist Christians to be burned. This was a tumultuous time in England (and all of Europe). Protestant Christians feared persecution from the government, the State church, and the Roman Catholic Church. Anabaptist Christians (a sect today identified primarily by Amish, Mennonites, German Baptists, and various Brethren churches) feared persecution from all of the above, plus persecution from many Protestant leaders.

The next year, in 1539, Foxe taught logic for a short time at Magdalen College but resigned in 1545 when he learned it was expected that the faculty take oaths

for the priesthood, which would require that he remain unmarried. He soon gained work as a private tutor for children in a home (as Tyndale had done) and met his future wife, Agnes Randall. They had six children together. He also began to translate the writings of German theologian Martin Luther into English.

When Queen Mary Tudor (also known as "Bloody Mary" because of her persecution of Protestants) came to power in 1553, Foxe fled with his family to Frankfurt, Germany. While living there, the great Christian, Hugh Latimer, was burned at the stake. Increasingly, the murder of these innocent faithful was among Foxe's own close friends and associates. This steeled Foxe's resolve to write an account of these faithful believers who gave all to follow Christ. In 1563, the first edition of Foxe's book (originally titled *Actes and Monuments of these Latter and Perillous Days: Touching Matters of the Church*) was published in Latin. In 1570, an expanded edition with new accounts was published, totaling 2,300 pages!

The book was published early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn). Elizabeth, who was a Protestant, created a political climate that made it safe for the legal publication of books like Foxe's. He died in 1587 at the age of 70. His work has been preserved to this day and is still widely available, being one of the most-read Christian books of all time.

The word "martyr" actually comes from the name of an early church leader, Justin Martyr (c. 100–c. 165).

He was an early Christian apologist (defender of the Christian faith) who wrote some important books to try to convince the Roman Emperor Antoninus to abandon the persecution of the church. A Roman politician named Junius Rusticus had Justin beheaded with six of his friends when they refused to sacrifice on a pagan altar to a pagan god. Justin's example and tireless work to relieve persecution of the church resulted in his name being applied to all Christians throughout the church age who gave their lives for the sake of Christ. Hence the name "martyrs."



Short Answer.

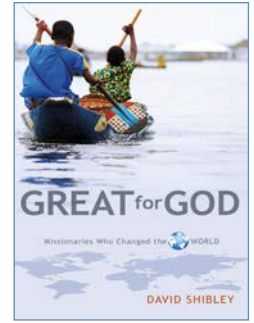
1. What is the title of the book written by John Foxe that we studied this week? _____
2. When was it published? _____
3. What is the meaning and origin of the word "martyr"? _____

Why do you think it is important for us to learn lessons from Christians from the past?

-> *Great for God:* Charles E. Fuller

Read pages 41–44, then answer the following questions:

1. When was Charles E. Fuller born? _____
2. What two major wars did he see in his lifetime? _____
3. What technology did he use to leave a legacy?



4. Charles Fuller was born in _____.
5. He was called The _____ of _____.
6. In 1947, Charles founded the _____ Seminary.

Dr. Fuller's advice to young people seeking to serve Christ was "let the Word of God..."

”

-> *Mission Moment*

Charles Fuller used radio to build his ministry and share God's Word. Today, technology like social media makes it even easier to reach people. Imagine you are going to do a short two-minute video broadcast of faith. What would you share with the world about your faith?

Create a short script of what you would say in your broadcast. (Hint! You could talk about your favorite Bible verse, a special moment of prayer that you had, or what it was like to accept Christ as your Savior.)

Charles Fuller founded the Fuller Theological Seminary in 1947.





Lesson 20
JESUS
PAID IT ALL

It is important to understand that only Jesus could be our Savior. This will be the focus for our lessons this week.

Q. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?

A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man. Westminster Larger Catechism Question 36 (A.D. 1647) (For further study on these points, see 1 Timothy 2:5; John 1:1, 14; John 10:30; Philippians 2:6; Galatians 4:4; Luke 1:35; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 7:24–25)

Though associated often with the New Testament, the story of Jesus began all the way back in the Old Testament. God said in Genesis 3:15 that someday a descendent of Eve would crush the serpent's head, but only after the devil (the serpent) gave him a fatal blow that would take His life. Through Jesus' death on the Cross, both of those prophecies were completed. He would be God's solution for a broken relationship with humanity and a fallen world.

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.
(Genesis 3:15)*

We studied this verse back in Lesson 9 as part of the Adamic or Edenic Covenant and in Lesson 16 as part of the discussion of a fallen humanity or the Fall of man. Many of the events of the Old Testament lay the groundwork and lineage (line of ancestors) for Jesus.

ABRAHAM AND JESUS

God had made a promise to Abraham and his wife Sarah that they would have a child in their old age. This child, Isaac, would be a special child, and through him, God would birth an entire nation (the

Israelites descended from Isaac).

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called" (Hebrews 11:17–18).

When God's promise was finally fulfilled and Isaac began to grow up, Abraham received the shocking command that he was to:

Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you (Genesis 22:2).

Can you imagine how Abraham must have felt? He must have surely questioned God. Could God be wrong? How could God fulfill His promise to make a great nation of Isaac if he were dead?

Thankfully, we have an inside look into Abraham's thought process in the Old Testament. Abraham was so sure of God's promise that he decided that God would not actually make him go through with the command (Abraham told Isaac, "God Himself will provide a lamb" [Genesis 22:8]), or, if He did, God would immediately perform a miracle and bring him back to life. Abraham knew that God's promise to give children to Isaac would not fail!

Of course, God did not intend for Abraham to kill Isaac. God stopped Abraham before he could harm his son and provided a ram, caught in the nearby bushes, to be the sacrifice instead.

Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your

descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice”
(Genesis 22:15–18).

someday make in giving His only Son that He loved. Isaac was chosen for a role, like in a play, to show what would happen someday with Jesus. But in the case of Jesus, God did not spare Him.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
(Romans 8:32).

The whole situation was a test for Abraham, to see if he really believed God or not. But more importantly, it was to demonstrate the sacrifice that God would

-> Love Defined

There is a guideline regarding Bible study called “The Principle of First Mention.” To understand a concept, or even a term, it is often wise to look at the first place it appears in a text. When you see a word mentioned first in a list in the Bible, it is often the most important, or perhaps the most foundational, of the concepts being considered.

So where does the word “love” first appear in the Bible? Surprisingly, it is not in the context of a man loving his wife, or a mother loving her child. The very first place the Bible talks about love is in the verse mentioned in this lesson, in Genesis 22:2. The context is referring to the love of a father for his “only son” (Abraham to Isaac). This is important when you realize that this story is to illustrate the eternal love God the Father shared with His Son in eternity before the creation.

The reason love exists in the universe is because it first existed in unity and harmony in the relationship that existed in the Trinity. The story of the atonement is one of love. The love that God shared within the Trinity is now extended to us through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-
1. What is the first verse in the Bible to mention the word “love”? _____
 2. What is the relationship between the two people mentioned in this verse? _____
 3. What do you think this teaches us about the relationship between the heavenly Father and Jesus?

4. Did God spare His own Son? _____

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM, A.D. 1647

Q. How doth Christ execute [perform] the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering himself a sacrifice without spot to God, to be a reconciliation for the sins of his people; and in making continual intercession for them. Westminster Larger Catechism Question 44, A.D. 1647

JESUS, THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB

In Exodus 12, God brought His judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptians because they refused to repent and obey God's command to let His people leave Egypt. After many other warnings and plagues, God sent the Angel of Death, who would kill the firstborn in every household in the land. God's people, however, were given a way of escape.

The Israelites were told to kill a lamb that had no physical problems. They were to take the blood and put it on the doorposts of the house. When the Angel of Death would come to that house, if he saw the blood, he would "pass over" that house, and everyone in it would be safe.

On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No

destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt (Exodus 12:12-13 NIV).

This became a religious holiday celebrated every year by the Israelites by God's command. They called the event the Passover and would eat a meal together to remember how God spared their lives that night.

In Matthew 26:17-30, we read the story of Jesus' "last supper" with His disciples. At this meal, they were celebrating the Passover feast. Jesus changed the story, however. He took the bread made with no yeast (yeast represented sin — see Exodus 12:18-20, Leviticus 6:17; Luke 12:1; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, and Galatians 5:9) and wine and told the disciples it represented His body and His blood.

Jesus was going to be God's sinless, perfect Passover lamb. His blood would be shed on the Cross, so that we would never have to face eternal death. Just as the lamb became a substitute (given instead of, or in place of) death for the children of Israel, Jesus became a substitute for us. He paid a debt that He did not owe and that we could never pay.

Jesus is even called "*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29) by John the Baptist as Jesus approaches him.

Jesus paid for our sins on the Cross to make us right with God. We call this "atonement." It means our debt is paid and we can be in right relationship with the holy God.

True and False – circle the correct answer. If a statement is false, mark up the statement to make it true.

1. Abraham and Isaac on the mountain is a foretelling of God and Jesus. TRUE FALSE
2. Abraham sacrificed his beloved son, but God spared His son. TRUE FALSE

Fill in the blank.

3. Atonement means _____.
4. The Passover bread contains _____.
5. Jesus' _____ for our sin means our debt is paid and we can be in right relationship with God.

6. The original Passover was also a foretelling about Christ (this is called a “type”). What aspects of the Passover are part of foretelling about Jesus? Circle all the correct ones:
- Unblemished lamb
 - Wearing sandals
 - Death passing over the households marked by the blood of the lamb
 - Staying up late

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

7. What did John the Baptist call Jesus?

8. What does atonement mean?

An Informative Q & A

Q. Why is sin likened to yeast in the Bible?

A. Yeast is used as a word picture to describe what sin is like. Yeast, in bread dough, is thoroughly blended into the dough and affects the entire batch. So sin, once it is allowed in one’s life, tends to permeate the whole life.

Q. Yeast represented sin as part of the Passover feast. So, is it sinful to eat yeast?

A. No, nothing in Scripture bans eating yeast as a sinful action in the normal course of life.

Memory Work 3:16:

This week our memory verse is Luke 3:16:

John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16).

What ways have you found to help you memorize verses?

WHY IT MATTERS

We have learned through this course why mankind needed a Savior and how Jesus was the only one who could sacrifice Himself to atone for the sins of the world. He is our mediator who helped to bring a reconciliation between mankind and God to the once-broken relationship because of our sin. Born as a man on Earth to dwell among us for a time, yet always the Son of God, Jesus was the only One requisite (or necessary) who could achieve this specific outcome.

Q. Why was it **requisite** that the Mediator should be God?

A. “It was requisite that the Mediator should be God, that he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death; give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience and intercession; and to satisfy God’s justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.” Westminster Larger Catechism Question 38, A.D. 1647

(For further study, see Matthew 3:17; Luke 1:68–69, 71, 74; Acts 2:24–25, 20:28; Romans 1:4, 3:24–26, 4:25; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:6; Titus 2:13–14; Hebrews 5:8–9, 7:25–28, 9:11–15.)

Q. Why was it **requisite** that the Mediator should be man?

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be man, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace. Westminster Larger Catechism Question 39, A.D. 1647

(For further study, see Galatians 4:4–5; Hebrews 2:14, 16; 4:15–16, 7:24–25.)

Q. Why was it **requisite** that the Mediator should be God and man in one person?

A. It was requisite that the Mediator, who was to reconcile God and man, should himself be both God and man, and this in one person, that the proper works of each nature might be accepted of God for us, and relied on by us, as the works of the whole person. Westminster Larger Catechism Question 40, A.D. 1647

(For further study, see Matthew 1:21, 23; 3:17; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 2:6.)

REQUISITE: **necessary, needed, indispensable**

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

One question we may wonder is: “Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross? Since Jesus was perfect and never sinned, why did God allow Him to be killed?”

To answer this question, let’s back up and take a broader look at it.

If we tried to describe who God is with only one word, what word would best define who God is and what He is like?

Most people would say, “God is love.” And there is no doubt that is true. The Bible tells us that. But in Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8, what do the angels cry out before the throne of God both day and night?



They say He is “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

They don’t cry out, “Love, love, love.”

In fact, until you understand the holiness of God, you can never properly understand His love. The fact that God is holy explains both His love and His justice. The word “holy” means “separate” or “set apart.” God is not like you and me. He is completely perfect and without sin. God is so holy He cannot allow any flesh to glory in His presence (1 Corinthians 1:29). God said we cannot even look on His face or we would die (Exodus 33:20)!

We are all fallen and have all sinned. God is so holy that He cannot allow our sin into heaven. Romans 3:23 tells us that the penalty for sin is death. And Hebrews 9:22 tells us that sin cannot be paid for, except through the shedding of blood.

That is why so many animals were put to death in the Old Testament. At that time, God allowed an

animal to be killed, and its blood to be shed, to pay for the sin of the person who committed the sin (so the person wouldn’t have to die). But that was only a short-term solution. Sacrifices would need to be made over and over again because people kept sinning over and over.

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, was willing to come to Earth, be born of the virgin Mary, and become “*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29). God accepted Jesus’ death as the perfect sacrifice, to be made only once, for all time. There is no need for any more sacrifices.

As Jesus shared His last supper with His disciples, He said, “*For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*” (Matthew 26:28). “Remission” means “to cancel a debt.” The debt we owed to God for our sin, we could never pay. But Jesus paid it for us.

-
1. What one word best describes God? _____
 2. According to Hebrews 9:22, what is required to pay for sin? _____
 3. Why can’t we just do enough good things in our lives to gain God’s salvation?

Memory Work 3:16:

Keep memorizing Luke 3:16. You will need to recite it for your teacher tomorrow.

EXPLORING GRACE — GOD’S GRACE

It is almost certain that none of us could have ever chosen to die the way Jesus did to save people who hated us. But thankfully, we aren’t Jesus. We can be grateful that Jesus didn’t treat us the way we deserved. We call this “grace” (the favor we receive from God that we could never earn). When we trust in Christ, we are saved and given a new life.

We are made new, our minds and lives are transformed, and we live in grace each day when we trust in Christ as our Savior.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (Titus 2:11–14).

In Noah Webster’s 1828 dictionary, there are over 20 definitions of “grace.”

Here are some of those related to faith:

1. Favor; good will; kindness; disposition to oblige another; as a grant made as an act of grace.
2. Appropriately, the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him.

And if by grace then it is no more of works. Romans 11:6.

3. Favorable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the spirit, in renewing the heart and restraining from sin.

My grace is sufficient for thee. 2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV.

4. The application of Christ’s righteousness to the sinner.

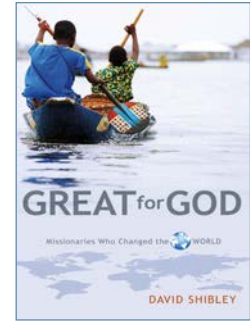
Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Romans 5:20 KJV.

5. A state of reconciliation to God. Romans 5:2.
6. Virtuous or religious affection or disposition, as a liberal disposition, faith, meekness, humility, patience, etc. proceeding from divine influence.
7. Spiritual instruction, improvement and edification. Ephesians 4:29.
8. Apostleship, or the qualifications of an apostle. Ephesians 3:8.
9. Eternal life; final salvation. 1 Peter 1:13.
10. Favor; mercy; pardon.

“The grace that does not change my life will not save my soul.”

—Charles Spurgeon

--> *Great for God:* Bob Pierce



Read pages 73–78, then answer the following questions.

1. How long was Bob Pierce's lifespan? _____
2. What war did Bob Pierce see up close? _____
3. After seeing so much pain and loss in the children in the war, what did he write in his Bible?

4. What commitment led Bob Pierce to starting two great caring Christian ministries?

5. What was the one passion Bob Pierce felt in his soul?

6. What two large organizations did Bob Pierce found? Have you previously heard of either of them?

a.

b.

7. If you were to share about what it means to be born again, what would you include?

8. What is the "God-room" Bob Pierce is said to have lived in?

9. What did he do when the miracles came in?

Memory Work 3:16:

Recite Luke 3:16 to your teacher.

BIBLE STUDY

BECOME A STUDENT OF SCRIPTURE

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

“Put your nose into the Bible everyday. It is your spiritual food. And then share it. Make a vow not to be a lukewarm Christian.” — Kirk Cameron Demakis, Joseph. *The Ultimate Book of Quotations*, 2012; Raleigh, NC: Lulu Enterprises, Inc., p. 108.

How often do you spend time outside of church studying God’s Word? Do you have a personal study time when you explore the Scriptures? Is God’s Word “a lamp” to your feet and “a light” to your path? If you aren’t reading God’s Word, you are missing out on so many things.

Q. “May all men make use of the Scriptures?”

A. All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted, to read, hear, and understand the Scriptures (John 5:39; Luke 16:29; Acts 8:28–30, 17:11).” Question #6, *The Baptist Catechism*, 1693

“The authority of the holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the Author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church, to an high and reverent esteem of the holy Scripture; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man’s salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.”

The Savoy Declaration, Congregational churches, 1658

One of the most important spiritual disciplines is studying the Word of God. It is our daily spiritual food.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. I have treasured Your word in my heart, So that I may not sin against You (Psalm 119:9–11; NASB).

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:14–17).

THE WILL OF GOD AND WHAT WE LEARN

“We believe that this Holy Scripture contains the will of God completely and that everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it.” *The Belgic Confession*, A.D. 1559, Dutch Reformed Churches. Article 7.

In the Bible, it says:

We need to saturate our hearts and minds so that God’s Word will “richly abide in us”:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom (Colossians 3:16a).

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you (John 15:7).

We must always remember that the main purpose of studying the Scriptures is not merely to learn information and facts; it is to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent (see John 17:3).

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me (John 5:39).

*And this is eternal life, **that they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:3, emphasis added).*

We are not just wanting to learn the Bible, but to know the God of the Bible. The Bible is a means to knowing God.

We should also study the Bible with the intent of applying it to our lives and doing what it instructs us to be and to do.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does (James 1:22–25).

How does this passage, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), teach us to divide (understand) the word of truth? Rightly. Noah Webster’s 1828 dictionary includes the definition of “rightly” as “according to justice, according to the divine will or moral rectitude, as duty rightly performed.”

Answer the following questions.

1. The Savoy Declaration, quoted at the beginning of this lesson, states that the church may do much to talk about how wonderful the Bible is — its amazing content, how deep it is, how the teaching fits together — but our full persuasion and assurance of the truthfulness of the Scriptures and its authority in our lives comes from a different source. What does it say that source is?

2. Read Colossians 3:16a. What does the verse say needs to richly dwell in us?

3. Why then do you think Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” in John 5:39? You may also want to check out John 17:3.

4. Multiple choice (choose all that apply). We should study the Bible:

- a. In order to know more than our neighbors
- b. To be able to write good sermons and hymns
- c. To come into right relationship with God through Jesus
- d. To be able to read Greek and Hebrew

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Reuben Archer Torrey (1856-1928) was the first superintendent of Moody Bible Institute and the pastor of Moody Church in Chicago. Torrey wrote many excellent books including one in 1896 entitled, *How to Study the Bible with Greatest Profit*.

In that book, Torrey outlined several ideas for how to study the Bible that I'd like to share here (the following is Torrey's outline that I have included below):

I. Study of individual books

A. Choose the book.

1. For your first book study, choose a short book.
2. Choose a comparatively easy book.
3. Choose a book that is rich enough in its teaching to illustrate the advantages of this method of study and, thus, gives a keen appetite for further studies of the same kind.

B. The second work to do is to master the general contents of the book.

C. The third work is to prepare an introduction to the book.

1. Who wrote it?
2. To whom did he write it?
3. Where did he write it?
4. When did he write it?
5. What was the occasion of his writing?
6. What was the purpose for which he wrote?
7. What were the circumstances of the author when he wrote?
8. What were the circumstances of those to whom he wrote?
9. What glimpses does the book give into the life and character of the author?
10. What are the leading ideas of the book?
11. What is the central truth of the book?
12. What are the characteristics of the book?

D. The fourth work is to divide the book into its proper sections.

E. The fifth work is to take up each verse in order and study it.

1. Get the exact meaning of the words used. (Use study helps like a Bible concordance.)
2. Carefully notice the context (what goes before and what comes after).
3. Examine parallel passages (other verses that deal with the same topic).

F. The sixth work is to classify the results obtained by the verse-by-verse analysis.

(Compile the facts into an organized format for review. Consider creating an outline of the passage.)

G. The seventh is to simply meditate on, and so digest, the results obtained.

II. Topical study

- A. Be systematic.
- B. Be thorough.
- C. Be exact.

III. Biographical study

- A. Collect all the passages in the Bible in which the person to be studied is mentioned.
- B. Analyze the character of the person.
- C. Note the elements of power and success.
- D. Note the elements of weakness and failure.
- E. Note the difficulties overcome.
- F. Note the helps to success.
- G. Note the privileges abused.
- H. Note the opportunities improved.
- I. Note the mistakes made.
- J. Note the perils avoided.
- K. Make a sketch of the life at hand.
- L. Summarize the lessons we should learn from the story of this person's life.
- M. Note the person's relations to Jesus.

IV. Study of types (Editor's note: This is where you find people or lessons in the Old Testament that point to Jesus. For example, this course looked at the father-son relationship between Abraham and Isaac, which was a "type" or pointer to the Father-Son relationship between God the Father and Jesus. A great contemporary book that does this is *Jesus Unmasked* by Todd Friel, published by New Leaf Press.)

- A. Be sure you have biblical justification for your supposed type.
- B. Begin with the more simple and evident types.
- C. Be on your guard against the imagined and excessive.
- D. In studying any passage you think might be a type, look up all the Scripture references.
- E. Carefully study the meanings of the names of people and places mentioned.

V. Study of the books of the Bible in the order given in the Bible or in their chronological order

VI. Study of the Bible for practical usefulness in dealing with men

Phew! Did you catch all that? We will continue learning more about this method tomorrow.

Let's continue with Torrey's method. Torrey is listing six different ways to approach studying the Bible.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Study one book of the Bible.	Topical Study. (For example, a study on Forgiveness.)	Study about one person in the Bible. (For example, Mary Magdalene.)	Study types or accounts in the OT that point to Jesus.	Study the Books of the Bible in either their order given in the Bible or chronologically (in order of their historical timeline).	Study the Bible looking for practical ways to relate to people.

There is a lot to take in! Yet not every step of Torrey's approach is complicated. It has more to do with reading with observation and noting what you see as you read.

Torrey goes on to say which elements will reap the best return in approaching Bible Study.

The Fundamental Conditions of the Most Profitable Bible Study:

The student must:

1. Be born again
2. Have a love for the Bible
3. Have a willingness to do hard work
4. Have a will wholly surrendered to God
5. Be obedient to its teachings as soon as he sees them
6. Have a childlike mind
7. Study it as the Word of God
8. Be prayerful

And, finally, Torrey gives some tips. Remember, this is all coming from a man who invested huge amounts of his life to studying the Bible.

Tips for successful Bible study:

1. Study the Bible daily.
2. Select the best part of your day.
3. Look for Christ in the passage under examination.
4. Memorize Scripture.
5. Make practical use of spare moments in study.

(Have a Bible handy for times when you are traveling, waiting, etc.)

EXEGESIS OR EISEGESIS

If you study God's Word and people who have spent a lifetime studying it, you will one day run across someone who mentions exegesis or eisegesis. These are two common ways that people approach reading or studying the Bible. Here are some simple definitions:

-> **Exegesis** (when we seek to learn what the text means from what it actually says)

-> **Eisegesis** (when we look for Bible verses to support what we already believe to be true)

Which do you think is the better approach to Bible study?

If we use exegesis, we go deep into the Scriptures and their original meaning. It's a way to find other biblical connections and nuances that we may not be aware of. It's a search for what God means for us to find in His Word.

We have to be very careful about using eisegesis to make Scripture apply to specific situations in specific ways that we want them to for one reason or another. It is a process that starts with you rather than with God's Word. You may be exploring Scripture and taking it out of context because we want to twist the Scripture to make it say what we want it to.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is a book of the Bible you are interested in studying? _____
2. What Bible study topic you'd like to look into more? _____
3. What person in the Bible do you find interesting? _____
4. What is a practical Biblical topic you'd like to pursue to guide you in your everyday relationships? _____
5. What is a tip for successful Bible study you could add in addition to what Torrey provided above? _____



Memory Work: Continue working on memorizing the selection of Scripture. We have studied verses 1–4 so far in John 15. This week we focus on verse five.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

The following is a pamphlet written by Pastor M'Cheyne (who you will read about tomorrow) for his congregation in Scotland to encourage them to read the Bible in a systematic way. We want to include his defense for such an approach in its entirety here so you can consider the value of a daily reading plan such as the one he developed.

DAILY BREAD: A CALENDAR FOR READING THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD IN A YEAR

Published in 1842 by the late Rev. R.M. M'Cheyne, M. A. (1813–1843)

Advantages

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. The Whole Bible Will Be Read Through in an Orderly Manner in the Course of a Year. | The Old Testament once, the New Testament and Psalms twice. I fear many of you never read the whole Bible, and yet it is all equally divine. <i>“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect”</i> (2 Timothy 3:16). If we pass over some parts of Scripture, we will be incomplete Christians. |
| 2. Time Will Not Be Wasted in Choosing What Portions to Read. | Believers are at a loss to determine toward which part of the mountains of spices they should bend their steps. Here, the question will be solved at once in a very simple manner. |
| 3. The Pastor Will Know in Which Part of the Pasture the Flock Are Feeding. | He will thus be enabled to speak more suitably to them on the Sabbath: and both pastor and elders will be able to drop a word of light and comfort in visiting from house to house, which will be more readily responded to. |
| 4. The Sweet Bond of Christian Love and Unity Will Be Strengthened. | We shall often be led to think of those dear brothers and sisters in the Lord who agree to join with us in reading these portions. We shall oftener be led to agree on earth, touching something we shall ask of God. We shall pray over the same promises, mourn over the same confessions, praise God in the same songs, and be nourished by the same words of eternal life. |

Answer the following questions.

1. What does M'Cheyne argue we will be if we routinely pass over certain portions of Scripture?

2. What does the believer gain by having his daily Bible reading picked out ahead of time? _____

3. What help is it for the pastor if the church is all reading the same portions through the week?

4. What did M'Cheyne hope would result among the brothers and sisters reading the same portions of the Bible throughout the week?

This is a sample of the first few days of the year in the M'Cheyne reading plan:

Day of the Month	Family Readings		Private Readings	
1	Genesis 1	Matthew 1	Ezra 1	Acts 1
2	Genesis 2	Matthew 2	Ezra 2	Acts 2
3	Genesis 3	Matthew 3	Ezra 3	Acts 3
4	Genesis 4	Matthew 4	Ezra 4	Acts 4

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him (Luke 9:35 KJV).

Directions:

1. The first column contains the day of the month. The next two columns contain the chapters to be read in the family. The two last columns contain the portions to be read in secret [privately].
2. The head of the family should previously read each chapter for family worship and mark two or three of the most prominent verses, upon which he may dwell, giving a few explanatory thoughts and asking a few simple questions.
3. Frequently, the portion named in the calendar for family reading might be read more suitably in secret [private]: in which case the head of the family should intimate that it be read in private, and the chapter for secret [private] reading may be used in the family.
4. The portions read, both for family and private readings, would be greatly illuminated if they were preceded by a moment's silent prayer – *“Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law” (Psalm 119:18 KJV).*
5. Let the conversation at the family meals frequently turn upon the chapter read. Thus every meal will be a sacrament, being sanctified by the Word and prayer.
6. Let our private reading precede the dawning of the day. Let God's voice be the first we hear in the morning. Mark two or three of the richest verses and pray over every line and word of them. Let the marks be neatly done, never so as to abuse a copy of the Bible.

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5. One more question. What did M'Cheyne suggest should come before the reading of the Word (Psalm 119:18)?

Memory Work: Continue to memorize John 15:5.

-> Church History Biography: Robert Murray M'Cheyne



Church History Hero:	Robert Murray M'Cheyne
Birth:	1813 in Edinburgh, Scotland
Death:	March 25, 1843
Legacy:	mission outreach to the Jewish people and evangelistic work in Scotland; including a daily Bible reading plan
Quote:	Take heed to thyself. Your own soul is your first and greatest care. You know a sound body alone can work with power; much more a healthy soul. Keep a clear conscience through the blood of the Lamb. Keep up close communion with God. Study likeness to Him in all things. Read the Bible for your own growth first, then for your people. Expound much; it is through the truth that souls are to be sanctified, not through essays upon the truth. Be easy of access, apt to teach, and the Lord teach you and bless you in all you do and say. You will not find many companions. Be the more with God... http://www.mcheyne.info/quotes/ ; from letter dated March 22, 1839, to Rev. W.C. Burns.

M'Cheyne self portrait

Today, we are going to learn about an exciting young man who helped to bring a spiritual awakening to Scotland, and later the entire world. We want you to hear directly from this great man of God regarding his views on how we could effectively conduct our Bible reading approach.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne (often spelled McCheyne) was born in 1813 in Edinburgh, Scotland, as the youngest of five children. His father was a successful lawyer, and M'Cheyne had many advantages as a youth. Young Robert was very academically advanced, knowing the entire Greek alphabet by the age of 4. By that age he could also sing and recite poetry. He soon began writing his own poetry (including an award-winning piece on the Scottish Covenanters) and by the age of 8 he started high school! At the early age of 14 in 1827, he began a university education. During this time he got caught up in the frivolous (although not specifically sinful) habits of his friends: card playing, dancing, and spending his leisure time listening to music.

Robert's older brother was concerned that Robert was not taking his faith seriously and prayed for him earnestly. When that brother died in 1831, it caused Robert to think about his life. Robert felt the first overwhelming blow to his worldliness and began to ponder Christian service.

At the age of 18 he began studying for full-time ministry. After a year internship in 1835, he began pastoring full-time at St. Peter's Church in Dundee. His congregation was a large one (1,100 attendees), and his duties were so overwhelming that his health soon failed him. Just two years after beginning, he had to step aside from his leadership role in 1838 because of his health issues.

The next year, with two colleagues, he visited the land of the Bible (then called Palestine). He became burdened for the Jewish people and started a mission outreach to the Jews that was eventually continued by the Free Church of Scotland. After about six months there, he returned to Scotland with renewed enthusiasm.

In the autumn of 1842, he visited England to do evangelistic work in London and Aberdeenshire but was exposed to typhoid fever and came down with the bacterial infection himself.

M'CHEYNE DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Before his death, in December of 1842, M'Cheyne published a pamphlet outlining a new approach to Bible reading. M'Cheyne's plan enabled people in his congregation to read through the New Testament and Psalms twice a year and the rest of the Bible once a year. His plan was for families to read approximately

two chapters together in the morning and for the individuals to read a different two chapters at night. By having everyone in the church on the same reading plan, people could discuss throughout the week what they were learning with other parishioners who were reading the same material. Then on Sunday, M'Cheyne could tie it all together by focusing on themes covered during the week's reading.

M'Cheyne eventually died from the effects of Typhoid Fever on March 25, 1843, at the age of only 29. Over 7,000 people attended the funeral of the much-loved preacher.

Yesterday, you learned a little about The M'Cheyne Bible reading plan; more information is readily available, and thousands of Christians still use it as a reading guide.

Answer the following questions.

1. Where and when was Robert Murray M'Cheyne born?

a. _____

b. _____

True and False - circle the correct answer. If a statement is false, mark up the statement to make it true.

2. Robert M'Cheyne was focused on things of the Lord during his college years. **TRUE** **FALSE**

3. What was the fruit of Robert's life during his college years? _____

4. What did Robert's brother do for him?

5. What painful event caused Robert to seriously think about life?

6. Consider if your life tends toward worldliness or holiness. Which one would you say is winning at this season of your life?

7. After M'Cheyne became a pastor, how did he encourage his church to learn from the Bible?

8. What sorts of outcomes do you think this may have had when the whole large congregation were reading the same portions of Scripture every day?

Memory Work: Recite John 15:5 to your teacher.

Foundations in Faith Glossary

- Apostolic** — related to the Apostles and their writings
- Appropriated** — to set apart for a specific use
- Begotten** — to generate or produce from one's own being (especially of a male parent)
- Canon** — refers to which books are officially part of the Bible; can also refer to biblically-based rules or guidelines for believers
- Catechism** — a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.
- Catechized** — instructed in parts of the Christian religion through questions and answers
- Confession** — a statement of belief or conviction
- Conformity** — to align oneself with something, to become like something
- Congregation** — a group of people who gather together under a certain cause or belief: a gathering of believers
- Congruity** — being in harmony or agreement
- Consecration** — to set something apart for a special work or purpose
- Context** — taking into consideration what is around something that helps identify its true meaning and purpose
- Cosmology** — is the study of the origins of the Earth and the universe.
- Covenant** — a contract or agreement between two parties
- Creed** — a formal statement of belief. A Christian creed is not the actual words of Jesus and the Apostles, but rather a summary of what a group of Christians believe they taught.
- Cult** — a group that teaches false doctrine and leads people away from the true gospel
- Dichotomy** — two ideas that are arranged to oppose each other
- Discipline** — exercising self-control to train yourself
- Doctrine** — a teaching that leads to a belief
- Engendered** — to bring into existence
- Evangelism** — to share the Gospel
- Eucharist** — an ancient term for ceremony of the bread and cup in communion
- Fallacy** — a mistaken idea based on faulty information
- Fallible** — capable of error
- General Revelation** — God's revelation of Himself through the laws of nature
- Glorified** — exchanging our temporal human body for our eternal one
- Gnostic/Gnosticism** — a belief that matter or the physical world is bad and the spiritual realm is good
- Grace** — the favor we received from God that we do not deserve and could never earn
- Heresy** — a very serious and false teaching. When someone is denying one of the main or central doctrines, we call it a heresy. The main doctrines are things all true churches have believed and taught throughout the entire church age (since the Apostles). They are the most important teachings, especially those that relate to our salvation.
- Hermeneutics** — the discipline by which we understand the Bible in its proper context; process of applying principles that help you understand the Bible.

Homily — a moral sermon

Illumine — to be intellectually or spiritually enlightened

Immersion — total submersion into something (specifically water for baptism)

Incarnate — to take on a human body or form

Incorruptible — when death no longer affects you

Infallible — without possibility of error

Inspiration of Scripture — God told biblical authors what to write. It was not their own thoughts and ideas.

Intercession — praying on behalf of another person

Justification — In theology, remission of sin and absolution from guilt and punishment; or an act of free grace by which God pardons the sinner and accepts him as righteous, on account of the atonement of Christ.

Justified — made right with God

Liturgy — Some churches are 'liturgical' meaning they follow a very predictable set of formal, and sometimes ancient, practices for worship.

Ordinance — established rite or ceremony

Paradox — something that seems to be a contradiction on the surface, but upon deeper consideration and reflection is shown to actually fit together.

Pentateuch — the first five books of the Old Testament in the Bible

Perspicuity — a clear insight or perspective.

Philosophy — a study of knowledge and wisdom for its own sake.

Protestant — churches that separated from the Catholic Church & follow Reformation doctrines & principles

Redemption — to buy or purchase something back (especially that has become lost or stolen)

Remission — to take away

Requisite — necessary, needed, indispensable

Sanctify — set apart

Special Revelation — the "book of Scripture."

Vulgate — A Latin translation of the Bible from the 4th century.

Widow's Mite — a very small coin with little value

Multiple Choice – Choose the best answer. (5 points each)

1. Doctrine means:
 - a. All things medically related
 - b. Teaching
 - c. Bible verses
 - d. Bible heroes
2. Heresy is a word used to mean:
 - a. Usual teaching
 - b. Blasphemous teaching
 - c. False teaching
 - d. Complicated, vague teaching
3. It is important to understand Christ rose bodily from the dead because:
 - a. If Christ had not risen from the dead, He wouldn't have ascended.
 - b. It changes our view of baptism.
 - c. Because if Christ is not risen from the dead, our faith is in vain.
 - d. We could not adequately memorize Scripture.
4. It is important to refute false teaching:
 - a. To provide pastors with extra work.
 - b. In order to promote exacting use of words.
 - c. So that extra Bible passages are not added to the Bible.
 - d. So that the truth is accurately presented.
5. The Bereans did a form of what when listening to church leaders:
 - a. Inspire timeliness in a worship service.
 - b. Fulfill Romans 9.
 - c. Fact Checking
 - d. Distract others while they are reading.
6. Psalm 23 is a psalm about:
 - a. King David as our Father.
 - b. The Lost Sheep.
 - c. Jesus as our Shepherd.
 - d. An understanding of how enemies interact.

Short Answer. (5 points each)

7. What is blind faith?

8. What does Christian doctrine cover?

9. What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

10. What is the difference between a Bible doctrine and a biblical account?

True and False – circle the correct answer. If a statement is false, mark up the statement to make it true.

11. The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed have a lot in common. **TRUE** **FALSE**

12. Faith is a feeling. **TRUE** **FALSE**

13. The Bible does not necessarily approve of all its records. **TRUE** **FALSE**

Fill in the Blanks. (5 points for each question.)

14. The Nicene Creed was written in A.D. 325 in the city of _____.

15. "The Lord is my _____; I shall not _____."

16. "He leads me beside the _____"

17. "He _____ my _____, He leads me in the paths of righteousness"

18. "You prepare a table before me in the _____ of my _____"

19. "And I will dwell in the _____ of the _____."

Paragraph Answer. (5 points)

20. What have you learned about understanding the Bible?

Foundations in Faith—Answer Key

Note: The Answer Key for this course is based on the NKJV of the Bible when it comes to answering questions or filling in missing words within a verse. If you are using an alternative Bible version, you will need to adjust the the answers as needed. Versions may vary.

DAY 1, PAGE 14

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. True
5. False
6. – 10. Creation, God, sin, Salvation, life after death
11. conviction
12. theology
13. belief
14. doctrines

DAY 2, PAGE 16

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. Apostles, fellowship, bread, prayers

DAY 3, PAGE 17

1. Yes
2. Answers may vary; but it should center around them checking God's Word against the words from man. Or that by fact checking, they could make sure they were hearing the truth of God's Word.
3. Answers may vary; examples could include arguments over specific verses and what they mean, or any number of cultural issues. Or the student could simply answer that "truth" is what people believe it to be – which is opinion or a feeling, and not real biblical truth unless it aligns with the Bible.

DAY 4, PAGES 19-20

1. Answers will vary. If they agree, their reasoning should be a biblical definition of success or greatness is different than a secular one. If they disagree, they should offer justification for it. This gives the instructor the opportunity to discuss this and provide the view of the quote being correct.
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. T

6. a
7. b
8. c
9. Answers will vary. Student should give a reasoned and articulate response, which can also include an understanding of balance - being able to serve God in their daily lives. It may be helpful for the student to verbally discuss their response.

DAY 6, PAGES 19-22

1. Secret knowledge by only a few
 Emphasized the spiritual
 Physical bodies/earthly things inferior to spirits/eternal things
 Jesus arose as a ghost/spirit with no physical body
2. "Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, 'Peace to you.' But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, 'Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.' When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, 'Have you any food here?' So, they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence" (Luke 24:36-42).

DAY 7, PAGES 23-24

1. Jesus Christ
2. The Apostles and Prophets
3. All the saints of the household of God throughout the Church Age.
4. a. Luke 24:5-7
b. Mark 16:6-7
c. Matthew 28 5-7
5. Let him be accursed.
6. Answer may vary, but should include ways to find the truth: reading the Bible, asking your pastor or youth minister; reading a commentary, or other ways.
7. Answers will vary individually.

DAY 8, PAGES 25-26

1. Paul
2. Gnosticism

Study Notes

STUDY NOTES

Memory Work; Quarter 1

Psalm 23

(Pages 66 - 70 Foundations in Faith)

Hint: You can memorize this psalm in one big chunk or go verse by verse until you master it. Make sure to not skip words or rush through it. As you study and memorize this text, think about what it means in your own faith life.

¹ *The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

² *He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.*

³ *He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*

⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.*

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.*