

We Believe For Kids!

Quarter 1



Who is God?



Teacher's Guide

We Believe For Kids!

Teacher's Guide

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Randall A. Bach, David L. Cole, and Andrea P. Johnson

Introduction

Have you thought about why you do some of the things you do, why you make some of the choices you make, or support some of the causes you support?

Social media, your teachers, your parents, and others are all trying to tell you what to do; they even try to tell you how to think! Some of those voices are pretty loud, and they don't always agree. How do you know which of these voices to listen to? Are you one that follows the crowd, or do you like to think things through on your own?

You may have heard of ***The Emperor's New Clothes***, a folktale written by Hans Christian Andersen. In the story a couple of swindlers manage to talk a vain emperor into buying expensive clothing from them that is supposedly invisible to those who are "stupid" or "incompetent." The emperor loves the idea, and the fraudsters proceed to display what they describe as exquisite bolts of cloth with which they pretend to create elaborate clothing.

Of course the whole thing is a hoax, but the emperor does not let on that he cannot see the clothing because he doesn't want people to think he is incompetent. All the townspeople as well ooh and aah over the clothing because they too fear being thought of as inept. In the end, the emperor is left parading before the whole village in nothing but his underclothes!

Sadly, this scenario has played out in much of our society today. Many people try to get us to go along with the crowd and to follow the latest trends even though those trends

may be wrong. The emperor may have believed he was wearing fine clothing, but in reality, he was nearly naked. We too may want to believe certain things are true but that does not make them true, even if everyone else thinks they are.

That's why it is important that you know what truth is. Real truth does not change. Real truth helps us make right decisions. More important, real truth leads us to God.

We want to help you discover truth. That's why we are so excited to share with you *We Believe For Kids!* This course will help you answer questions such as "Who is God?" "Who Am I?" and "Why Am I Here?" This course is designed to present you with information that will help you make your own decisions about what you believe, and to make those decisions based on truth. This journal will help you remember the information you are taught and also provide a place to record your own thoughts and opinions. We encourage you to keep it even after you have completed the course as a way to look back and remember your thought processes at this time.

More than anything, we trust that you will use this class time to deepen your relationship with God. He really wants to spend time with you!

Randall A. Bach, David L. Cole, and Andrea P. Johnson

We Believe For Kids!

Teacher's Guide



Lesson 1 "The Bible"

Lesson 1

Doctrinal Statement:

We believe the Bible is God's Word; it is truth. It serves as a trustworthy guide to our everyday lives.

Big Question:

Why should I believe the Bible?

Lesson Aim:

To lay a foundation of understanding that the Bible is true and can be relied on.

Key Verse:

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right”
(2 Timothy 3:16).

Materials:

A physical Bible for each student
Student's journals

The Bible

Setup:

Make sure every student has a physical copy of a Bible. Choose two students to act out the script printed in their workbooks.

Warming Up: [5 minutes]

Welcome students. Pray together as you begin class. Ask that God would lead the discussion times, and that He would put a love in your hearts for His Word and for truth.

Lesson 1

Questions: [5 minutes]

Ask the students:

What are your favorite movies?

How many of them are based on books?

Are any of your favorites based on true stories?

What makes movies and books that are based on true stories so powerful?

Skit: [5 minutes]

Full script in the back of teachers guide (page #) and student workbook (page 134).

Important Facts:

Diary of a Wimpy Kid - sold over 200 million copies

Narnia - sold over 100 million copies

Lord of the Rings - sold over 150 million copies

Harry Potter - sold over 500 million copies

The Holy Bible - sold over 5 billion copies

*(every year 100 million are sold or given away,
translated into more languages than any other book)*

The Bible

Going Deeper: [15 minutes]

Let's take a look at our doctrinal statement.

“Doctrine” simply means something we believe that is based on what the Bible says.

Each of our lessons will have a statement like this.

Today's statement says, ***“We believe the Bible is God's Word; it is truth. It serves as a trustworthy guide to our everyday lives.”***

Do you believe this is true?

Do you think everything in the Bible is true? Why or why not? Discuss for a while.

We saw in the skit that the Bible has been the most popular book for many, many years. It's even more popular than some of the most popular fiction or fantasy books for kids today.

Why do you think that is?

Let the kids discuss for a bit.

Even though fiction books (books that are not true) are entertaining, and can captivate our attention for a short time, there's something special about a book that is 100 percent true. Just like we talked about in the beginning of class,

Lesson 1

some of the most powerful movies are based on true stories. We can look at true stories for examples of how problems have been solved by other, real people. We can learn from others' mistakes. We can be inspired by incredible stories that have actually happened. This is true about any true story.

But what makes the Bible even more special?

Let's actually turn to the Bible to answer this question about the Bible!

Ask if there is a volunteer who feels comfortable looking up 2 Timothy 3:16.

2 Timothy 3:16:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

We can see in this Scripture why the Bible is so important and all the ways we can use it. No wonder it's so popular.

But you also see in this Scripture why we can count on it being true. It's actually inspired by God. In other words, He wrote it!

The Bible

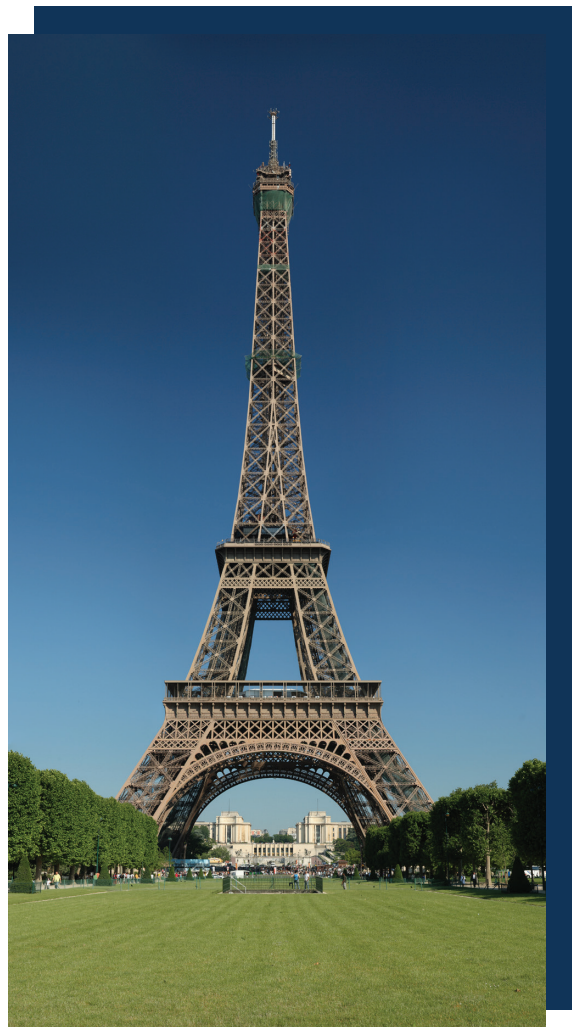
Christians believe the Bible is 100 percent the creation of human authors but also 100 percent inspired by God. How is that possible?

Refer to the picture of the Eiffel Tower in student book:

Who's heard of the Eiffel Tower? It's a landmark in Paris, France, built in the late 1880s. It's huge — 1,063 feet tall (the size of an 81-story building).

Can you guess how many pieces of steel were needed to build this? (18,038).

Maurice Koechlin was the lead designer. He created over 5,000 drawings to help the construction workers know what to do. He didn't fabricate or install any of the 18,038 parts, but no one would deny that he was the inspiration behind it all.



Without him it couldn't have been done; it would never have been created.

Lesson 1

Similarly, the Bible was written by many different writers but there was one designer, one inspiration behind it all: God himself.

Hold up a Bible.

God himself breathed this Truth into existence. He planted the words in the minds of many writers, helping them create this book that is capable of guiding us when we are lost, revealing God's love for us and transforming our lives.

Lots of people have written good, even inspirational works that did not make it into the Bibles we now hold in our hands.

The material that we find in our Bibles underwent intense scrutiny over time by recognized, biblical scholars and church leaders who made sure that the material that would be included in the Bible you now have in front of you was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

To be included among the books in the New Testament, the book's author must have been an apostle or have a close connection with an apostle. If a person was one of Jesus' twelve disciples or an important Christian teaching, like Paul, who encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), that person was considered an apostle. Second, the book must have been accepted by the body of Christ at large. Third, the book had to contain consistency of doctrine and orthodox teaching. Orthodox teaching is teaching that conforms to what is generally or traditionally accepted as right or true. Finally, the book had to bear evidence

The Bible

of high moral and spiritual values that would reflect a work of the Holy Spirit as the divine Author.

The books in the Old Testament were written by authors who were led by the Holy Spirit, were collected, and had been a part of the worship lives of Jewish believers for centuries, up until the era of Jesus and His apostles. Those 39 books, along with our 27 New Testament books, were received as Holy Scriptures, as the inspired and authoritative Word of God for believers in the early church.

God, in His sovereignty, brought the early church leaders to the recognition of the books He had inspired, and those books are in the Bible you now hold. But don't just take their word for it.

Ask another student to look up John 14:6.

John 14:6:

Jesus told him, I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Jesus says right here that He is the truth. We're going to learn more about Jesus in later lessons, but as you might already know, we believe Jesus is God in human form. So if Jesus and God are truth, then it makes sense that anything they create must be true.

The Bible doesn't just contain some things that are true; **it IS truth!** You can count on Jesus and on His Word. The more you read it, the more you will recognize its truth and experience its power in your lives.

Lesson 1

Activation: [15 minutes]

Distribute a Bible to each student.

The Bible is a collection of books printed together.

The term “Bible” is from the Latin word “biblia,” which means a library or collection of books. Look at the index of the names of all the books.

There are two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Have them turn the pages. Help them find the Old and New Testaments. Tell them to feel the difference in size between the two.

The Bible

Important fact:

The Old Testament is the larger of the two testaments and includes everything from the creation of the world until just a few hundred years before Jesus.

Important fact:

The first four books of the New Testament are called the gospels. They are firsthand accounts of the life of Jesus. The rest of the New Testament recounts how the early followers of Jesus were instructed to live and follow Jesus' teachings.

Important fact:

The Bible was written over a time span of 1,600 years by at least 40 authors, which included kings, scholars, tax collectors, philosophers, fishermen, statesmen, poets, historians, teachers, prophets, and doctors.

Lesson 1

Important fact:

The Bible contains different types of literature: history, poetry, prophecy, and even letters. More than 300 prophetic details (details mentioned before they actually happened) about Jesus' life found in the Old Testament came true, such as the fact that He would be born of a virgin, His birthplace would be Bethlehem, and that He would be crucified between two thieves.

There are places in the world where it is illegal to do exactly what you are doing, holding a Bible. There are real people, missionaries in Open Bible, who risk their lives to get Bibles into the hands of people who aren't allowed to read it. There are people who are killed for simply having a Bible in their possession.

Why do you think these people risk their lives to read it?

Why do you think it is so precious to them?

Pause to let students answer.

It is precious to them because it is truth. The Bible is the answer. It's life to them. Just like Jesus, this book you hold in your hands is the way, the truth, and the life. There is nothing more precious.

The Bible

Closing: [15 minutes]

Final Journal Activity:

What did you learn or discover about the Bible today?

What is your most precious possession? Draw a picture or write about it.

What is one small goal you can set to make the Bible a bigger part of your life?

Discuss their responses if time.

Close in prayer.

Extra game idea: Have students play Pictionary to illustrate their precious possessions. This game could take place earlier in the lesson or at the end.

