



# Teacher Introduction



## About ABC

### MISSION

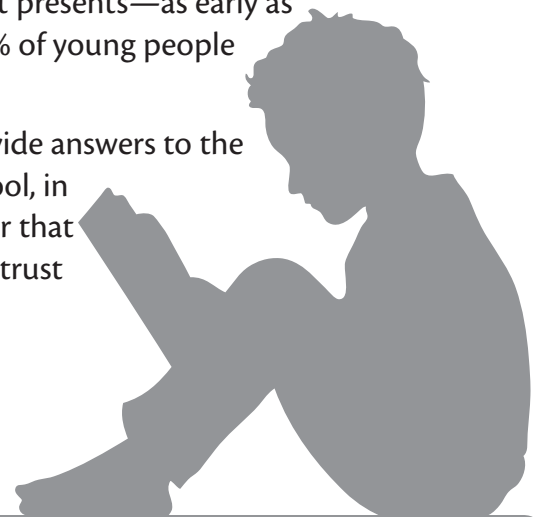
*Answers Bible Curriculum* was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God's Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

### OVERVIEW

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

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

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



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SCOPE & SEQUENCE

*Answers Bible Curriculum* is a three-year program that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first two years survey the Old Testament, and the third year surveys the New Testament. Lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

## SUMMARY

- A three-year curriculum (12 quarters; 13 weeks per quarter); you could extend it to four years if you break for summer.
- Available in seven age levels: Pre-K & K, Grades 1–2, Grades 3–4, Grades 5–6, Junior High, High School, Adult.
- A chronological Bible teaching for all levels.
- Synchronized so all ages study the same Scripture each week.

## How to Use ABC

## COMPONENTS

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

- **Teacher Guide** – 13 lessons with lesson overview, lesson background material, materials list, lesson preparation instructions, scripted lesson, activity instructions, etc. Lessons can be removed from the bound book for copying and/or distribution to multiple teachers.
- **Student Take Home Sheets** – Sample set of full-color, 4-page take home sheets with review questions, memory verse review, activities, daily Bible reading plan, and family time.
- **Resource DVD-ROM** – Includes all of the classroom handouts, teacher aids, and video and audio clips used in the lessons.
- **Lesson Theme Posters** – One full-color, illustrated, 8.5x11 poster is provided for each lesson depicting the main point of the lesson. These will be used when teaching the lesson and for reviewing past lessons. On the back of each poster are the Key Themes, Key Passages, and a summary of the lesson content.
- **Memory Verse Posters** – Two 11x22 posters per quarter with the memory verse.

In addition, a set of three large classroom posters enhances the lessons and provides visual reminders of important truths. These classroom posters include:

- **New Testament History** (17 x 38)
- **The Twelve Apostles** (11 x 22)
- **Attributes of God** (11 x 22)

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

## TEACHER PREPARATION

We have designed the lessons so that they are easy to teach and provide everything needed to successfully guide your students in understanding the Bible and knowing God—the author of the Bible. Here is a breakdown of what is included in each lesson and how to get the most out of it as you prepare and teach.

### Key Theme

Each lesson has one Key Theme, which recaps the big picture addressed in the lesson. You will see some of these Key Themes repeated in various lessons.

### Key Passages

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

### Objectives

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

### Lesson Overview

This section gives a snapshot of the lesson, stating what will occur during the lesson time, including the Come On In activity and lesson activities. It will give you a quick overview of what you and the students will be doing. (See below for more details on activities).

### Lesson Preparation

This handy chart shows you everything you need to do to prepare for each week's lesson, and the materials needed. Be sure to consult this several days before class so you can round up any supplies, print off any worksheets from the Resource DVD-ROM, and gather any other props you may find helpful to teach the lesson.



### Memory Verse

The memory verse is listed both at the beginning and end of each lesson. Students will work on memorizing just two passages per quarter. Our hope is that this will enable the students (and the teachers!) to really learn these Scriptures—to hide them in their hearts—and to know them well enough that they will be able to recite them from memory, not only at

the end of the week, but at the end of the year! All memory verses are related to the quarter, although they may not necessarily relate directly to the lesson being taught.



## **Pace Your Lesson**

Because each class and church is different, we have not suggested how long the sections of each lesson should be. The alarm clocks pictured at the end of each section can be used to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections in order to complete the main points.



## **Prepare to Share**

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



## **Before the Throne**

Please commit the time you are investing in your class to the Lord through prayer. We have provided a prayer before each lesson to encourage you in this.

# **LESSON ELEMENTS**

The lessons are broken down into several elements to make it easier for you to teach and to allow for flexibility. We realize that some teachers have the luxury of a full hour (or more!) for Sunday school, while others may have only 20 minutes of teaching time. We have planned our lessons to take about 45–50 minutes to teach. Of course, this will vary greatly depending on your class size, student maturity level, etc. If you don't have this much time, you may skip one or more of the activities.



## **Come On In**

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided memory verse review activities for you. You may have other ideas and ways to review the memory verse with your class. It is important to remember to take a few minutes each week to intentionally review the verse with your class.



## **Review**

It is vitally important that children review the things they have been taught. We encourage you to take 5–10 minutes at the beginning of each class to review the previous lesson or lessons. The Lesson Theme Posters are the best way to remind the children of previous lessons and review the important points you covered. This will also allow those who were absent the previous week to catch up and be prepared for the current lesson.

You could post the Lesson Theme Posters around your room, but we recommend you consider putting them into sheet protectors in a binder so that you can easily review them with the class, while still being able to see the Key Themes, Key Passages, and Lesson Summary on the back.



## Studying God's Word

This is the main teaching part of the lesson. We have written it in a Say–Ask format. Inexperienced teachers, or substitutes, will easily be able to step in and teach the lesson by following the script, while experienced teachers will want to become familiar with the content and “make it their own.” Throughout the lesson you will see margin notes highlighting Scripture references, Teacher Tips, Definitions, Attributes of God, and other lesson elements. These are included to assist you in planning and teaching the lesson.

Our desire is that your students learn *how* to study the Bible. In order to reach that end, we have structured each lesson to include the following sections:

**Read the Word** – The Scripture is read together with the class. Even the young students are encouraged to read, listen, and/or follow along in their own Bibles.

**Examine the Word** – This is where we begin our observation and interpretation of the text, and includes two subdivisions:

- **Observe the Text** – Questions are asked to determine the meaning of the text.
- **Discover the Truth** – A summary of what we learned by observing the text is given, along with how the text applies to our life and/or today's culture.



## Activities

Two activities are included in each lesson. All activities are intended to relate in some way to the topic being studied. The activities include worksheets, puzzles, group games, memory verse games, crafts, etc. Many of these activities are optional and can be skipped if necessary. Each activity has three sections:

**Materials** – What you will need to do the activity.

**Instructions** – Detailed instructions for what to do and say.

**Connect to the Truth** – How the activity relates to the lesson.

Many of the activities require separate activity sheets. These are available on the Resource DVD-ROM.



## Applying God's Word

This is an essential element of each lesson and should not be skipped. It reviews the lesson and presents relevant application points. The sections include:

**What You Heard in the Word** – A summary of the lesson's main points restating the information that addressed the objectives.

**God's Word in the Real World** – A discussion on how God's truth can be applied to your students in their real lives, how they can share these truths with others, and how they can answer questions from a skeptical world.



## Group Prayer Time

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

As you teach and pray, you have the opportunity to model a humble heart and dependence on God through thanksgiving, praise, and supplication.

# Student Take Home Sheets

Each lesson includes a full-color, 4-page Student Take Home Sheet. The Student Take Home Sheets are designed to encourage review of the lesson, Bible reading throughout the week, family study and discussion time, as well as reflection on how the lesson, information, and Bible can be applied to real life situations.

The Student Take Home Sheets include these components:

## FRONT COVER

The front cover of the Student Take Home Sheet includes a review of the lesson's main points. The Key Themes, Key Passages, and objectives are restated. A few simple lesson review questions are also included in this section.

## INSIDE SPREAD

These pages are designed to encourage discipleship and Bible study throughout the week. Ideally, this would include working together as a family—particularly for younger children. But, it can also mean students working independently to complete this sheet. The components of this inside spread include:

**Read the Word with Mom & Dad** – A section intended to encourage families to get into the Word together. This is a great tool for starting Scripture study at a young age.

**Learn the Word** – A challenge to continue to work on the memory verse.



**Live the Word** – Here parents will find a weekly cartoon with Johnny or Maria and their dad. Johnny and Maria present questions to their dad that many children may wonder about. It is designed to intrigue youngsters to want their parents to read it to them. And as that happens, parents again have an opportunity to further discuss the concepts presented.

**Activity/Game/Puzzle** – A pen-on-paper activity that will relate in some way to the lesson just learned.

**Sneak Peek** – A teaser for next week's lesson.

## BACK COVER

Our vision for Answers Bible Curriculum is ultimately discipleship and family training. The back cover of the Student Take Home Sheet includes the following sections to promote this vision:

**HomeWord** – This section contains historical or apologetic background information relating to the lesson. This information is meant to educate and serve as a springboard for family discussion.

**OutWord** – This section presents another real-life apologetic type question and answer. The goal here is to equip the entire family to be ready with biblical answers, and to demonstrate that the answers can be simply stated.

**InWord** – This section is meant to exhort the entire family to include Bible memory as part of an intentional time of devotion, prayer, and Bible study.

NOTE: The Student Take Home Sheets are intended to be handed out at the end of class. You may want to offer a prize or reward for those who complete them and bring them back the following week. If you have extra time in class, you could hand them out early and have the students begin working on the inside activity before they are dismissed.

## Online Helps

### ONLINE RESOURCE PAGE

We have established pages on our website where you, your students, and their parents can find links to articles with more background information on some of the lessons. This page can be found at [www.AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://www.AnswersBibleCurriculum.com). This is where we will also post any corrections, additional worksheets, supplementary materials, etc.

It is our prayer that these lessons will encourage you, challenge you, and enable you to teach God's Word effectively, and that your students will develop a lifelong faith, founded on God's holy Word, so their lives will demonstrate a deep trust in Christ and reflect His character. To God be the glory!



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# Leading a Child to Christ

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

## Before

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

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

## During

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

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- Use your Bible to explain the plan of salvation. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible opened and marked ahead of time with the appropriate Scriptures.
- Avoid abstract phrases like "asking Jesus into your heart." Instead, use terminology like "becoming a child of God." Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel, determine if the child has an understanding of his sin. This is very important. A child who cannot verbalize sin, who does not seem to be repentant toward God because he is a sinner, or who does not realize that he must turn away from his sin, cannot fully understand his need for a Savior. Ask questions about sin that require more than "yes" or "no" answers:
  - » Do you know what sin is? Can you explain it to me?
  - » Can you think of some sins you have done?
  - » Are you sorry for your sins? Who are you sorry to?
  - » Why are you sorry for your sins?
  - » What do you think you should do about these sins in your life?
- If you are not satisfied that God has revealed to this child that his sin is an offense against our holy God, we recommend that you present a booklet we have developed for children that explains the gospel further. It is called *How Can I Become a Child of God?* and can be printed from the Online Resource Page at [AnswersBibleCurriculum.com](http://AnswersBibleCurriculum.com).

- If the child does seem to be sincerely sorry for his sins, you can proceed with more questions like the following:
  - » Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
  - » Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
  - » Why should God let you into His family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what he does, but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and Resurrection of Jesus.)
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus's death and Resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents about what it means to become a child of God (if they are followers of Christ). Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no one prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are His children. Read 1 John 1:9 with a believing child who wants to confess sin, and encourage him to ask the Lord to help him know he is forgiven when he repents.
- **After**
- Review what it means to be a child of God.
  - » How long does God keep His children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
  - » Can anything separate God from His children? (Romans 8:38–39)
  - » What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)
  - » What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves His children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with the booklet *Growing Up in God's Family* (available from the Online Resource Page), and share the following:
  - » Read your Bible and obey what you read. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion on the presentation page.)
  - » Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
  - » Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
  - » Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls.

# Year 3 Quarter 1 Syllabus

|                  |                                |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lesson 1</b>  | The Messiah Has Come           | Hebrews 1:1–2; Luke 2:25–28  |
| <b>Lesson 2</b>  | We Can Trust the New Testament | John 14:25–26, 16:13a, 19:35, 20:31  |
| <b>Lesson 3</b>  | The Gospel Truth               | John 6:16–21, 21:24; Matthew 14:22–33  |
| <b>Lesson 4</b>  | Jesus in the Gospels           | Matthew 1:1; Mark 1:41, 6:34, 8:2, 10:45; Luke 5:32, 19:10; John 17:3, 20:31   |
| <b>Lesson 5</b>  | The Life of Christ             | John 21:25; <b>Birth:</b> Luke 2:7; <b>Early Life:</b> Luke 2:46; <b>Healed the Sick:</b> Luke 4:38–39; <b>Controlled Nature:</b> Luke 8:22–25; <b>Taught His Disciples:</b> Luke 11:1; <b>Crucified on the Cross:</b> Luke 23:20–21; <b>Rose from the Dead:</b> Luke 24:6–7; <b>Ascended to Heaven:</b> Luke 24:50–52 |
| <b>Lesson 6</b>  | Review Lessons 1–5             |  |
| <b>Lesson 7</b>  | The Messiah’s Messengers       | Malachi 3:1a; Luke 1:5–7, 1:11–15, 1:26–31   |
| <b>Lesson 8</b>  | Birth of Christ                | Luke 2:6–16; John 10:30  |
| <b>Lesson 9</b>  | Seeking the King               | Mathew 2:1–13, 2:16  |
| <b>Lesson 10</b> | Jesus Obeys                    | Luke 2:45–49; John 6:38; Hebrews 10:7; Philippians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21   |
| <b>Lesson 11</b> | Jesus’s Baptism & Temptation   | Matthew 3:1–2, 3:5–6, 3:13, 4:1–11   |
| <b>Lesson 12</b> | Jesus Calls Followers          | John 1:35–37, 1:40–45; Matthew 4:21–22, 9:9–10   |
| <b>Lesson 13</b> | Review Lessons 7–12            |  |