



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

- Three-year curriculum (12 quarters; 13 weeks per quarter); could be four-year curriculum 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
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—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.
- **Lesson Flip Chart** – This 20 x 15-inch, full-color, wire-bound chart complements the Teacher Guide. It is designed to use during the Lesson Circle Time. It contains the script for each lesson in the quarter, an illustration summarizing the main points of each lesson, a prayer page, memory verse posters for the quarter, and a song page with various songs written to enhance the lessons.
- **Student Take Home Sheets** – Sample set of 11 full-color, 4-page take home sheets with lesson 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.

TEACHER PREPARATION

We have designed the lessons so they are both easy to teach and effective for guiding your students to a better understanding of the Bible and knowing God—the author of the Bible. Below is a summary of components included in each lesson. We hope that as you realize our vision for these lessons you will be better equipped to teach successfully.

Key Passages

This lists 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.

Lesson Focus

Each lesson teaches to a specific focus. This is a simple, yet basic biblical truth we would like the preschooler to remember after the class. This focus should be repeated throughout the entire class so the children will remember it as the main theme of the lesson.

Lesson Overview

This section gives a snapshot outline, summarizing the entire lesson. It will give you a quick overview of what you and the students will be doing.

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 list several days before class so you can round up necessary supplies and prepare lesson resources from the Resource DVD-ROM, etc.



Prepare to Share

This section will give you additional background information relating to the lesson content. We have provided more information for many of the lessons and topics on the Online Resource Page at www.AnswersBibleCurriculum.com. We encourage you to take advantage of this additional information before teaching the lesson.



Before the Throne

Please take advantage of the amazing privilege you have to go boldly before the throne of grace to receive mercy and help before each class. The Before the Throne section provides a prayer intended to seek God's grace as He prepares your heart and the hearts of the children you will be teaching that week.

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 30–40 minutes total. Of course, this will vary greatly depending on your individual style, class size, student maturity level, etc. If you finish the lesson before your time is up we recommend you bring out another coloring page, review the previous verses, go back to the Flip Chart and review, sing additional songs, etc.



Come On In

The Come On In activity is something for the students to do while they are arriving. The intent is to promote structure and order as soon as the children enter the room by providing specific sit-down assignments. Our vision is that the teacher would be at the

door greeting the students and their parents while classroom assistants engage the children in meaningful conversation and the activity. Conversation can center on what was taught last week, what will be taught this week, or just personal greetings. Interaction with the children is key during this time. Ideally, Come On In activities would relate to the lessons that have been or are about to be taught. We understand that may not always be possible.



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 Flip Charts are the best way to remind the children of previous lessons and review the important points you covered. You can also show any teaching aids from the previous week or coloring sheets they may have worked on. This can be incorporated into your Come On In activity as you begin to transition to restroom break and Circle Time.

Restroom Break

We suggest you encourage children to use the restroom now before you go into the Circle Time. It would be good to establish a class policy that no one goes to the restroom during Circle Time. This will avoid the mass exodus that often occurs with children this age when one decides he or she needs to use the restroom—the power of suggestion!



Circle Time

Circle Time is the main teaching part of the lesson. Because these young children like to move, we suggest they move their chairs or use carpet squares to sit in a circle away from their tables. This should be an orderly transition. You will need to bring your Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you have brought in to teach the lesson during Circle Time. The lesson script is written in a say–ask format and appears both in the Teacher Guide and on the Flip Chart. We hope this will make teaching these little ones comfortable for the inexperienced teacher, substitute, and seasoned teacher as well.

Circle Time should follow the simple outline as presented on the Flip Chart. Each lesson will include the list below.

Prayer Time—This time is designed to present children with simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to participate in corporate prayer. We suggest bringing in a special stuffed animal—a prayer bear—or other object to pass around the circle. Each child will get to pray when they get the prayer bear. Only the child with the prayer bear can speak during this time. There is a Prayer Page in the Flip Chart to use during this time. It reviews four specific types of prayers. We are using the ACTS prayer paradigm—it includes Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

God's Word—This section follows Prayer Time. Each lesson begins with four simple questions about God and the Bible. The same questions should be asked each week. This will set up a routine for the children and the repetition of the same questions will solidify the truths in their minds. After the questions are asked, you will move into your lesson for the day. As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart. We suggest you consider bringing extra materials in as visual aids to keep the children's attention during the lesson.

Each preschool lesson has some Scripture to study. We highly recommend you open your Bible and read the verses from your Bible. Make much of the fact that this is God's Word and they are learning it just like the rest of the family in church. Encourage the children to listen carefully as you read. We have presented very simple questions for you to ask from the text. If they listen, they will be able to answer the questions. Repeat the Lesson Focus over and over throughout the lesson. This will allow them to grasp this simple truth during the lesson.

Bible Pass Around— This simple activity, intended to be repeated weekly, is designed to generate excitement and enthusiasm as you open God's Word for the lesson. Our desire is to instill in the children a reverence and respect for the Bible as they carefully handle it by passing it around, hold it, and then see you read from it each week.

Song Time—Song Time follows God's Word. We have presented some very simple songs relating to the lessons written to popular children's song tunes. These songs will get the children up and moving while again reinforcing the biblical truths taught for the day. There is a Song Page in the Flip Chart. The Words for all the songs for the quarter are on that page and can also be found at the back of the Teacher Guide.



Activities

We have provided ideas for two activities for each lesson. Some of these may be appropriate for your class, some not. Our intention is not that you must do what we say, but that you can use our ideas as springboards to creating activities that will meet your requirements while keeping God, His Word, and the lesson as the main focus.

Our vision for the preschool class is that the time they spend in church should be time you, as the teacher, are intentionally pointing them to the truths of God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible. They can be taught the truth and they can enjoy learning about God! We want the children to love God and look forward to coming to church!



Memory Verse Review/Snack

As you finish up with the activities, offer another restroom break and wash hands before the memory verse review and snack. We have presented some ways to encourage fun review of the memory verse. You can also just use the Memory Verse Page at the back of the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone can say it all alone!

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



Applying God's Word

This is an essential element of each lesson. It reviews the lesson and presents 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 Lesson Focus.

God's Word in the Real World – A discussion on how God's truth can be applied to your students in their real lives.



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 regular 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 the Bible can be applied to real life situations. The various components of the Student Take Home Sheets are:

FRONT COVER

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

INSIDE SPREAD

These pages are designed as a tool parents can use to begin to disciple their preschoolers in the Word of God and His truth throughout the week. The components of this inside spread include:

Read the Word With Mom and Dad – This section intends to challenge parents to take a few minutes each day, open the Bible, read a verse, and ask the questions presented. The vision here is to allow children at a young age to know that the answers to questions can be found in the Word of God and to begin to understand that Bible study should be a daily part of their life and the lives of their parents. This will take parent commitment and passion to train their children in the ways of the Lord.

Learn the Word – This is where parents will find the memory verse the children are working on. Again, parents are encouraged to work with their children to learn this simple memory verse and to understand what it says about God.

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 preschoolers to want their parents to read it to them. And as that happens, parents again have an opportunity to discuss the concepts presented further.

Coloring Page/Activity – This part of the Student Take Home Sheet is provided as something the student can accomplish on his or her own. This will generally be a coloring page relating directly to what they heard and saw during the lesson.

Sneak Peek – A teaser for next week’s lesson.

BACK COVER

Our vision for *Answers Bible Curriculum* is ultimately discipleship and family training. To this end we have created the back cover of the Student Take Home Sheet, or the Family Time page. The following are included on this page:

HomeWord – This section contains historical or apologetics 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 apologetics question along with a biblical 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. This is also where we will post any corrections, additional worksheets, supplementary materials, etc.

It is our prayer that these lessons will encourage you, challenge you, and enable you to teach God’s Word effectively. We pray that your students will develop a lifelong faith, founded on God’s holy Word, and that 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 a follower 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. 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.

- 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 not want to make a decision but may want to learn more, to be assured of their salvation, or to confess a 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 2 Quarter 1 Syllabus

Lesson 1	God Calls Joshua	Joshua 1:1–2, 1:8–9
Lesson 2	God Uses Rahab	Joshua 2:3–4, 2:6, 2:15–16, 2:21
Lesson 3	The Battle of Jericho	Joshua 3:17, 6:3–4, 6:16, 6:20
Lesson 4	Israel Disobeys God	Judges 2:10–11, 2:14
Lesson 5	God Uses Gideon	Judges 6:11b, 6:12, 6:14, 6:16, 7:16, 7:20–21
Lesson 6	God Remains Faithful	Judges 2:14, 3:7, 3:9a, 10:10
Lesson 7	Review	
Lesson 8	God Blesses Ruth	Ruth 1:16–17; John 3:16
Lesson 9	God Calls Samuel	Judges 21:25; 1 Samuel 2:26, 3:3–6, 3:9–10
Lesson 10	Israel Rejects God as King	1 Samuel 8:4–7, 8:10; 1 John 2:15
Lesson 11	God Rejects Saul as King	1 Samuel 13:5–6, 13:13; John 14:15
Lesson 12	God Chooses David	1 Samuel 16:1b, 16:6–7, 16:12; John 14:15
Lesson 13	Review	