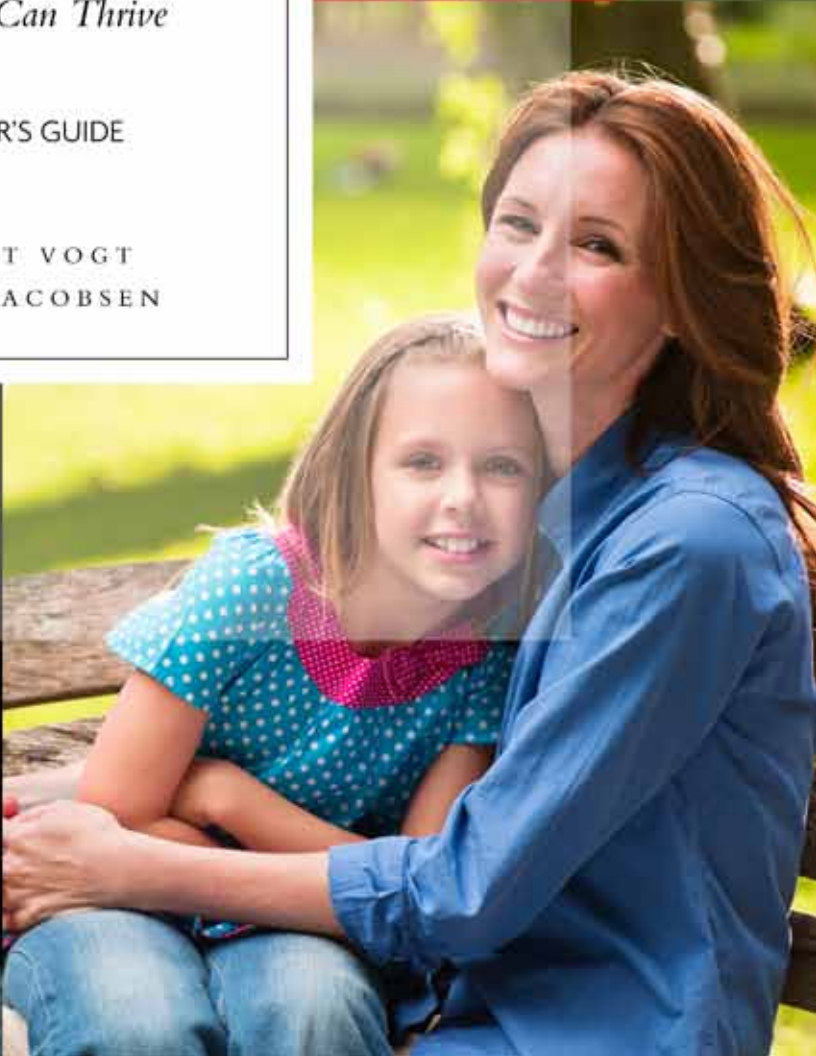


FOOTINGS  
*for*  
CHILDREN

*Imparting a Biblical Worldview  
So They Can Thrive*

TEACHER'S GUIDE

DWIGHT VOGT  
KAREN JACOBSEN



# Footings *for* Children

Imparting  
a Biblical Worldview  
So They Can Thrive

Teacher's Guide  
*for all versions*

DWIGHT VOGT  
KAREN JACOBSEN

Footings for Children: Imparting a Biblical Worldview so They Can Thrive (Teacher's Guide)  
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Disciple Nations Alliance 1110 E. Missouri Ave., #393, Phoenix, Arizona, 85014  
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### **About the Authors**

Dwight Vogt is the Director of International Programs of the Disciple Nations Alliance. Before coming to the DNA, Dwight worked for over 25 years at Food for the Hungry, including field leadership roles in Bangladesh, Peru, Thailand and Guatemala. He earned his master's degree in intercultural studies and missiology from Biola University. He lives with his wife, Deborah, and their three children in Phoenix, Arizona.

Karen Jacobsen is the Children's Ministry Director at Grace Redeemer Church in Teaneck, New Jersey. Previously, she served for three years in Rwanda with Food for the Hungry, training Sunday school teachers and local staff, and creating curriculum for child and adult programs. She also has worked as an elementary-classroom teacher and librarian. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Cedarville University. Karen enjoys making the Bible real for children and helping the adults who teach them become more effective communicators. She enjoys traveling, coffee, and cooking good food for friends.

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*Dwight Vogt*

**Available online: [footingsforchildren.com](http://footingsforchildren.com)**

*Footings for Children* is a curriculum designed for teaching children in any cultural context, including settings where teaching aids and tools are limited. The lessons are appropriate for beginning teachers as well as those more experienced. The curriculum can be used in:

- After-school clubs
- Sunday schools
- Christian camps
- Home devotionals

Because children are at different ages and education levels, *Footings for Children* is available in four different versions. They are:

1. Early Adolescent Version
2. Young Readers Version
3. Nonreaders Version
4. Devotional Version

The other versions, along with this Teacher's Guide are available online as downloadable documents at [footingsforchildren.com](http://footingsforchildren.com).

# Footings for Children: Imparting a Biblical Worldview so They Can Thrive

## Teacher's Guide

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## Why Footings for Children?

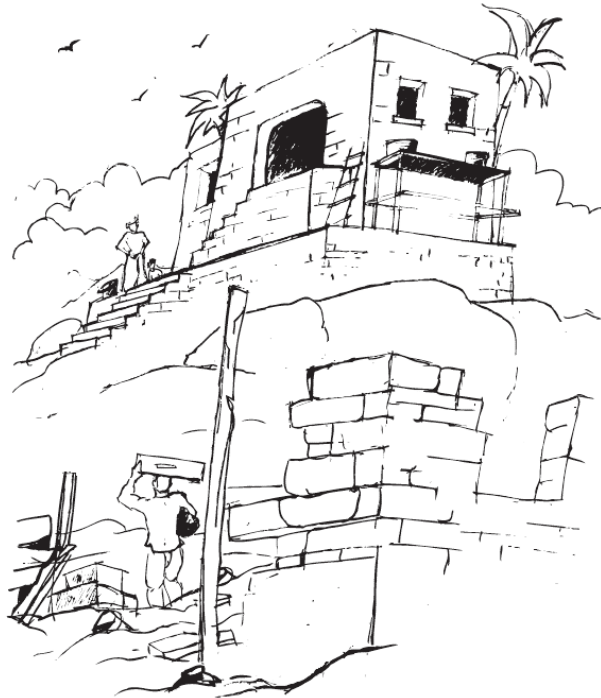
As parents and teachers, we want our children to thrive in life, to grow strong, and to flourish in every circumstance. We desire for them to prosper in the best sense, developing and using their abilities to bless others and the world around them all their days.

Yet, most would agree that the conditions for raising children are as intense and difficult as ever. While statistics highlight this fact, they are unable to portray the pain and disillusionment experienced. As parents and teachers of today's youth, we understand this challenge.

How can we equip children to grow strong and actually thrive and flourish in this world? We must impart to our children a foundational understanding of truth and reality upon which all future viewpoints will be formed and decisions will be made. We must give them the footings on which they can understand all of life clearly and accurately. In short, today's youth need a Biblical worldview.

Jesus was well aware that there were competing worldviews – underlying comprehensive ideas about life – that were either false or true. He said building on false ideas was like building a house on sand that would eventually fall in the storms of life. These ideas originate with Satan whom Jesus called "a liar and the father of lies"<sup>1</sup>. Satan began his work of deception in the garden and continues to this day, wreaking havoc and suffering in every facet of life and culture.

In contrast, Jesus said building on the truth was like building a house on rock which would stand strong amidst the storms of life. The rock, he said, was his word – the truth. This is why we impart a Biblical worldview to our children, to give them a sure *footing* for building strong lives and withstanding the storms of life.



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<sup>1</sup> John 8:44



The word *“footing”* is also a construction term. Before building a house, the first step is often to dig a trench or hole and fill this with cement – called a footing. This footing provides a strong solid base on which the foundation walls and structure can be built. It takes much time and money to make this unseen solid base below the surface, but the builder knows that without it the house will eventually fall.

This illustration applies equally to our children. They need a foundational understanding of God, themselves, and all of life based on God’s truth. With this, they will more accurately see their world, more perceptively understand their choices, and more diligently apply themselves to live out God’s greater purposes. They will thrive!

This is my constant prayer for my children: that God will give them his light and truth so that they are not deceived and can make good decisions day-by-day to flourish as God intends.



*Footings for Children* is a curriculum for those who teach children both inside and outside the home to help them provide this worldview footing.

## How to Use this Curriculum

*Footings for Children* was designed to be adapted and applied in any cultural context. It is a curriculum for those who teach children in after-school Bible clubs, Sunday Schools, camps, and even home devotionals. It is designed to be easily used where teaching aids and tools are limited.

We encourage the teacher to work through the **Teacher's Guide** in each lesson. Children respond to enthusiasm and passion. The most effective teachers are those who are passionate about their subject and have mastered it. This flows from knowing and embracing the subject. So, please take time to carefully read and think through this section before diving into the lesson plan.

The **Lesson** section is designed to provide basic content and some ways to illustrate and communicate this content. Because every situation is unique, in terms of the children and their culture, you, the teacher, are strongly encouraged to make adjustments in the lesson to fit your situation while staying true to and communicating the core points and concepts.

Finally, it is the Holy Spirit that ultimately works truth into the human heart, so stay prayerful and depend on him.

Realize also that many of these truths strike at the core of a cultural lie that Satan and his demons are promoting 24 hours a day to deceive us and our children. Therefore, it is important to reinforce these truths continuously with the children and the best way to do this is to impart them to parents as well.

Regarding parents, they are designed by God to have the greatest influence in the life of a child. So, it's right and natural that parents invest significant time and energy imparting truth and knowledge to their children. Mothers tend to do this naturally, but many fathers feel like their role is only to provide for their children and discipline their behavior. Yet, God has given to fathers a unique and amazing influence in the lives of their children. It's God's plan that fathers also engage in teaching their children through their words and their actions. In Deuteronomy 6, fathers and mothers are instructed to first embed truth into their own minds and hearts. Second, they are to diligently impart them to their children *that their lives will go well*. As parents, we are to impart truth to our children in everything we do: when we sit in our house, when we walk by the way, when we lie down, and when we rise up, posting them on the doorposts, on our gates, etc.<sup>2</sup>

If you are teaching *Footings* to children and you can also help the parents learn to teach and live it out for their children, by all means do so. The parents' influence, coupled with yours, will be huge.

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<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 6:7, 8

# Unit 1 – About God

For children to develop well and thrive, they need to understand life and how best to live it. Understanding life starts with understanding God because God is the ultimate reality. God is reality. Therefore, this first unit is *About God*. Each lesson highlights one or more fundamental truths about the existence, character, and nature of God and how creation reveals these. The truths presented counter the lies that God does not exist, is not good, is not rational, and does not care about us. The final lesson in the unit draws out the conclusion that since it is evident in creation that God is good, all-wise, and all-powerful, we should be able to trust him and what he says in the Bible about our lives and how best to live them.

# Unit One – Lesson 1

## God is the Creator of Everything!

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### **The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?**

**The Truth:** God created the universe and all that is in it. As such, creation is evidence that God is all-powerful, all-wise, and all-knowing.

**The Deception:** A powerful lie of Satan is that the world and life just happened: that the life and creation we experience evolved from non-life and the simplest form of matter. Satan wants to deceive us into thinking that there is no creator God who is all-powerful, all-wise, all-knowing, and ruler over all the earth. There is no God, period.

The importance of this truth and all its implications is why it is under the full attack of Satan and his forces.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Upon this truth hinges all other understanding and reality about God, his acts, and his purposes as revealed in the Bible. Without Genesis 1 being true and real, there can be no grounds for believing that everything else the Bible reveals about God and life, from Genesis 2 to Revelation 22, is more than just a story.

#### **Encouragement for the Teacher**

**God has a purpose for your life.** You have been blessed to be a blessing. You were ultimately designed to live for the benefit of others. Right now, these others are the children in this community and class. God wants to help you succeed as a teacher in this environment. He wants to use you to bless these children and shape their lives. He has placed great potential in the life of each child, and you are his tool to help develop this potential.

#### **Tip for Successful Teaching**

**Children choose to learn.** Learning is taking in information, struggling to understand it, and making it part of who you are, what you know, and how you think. You cannot make children learn. You can make them sit still and you can reward or penalize them for not knowing facts, but you cannot make them learn. Learning is a choice of the will. A teacher cannot make children learn or change their thinking. A teacher can force them to remember facts and ideas, but the child must choose to learn in a way that changes the way they think and behave. Each lesson moving forward will include a practical tip to help you become the best teacher that you can be for these children.

#### **Teacher Devotional**

As you prepare for this lesson, ponder the words of this song:

***You Are Creator* by Daniel Lehmann, 2002**

We are a people without excuse

All that's created and all that is good  
Speaks of the wonder of God

All that is seen and all that is heard  
Is proof of his unending love for the world

Their voices will never be heard  
But the unspoken truth will endure

You are creator the brilliant God  
Creation's an echo of all that you are

The night and day whisper words from afar  
And they speak of the glory of God  
And they speak of the glory of God

How can I hide from your presence oh God  
You're with me wherever I go

I look to the sky and I'm wondering why  
We ever thought we're in control  
How could we ever think we're in control

Glory, Glory, Glory to the Almighty God  
Glory, Glory, Glory to the Almighty God  
Glory, Glory, Glory to the Almighty God  
Glory, Glory, Glory to the Almighty God

As you teach this lesson, there are three ways that the children may respond to the truths of God that you are teaching.

1. The child can grow to ignore (or not believe) that God made everything. Instead of worshipping God (giving God worth and full credit for what he has done), the child will learn to worship (or put his or her value and faith in) the things that God has made but not the God who made them.

Romans 1:25 speaks of people who do just this: "They exchanged the truth *of God for a lie*, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised."

2. The child can grow in awe of and respect for God. As a result, the child will seek to know this awesome God better.

Acts 17:24-28 speaks of this kind of person: "God made the world and everything in it ...he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else ...he made every nation of men ...he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live ... *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*" (emphasis added)

3. The child can continually be impressed with the greatness and goodness of God. The child will then respond to God with admiration, trust, service, and worship.

Psalm 148:1-14 speaks of the person whose understanding of the creator God leads to profound praise and worship:

*Praise the Lord.* Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth ... *young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.* He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord. (emphasis added)

Pray that your children will respond with the latter two responses.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of God creating the world. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you in these verses.

**Genesis 1:1** – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

**Genesis 1:27** – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

**Genesis 2:1-2** – “Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

**Psalms 89:12** – “You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.”

**Psalms 139:13** – “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.”

**Isaiah 42:5** – “This is what God the Lord says – he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it.”

**Jeremiah 10:12-13** – “But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.”

**John 1:1-3** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

**Colossians 1:16-17** – “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

**Romans 1:25** – “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.”

**1 Timothy 4:3-4** – “They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.”

**Revelation 4:11** – “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

**Revelation 10:6** – “And he swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, ‘There will be no more delay!’”

**SEE ALSO:** Genesis 1:16, 2:9; Deuteronomy 4:32; Job 33:4; Psalm 102:18, 148:1-5; Proverbs 8:21-28; Isaiah 45:8-9, 11, 18; Isaiah 54:16; Mark 13:19; John 1:10; Acts 17:24-31; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:1-3

# Unit One – Lesson 2

## God Holds Everything Together and Sustains It

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** God holds the universe and everything in it together. God sustains it all, giving the gift of life to everything - everyday. We are totally dependent on God for a functioning universe and everything in it, including life itself - our daily breath. The entire universe and our daily life are dependent on God and are a gift from him.

**The Deception:** Satan deceives us to minimize or forget God's incredible power, wisdom, and ongoing work in sustaining everyday life and the universe. He tells us that the orderly function of the universe and the earth, the energy of life that is present in all living things including our own minute-by-minute breath and life, all this just "is". There is no God behind it. We are unaware and ignorant of our total dependence on God for life itself. We live each day with a false sense of independence and pride that we do not need God.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Understanding the truth of our dependence on God – even for our daily breath – will help children live with great awareness, confidence, and trust in God. They will have greater security, strength, and peace.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**Each child is made by God in his image.** The life of each was planned by God before they were conceived. There are no ordinary children! Each is a unique creation and special to God. Each has great potential and has a gift to give the world. Each child is designed and put here for a purpose in the plan of God - no child is ordinary. No child is a mistake.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Relationship is the key to a child learning.** Children choose to learn, and they choose to learn from a teacher they trust. When they sense a teacher really knows them and cares for them, they open up their minds and hearts to what the person is sharing and teaching. The teacher opens the child's door of learning by loving the child!

#### Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of God giving us life and sustaining us. Prayerfully study these scriptures, and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Job 33:4** – "The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."



**Job 38: 31-33** – “Can you direct the movement of the stars—binding the cluster of the Pleiades or loosening the cords of Orion? Can you direct the sequence of the seasons or guide the Bear with her cubs across the heavens? Do you know the laws of the universe? Can you use them to regulate the earth?”

**Psalms 3:5** – “I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.”

**Isaiah 40:26** – “Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”

**Isaiah 42:5** – “This is what God the Lord says – he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it.”

**Isaiah 46:3-4** – “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

**Jeremiah 10:12-13** – “But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.”

**Acts 17:24-31** – “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are his offspring.” Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

**Colossians 1:16-17** – “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

**Revelation 4:11** – “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

**SEE ALSO:** Isaiah 57:16; John 6:33; 1 Timothy 6:13-15

# Unit One – Lesson 3

## God is Good – ALL Good Comes from God

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** We often struggle with the truth that God is both “all-powerful” and “all-good.” We ask ourselves, “If God is all-powerful and all-good, why did he let my friend die in an accident?” Though we might not say it out loud, we reason that maybe God is not 100% good, or he is not 100% powerful. As a result, we struggle to fully love and trust in God and his word because to fully trust in God we need to believe that he is both all-powerful and all-good.

Lessons 1 and 2 in this unit looked at God's power and wisdom. This lesson begins to look at God's goodness. It is not enough to just to tell children “God is good.” Each day, God gives us abundant evidence of his goodness that we can personally see, touch, and experience. Our challenge is to help children see and recognize that ALL that is good comes from God. If we do this well, then the many good things God puts in their lives can be constant reminders to them of his perfect goodness and love for them.

The reality is that God made everything. All that is good and helpful comes from God because God is the creator of it all. If it is good, it originates with God and is evidence of God's goodness and care for us. For example, we easily recognize that God made the sky and the rain, and normally we experience these as beautiful and good. But, do we also see that God is the one who created and provided other good things such as friendship, love, beauty, smiles, warmth, the feel of a cool breeze, music, engineering, science, etc.? These too are from God and are gifts from him to us. Every single good thing we experience, no matter how small, is evidence of God's goodness. Can we help children see and recognize that ALL that is good comes from God? If so, the many good things God puts into our lives can be continuous reminders of his perfect goodness and love for us.

**The Deception:** Satan's deception is to make us blind and ignorant, so that we do not see all the good that God puts into our daily lives for us to enjoy and benefit from. Or, when we do see and experience good things, Satan deceives us to think “it just is.” We do not connect this good to its ultimate source – God. We fail to recognize that everything good comes from or originates with God and therefore is evidence of God's goodness and love for us.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will come to understand that God is the source of everything good, including relationships, beauty, science, math, art and language. They will recognize more and more each day all the good that God put into the world and our lives for us to benefit from and enjoy. Ultimately, the children will live more aware, convinced, and amazed of God's goodness and his good purposes for their life. This will fill the children with a greater sense of wonder, joy, and gratitude. It will give them increased confidence and hope.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**God has given you special power and influence in the life of a child.** You may feel ordinary, weak, and overwhelmed by your own problems and troubles. But to a child in this class, you are an important person – someone with power and influence, someone they look up to. Having such regard in the eyes of a child, you have the power to encourage them, to build them up, to bring life to their spirits and ideas to their minds that will transform them.

## Tip for Successful Teaching

**Relationship is the key to a child learning.**

**Get to know your children.** Quickly get to know each child by name. Also, help the children get to know one another if they do not already. When new children show up from week to week, welcome them to the class and help them feel at home. Your sincere interest in each child will greatly enhance their desire, willingness, and ability to learn.

Another good way to get to know the child is to visit them in their homes and meet their parents.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of God giving us everything that is good. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 1:31** – “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”(ESV)

**James 1:16-17** – “Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

**1 Timothy 4:4** – “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.” (ESV)

# Unit One – Lesson 4

## God’s Character and Power Is Revealed in Creation

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

This fourth lesson further builds on the truths discussed in Lessons 1 to 3 – that we can know about God’s character and power through his creation.

**The Truth:** Everything God made reveals something about his existence, character, and power. Does God exist? What is God like? These are critical questions that shape all of life. The Bible says that the answer and evidence for these questions is right in front of us every day – they are plain to see in the things that have been made (Romans 1:19-20). We can see and discover God’s character and power in what he created.

**The Deception:** Satan’s lie is that creation reveals nothing about God – because God did not create it. Instead, the world was created by mythical figures and events, or it all came about through evolutionary processes of random chance and natural selection over billions of years. Satan continuously deceives and blinds people to the reality that God’s existence, his character, and power are plain to see in the things God has made.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will increasingly see and discover God’s character and power revealed in what he created. They will grow in their awareness, understanding, and awe of God. They will live their lives with greater trust, security, strength, and confidence.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have a high calling and purpose.** As a teacher, you are called by God to steward these children. A steward is one who manages and develops the resources that are “owned by another” but are temporarily placed in the steward’s care. In this class, you are the steward. The children are the resources: God’s possessions that he has placed in your care. You are accountable in this class not just to the organization, church, or parent, but most of all to God for how you teach and develop the spirit, mind, and ability of the children in your class.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Relationship is the key to a child learning.**

**Know your children’s abilities and needs.** Refresh your memory about what it is like to be the age of the children you lead by reviewing the age. Learn more about the needs, wants, and abilities of the children you’ll be teaching. Be sensitive to children with special needs – children who are especially shy, who may learn slowly, or have some handicap. These are children of God who have something special from God to give.

**Make your class a “safe zone” for all children – including those with special needs.** Don't embarrass anyone.

## **Teacher Devotional**

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of God revealing himself through creation. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 2:1** – “Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.”

**Romans 1:20** – “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

# Unit One – Lesson 5

## God’s Design for Life Is Good: We Can Trust His Instructions

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** In Lesson 3, we looked at how all that is good comes from God and is evidence that God is good. In this lesson, we want to help the children see that God’s design for how to live life is also good, and they can trust his instructions. In studying creation, we can see how God has designed things to work and function in amazing ways. Creation makes it clear that God’s design for how things can best function, work, and live is very good. This includes God’s design for our own lives as well.

**The Deception:** One of Satan’s greatest deceptions is that God’s way to live is not the best way. One of the first lies of Satan to Adam and Eve was to challenge God’s good intentions for them – to make them question whether God really wanted what was best for them. The serpent said, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...” Satan and the world continuously tell us that God’s design for life is second-best or even worse. The deception is that there is a much better way to live, thrive, and flourish than God’s way.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Every person, young and old, wants to live a good and successful life. The point of this lesson is to help the child recognize and embrace the key truth that God’s design for how things can best function, work, and live is very good. This especially includes our lives. The very best and surest way to have a good and truly successful life is to follow God’s design and plan.

This does not mean we have a life free of difficulty and pain. But, the Bible does say that God’s way to live will always bring the truest joy, the greatest peace, the deepest contentment, the most fulfilling purpose, and the most genuine love that each of us seeks. Knowing the wonderful truth of this reality, children can live convinced that God’s way to live is the very best possible way. Therefore, it makes perfect sense to follow his instructions. Helping children understand and embrace this truth will give them great confidence and will positively shape every aspect of their life.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.** You may think that your education is limited, your skills are inadequate, you lack a proper classroom, and you do not have good teaching aids or materials for the children. All of these may be true, but you do not lack what is most important for impacting the children in your care.

You have a conscience – the ability to know what is right and wrong, and how to best live your life and use your skills to bless others. Listen to your conscience and follow it. It is a valuable gift from God. He speaks to you through it.

## Tip for Successful Teaching

**Relationship is the key to a child learning.**

**Engage, interact, and laugh with the child.** Really love them.

## Teacher Devotional

God's design for life is good. Secular surveys even show this, as reflected in the USA cover story mentioned in the lesson section below.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through the list of scriptures below that speak of everything that God created as functioning well and good. Ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

### **God's Design is Good**

Genesis 1

**Verse 4:** "God saw that the light *was good*, and he separated the light from the darkness."

**Verse 10:** "God called the dry ground 'land,' and the gathered waters he called 'seas.' And God saw that *it was good*."

**Verse 12:** "The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that *it was good*."

**Verses 17-18:** "God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that *it was good*."

**Verse 21:** "So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*."

**Verse 25:** "God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that *it was good*."

**Verse 27:** "So God created people in his own image: God patterned them after himself, male and female he created them."

**Verse 31:** "God saw all that he had made, and *it was very good*. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day."

### **Why we can trust God's instructions for living**

**2 Samuel 22:31** – "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless."

**Proverbs 3:13-18** – “Blessed is the man who finds wisdom<sup>3</sup>, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.”

**Psalms 19:7-8** – “The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.”

**James 1:25** – “But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.”

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<sup>3</sup> Wisdom – the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment from God of his ways, and then applying it.



## **Unit 2 - Made in God's Image**

Who am I? What is my value? Am I important? Are boys superior to girls? Are some groups superior to others? Does skin color matter? What about the value of a handicapped person? Why should I value and respect others? The lies and deception surrounding these questions has caused more suffering, death, abuse, and heartache than possibly any other area. Every child needs to know and embrace the true answer to these questions. This unit looks at these questions and gives the answers.

# Unit Two – Lesson 1

## Made in God’s Image

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** We are each created by God in his image. Each person bears the divine imprint of God.

**The Deception:** Satan recognizes the power and implications of this critical truth for our lives. Therefore, he and his forces work hard to distort this truth and/or replace it with many lies. His most basic lie is that we evolved first from a pool of chemicals and then from animals. God did not form or make us. We are not made in the image of God. Or, we are created by some spiritual being but not in his image. We’re just another form of animal. The implications of these lies are grave. Not understanding this truth opens the door for people to view themselves as inherently superior or inferior to another group based on skin color, gender, age, height, weight, social or economic status, nationality, ethnicity, and physical and mental ability. It opens the door for all forms of discrimination, tribalism, racism, oppression, abuse, and bullying. It even paves the path to justifying murder and genocide.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** To know, understand, and embrace the truth that each of us is made in God’s image – patterned after God’s likeness – will transform lives and cultures. Children will live aware of the honor, potential, and purpose they have as people who bear the divine imprint of God. It will also open their hearts and minds to other important truths. This truth from God can profoundly shape their life for good and lead them to success.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life. For example:

1. You have a **spirit** and, with this, the ability to give encouragement, vision, and a sense of purpose to children.
2. You have a **mind** and, therefore, the ability to continue learning new knowledge and skills to better teach the children.
3. You have **creativity** which you can develop and use to solve problems and improve your life and teaching work.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

Value your relationship with each child. Then affirm, believe in, and inspire them. Children need to know that their contributions are important and that you believe in them. They need your inspiration.

**Affirm:** Address each child by name. Verbally recognize their strengths or achievements (nice picture, good use of color, etc.). Compliment them for their good behavior or hard work. A week should not pass without each of the children in your life being recognized or complimented in some way.

Show them kindness and respect as you would an adult. Treat them as individuals uniquely made in the image of God. Treat them according to the Golden Rule which calls us to treat others as we ourselves would want to be treated.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this scripture that speaks of God creating us in his image. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has given you to influence and teach. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 1:27** – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

New Living Translation: “So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them.”

**Psalms 8:4-6** – “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet.”

# Unit Two – Lesson 2

## Made in God’s Image – Uniquely Made

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** Every child is created by God in his image. Each child is created wonderfully unique – a special reflection of God's incredible diversity. Therefore, each person is very special to God, very valuable to God, and very loved by God. Each child needs to know that no other person can be who they are or who God created them to be. You cannot be me. I cannot be you. Each of us is special. You are special!

**The Deception:** We are not patterned after God. The way we are made is simply the result of genetic chance. Few children are special. The majority of children are ordinary and common with no special value. Children do not each have unique potential, gifts, and creativity from God to be developed. They are all blank slates and empty vessels to be filled. God loves and values some people more than others.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children can live with confidence knowing that no matter how the world defines their worth, the truth is found in how God defines them. They can be confident that they are created wonderfully unique in God’s image – a special reflection of God's diversity with a unique calling and potential. They can live confident that God loves them individually as a very special person with great value to him.

With this reality fully grasped and embraced in their hearts, children can live confidently with their heads high. They can live fully – striving to be all that God made them to be, and not trying to be or look like someone else. They can appreciate and celebrate one another’s uniqueness.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.

- You have **health** and **energy**, so you can come to the classroom each day, arrive on time, and give the children your best even when tired and discouraged.
- You have your **education** and **natural abilities** – use them and develop them.
- You have **passions** and **desires** that are good – fan them into a strong flame.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

Value your relationship with each child, then affirm, believe in, and inspire them. Children need to know that their contributions are important, and that you believe in them. They need your inspiration.

**Believe:** To believe in the child is to share your vision of that child with him. Let the children see what you see when you look at them; your confidence and belief in them. Communicate your belief in who God has made them to be and the calling God has given them.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of God uniquely creating us in his image. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God impresses upon your heart.

**Psalms 139:13-16** – “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

**Jeremiah 1:5** – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”

**Isaiah 49:5** – “And now the Lord says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength.”

# Unit Two – Lesson 3

## Made in the Image of God – Women and Men

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** Women and men are both made in God's image. Girls and boys are of equal high worth and value before God. Each girl and boy, each woman and man, equally bears the divine imprint of God. In God's eyes, girls are not inferior to boys, and men are not superior to women. Both are of equal high worth and value in the sight of God.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Women are inferior to men.
- Women do not deserve the same opportunities as men.
- Women are second-class citizens.
- Men have inalienable rights that women do not have.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** One of the greatest causes of poverty in the world today is the attitude toward, and treatment of, women. Many girls and women are abused and/or denied the opportunity to develop and fully express the gifts God has given them. Knowing women and men are both made in the image of God and all that this implies, girls and boys can live convinced of this truth and treat one another accordingly. They can fully support one another as girls and boys in developing all their potential and become all that God intends for them.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.

You have some **material possessions** that God has given you (e.g. clothes, food, shelter, etc.). Always be grateful for what God has already given to you. This characteristic of gratefulness will be caught by the children. **Gratitude** is a good starting point for peace, joy, and creative energy that you can share with the children.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

Value your relationship with each child. Affirm, believe in, and inspire them. Children need to know that their contributions are important and that you believe in them. They need your inspiration.

**Inspire:** Inspire the child.

- Reveal God's truth, goodness, and beauty to them.

- Help them see that God has given them a most valuable possession in their passion (heart), their conscience (sense of right and wrong), their ability to think and reason (mind), and their ability to create.
- Let them see God's good purposes and care for all aspects of their life.
- Impart to them Biblical principles for leadership, marriage, economics, work, agriculture, and health.
- Inspire them to practice honesty, diligence, generosity, kindness, and self-sacrifice.

## Additional Information

This lesson includes a skit that some of your children will perform, based on the story of the Samaritan woman at the well found in John 4:3-27. The skit is found in the appendix to this Unit, and you will need to recruit children for the following characters: Jesus, twelve disciples, Samaritan woman, narrator. You should gather your actors together for a practice at least one time before teaching this lesson.

As you prepare for this lesson, please read the following background information and think about the treatment and attitude toward women in your area of the world.

### Who works the most hours: oxen, men, or women?

In one country, a study was done to see how many days or hours were worked on a one-hectare farm in one year. They counted the days or hours for a pair of oxen, for a man, and for a woman. Which one of these do you think worked the most hours or days in a year?

The study in one area of the Indian Himalayas showed that on a one-hectare farm in one year, a pair of oxen worked 106 days (1,064 hours), a man worked 121 days (1,212 hours), and a woman worked 348 days (3,485 hours).<sup>4</sup> Are you surprised by this?

Who works the most hours each year in your country, men or women? What do you think about this?

### Boys and girls literacy rates

In the whole world, do you think more boys go to school or do you think more girls go to school? Or is it 50/50?

Of the world's nearly one billion adults who cannot read, two-thirds are women.<sup>5</sup> This means that there are two women who have not gone to school and cannot read to every one man.

How many girls go to school in your community or country? What about secondary school? How many girls compared to boys? Why do you think this is?

In a country where the organization *Food for the Hungry* works, one national staff manager wrote: "In villages and slums (here), girls are always treated as a burden on their family. Parents are not properly aware of the importance of girls' education. In poor communities, girls do not have equal opportunity with boys. Parents involve their

<sup>4</sup> *The Hunger Project Online Briefing Program: The Condition of Women in South East Asia; The Cycle of Malnutrition*, 15, [www.thp.org](http://www.thp.org), 7/21/03

<sup>5</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Adult and Youth Literacy: Global Trends in Gender Parity*, September, 2010, [http://www.uis.unesco.org/FactSheets/Documents/Fact\\_Sheet\\_2010\\_Lit\\_EN.pdf](http://www.uis.unesco.org/FactSheets/Documents/Fact_Sheet_2010_Lit_EN.pdf)

daughters in household chores all day and a large number of girls never go to school. Of those who do go, 50% (of the girls) fail to complete their primary education. There are many reasons for this including religious beliefs, poverty, and the need for family income. They believe girls are only suitable to work at home and so don't need academic knowledge and skills."

**Here is a short poem written over a thousand years ago in one country. It offered this advice to new parents:**

When a son is born  
Let him sleep on the bed,  
Clothe him with fine clothes.  
And give him jade to play...  
When a daughter is born,  
Let her sleep on the ground,  
Wrap her in common wrappings,  
And give her broken tiles to play.<sup>6</sup>

Consider Jesus' treatment and attitude toward women:

**Women in Jesus' time:**

- Regarded as second class citizens
- Separated from men in worshipping at the synagogue
- Not taught by Rabbis – women were not considered worthy to be taught
- Not given any role in Jewish worship
- Not acknowledged by men in public – not even wives by their husbands
- Treated by the Romans as inferior

Jesus lived in a climate of hostility and prejudice against women. His attitude toward, treatment of, and teaching about women was revolutionary for its time and won him many enemies as well as friends.<sup>7</sup>

**Attitude and practice of Jesus toward women:**

In contrast, Jesus refused to follow the behavioral rules established by the three major Jewish religious groups of the day: the Essenes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. Jesus' actions towards women were revolutionary.

- Jesus healed women as well as men.
- He taught women (Luke 10:38-42).
- Jesus spoke to women, including non-Jewish women (John 4:7).
- After his resurrection, Jesus talked to women first.
- He included women among his followers (Matthew, 27:55; Luke 23:27; Mark 15:40-41).
- Women were the first to discover that Jesus had risen from the dead, and told the disciples (John 20:11-18).
- Jesus allowed himself to be touched by women, and chose to associate with them (Matthew 14:3-9).

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<sup>6</sup> *The Book of Songs*, 1000-700 B.C., <http://middlekingdomlife.com/guide/understanding-chinese-women.htm>

<sup>7</sup> Re:Quest Issues, *Issues: Prejudice and Discrimination: The Role of Women*, 2007, <http://www.request.org.uk/issues/topics/prejudice/prejudice12.htm>



- He forgave women as well as men.
- Jesus expressed concern for widows.
- Jesus saw men and women as equally valuable (John 4).
- Jesus included women among his inner circle of followers (Luke 8:1-3).

For an in-depth look at this topic, we encourage you to read *Nurturing the Nations: Reclaiming the Dignity of Women in Building Healthy Cultures*, by Darrow Miller, with Stan Guthrie. It is available at: [www.disciplenations.org](http://www.disciplenations.org). This book deals with the intersection of three seemingly very different subjects: women, poverty, and worldview.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of men and women both being made in God's image. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 1:26-27** – "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; *male and female he created them.*"

**Galatians 3:26-29** – "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

# Unit Two – Lesson 4

## Made in the Image of God – Every Person

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** Every person is made in the image of God and of equal value and worth in his eyes. Every person from every race and nationality is made in God's image. Every skin color is beautiful in God's eyes. Every nationality is special. Every disabled person is made in God's image. Every handicapped person is equal in value to a non-handicapped person. Every poor person is made in God's image. Every person is of equal value, dignity, and worth in the sight of God.

**The Deception:** A cruel deception of Satan is that skin color, ethnicity, nationality, physical appearance, social status, ability, intelligence, and wealth determine a person's value and worth. This is a huge lie that leads to untold discrimination, neglect, stolen opportunity, and abuse. For children to thrive, it must be exposed. Children must know the truth.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will know the reality that every person is made in God's image; therefore, God is no respecter of skin color, nationality, wealth, physical make-up, etc. Accordingly, they will respect and treat one another as equal in worth and value.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**All truth and knowledge comes from God.** Math, science, art, geology, literacy, and good literature all ultimately flow from, or find their source in, the mind of God. Creation reveals God's character and nature. He created it all. He created everything for a purpose.

Here are two questions that will bring light, energy, and meaning to every subject you study:

- 1) How is God's character and nature revealed through this topic?
- 2) What is God's purpose in providing this area of study or specific lesson? What about it can we use to love God more or make the world a better place for our neighbor?

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

##### Class Management

Set clear, reasonable rules of conduct, expectations, and consequences from the beginning. Repeat them when new students join the group. Write them on the wall. Enforce them. Make it clear that the reason for the rules is not to limit them but to provide a good atmosphere for not only them but their classmates to learn. By following the rules, they are helping their classmates. By not following the rules, they are hurting their classmates who want to learn.

#### Additional Information

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read through the following additional information. There are two great stories of people who understood they were made in the image of God and were able to face big challenges as a result. One of the stories (taught in this lesson) is about a child born into slavery, George Washington Carver. Another is the story of Helen Keller (1880-1968).

Helen Keller was a great woman who was born on June 27, 1880, in the southern part of the United States. When Helen was one and a half years old, she got a terrible disease. She had a high fever that lasted a few days. After her illness, Helen was left blind and deaf. Helen's parents thought she would regain her sight and her hearing, but she never did. Helen remained blind and deaf.

Being blind and deaf was very difficult for Helen. When she was young, she was frustrated and angry and she did bad things. One time, she locked her mother in the pantry. Another time, she pushed over a cradle with a baby in it. She also cut off some of her friend's hair. Helen's parents did not know what to do. They finally went to see a friend who found a teacher named Anne Sullivan to help Helen. Anne patiently taught Helen how to read by spelling words on her hand and by using the Braille alphabet. Anne made a huge difference in Helen Keller's life by teaching her how to communicate.

Helen was very smart and eventually went to college. When she was older, she joined many foundations for the blind, gave lectures, and wrote a lot of books. Many famous people came to meet her. During World War II, Helen visited soldiers in the hospital who had been blinded by fighting. Helen went all over the world to talk to people.

Helen Keller was a great person who helped people realize that they could overcome their handicaps as she had. Helen Keller had the ability to help people by giving them hope that they could live a wonderful life with a disability.

- Note some of the obstacles Helen faced. She was blind, deaf, and did not know how to communicate. She was very angry and frustrated.
- Think about how people initially viewed Helen: They may have felt sorry for her and assumed she would never be able to have a good life. She was not valued.
- How did Helen overcome these obstacles? She came to see herself as God had made her: with a future and a purpose. She had potential to develop and use her obstacles in order to bless others. She accepted help from Anne. She worked hard to study and learn, and she persevered. She did not view herself as helpless and hopeless.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this scripture that speaks of God looking at the heart. Prayerfully study this scripture and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**1 Samuel 16:1-8** – “The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.’ But Samuel said, ‘How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.’ The Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.’ Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, ‘Do you come in peace?’”

Samuel replied, 'Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.' Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord' But the Lord said to Samuel, '**Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**' Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The Lord has not chosen this one either.'"

## **Unit 3 – God's Purpose for Mankind**

Does life have a purpose? Do I have a purpose? Why am I here? Why are you here? What does my life have to do with God's purposes? Here too, deception and lies pervade cultures and individuals, resulting in wasted lives, frustration, and loss. God, in the second chapter of the Bible, begins to reveal the truth about our purpose in life and summarizes it in the great commandment. When understood and embraced by a child, the answers provide an indispensable footing for building a purposeful and meaningful life.

# Unit Three – Lesson 1

## God Is a Purposeful God – He Has a Purpose for Your Life

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** God is a purposeful God. God has a plan and purpose for this world, and he is carrying it out. Each child, each person, is a part of this plan and has an important purpose or role to play that only he or she can fulfill.

Our individual purpose is rooted in the truth that God is a purposeful God. He has a purpose for all mankind and for this world, and he is working his purpose out. This is the main point of this introductory lesson. It is said that history is actually his (God's) story as it is God who is working to achieve his ultimate ends in history. As a result, history is going somewhere, and our lives contribute to and create history.

**The Deception:** Satan's deception is that there is no ultimate purpose for living. Life begins at birth and ends at death: there is nothing more. Or, life is on a wheel of repetition with no beginning, end, or ultimate meaning. In both cases, each of us is left to search for and try to find our own purpose. Or, Satan and the world tell us a lie, and we each assume a purpose and meaning that was never intended by God.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children need to know that God is ultimately in control and is achieving his purposes. He has a critical part for each of us to play in his eternal plan and purpose. Knowing this truth and living by it will give children much confidence, hope, fulfillment, and the type of success that comes only from God.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have adversaries in Satan, in the world, and in your flesh.** These are very real adversaries! They will oppose you and seek to hinder your ability to be a blessing to the children and a tool in their development. You are weak compared to these, but God is greater. He will help you. Recognize your dependence on God, ask for his help, and then go forward with confidence.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Teach with passion and enthusiasm.**

Learning about God and his plan for living the best possible life in relationship with him is the most exciting and important thing we can do. A key to successful teaching is having passion for your subject. Children respond to enthusiasm and passion. But, you can only teach well and be passionate about what you experience and know well. The more a person knows about a

subject, the more passionate they are about it. Just ask someone who has an area of expertise to talk about that area – they quickly get passionate about it! One of the primary aims of the *Footings* material is to help you gain a solid understanding and personal mastery of some foundational truths.

Participate with the children! Don't just observe. Your enthusiasm will draw children into an activity and help them see you as a person, not just someone in authority. Get down to children's eye level so they see you as accessible and caring.

## Additional Information

Before the lesson, you will need to prepare a timeline of your life, showing events such as your birth, siblings' births, first day of school, last day of school, first job, date of your marriage, or any other significant events in your life. You will be using this as an example to show students as they create their own timelines.

You will also need to prepare a long roll of paper that will serve as your timeline of the world. Draw a line from the left side of the paper all the way to the right. You will be adding events to this timeline as you teach this unit.

For some of the lessons you will need to select several dates and events from the table below to include in your timeline showing God's provision for us through inventions.

<b>History of God's provision to us through inventions</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Suggestions to share during Exploration and Application Time</b>
1045	Movable type printing by Bi Sheng in China.	Many of the important early inventions came from China.
1268 - 1289	Invention of eyeglasses.	What a wonderful invention that allowed people with bad vision to see.
1280	Mechanical clocks invented.	
1285 - 1290	Windmills invented.	
1295	Modern glassmaking begins in Italy.	Can you imagine a world without glass? What a wonderful invention and blessing from God.
1629	Giovanni Branca invents a steam turbine.	The steam turbine was the forerunner of the gasoline or diesel engine that drives cars, pumps, and many other things.
1790	First patent for a machine that rolls and spins cotton.	To make cloth and clothing.
1796	Edward Jenner creates a smallpox vaccination.	One of God's wonderful gifts through the people he made in his image are the medicines that have been discovered and invented that heal disease.
1814	Joseph Nicéphore Niépce was the first person to take a photograph.	Do you have a photo of your family? If so, you can thank God for Mr. Joseph Niépce.
1861	Pierre Michaux invents a	

	bicycle.	
1866	Alfred Nobel invents dynamite.	
1876	Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.	
1886	John Pemberton invents Coca Cola.	Soft drinks. Yummy.
1893	W.L. Judson invents the zipper.	
1901	The first radio receiver, successfully received a radio transmission.	
1903	Edward Binney and Harold Smith co-invent crayons.	

For some of the lessons you will also need to select several dates from the table below as an example of how God has guided people and spread his truth to all the nations – including your own nation. If dates for your nation are not included, do some research and add some of the history of the Gospel coming to your nation and community.

<b>History of the Gospel coming to All the Nations - including your nation</b>		
180	India	Pantaenus preaches in India.
208	Britain	Tertullian writes that Christ has followers in Britain where the Roman army and legions have not yet penetrated.
250	Paris, France	Denis is sent from Rome along with six other missionaries to establish the church in Paris.
328	Ethiopia	Frumentius takes gospel to Ethiopia.
340	Romania	Ulfilas begins work with Goths (present-day Romania).
432	Ireland	Patrick goes to Ireland as missionary.
500	Arabia	A church is planted in Arabia.
528	Italy	Benedict in Monte Cassino (Italy).
542	Sudan	Julian, from Constantinople, begins evangelizing Nubia, (Sudan).
551	Scotland, North England	Saint Columba an Irish missionary helped re-introduce Christianity to Scotland and the north of England.
596	Britain	Britain. Missionaries settle in Canterbury and within a year baptize 10,000 people.
629	Germany	Amadus of Elnon evangelized the region of modern day Germany.
635	China	First Christian missionaries (Nestorian monks from Asia Minor and Persia) arrive in China.
692	Holland and Belgium	Willibrord and 11 companions cross the North Sea to become missionaries to the Frisians (in modern Holland and Belgium).
864	Bulgaria	Conversion of Prince Boris of Bulgaria.



957	Russia	Queen Olga of Russia baptized.
1000	Greenland	Leif the Lucky evangelizes Greenland.
1266	Mongolia	Mongol leader Kublai Khan sends Marco Polo's father and uncle -- Niccolo and Maffeo Polo -- back to Europe with a request for the Church to send 100 Christian missionaries. Only two men responded and <u>they turned back</u> before reaching Mongol territory.
1276	North Africa	Raymond Lull opens training center to send missionaries to North Africa.
1510	Haiti	Dominicans begin work in Haiti.
1555	Brazil	John Calvin sends Huguenots to Brazil.
1564	Philippines	Legaspi begins Augustinian work in Philippine Islands.
1655	Angola	Jinga, princess of Matamba in Angola is converted.
1670	Venezuela	Jesuits establish missions on the Orinoco River in Venezuela.
1782	Jamaica	Freed slave George Lisle goes to Jamaica as missionary.
1797	Tahiti	The <i>Duff</i> , carrying 37 lay and pastoral missionaries, drops anchor in Tahiti.
1804	Sierra Leone	Church Missionary Society enters Sierra Leone.
1812	Burma/Mynamar	First foreign missionary, Adoniram Judson, arrives in Burma (now Myanmar).
1814	China	First recorded baptism of a Chinese convert, Cai Gao.
1814	New Zealand	First missionaries arrive in New Zealand.
1818	Madagascar	Missionary work begins in Madagascar.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read through these scriptures that speak of God fulfilling his purpose. Select several to pray through and meditate on. Then, prayerfully ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Job 36:5** – “God is mighty, but does not despise men; he is mighty, and firm in his purpose.”

**Job 42:1-2** – “Then Job replied to the Lord: ‘I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.’”

**Psalms 33:10-11** – “The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.”

**Psalms 57:2** – “I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me.”

**Proverbs 21:1** – “The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.”

**Isaiah 14:26** – “This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations.”

**Isaiah 14:27** – “For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?”

**Isaiah 14:24** – “The Lord Almighty has sworn, ‘Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.’”

**Isaiah 46:9-10** – “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: “My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.””

**Isaiah 46:11** – “From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.”

**Jeremiah 29:11** – “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

**Jeremiah 51:12** – “Lift up a banner against the walls of Babylon! Reinforce the guard, station the watchmen, prepare an ambush! The Lord will carry out his purpose, his decree against the people of Babylon.”

**Romans 8:28** – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

**Ephesians 1:11** – “In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.”

**Philippians 2:13** – “...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

**Revelation 17:17** – “For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.”

God's sovereign plan and purpose includes the nations:

**Daniel 2:21** - “He changes the times and the seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them.”

**Isaiah 40:21-24** - “Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.”

God's plan ends in a city:

**Revelation 21:24-26** - "The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it."

# Unit Three – Lesson 2

## God’s Purpose for Your Life – Love God and Your Neighbor

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

What is God's intention or purpose for my life? What am I supposed to be doing with my life? This is a very big and important question. Bob Moffitt of the Harvest Foundation came up with a wonderful teaching that addresses this question entitled *God's Intentions – Their Irreducible Minimum*.<sup>8</sup>

**The Truth:** God's main purpose for each of our lives is to love him and to love our neighbor. When Jesus was asked, “What is the most important or the greatest commandment (or thing we should do)?” he responded that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second is to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. He also said, “In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Our main purpose here on earth is to love God. The best way to show our love for God is by loving our neighbor.

In order to thrive in their life, family, and nation, children need to know this truth. They need to know that the fundamental purpose of life is not just to survive or to acquire wealth, power, security, or even gain love. Rather, the purpose we are designed and placed on this earth by God is to love him and our neighbor. The life we live is not ultimately about ourselves but those around us.

**The Deception:** The lie of Satan and our fallen nature is to think the exact opposite: It is to believe that to be happy one needs to focus on, and ultimately live for, oneself. All of life becomes about taking care of and meeting your own needs, even at the expense of others.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** This truth, this great commandment, provides a foundation upon which all of God’s other commands or purposes for us stand and fit. It connects them all together. For the child, understanding God’s grand purposes gives her or him meaning, confidence, and energy for working hard in school, doing their chores, serving their friends, and developing their abilities.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**God will help you succeed as a teacher with the simple gifts and abilities he has given you.** He will take your five loaves and two fishes, your two pennies, your last bit of flour and oil, or your vase of perfume and bless and use it to impact children for good. Your job is simply to

<sup>8</sup> *God's Intentions-Their Irreducible Minimum, Leadership Development Training Program: Level I*, Harvest Foundation, 1997, 47-49.

offer your service and whole-hearted effort to God. He will help you. True success comes from God!

## Tip for Successful Teaching

**Repeat the “Main Point” or main idea frequently. Repetition is the key to learning.**

Studies show that all people, including children, need to hear new information numerous times to learn it. You may think you are being redundant, but by presenting the main point or idea in different ways, you are actually reinforcing it and making sure children see how it applies to their lives.

Think up various activities that teach and refer to the main point or idea you want to impart.

## Teacher Devotional

**Bible Interpretation (Hermeneutical) Principles applied in this lesson:**

**1. Progressive Revelation:** God's revelation becomes more complete and mature as we progress from the Old Testament to the New.

**2. Scripture Interprets Scripture:** The *whole* of Scripture is the context and guide for understanding any individual passage of Scripture.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of God's desire for us to love him and our neighbors. Prayerfully review these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God impresses upon your heart.

### Old Testament

**Deuteronomy 5:32-33** – “So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.”

**Deuteronomy 6:5** – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

**Deuteronomy 10:12** – “And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...?”

**Joshua 22:5** – “But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

### New Testament

**Matthew 22:36-40** – “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Matthew 7:12** – “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

**Mark 12:28-31** – “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’”

**Romans 13:9** – “The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**Galatians 5:14** – “The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**James 2:8** – “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right.”

Why we can trust this instruction and all of God's instructions for living:

**Proverbs 3:13-18** – “Blessed is the man who finds wisdom<sup>9</sup>, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.”

**James 1:25** – “But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.”

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<sup>9</sup> Wisdom - The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment from God of his ways, and then the will and ability to apply it.

# Unit Three – Lesson 3

## God’s Purpose for Your Life – To Have Dominion Over Creation

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** God has given each person the calling and unique responsibility to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Creation includes not just land, water, air, and animals but also our health, minds, abilities, the money we earn, our lives, and the lives of others.

**The Deception:** This truth answers the deception of fatalism – which disempowers people from exercising power and responsibility over nature and their own lives.

This truth addresses the following counterfeit ideas:

1. Nature and events rule over us. We are at the mercy of whatever nature, the physical world, or the gods of nature throw at us. We must learn to accept the whims of nature and situations without trying to prevent them or protect ourselves from them.
2. We have no resources and are trapped in our situation.
3. We are not responsible to God for how we handle our life and treat creation. I can treat my mind, my body, my money, however I want to. We can treat the land, natural resources, farm animals, and water that God has given us however we choose.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Knowing and living by the truth that God has called each of us to have dominion over life and nature will give children confidence to develop their abilities and resources. It will empower them to apply their abilities and resources to overcome the challenges of life – including drought, sickness, poverty, pestilence, setbacks, failure, loss, etc. It will encourage them to turn to God and his wisdom for help and not to spiritual forces or the gods of nature when confronted by disease, sickness, or physical calamity.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**God has a purpose for your life.** You have been blessed to be a blessing. You were ultimately designed to live for the benefit of others. Right now, these others are the children in this community and class. God wants to help you succeed as a teacher in this environment. He wants to use you to bless these children and shape their lives. He has placed great potential in the life of each child and you are his tool to help develop this potential.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Engage the child in active learning.**

Research shows that children don't learn by being lectured! They learn best by being actively involved in lively experiences that bring home the lesson's point. They need to be active learners.

To really learn, children must engage with the ideas taught. Design your lesson to present important content and also help children interact with this content.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of having dominion over creation. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 1:26-28** – “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them *rule over* the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, *over all the earth*, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth *and subdue it. Rule over* the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”

**Genesis 2:15** – “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden *to work it and take care of it.*”

**Psalms 8:3-9** – “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him *ruler over* the works of your hands; you put *everything under his feet*: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

**Psalms 115:16** – “The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has *given to man.*”

As you prepare for this lesson, please read the following background information and consider these quotes:

*By Michael Novak*

We are called to be co-creators with God. Bringing forth the potentialities the Creator has hidden. Creation is full of secrets waiting to be discovered. Riddles which human intelligence is expected by the Creator to unlock. The world did not spring from the



hand of God as wealthy as humans might make it.<sup>10</sup>

*By Darrow Miller<sup>11</sup>:*

There are two errors in life, to abuse nature and to under develop it.

God did not create the world with the intention that it should dominate man.

God's desire is for growth and progress to occur in all of each person and in each sphere of life.

The bounty that is created is to be saved and shared, not merely consumed and dissipated. It is to be used to produce more bounty.

Work hard (not just to get ahead or survive) ... but to create!

There is a living God who made the universe for man to explore. Man, as God's vice regent, is to act with creative stewardship to develop his world. Part of the fruit of this bounty is to be saved and given as seed capital for others' development.

God created the earth to provide for the needs of man.

Creation is embedded with the capacity to grow and expand. Man can take the material of creation and invent things that are both beautiful and useful. He can invent new resources and create abundance.

Human creativity, not natural resources, is the source of wealth in this world. God has given creativity to each one of us because we are each made in his image and he is a creative God.

*By Abraham Kuyper:*

Wherever man may stand, whatever he may do, to whatever he may apply his hand, in agriculture, in commerce, and in industry or his mind, in the work of art, and science, in whatsoever it may be, he is constantly standing before the face of God, he is employed in the service of his God, he has strictly to obey his God, and above all, he has to aim at the glory of his God.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Michael Novak. *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*, (New York, Simon and Schuster Inc., 1982), 39

<sup>11</sup> Darrow Miller, Co-founder of the Disciple Nations Alliance, notes from lecture, January 1987

<sup>12</sup> Abraham Kuyper. *Lectures on Calvinism*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1983) 53.

# Unit Three– Lesson 4

## God’s Purpose for Your Life – Blessed to Be a Blessing

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** God entrusts us with resources for the purpose that we are to steward them and use them to bless others.

While we may not always recognize it, God has given each of us many resources as individuals. He intends for us to diligently steward (to develop and wisely use) these resources. For example, God has given each of us an amazing mind that we are to develop and use for good.

**The Deception:** This lesson addresses the following counterfeit ideas or lies:

- I am not blessed.
- I have no resources. Or, I have very few resources. Or, they are of little value.
- Spiritual resources like faith and hope come from God. However, everything else that I have comes from nature or the world I live in. They are mine to have and do what I want with. They are not blessings from God that I have been given by him for the purpose of blessing others.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children who embrace this truth will be much more conscious of how many valuable resources and abilities God has blessed them with. They will live with greater confidence and purpose in developing these gifts and using them to bless others.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**Each child is made by God in his image.** The life of each was planned by God before they were conceived. There are no ordinary children! Each is a unique creation and special to God. Each has great potential. Each has a gift to give the world. Each child is designed and put here for a purpose in the plan of God. No child is a mistake!

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Engage the child in active learning.**

Feel free to shape your lesson and illustrations to best engage the children in learning.

In each session or learning time, the ideal is that children participate in a fun and memorable learning experience that helps them understand one important point. The aim is that they discover and internalize Bible stories and Biblical truths. Because they are *doing* instead of just listening, children will remember what they learn.

Work hard to engage the children in active learning through activities, questions, discussion, drawing pictures of the main point, etc.

## Additional Information

The following table is simply to prompt thinking about some of the things we are blessed with by God, and how these things can ultimately be used to bless others. Please note that not all these blessings will apply to everyone.

<b>BLESSED...</b> <b>Examples of the resources God has entrusted to us to steward, develop, and use wisely.</b>	<b>...TO BE A BLESSING</b> <b>Examples of ways I can use this resource to bless others – with the result that they experience God’s goodness.</b>
Every breath	Walk humbly before God and others knowing that God gives me my very breath and being.
Each new day	Express gratefulness for each new day.
Life eternal	Share Jesus with others.
A mind	Solve problems for people. Think up and make improvements. Create things that help people.
My conscience (ability to know and choose right from wrong)	Make good decisions that help others. Encourage what is good and right. Discourage what is bad and hurtful.
My emotions	Share my joy, laughter, excitement, and love with others. Mourn with those who mourn. When appropriate even share righteous anger when it will lead to good.
Physical skill or ability such as weaving, farming, playing soccer	Teach others my skill so they can succeed also. Use my skill to make or provide something good to another.
Artistic ability	Create beauty that others can enjoy and speaks to their heart.
Ability to read	Learn new things and then use this knowledge to benefit others.
Ability to do math	Become an engineer that builds a bridge that serves others, or become a scientist who creates something useful for others’ benefit.
Ability to sing or play an instrument	Create and share music and words that bring beauty and truth to the lives of others.
Ability to write	Share helpful information with people. Encourage someone through a note.
Ability to dance	Dance in a way that honors God and causes others to reflect on God's beauty and grace.
Ability to speak well	Become a politician or lawyer who brings justice and righteousness to the lives of people and your country.
Food, clothes, water	Make foods taste their best for others. Keep my well clean so that it will be safe for others.
School books	Take good care of my books so that when the

	next person uses them they will be in good condition.
House and surrounding area	Keep my house and surrounding area clean and make it beautiful so that others can enjoy it.
Tools	Use a tool to help another person.
My children	See my children not as possessions but as persons owned by God and entrusted to me to nurture and train for a few short years.
My wife or husband	See my wife or husband as someone put into my life by God for me to care for, love, and support.
My friend	See my friends as someone God has put into my life to encourage, support, and help.
My employees	See my employees not as my servants but people whose boss is really God. He has entrusted them to me for me to treat fairly and to help them succeed and be productive in the company or workplace.
My teacher	View my teacher as a person provided to me by God to help me learn, and respond by showing respect, paying attention, and working hard.
My students	See my students as God's students, not mine, and that he has entrusted them to me to help them develop and learn.
<b>Conclusion: We all have been entrusted by God with many things to steward and develop in order to bless others.</b>	

This lesson will include a "reader's theater" with ten children. Before class, you should give six students their portion of the reading of Matthew 25:14-29. You also should have asked four other students to read through the story and think about how they would silently act out this story as the readers read. You may want to prepare this a week in advance and ask ten responsible students to prepare to perform this the following week. The four characters necessary are three servants and one master.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of God blessing us in order to be a blessing to others. Prayerfully study these scriptures, and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 1:27-28** – "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. *God blessed them...*"

**Genesis 12:1-2** – "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household, to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, *and I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.*'"

**Genesis 18:18** – “Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth *will be blessed through him.*”

**1 Chronicles 29:1-16** - A great passage in which David acknowledges that God is the one who provides everything. The only reason we can give something is because God has given it to us or made it possible for us to have it in the first place.

Then King David said to the whole assembly... “Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple...” Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. Any who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the Lord in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, *for everything in heaven and earth is yours.* Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. *Wealth and honor come from you,* you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? *Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.* We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, *it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.*”

**Acts 3:6** – “Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but *what I have I give you.* In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’”

**Acts 20:35** – “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*’”

**Romans 12:6-8** – “*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.* If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

**Ephesians 2:10** – “For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus *to do good works,* which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**James 1:17** – “*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*”

## **Unit 4 – Our Problem and God's Solution**

Evil does exist. The world is broken. Life is broken and difficult. We do not live up to our own standards. There is a just and holy God to whom we are responsible. We all fall woefully short of God's standard. Yet, God loves us. God, in Christ, offers us his life and the opportunity to begin living this new life while here on earth through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The lessons in this unit aim to provide helpful clarity to these fundamental truths that a child can understand and embrace.

# Unit Four – Lesson 1

## Our Lives and World Are Broken

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

Children need to know why there is so much suffering and evil in their world if God created everything good. They need to know that each one of us has sinned or fallen short of God's glorious standard and thus added to the problem. They need to see how every area of life is broken by sin. They need to see how God's solution therefore applies to every area of life as well.

**The Truth:** The world and our individual lives are broken. Every aspect of life is broken.

**The Deception:** This lesson addresses the following counterfeit ideas and lies:

- There was no event in the history of the world called "the fall" where Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instruction resulting in death, disease, trouble, and difficulty. The world and life simply evolved this way into its current troubled, difficult, and challenging state.
- It is Adam and Eve's fault that the world and our lives are broken. Each of us is an innocent victim of their bad decision.
- The problem of sin is only a problem between God and people.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will understand the cause of evil and suffering in the world around them and in their own lives. They will understand that everything is affected by sin and that God's solution for sin is therefore also comprehensive and affects everything. They will know and understand their need for and the benefit of God's solution.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**God has given you special power and influence in the life of each child.** You may feel ordinary, weak, and overwhelmed by your own problems and troubles. But to a child in this class, you are an important person – someone with power and influence, someone they look up to. Holding such a position in the eyes of a child, you have the power to encourage them, to build them up, to bring life to their spirits, and ideas to their minds that can transform their lives.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Engage the child in active learning.**

**Discussions** - When you have an activity, illustration, or object lesson, focus on discussing this with the children. Don't skip over the discussion in favor of doing more lecture or activities. The discussions teach children how to *apply* the experiences to their lives. Ask simple questions or make simple statements and have the children react to them. Help the children explore their feelings, discover important principles, and decide how to apply these principles to their lives. If



your class is large, don't think every child must answer every question. Children will learn from those who share even if only two or three answer each question.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of sin and our brokenness. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God impresses upon your heart.

### Genesis 2:25-3:23

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Now the serpent was craftier than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

**Romans 5:12** – "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

# Unit Four – Lesson 2

## Sin: Missing the Mark

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** Sin is anything less than God's standard of perfection.

Children need to know that sin is not just doing really bad things and rebelling against God. The concept of sin in the Bible is comprehensive and includes anything that falls short of God's perfect standard. God's standard is perfection<sup>13</sup>. Even if we are doing our very best, if this falls short of God's perfect standard, then it fits in the sin category. Because God is perfect and just, he cannot change or overlook his standard for perfection. He must provide a solution that fully meets it.

**The Deception:** This truth addresses the following counterfeit ideas or lies:

- People are inherently good.
- God should not require perfection.
- Only really bad people are sinners.
- The idea of sin only applies to willful acts of evil and rebellion.
- Doing something wrong because of ignorance is not in the sin category.
- Doing something wrong because of a mistake or being deceived is not in the sin category.
- If you try to do your best but fall short of God's standard, this does not fit into the sin category because your intentions were right.
- If someone sins against you and hurts you, and this leads you to sin, then your sin is not in the sin category.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will not have incorrect or false ideas about how God views sin and God's requirement. They will recognize that it is impossible for any person to be perfect, no matter how hard they try, and will understand their need for God's gift of salvation. Embracing this truth, they will live with a sense of dependence on God and also with total confidence and freedom in his provision to meet his own standard in their lives.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have a high calling and purpose.** As a teacher, you are called by God to steward these children. A steward is one who manages and develops the resources that are "owned by another" but temporarily placed in the steward's care. In this class, you are the steward. The children are the resources, God's possessions that he has placed in your care. You are

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<sup>13</sup> Interestingly, because we are made in the image of God, we too have a natural bent towards achieving or having perfection. An example is when we reject buying new clothing that has a stain or tear. We desire perfection.

accountable in this class not just to the organization, church, or parent but most of all to God for how you teach and develop the spirit, mind, and abilities of the children in your class.

## Tip for Successful Teaching

### Engage the child in active learning. Ask – Don't Tell.

When it comes to applying a principle or fully understanding its meaning, *ask* rather than tell. As you lead discussions with the children (or a parent), ask open-ended questions rather than rephrasing questions as statements and asking the children to agree. Open-ended questions are those questions that cannot be answered with a "yes" or a "no." They often start with the words *What* or *Why*. Open-ended questions help children make discoveries. They learn more deeply when they discover.

Don't worry if the children give "wrong" answers. They need to have freedom to answer incorrectly. They'll learn from the answers other children give. And you can gently provide the correct response if someone is very wrong.

Encourage the children to express themselves as fully as possible. Ask, "What did you mean?" Or say "Tell me more."

## Teacher Devotional

The Greek word for *sin* in the New Testament is *hamartia*. *Hamartia* is translated in English as: sin, trespass, offense, or fault. It literally means: *to miss the mark* (like an arrow shooting at a target and missing the target). Other meanings are to err, be mistaken, to miss or wander from the right or honorable, to do wrong, and to wander from the rule.

Here is a story that captures some of the meaning of this word *hamartia* or sin in light of today's lesson.

In 2004, at the Olympic games in Athens, Greece there was a man competing for a gold medal in pistol shooting. In the competition, he had hit the bull's-eye of the target every single time. His score was perfect. He had one more shot to make. If he hit the bull's-eye one more time, the gold medal – the ultimate prize – was his. Years and years of practice and hard work would finally pay off. He took aim the final time, slowly squeezed the trigger, and BAM! Looking through his eye scope he could see that he had hit the bull's-eye. However, when the judges checked the target, they could find no hole in it. The shooter knew he had hit the bull's-eye, so he appealed to the judges. They checked again and discovered that the shooter had somehow gotten confused and mistakenly aimed at the target *next* to his. He had indeed hit the center, but he had clearly missed the bull's-eye on the correct target.

The shooter had no more chances. Despite all of his effort and good intentions, because he had missed his target completely on the final shot, he did not win the gold medal. In fact, he did not win *any* medal at all. He went home without a prize. The reason: *hamartia*.

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that

speak of sin. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**God is perfect, his ways are perfect, and his standard or requirement is to be perfect.**

**Deuteronomy 32:3-4** – “I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

**2 Samuel 22:31** – “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.”

**Matthew 5:48** – “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

### **Rebellion Resulting in Sin**

**Deuteronomy 1:25-26** – “Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, ‘It is a good land that the Lord our God is giving us.’ But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.”

**Isaiah 63:9-10** – “In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.”

**Lamentations 1:18** – “The Lord is righteous, yet I rebelled against his command.”

**Ezekiel 20:21** – “But the children, too, rebelled against me. They refused to keep my laws and follow my instructions even though obeying them would have given them life.”

SEE ALSO: Deuteronomy 1:42-43, 9:23; Psalm 106:7; Ezekiel 20:8

### **Ignorance Resulting in Sin**

**Ephesians 4:17-20** – “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”

**1 Timothy 1:13** – “Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.”

SEE ALSO: Acts 3:13-18

### **Deception Resulting in Sin**

**Genesis 3:13** – “Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

**2 Kings 19:10** – “Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.”’”

**Matthew 24:5** – “For many will come in my name, claiming, “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many.”

**2 Corinthians 11:3** – “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

**Revelation 20:2-3** – “He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.”

**Revelation 20:7-8** – “When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations...”

SEE ALSO: Jeremiah 29:8; Matthew 24:10-11; Revelation 20:10

### **Blindness Resulting in Sin**

**2 Corinthians 4:4** – “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

**Colossians 1:13** – “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”

**Ephesians 4:18** – “They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”

**Revelation 3:17-18** – “(To the church of Laodicea) You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”

SEE ALSO: Matthew 23:16-19; Revelation 3:17-18

### **Inability Resulting in Sin**

**Romans 7:14-25** – “We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making

me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

**Irrespective of the reason, all have sinned, missed the mark, and fall short.**

**Romans 1:18-22** – “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**Romans 3:10-18** – “As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.’ ‘Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.’ ‘The poison of vipers is on their lips.’ ‘Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.’ ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.’ ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’”

# Unit Four– Lesson 3

## Jesus – Our Solution

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** Jesus is God’s wonderful, all-encompassing solution to sin and brokenness.

**The Deception:** The counterfeit ideas or Satan’s lies are:

- If we work hard enough, or we are good enough, we can meet God’s requirement for life both on this earth and in heaven.
- There are many ways to God and eternal life. There is no one way alone to be right with God.
- A child is too young to come to Christ. You need to be an adult to believe in Jesus.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will know that God has provided them with the solution for the sin and brokenness in their lives through Jesus Christ. They will know that Jesus died for their sins in their place, and is now alive. They will realize how much Jesus loves them. They will respond to Jesus’ love by believing and following him - the living God.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.** You may think that your education is limited, your skills are inadequate, you lack a proper classroom, or you do not have good teaching aids or materials for the children. All of these may be true, but you do not lack what is most important for impacting the children in your care.

You have a **conscience** – the ability to know what is right and wrong – and you know how to best live your life and use your skills to bless others. Listen to your conscience and follow it. It is a valuable gift from God. He speaks to you through it.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Engage the child in active learning.**

Let children and youth teach each other. Don’t hesitate to have them work together in small groups for discussions and projects. They’ll learn valuable skills to help them work with others. Often what they learn about God sticks in their minds even better when they’ve learned it from a classmate.

#### Additional Thoughts and Ideas Related to this Lesson

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read these two stories. If you have time, you may choose to share one of them with the children as they are powerful examples of an innocent person paying the penalty for a guilty person, just as Jesus did for us.

**Skit 1: The Judge and the Murderer**



The scene is a courtroom. A judge in a black robe is sitting behind a big table. The courtroom official brings in the accused person. The accused has his head down and looks scared. They stand before the judge. The judge looks the man over and asks the prosecutor to present the man's crime and the evidence against him.

The prosecutor makes his presentation.

The man is accused of breaking into a house with a gun and stealing jewelry. In the midst of the robbery, the owner appeared and the accused man shot the owner. The owner later died in a hospital. The accused man fled but was later captured by the police. He had the jewelry, the gun, and scratches from the rose bush outside the house window from which he fled.

The judge turns to the defense attorney and asks what the man's defense is. The defense attorney says there is no defense argument. The man is guilty and has acknowledged this by pleading guilty.

The judge looks down at the accused and says that by the laws of (name of local state or country) the man is guilty of the crime of burglary and murder. The punishment for this crime is death. Therefore, you will be put to death on (date).

Then the judge does something very strange. He gets up from the table and comes and stands next to the guilty man. He looks at the prosecutor, the court official, and all others present and says the following:

I have known this man since he was a baby boy. He was adopted into our family when he was 6 months old. I loved him and cared for him. My eyes never left him. I am very saddened at the route he has taken in life.

I know he has committed this horrible crime. I know that he is guilty. I know that the penalty for this crime is death. I know that this penalty must be paid.

But, this man is very dear to me. I love him! Therefore, I will take his place and take the punishment for his crime by being put to death myself.

The prosecutor yells, "No, sir, you cannot do this! You are innocent and he is guilty!"

The judge responds, "That is exactly why I *can* take his place. The state says someone must die for this crime. Because I am innocent, I can take this man's place. If I were also guilty of it, I would need to die for myself."

The prosecutor turns to the court official: "This is totally unheard of and unusual. Nonetheless, take the judge away. If he loves this man enough to take his place, then so be it."

The prosecutor then says to the accused: "You are now free. The penalty for your sin will be paid by an innocent man – the judge himself."

## **Skit 2: The Boy and His Teacher<sup>14</sup>**

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<sup>14</sup> Anni Dyck and Ruth Laufer, *Creative Bible Lessons*, Lesson 14, (The Netherlands, Surya Foundation, 2000), 14-15. Story taken verbatim from this lesson.

Scene or story:

Bobby was buying something for his mother in the supermarket.

While the cashier was counting how much money he had to pay, Bobby saw his favorite toy lying close to the counter. He looked at the cashier. She was busy. He quickly reached out and took the toy. But, before he could slip it into his pocket, his hand was caught by someone from behind. The owner of the shop who was checking the shelves had seen Bobby stealing the toy.

"What is your name and telephone number?" he demanded angrily. "I will call your parents." Bobby cried, because he was afraid and ashamed of himself.

Suddenly a man stepped forward and said, "I will pay for that toy."

It was Bobby's teacher who was shopping in the same store. He paid the price for Bobby's toy. The shop owner couldn't say anything more. The toy was paid for and Bobby would not be punished. He was free to go home.

Jesus was willing to suffer and die for us. He paid the price for all that we did wrong, just like the teacher paid for Bobby. The teacher paid for Bobby's stolen toy with his money, but Jesus paid for our wrongdoing with his life. God can forgive our sins. When Satan tells God, "This child has done many wrong things. He cannot have eternal life," Jesus will answer, "I have already paid for all his sins with my life, so he is free."

## Teacher's Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of Jesus and the gift of eternal life that he offers us. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**John 3:17-18** – "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

**Acts 16:31** – "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.'"

**Romans 3:22** – "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

**Romans 10:9-10** – "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

**1 John 5:13** – "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

**1 John 1:8-9** – "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

**John 1:12** – “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

# Unit Four – Lesson 4

## Life Eternal – What Is It?

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

The previous lesson looked at Jesus as God's solution to our sin and brokenness. We receive God's forgiveness and his promise of life when we admit our need and believe in Jesus.

This and the next lesson look at our next step. Much has been written and said about how to know and live the life that God gives through his Son, Jesus. The aim of this lesson is to further define and clarify what the life eternal that God gives us through Christ is.

**The Truth:** God gives us his life – new life, abundant life, eternal life, kingdom life – when we believe in Jesus. This life is from God the Son (John 14:6) – who is eternal. It is described by Jesus as abundant or full (John 10:10). It begins here on this earth when we trust in Jesus. It is everlasting and continues after our earthly death (John 3:16). It is the life Jesus prayed for us when he taught us to pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," Matthew 6:10.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- The life that God promises when we believe in Jesus starts only after we die and go to heaven. It is not experienced here.
- The life that God gives us when we believe in Jesus Christ is strictly about our soul and spirit. It does not actually touch or affect all the aspects of our life here on this earth.
- Because the life that God gives us starts when we die and go to heaven, our job for the rest of our earthly life is to be grateful and prove that we are sincere in our belief by obeying God's commandments as best we can and living up to his expectations for us.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will know that the life God promises us through Christ actually begins when we believe in Jesus. They can experience its benefits already here on earth. They will understand that the abundant life and the eternal life and the kingdom life that Jesus promised us are the same thing. They will realize that this life touches every facet of our lives from work to play, from studying to resting, from cleaning the house to painting a picture. All of life is touched by God's Spirit and is lived before the face of God (Coram Deo). Children will respond with hope, confidence, and a desire to live and experience God's life in every area of their lives – starting today.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children.**

- You have a **spirit**, and with this the ability to give encouragement, vision, and a sense of purpose to children.

- You have a **mind**, and with this the ability to continue learning new knowledge and skills to better teach the children.

## Tip for Successful Teaching

**Engage the child in active learning.**

**Pause.** Wait at least 30 seconds for children to respond when you ask an open-ended question. Try offering a controversial answer to spark more responses.

## Additional Thoughts and Ideas Related to this Lesson

### “Life” Defined/Described

In the original Greek New Testament, there were two words for “life”. One word was *psuche* and meant the breath of life or physical life that showed itself in a beating heart or in breathing. The other word for life was *zoe*, pronounced “dzo-ay.” This is the word in the Bible used to describe the life that God gives us when we believe in Jesus.

In *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*<sup>15</sup>, *zoe* is defined as:

- the state of one who is possessed of vitality or is animate
- of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through him to the eternal word made flesh (Jesus)
- life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be (fully realized in new or additional ways - among them a more perfect body), and to last forever.

### Eternal Life

Often when Jesus spoke of life, *zoe*, he added the descriptive adjective “eternal.”

The Schofield Reference Bible has this to say about *life (eternal)*:<sup>16</sup>

1. This life is called “eternal” because it is from the eternity which is past to the eternity which is to come - it is the life of God revealed in Jesus Christ, who is God (John 1:4, 5:26; 1 John 1:1-2).
2. This life of God, which was revealed in Christ, is imparted in a new birth by the Holy Spirit, acting upon the word of God, to every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:3-15).
3. The life thus imparted is not a new life except in the sense that the human now possesses it new. This life is still “that which was from the beginning.” But the recipient (experiences it as new) is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).
4. The life of God which is in the believer is an unsevered part of the life which eternally was, and eternally is, in Christ Jesus - one life in him and in the believer; Vine and Branch, Head and Members (John 15: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 6:17, 12:12-14; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27, 3:3-4; 1 John 5:11-12)

<sup>15</sup> *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship), s.v. “zoe.”

<sup>16</sup> Schofield Notes: NIV. Rev. 22:19. “*Eternal Life*” is footnoted Life (eternal)

### **Abundant Life in the Old Testament**

In the Old Testament, a Hebrew word used to describe this type of abundant life was *shalom*, translated "peace." *Shalom* means completeness in number, safety, soundness in body, welfare, health, prosperity, peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment, peace, friendship of human relationships, and especially friendship with God in covenant relationship.

### **"Life (Eternal)" and the "Kingdom of God"**

Jesus prayed, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." In the NIV version of the New Testament, the phrase "kingdom of God" is found 65 times. The phrase "kingdom of heaven" is mentioned 31 times. "Gospel of the kingdom" or "good news of the kingdom" is mentioned six times. The word "kingdom" is found 149 times.

When we receive God's life eternal, we enter into the kingdom of God. A kingdom is the territory and people who are under the rule of a king. The "kingdom of God" is every part of creation that is in submission to God's will. When we receive God's life eternal through Jesus Christ and live out this life, we are living in submission to the King and his kingdom has come to us. "Life (eternal)" and the "kingdom of God" are related like different sides of the same coin.

## **Teacher Devotional**

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of life eternal. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**John 1:4** – "In him was *life*, and that *life* was the light of men."

**John 3:15-16** – "that everyone who believes in him may have *eternal life*. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that *whoever believes* in him shall not perish but have *eternal life*."

**John 3:36** – "*Whoever believes* in the Son has *eternal life*, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

**John 5:24-26** – "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and *believes him* who sent me *has eternal life* and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those *who hear will live*. For as the *Father has life in himself*, so he has granted the Son to *have life in himself*."

**John 11:25-26** – “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection *and the life*. *He who believes in me will live*, even though he dies; and *whoever lives and believes in me* will never die. Do you believe this?’”

**Romans 6:4** – “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too *may live a new life*.”

**Romans 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the *gift of God is eternal life* in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

SEE ALSO: Matthew 7:14; John 4:14, 5:21, 5:39-40, 6:48, 6:63, 12:50, 17:3; Acts 11:18; Romans 5:18; Galatians 2:20

# Unit Four – Lesson 5

## Experiencing Life Eternal – Follow Jesus (Believe, Obey, Depend)

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

**The Truth:** The previous lesson explored the life God gives us when we believe in Jesus. This life is a free gift; we cannot earn it. It is eternal from God and thus never ends. It begins the moment we admit our need or sin and believe in Jesus and his payment on the cross for our forgiveness. It touches all aspects of life today. It is abundant and full - the best possible way to live.

The question of this lesson is that once we have this life from Jesus, how do we actually live it and experience it? The answer Jesus gave to his disciples was very simple: He just said “Follow me.”

We cannot physically walk alongside Jesus like his disciples did, so, in this lesson and the next, we look at how we actually follow Jesus today. We follow him by doing what he did.

This lesson presents three important things Jesus did that we can do in order to follow him.

1. Jesus believed or trusted in God and his word.
2. Jesus obeyed and did what God said.
3. Jesus depended on God. Even though he was God the Son, Jesus knew he needed God’s help and strength each day to live the life God had called him to live.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- We cannot experience God’s abundant life on this earth.
- Belief only means agreeing with an idea, nothing more.
- A person can experience an abundant life without actually following God’s life instruction from the Bible.
- It is not good to be dependent on someone or to need help. Asking for help reveals our weakness and only makes us vulnerable to others.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** As children apply these truths, increasingly believe and trust in God, obey his word and leading, and depend on his Spirit for wisdom, power, and help, they will experience the confidence that comes with following Jesus. They will flourish and thrive in their lives the way God intends.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children.**

- You have **creativity**, which you can develop and use to solve problems and to improve your life and teaching work.



- You have **health** and **energy** with which to come to the classroom, arrive on time, and give the children your best even when feeling tired and discouraged.

## Tip for Successful Teaching

**Show your outline.** If the children are older and can read, you may want to write your basic teaching outline and discussion questions on a large piece of paper or a chalkboard. This is a great way to prepare the lesson, and it will allow you to interact with the children.

## Teacher Devotional and Additional Information

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please think through the following ideas and read and pray through these scriptures that speak of following Jesus. Prayerfully study them and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with.

**The concept:** God has freely given us his life through Jesus. We experience the fullness of this life when we ***follow Jesus***.

To **follow** means to copy after, imitate, to accept as authority, to obey, to watch steadily, or to keep your mind on. Those who followed Jesus were called his disciples, which is "one who follows" or "learner."

**Luke 9:23-25** – "Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and *follow me*. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?'"

**Luke 9:59** – "He said to another man, '*Follow me.*'"

**Luke 14:27** – "And anyone who does not carry his cross and *follow me* cannot be my disciple."

**John 1:43** – "Finding Philip, he (Jesus) said to him, '*Follow me.*'"

**John 10:27-29** – "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they *follow me*. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

**John 12:25-26** – "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me *must follow me*; and where I am, my servant also will be."

**John 21:21-22** – "When Peter saw him, he asked, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? *You must follow me.*'"

**1 Corinthians 11:1** – "Be ye *followers of me*, even as I also am of Christ."(KJV)

**Matthew 28:19** – "Therefore go and make *disciples* (followers/learners) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

## **We follow Jesus today by doing what he did.**

Jesus **believed** or trusted in God and his word.

Believe means to know and put trust and confidence in something; to firmly know and be convinced that something is true or real. When we believe in something, we act accordingly. For example, if we believe a chair will hold us, we will sit in it. To not sit in it because you are afraid it will collapse, is to not believe in it.

**Psalms 119:66** – “Teach me knowledge and good judgment, *for I believe in your commands.*”

**Psalms 106:24** – “Then they despised the pleasant land; *they did not believe his promise.*”

**Psalms 78:32** – “In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, *they did not believe.*”

**Hebrews 11:6** – “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him *must believe* that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** – “...when you received the word of God... you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you *who believe.*”

**Believe God and his word.** This will not be part of the lesson presentations, but when children think about “believing God and his word,” the question is “What is it that we should know and believe about God and his purposes?” A good place to direct them is the fundamental truths from the Bible in all of the previous lessons. Here is a brief listing or summary of these.

- God exists. God created everything and through what he created we can see his qualities.
- Creation shows just how wise and powerful God is.
- God is the author of all that we experience as being good. All of this good is evidence of his care and love for us.
- God sustains everything and keeps it going – including our breath and life every second.
- We can trust God’s instructions for how to live our own lives because we can see his wisdom and goodness in how he designed all other parts of creation.
- Every person is made in the image of God and special to him.
- Every person is also created wonderfully unique and special by God with individual potential and purpose. We each need to be fully who we are and not try to be someone else.
- All are of equal value, worth, and dignity in the sight of God – children and old people, women and men, poor and rich, short and tall, dark and light skinned, every tribe and family, weak and strong. No one is inferior or superior to the other in the sight of God.
- The history of people is actually the history of God creating the world and his plan for humanity – starting in a garden (Genesis) and ending in a city (Revelation). God is at

work in all of history to further his purposes. Each of us has a special place and part in his plan.

- God's greatest purpose for each of us is that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This is the greatest commandment. The best way to love God is to love your neighbor as yourself. This is the second part of that commandment. The Bible says all of God's commandments are summarized in just this one: to love your neighbor as yourself.
- Another important purpose God gave each of us is to have dominion over all creation, to 'work it' and care for it. Each of us in our own way is to rule over all that God created including the mind and bodies God gave us. This means to develop them fully and use them to improve the world, solve problems, create beauty and goodness, overcome illness, etc. This is why children go to school to develop their minds so they can serve others.
- Just as God blessed Abraham so that he could bless the nations, God blesses each of us with resources and abilities so that we can bless others. Like the stewards in the parable, God entrusts us with talents and resources that he wants us to do something special with.
- We also learned that Adam and Eve sinned or missed the bulls-eye, and each of us has also. In many ways and for many reasons we all fall short of God's glorious standard. As a result we and all of creation are separated from God and broken – broken in every way and every area of life. (Remember the clay pot and the ripped relationship pictures).
- We cannot fix ourselves. We need a solution outside ourselves.
- God provided a full and perfect solution in his son Jesus (God become man). Jesus died to pay the full price for our sin and rose from death to give us new life – his life. Jesus died to restore our relationship with God and to reconcile every area of life – to help us be and do all that is mentioned above and much more (Colossians 1:20).
- All of this is a free gift we receive by recognizing our need and believing in Jesus and what he did for us. We experience this life by following Jesus.

#### Jesus **obeyed** God's instructions and commands.

The Old Testament word in the Hebrew language for "obey" is *shama* which means to listen and hear, and then submit to and do. We follow Jesus today by hearing and obeying the truth that God gives us.

**1 John 3:20-24** – "...because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us."

**1 John 5:1-4** – "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and *carrying out his commands*. This is love for God: to *obey his commands*. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

**Hebrews 3:18-19** – "And to whom was God speaking when he vowed that they would never enter his place of rest? He was speaking to those who *did not obey him*. So we see that they were not allowed to enter his rest because of their unbelief."

#### Jesus **depended** on God's Spirit

To *depend on* means to rely on someone or something. In scripture, we see Jesus continuously relying on or depending on God the Father to give him wisdom, strength, power, etc. To follow Jesus is to depend on the Father and his Spirit as Jesus did.

**John 5:30** – *"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."*(ESV)

**John 8:28** – *"So Jesus said to them, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.'"*(ESV)

**Mark 14:38** – *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."*

**Luke 5:16** – *"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."*

**John 14:16** – *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever."*

**John 14:26** – *"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 that I have said to you."*

**John 15:26** – *"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."*

**John 16:7** – *"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."*

**Romans 8:26** – *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness."*

**2 Corinthians 9:8** - *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."* God freely gives his Spirit to help us.

**John 15:5** - *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me (his Spirit) you can do nothing."*

We experience the power of God's Spirit as we humble ourselves and ask for help.

**Micah 6:8** - *"Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God"*

**James 4:6** - *"God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

Examples of relying and depending on God

**Judges 13:8** – Manoah, the father of Samson, *asks God for wisdom and help* in how to raise the child.

**Daniel 2:17-19** – Daniel urges his friends to *ask God for help* with interpreting a vision.

**Nehemiah 1:11** – Nehemiah *asks God to give him success* as he goes to the king and asks for permission and support to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.

**Mark 9:24** – “Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!’”

Examples of NOT relying and depending on God

**1 Chronicles 10:12-13** – Saul lost his kingdom because he consulted a medium for guidance and not God.

**Joshua 9:14-15** – The men of Israel were tricked into making a bad treaty because they did not ask the Lord for insight or wisdom.

**Jeremiah 10:21-22** – Jeremiah says the spiritual leaders do not inquire of the Lord and so the land does not prosper.

# Unit Four – Lesson 6

## Experiencing Life Eternal – Follow Jesus (Revere, Worship, Thank)

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

This lesson continues to address the question “How do we experience the life eternal that God gives us when we believe in Jesus?” In other words, “How do we follow Jesus?”

**The Truth:** Jesus lived fully aware of God the Father’s greatness and goodness. His unswerving trust in God was based on this. His response was reverence, worship, and thankfulness. To follow Jesus is to do what he did. As we become aware of God’s greatness and goodness, we too will naturally respond with reverence, worship, and gratitude.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- To fear God is a negative thing – it is similar to fearing a corrupt policeman, an angry teacher, an unpredictable employer, an abusive parent, or an undisciplined soldier.
- The only way to worship is by singing, bowing, kneeling, raising your hands, reciting a liturgy, or praying.
- God commands us to fear, worship, and give thanks to him because he wants to keep us in our place, and remind us that he is the boss. He is selfish and needs this from us.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children will have great confidence, hope, joy, and peace as they grow in their awareness of God’s greatness and goodness. As they respond with reverence, worship, and gratitude, this awareness and confidence will increase even further.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children.**

- You have your education and natural abilities - use them and develop them.
- You have passions and desires that are good - fan them into a strong flame!

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Memorize Scripture.** Include Scripture memorization that connects to the main point or idea. This will help the children remember and apply key truths to their lives in a way that will really make a difference today, tomorrow, and throughout their lives.

#### Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures and Biblical principles that speak of recognizing and responding to God appropriately. Prayerfully study

these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

### **God's Goodness and Greatness – the Basis for Reverence, Worship, and Gratitude**

**Nehemiah 9:5-8** – “Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. ...You have kept your promise because you are righteous.”

**Psalms 95:1-8** – “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.”

**Isaiah 40:10-26** – “Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in all his glorious power. He will rule with awesome strength. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed out the mountains and the hills? Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to be his teacher or counselor? Has the Lord ever needed anyone's advice? Does he need instruction about what is good or what is best? No, for all the nations of the world are nothing in comparison with him. They are but a drop in the bucket, dust on the scales. He picks up the islands as though they had no weight at all. All Lebanon's forests do not contain sufficient fuel to consume a sacrifice large enough to honor him. All Lebanon's sacrificial animals would not make an offering worthy of our God. The nations of the world are as nothing to him. In his eyes they are less than nothing – mere emptiness and froth. To whom, then, can we compare God? What image might we find to resemble him? Can he be compared to an idol formed in a mold, overlaid with gold, and decorated with silver chains? Or is a poor person's wooden idol better? Can God be compared to an idol that must be placed on a stand so it won't fall down? Have you never heard or understood? Are you deaf to the words of God – the words he gave before the world began? Are you so ignorant? It is God who sits above the circle of the earth. The people below must seem to him like grasshoppers! He is the one who spreads out the heavens like a curtain and makes his tent from them. He judges the great people of the world and brings them all to nothing. They hardly get started, barely taking root, when he blows on them and their work withers. The wind carries them off like straw. ‘To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?’ asks the Holy One. Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out one after another, calling each by its name. And he counts them to see that none are lost or have strayed away.”(NLT)

**Revelation 4:10-11** – “The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the

throne and say: 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'"

**Revelation 14:6-7** – "Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'"

SEE ALSO: Job 38 and 39; Psalm 104

### **Fear God –**

1. To fear, to stand in awe of, be awed, reverence, honor, respect, to dread, be astonished, to hold in awe
2. To be inspired with reverence or godly fear or awe
3. To be afraid of

### Benefits of Fear and Reverence for God

**Deuteronomy 6:1-3** – "These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and *so that you may enjoy long life.*"

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13** – "And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today *for your own good?*"

**2 Chronicles 26:3-5** – "Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years... He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him *success.*"

**Psalm 25:14** – "*The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.*"

**Psalm 33:18-21** – "*But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him.*"

**Psalm 103:13** – "As a father has compassion on his children, so *the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.*"

**Psalm 111:10** – "The fear of the Lord *is the beginning of wisdom*; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise."

**Psalm 128:1** – "*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.*"



**Psalms 147:10-12** – “His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; *the Lord delights in* those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”

**Proverbs 1:7** – “The fear of the Lord is *the beginning of knowledge*, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

**Proverbs 19:23** – “The fear of the Lord *leads to life*. Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.”

**Proverbs 22:4** – “Humility and the fear of the Lord *bring wealth and honor and life*.”

**Acts 9:31** – “Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was *strengthened; and encouraged* by the Holy Spirit, *it grew* in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.”

**Worship God** – To bow, bow down, reverence, fall down, prostrate oneself.

**Exodus 34:14** – “Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

**Deuteronomy 4:39** – “Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.”

**1 Chronicles 16:29-31** – “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns!’”

**Psalms 29:1-3** – “Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, Give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The Lord is over many waters.”(NKJV)

**Psalms 95:6** – “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”

**Psalms 99:5** – “Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.”

**Matthew 4:10** – “Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”’” (Also Luke 4:7-8)

**Thank God (Gratitude)** – God does not need our thanks. Being made in God’s image, we were made to experience and express gratitude. It is actually good for us. (A growing body of research shows that being grateful contributes to more satisfaction with our lives, family, friendships, better sleep, fewer physical complaints, increased productivity, and more desire to give to others.)

**1 Chronicles 16:4-12** – “He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, to make petition, *to give thanks*, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel: ...That day David first committed to Asaph and his associates this psalm of thanks to the Lord: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.”

**Daniel 6:10** – “Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, *giving thanks* to his God, just as he had done before.”

**1 Chronicles 16:34** – “*Give thanks* to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

**Nehemiah 12:31** – “I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs *to give thanks*.”

**Psalms 75:1** – “*We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks*, for your name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds.”

**Isaiah 12:4-6** – “In that day you will say: ‘*Give thanks* to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.’”

**Matthew 15:36** – “Then he (Jesus) took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had *given thanks*, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.”

**Matthew 26:27** – “Then he (Jesus) took the cup, *gave thanks* and offered it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you.’”

**Romans 1:21** – “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God *nor gave thanks to him*, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

# **Unit 5 – God's Design for the Family**

God created three primary social institutions to serve and support society – the church, the family, and the government. Each has a unique and important role to play. The family is the first and most basic social institution created by God. The lessons in this unit aim to help a child understand God's good and perfect design for their family and relationships.

# Unit Five – Lesson 1

## God’s Design for the Family: Marriage Is Sacred

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

God created and established the family as the core unit and fundamental institution of society. It is the family that most forms and equips the individual in society. God’s design for the family begins with marriage.

Young people need to know that marriage is a very serious and important commitment with God. They need to know that God wants people to have good marriages, and that he will help them. Young people need to have a clear understanding of what marriage is according to God’s word, as this is foundational to the development of strong, healthy families.

**The Truth:** Marriage is sacred. It is a God-established union of a man and a woman. God established marriage to be a life-long commitment of love and fidelity between a man and a woman.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Marriage is not sacred. It is not God-established.
- Marriage is an institution created and governed by societies and communities. Therefore, society and governments can define it as they wish.
- God does not care about helping people marry well or have good marriages. He is only concerned about keeping married people from divorcing.
- Divorce is a good solution if two people are not getting along in marriage.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Young people will understand that marriage is a covenant made with God. They will have confidence that God wants to help them to establish a healthy marriage someday. They will respond by making a personal commitment to seek God’s guidance and help regarding this very important life decision.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children.**

- You have material possessions that God has given you (clothes, food, shelter). Gratitude is the starting point for peace, joy, and creative energy. Always be grateful for what God has already given to you.
- You have the ability to love and care for others.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

Rely on the Holy Spirit to help you. Ultimately, God is the teacher who impresses truth on the mind and heart of a student. You are a vessel that can only give your very best. Leave the results to God!

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read through this article that speaks of the covenant of marriage: [Christian Marriage Covenant](http://globalchristiancenter.com/marriage-matters/christian-marriage-covenant.html), *By David Martz, Ed.D.*, On line at: <http://globalchristiancenter.com/marriage-matters/christian-marriage-covenant.html>

Also, as you prepare, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of the sacredness of marriage. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 2:18, 20-24** – The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper<sup>17</sup> suitable for him." "So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper<sup>18</sup> was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman," for she was taken out of man.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

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<sup>17</sup> Because the word "helper" is used here, some interpret this to mean that Eve was created inferior or subordinate to Adam. The Hebrew word here for "helper" is "ezer". This word "ezer" is also used to describe God in Exodus 18:4 and other passages. In Exodus 18:4 Moses says, "My father's God was my helper: he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh." We would never consider God as inferior because he is described as a helper. Rather the idea is that of God being able to provide something that the person cannot.

What did Adam need help with? He did not need help with domestic chores nor did he need help with gardening or farming. Adam was quite able to take care of himself and to farm before Eve was created. The state Adam found himself in which he was completely hopeless was that he was all "alone" (Genesis 2:18). There were animals but they could not help Adam's "alone" state. They were not suitable companions for him. So God said he would create a companion 'fit' (Genesis 2:18 NIV) for Adam so that he would no longer be alone. The Old Testament Hebrew word for "fit" means "in front of", as in "standing face to face". Some say that this is why God chose to create Eve not from Adam's head to rule over him, nor from his foot to be ruled by him, but from his side to be a corresponding companion of equal worth, value, and importance.

The sequence of creation also does not signify importance or superiority with the first creation being superior to the second. Otherwise, we would have to say that animals are superior to humans because they were created first.

<sup>18</sup> Same as above

**Malachi 2:15-16** – “Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. ‘I hate divorce,’ says the Lord God of Israel, ‘and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment,’ says the Lord Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.”

**Matthew 19:4-6** – “‘Haven’t you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.’”

# Unit Five – Lesson 1B

## God’s Design for the Family: Sacred Intimacy within Marriage

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

*Note to the teacher: This is an optional lesson intended for older youth. Use your own discretion regarding the particular age group and manner of presentation for these materials.*

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

Young people need to understand not just the “thou shalt not” of sexual intimacy outside of marriage, but the very real and special benefit of this instruction. They also need to know the harmful social and relational effects of sex outside of marriage as well as the physical risks.

**The Truth:** God created sexual intimacy to be a blessing within the marriage relationship. It is a wonderful gift from God to be enjoyed between a husband and his wife. Outside the marriage relationship, sexual intimacy is ultimately hurtful and destructive to all involved.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

Human sexual intimacy is not a special design of God for marriage. It’s just a natural physical function.

1. Human sexual intimacy is not sacred. In this respect, people are just like animals.
2. Sex outside of marriage is harmless as long as both partners agree. There are no emotional or physical effects that would hurt one or the other.
3. Limiting sexual intimacy to marriage limits its potential expression.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Young people can respond by living sexually-pure lives and enjoy the confidence, emotional well-being, and all the other benefits that come with handling sexual intimacy as God designed it.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**All knowledge and truth come from God.** Math, science, art, geology, literacy, and good literature all ultimately flow from, or find their source in, the mind of God. Creation reveals God’s character and nature. He created it all. He created everything for a purpose.

Two questions that will bring light, energy, and meaning to every subject you study:

- 1) How is God’s character and nature revealed through this topic?
- 2) What is God’s purpose in providing this area of study or specific lesson? What about it can we use to love God more or make the world better?

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

##### Class Management

There is a difference between good and bad noise. Good noise is learning noise – children discovering and sharing new insights. Bad noise is disruptive and destructive. Put an end to bad noise by using your attention-getting signal and separating students who tease or talk to each other.

## Additional Information

As you prepare for this lesson, please consider the following thoughts and articles. Consider how you might share these truths with the children that you teach.

Sex is like a river. With strong riverbanks, the river brings life. Without strong banks, it floods and brings destruction. The two “riverbanks” for sexual intimacy are love and lifelong marriage commitment. Sexual intimacy outside of a loving marriage will bring a flood of pain, shame, and regret. Only within a loving marriage can the sexual relationship be safe.

The following on healthy friendship, love, and lust, and how to say “no” in a sandwich is taken from Design for the Family’s *Adventure Unlimited Picture Cards*,<sup>19</sup>

### HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

We need to think sensibly about our friendships with people of the opposite sex. You probably know people who have made mistakes in relationships. Your friendships with the opposite sex are good if:

1. You have many friends. You are friends to all and lovers to none! You take part in group activities together. You are encouraging one another to be better people. The friendship is not making you work less well. Your friendship gives you new energy, strength, zest for life, a sense of responsibility, and joy in living.
2. You talk sensibly together about a lot of things. You understand. You listen. You enjoy discussing facts, thoughts, ideas, dreams, and hopes. You can share failures and help each other to overcome them.
3. You respect the fact that we are male and female and you do not demand physical involvement. You are not using or abusing one another. You do not say, “If you really loved me you would...” It’s the greatest lack of love to trifle with the affections of another person.
4. You have the blessing of your parents. They enjoy your friends. You can enjoy being in one another’s home. You respect each other’s family. You help one another to think the best of parents, brothers, and sisters. You don’t run them down even where there may be difficulties.
5. You are unselfish. Your desire is to give and not to get.

### LOVE AND LUST

We sometimes make the mistake of confusing love and lust. They are very different things.

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<sup>19</sup> Design for the Family *Adventure Unlimited Picture Cards*, 45, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, 21-23



Lust is destructive but love is positive and good.

Love takes time to know each other and to give. Love is a growing thing and growing takes time.

Lust is always in a hurry. It is a super big rush for acceptance and affection. The big hurry leads to a big burn out.

Love always believes the best and is thoughtful, sensitive, caring, and creative. It wants to serve and to see you grow and develop.

Lust wants to be served. It tries to change your personality to fit itself. When its demands are not met, it rejects the whole relationship.

Love encourages freedom to develop and enjoy other activities and friends. It allows you space to be yourself and helps you to grow. It strengthens other relationships.

Lust is upset and angry over any person or activity that interferes with your time together. It sulks and gets its own back. It cuts off other relationships.

Love's greatest desire is to see you grow as an individual person with all your needs met. It aims to build you up and make you a better person. Love cares about you.

Lust says "You must satisfy my emotional needs." Lust wants for itself and always aims to get. It centers on "me."

### **HOW TO SAY "NO" IN A SANDWICH**

Sometimes you will find yourself wanting to say "no" to something a friend wants you to do. Here is a good and easy way to say "no."

It is a "no" sandwich. The negative, the "no", comes between two positives. How does it work? Well, if a friend asks you to do something that you don't want to do and you feel is not right...

1. Start with a positive – "I really like you, and I am glad you are my friend."
2. Then the negative – "But I don't want to do that."
3. Finally another positive – "Why don't we go to youth group with our other friends instead?"

Saying "no" in a sandwich helps you to avoid doing the thing you feel bad about while still keeping the friendship. Try it!

## **Teacher Devotional**

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speaks of sexual intimacy. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Job 31:1** – "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl."

**Acts 15:28-29** – "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood,

from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.”

**1 Corinthians 6:13** – “‘Food for the stomach and the stomach for food’ – but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

**Galatians 5:19-20** – “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions.”

**Hebrews 13:4** – “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

### **Account of how Joseph resists temptation and stays sexually pure:**

#### **Genesis 39:5-20:**

From the time he put him (Joseph) in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!”

But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

## **Account of how Amnon did not resist temptation:**

### **2 Samuel 13:1-19 (NIV):**

In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

"Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'"

So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand."

David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him." So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat.

"Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him. Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."

"Don't, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me. Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you." But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

"No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me."

But he refused to listen to her. He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her." So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing a richly ornamented robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

### **Forgiveness and Healing**

**Joel 2:12-13** – "'Even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.'"

**Joel 2:17-19** – "Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?"' Then the Lord will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people. The Lord will reply to them: '*I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.*'"

# Unit Five– Lesson 2

## God’s Design for the Family: The Building Blocks of the Family

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

Each child is a part of a family. Most children will someday marry and start a family of their own. We often take the family for granted, but it is one of God’s special creations for the well-being of individuals and society in general. Children need to know this and understand God’s plan and good design for the family.

**The Truth:** The family is one of God’s very special creations. God has a wonderful design for families, one that benefits and serves every member.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- God’s design for how family members should relate to one another is limiting and oppressive. It does not give every member the individual liberty or freedom to flourish.
- The father/husband alone rules the family and is not accountable to God.
- The father and family must first follow the community’s norms and expectations, then God.
- The father is superior in value to the mother, who is superior in value to the oldest child, who is superior in value to the younger children.
- Submission is always a negative and self-limiting position. We should never submit to anyone.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** By knowing God’s good design and plan for family, children can better pray for their own family. They can do their part to help their family function as God designed. They can also look forward to creating a strong, healthy, thriving family of their own some day following God’s design.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have adversaries in Satan, in the world, and in your flesh.**

These are very real adversaries! They will oppose you and seek to hinder your ability to be a blessing to the children and a tool in their development. You are weak compared to these, but God is greater. He will help you. Recognize your dependence on God, ask for his help, and then go forward with confidence.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

##### Class Management

If noise and activity can be good, how does a teacher keep control?

**Keep things moving!** To hold the attention of young adolescents, design lessons that include a full range of sensory experiences including music, smell, touch, and emotion. Engaging the senses and emotions will increase student attention span and heighten memory. Another strategy is to build lessons using inquiry or problem-based learning in which students are encouraged to ask questions that interest them. Another strategy is to ask students to write reflectively. This gives time for students to consolidate learning and seek meaning between various activities.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures and information that speaks of God's design for marriage. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

### Different Roles in the God-head

#### Unique Roles of the Father and Son:

**John 5:19-23:** – "Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.'"

#### Unique Role of the Spirit:

**John 14:23-26:** – "Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.'"

### Roles in the Family - Christ Is Head Over All

**1 Corinthians 15:27** – "For he 'has put everything under his feet.' Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ."

**Ephesians 4:15** – "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

**Colossians 2:9-10** – "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

#### Unique Roles in the Family:

**Colossians 3:12-21** – “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. *Wives*, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. *Husbands*, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. *Children*, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. *Fathers*, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”

**1 Corinthians 11:3** – “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

# Unit Five – Lesson 3

## God’s Design for the Family: Headship

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

First, it is clear in the Bible that God has a special care and concern for the woman who heads up a home – whose husband has died (widow) or abandoned her. In this lesson, the concept of headship is presented in the context of a husband or father being present as this is the context the Bible most speaks to. However, the concept and principles of headship fully apply where the mother is the head because the father is absent. Assuming you will be working with children whose father is absent, please make this point clear and make adjustments in the narrative where appropriate in consideration of those children. Yet, make it clear to the boys and young men that God’s plan for them, should they father children, is for them to always stick with and serve their children as a good husband and father.

The children and youth you teach will soon be grown up and most will establish their own families. It is important that they begin to understand now what it means to be a good husband or wife: a good mom or dad. One area often misunderstood is that of the father being the head of the home. The Bible makes it clear that the husband is the head over the wife and children, but what does this mean? Getting the answer right to this question is critically important. It is an answer that every young man and boy needs to internalize, believe, and practice if he wants to be a successful husband and father with a wife and children who flourish and thrive.

**The Truth:** Headship over a family is a special calling of great responsibility and service that includes loving, leading, and providing holistically for one’s family.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Headship means that:
  - o the husband/father is the “boss” of his wife and children and can control them however he wishes.
  - o the wife and children are the property or possession of the husband/father. The wife and children have no rights, voice, or say unless the husband/father gives it to them.
  - o a man is the “king”; therefore, he can do whatever he wants, go wherever he wants, spend money however he wants, give attention to other women, and be selfish, lazy, and irresponsible.
  - o it is okay for a man to beat or abuse his wife or children because he is superior to them.
- There doesn't need to be any “head” in the family. All family members have equal leadership responsibility. There is no need for a head.



**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Knowing what it means to be the Biblical head of the family, children will be able to pray for the heads in their family and incorporate this truth into their own family someday.

## Encouragement for the Teacher

**God will help you succeed as a teacher.** He will take your five loaves and two fishes, your two pennies, your last bit of flour and oil, or your vase of perfume and bless and use it to impact children for good. Your job is to simply offer your service and whole-hearted effort to God. He will help you. True success comes from God!

## Tip for Successful Teaching

### **Class Management: Establish attention-getting signals.**

Raising your hand or flashing a card will let children know it's time to stop the activity they're doing and look at you. Change the signal occasionally and rehearse it with your children at the beginning of each class. Once your children become familiar with the signal, regaining their attention will become an automatic classroom ritual. Be creative!

## Additional Information

Some things to think about:

1. "Heads" are leaders who stand up and fight for what is right, good, and true for their communities and families. They "rebuild the walls" like Nehemiah did despite many challenges

**Nehemiah 4:14** – "After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.'" (NIV)

What are some important areas that are broken or missing in your community or family? These are the "walls" that need rebuilding and fighting for. Maybe the broken wall in your community or family is strife, distrust, a spirit of fatalism, unforgiveness, or dishonesty, etc.

2. In their role as head, men often err in two ways:
  - 1) They think being the head means they are a domineering authority. It means telling people what to do because they have the right to give orders.
  - 2) They err by being passive. They are afraid, so they fail to take responsibility and lead. Adam, the first man, was passive and failed to take responsibility.

In Genesis 3:11, God finds Adam in the garden after he ate the forbidden fruit. He asks Adam, "Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?" Adam said, "Yes, but it was the woman you gave me who brought me the fruit, and I ate it." In other words, Adam says "it was her fault." First, Adam passively accepts the fruit even though he knows it is wrong. Then he passively does not take responsibility for his action and blames his wife.

Men have been struggling ever since with passivity and lack of responsibility in the face of temptation and deception.

3. Men fear losing respect and honor. They think that if they humble themselves and serve their wife and children, especially if it means doing a “demeaning” task, they will lose their respect and honor.

They do not realize the truth that true respect and honor comes from God and cannot be lost because they wash dishes or do a task normally done by women or children.

Our world was turned upside-down when Adam sinned. The right-side-up world is where Jesus reigns and rules in people's hearts and lives. In his world, people with leadership responsibility are most respected because they sacrifice and do what is best for those they are responsible for. They serve others and “wash feet” as Jesus did.

4. Providing holistically. Many fathers think that it is enough for them to provide for the physical needs of their families – food, clothing, and shelter. These are certainly critical and first on the list. However, dads especially need to realize that God's design for them is to also provide for the emotional and intellectual needs of their children. They should help their children know God and see themselves and the world as God sees them. Providing holistically for their children is a great responsibility for fathers.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and consider these thoughts and pray through these scriptures that speak of Biblical headship in the family. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Philippians 2:3-8** – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!”

**1 Corinthians 11:3** – “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

# Unit Five – Lesson 4

## God’s Design for the Family: Husbands Love Your Wives

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

Every child is part of a family. The majority of children will someday marry and start a new family. Children need to understand God’s plan or design for the husband. It is especially important that young men understand this so that, with God’s help, they too can be successful husbands and fathers with a wife and children who flourish and thrive.

**The Truth:** God gave the husband a very unique and special instruction for how to treat his wife. This instruction to the husband is perfect and good – benefitting him, his wife, and his children. God’s design for men in marriage is that they love their wives with the same love that God loves them. This is an unconditional, sacrificial, giving love.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- We should stick to and follow how our culture, friends, and the community define the role of a husband. We should not go against what they say or believe even if it does not agree with God’s design.
- A husband should love his wife, but only if she is a good wife by his standards; otherwise, he is rewarding wrong behavior.
- A husband needs to make sure he establishes his authority over his wife and rules over his wife. It is more important that she knows he is the boss than that she feels loved.
- The husband’s needs and wants take priority over his wife’s. This is right because she was created by God to serve the man.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** The end result of applying this truth will be a thriving and rewarding marriage and family. Knowing this truth, the young men can commit to someday love their wives in the manner God designed for them.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**God has a purpose for your life.** You have been blessed to be a blessing. You were ultimately designed to live for the benefit of others - and right now these others are the children in this community and class. God wants to help you succeed as a teacher in this environment. He wants to use you to bless these children and shape their lives. He has placed great potential in the life of each child and you are his tool to help develop this potential.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Make it relevant!** Whether we are young or old, we learn most and best when something is relevant to our lives. Help the children see the relevance of the subject – how it relates to them and their life, both now and in the future.

As a parent or teacher, look for teachable moments. For example, when you see a beautiful flower, you can give credit to the Creator for its amazing and intricate design and how it reveals God's goodness, wisdom, and beauty. Or if something bad happens, you can reflect on how life is broken as a result of the Fall, but God loves us, sent his Son to break the curse and bring restoration, and now wants us to play a part in this restoration.

## Additional Information

Why should we take God's command for husbands to love their wives so seriously? Here are four good reasons:

1. God is the one who created us and gives us life and breath each day. He holds our lives in his hands. Therefore, it will benefit us to revere and follow his life instructions.
2. God is perfect, all-wise and all-knowing. He knows what is best, perfect, and good in every situation. Because of this, we trust in the wisdom of his life instructions.
3. God loves us and wants what is best for our lives. His love is evident in all the good he puts into our lives – including loving relationships, and wives. Because of this, we trust in the goodness of his life instruction.
4. If we ignore the command for husbands to love their wives, husbands and their families will miss out on something very good and wonderful that God, in his love, intends for them. Psalm 128:1-2 says, "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours."

Every marriage is going to experience some challenges and difficulties. One of the primary reasons for the break-up of many marriages is the failure of men and women to understand and apply the specific role God has given to them as a husband or wife. Instead, they try to fix their partner – when they should focus on their own role. The husband, in particular, should focus on his own role which is to love his wife unconditionally. Jonah, the Old Testament prophet, just about brought a whole ship down because he chose to do things his own way. Many husbands do the same to their marriages. Their marriages are in trouble because they do things their own way instead of trusting in and following God's plan for them to love their wives sacrificially and unconditionally.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and consider the following thoughts and principles. Pray through these scriptures that speak of the job of a husband in marriage. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God impresses upon your heart.

**Ephesians 5: 21** – "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

**Ephesians 5:25 – 30** – "For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any

other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body.”(NLT)

**Ephesians 5:31-33** – “As the Scriptures say, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”(NLT)

**1 Corinthians 13:4-13** – “Love (agape) is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

**Colossians 3:19** – “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”  
(The root idea of the word “harsh” here means “to cut” i.e. do not use words that cut or deflate your wife's spirit.)

# Unit Five – Lesson 5

## God’s Design for the Family: Wives Respect Your Husbands

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

Each child is part of a family. Most children will someday marry and start a new family. Children need to understand God’s perfect plan or design for the wife. It is important to explore this principle with everyone – including men in leadership positions in the church or community. Some men may have a very limited understanding of, or wrong ideas about, this subject. Both boys and girls should understand this topic and what it means for their future role as husband and wife.

**The Truth:** God’s perfect design for women in marriage is that they respect their husbands. It is critical for both men and women to understand the meaning of respect from God’s perspective as this concept is often misused and abused.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Submission means that wives have no rights or say in the running of the family.
- God’s command to wives to respect their husbands is no longer relevant or applicable today.
- God’s design for women to honor or submit to their husbands makes them inferior to men and lower in value and worth.
- A husband must live in a respectful and honorable way for his wife to respect and honor him.
- Honoring and respecting only applies to public places.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Following God’s design is the best and surest way to flourish and thrive in any situation. This is especially true of marriage and the family it underpins.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**Each child is made by God in his image.** The life of each was planned by God before he or she was conceived. There are no ordinary children! Each is a unique creation and special to God. Each has great potential. Each has a gift to give the world. Each child is designed and put here for a purpose in the plan of God. No child is a mistake!

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Class Management—Take a Break.**

If your children seem restless, take a break. Burn up their excess energy with action songs or exercises. Then, lead a few stretches and return to the lesson.

## Special Note about This Lesson

There are many positive ideas behind the words “respect” and “submit” in this lesson. However, it’s important that as the teacher you are clear as to what God’s design that *the wife respect and submit to her husband* does not mean. It does not mean:

1. The wife becomes the husband’s property or slave.
2. The wife gives up all rights in her home.
3. The wife tolerates physical or emotional abuse.
4. The wife allows the husband to physically or emotionally abuse the children.

No place in Scripture has God called wives to endure violence, physical battering, or habitual infidelity. In such cases, the wife should seek help and protection from a trusted wise couple in her church or community.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures and Biblical principles that speak of the role of a wife in marriage. Prayerfully study these Scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

God’s perfect design for the well-being of the wife and her fruitfulness in life is complementary to his design for the husband. God made the wife equal in value to the husband, but different in role. Her relationship to her husband is to be one of respect and honor.

As you learned in Lesson 3 of this unit, the word *submit* means “a voluntary attitude of yielding to, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.”

**Ephesians 5:21** – “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

**Ephesians 5:33** – “However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

**Colossians 3:18** – “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

**Ephesians 5:22-24** – “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

# Unit Five – Lesson 6

## God’s Design for the Family: Children Honor Your Parents

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

The value and importance of this principle for children is evident by the fact that it is included in the Ten Commandments. One of the greatest challenges facing every child and young person as they grow is how they will view and respond to authority. Will they recognize and live under the all-encompassing authority of God and, as a result, experience the freedom and success God gives? Will they recognize and live under the human authority God places in their lives for their protection and well-being? Authority is a reality and it is a very good thing when it is carried out according to God’s design. God is the authority over all creation. For the protection and good of people, God has instituted human authority on this earth.

God knows that the *starting point* for a child recognizing and living under God’s authority *begins* with the child living under the authority of the parents or guardian. This is why God says, “honor your father and mother and it will go well with you.” This is why this principle and lesson is so important for children to grasp.

**The Truth:** God commands children to honor their father and mother.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- This command gives parents the right to harshly discipline or, worse, abuse their children.
- The reason for this command is to make life easier for parents and give them control over their children. It is not for the child’s benefit.
- The main reason you should obey your parents and authority figures is so that they will favor you and not discipline you harshly.
- This command, if obeyed, will take all the fun out of a child’s life.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** God knows the goodness and benefit of authority when properly administered because he ordained and designed it. This is why God promises that it will go well for children who learn to honor and respect their parents.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have a high calling and purpose.** As a teacher, you are called by God to steward these children. A steward is one who manages and develops the resources that are owned by another but temporarily placed in the steward’s care. In this class, you are the steward. The children are the resources: God’s possessions that he has placed in your care. You are accountable not just to the organization, church, or parent but, most of all, to God for how you teach and develop the spirit, mind, and ability of the children in your class.



## Tip for Successful Teaching

### Class Management – Change Settings

You may be very limited in terms of where you can meet with children (or with parents if you are working with them). But, if possible, try new settings such as under a tree or in a different room or building. *Children love variety; a different setting can bring new life and excitement to your lessons.*

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of children honoring their parents. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Exodus 20:12** – “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

**Ephesians 6:1-3** – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

**Colossians 3:20** – “Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

The Hebrew word for honor in the Old Testament is *kabad*. It means to give weight to, to make heavy, to make honorable. In the New Testament, the Greek word is *timao* and means to fix the value, to revere.

In the New Testament, the word obey is *hupakouo*. It means to listen; to hearken as one who, at the knock at the door, comes to listen to who it is; or to hearken to a command.

**Ephesians 6:4** – “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

**John 8:49** – Jesus said “but I honor my Father...”

**Romans 5:19** – “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.”

**Hebrews 5:8-9** – “Although he (Jesus) was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

**Nehemiah 9:16** – “But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them.”

**Nehemiah 1:5** – “Then I said: ‘O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his command...’”

**Deuteronomy 11:26-28** – “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse – the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.”

**Deuteronomy 28:1-2** – “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.”

**Psalms 119:44-45** – “I will always obey your law, forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.”

**Hebrews 13:17** – “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

**1 John 5:3** – “This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome...”

## **Unit 6 – God's Design for Money**

From early on, children learn from their parents, friends, and others the role money plays in all aspects of life. Building on the previous units, the lessons in this unit aim to help children understand and embrace God's good and perfect design for the place and use of money in life.

# Unit Six – Lesson 1

## God’s Design for Life: Money!

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

The all-knowing, all-loving creator God has the only answers for living a truly abundant life. Money is a big part of everyone’s life! Awareness of money and its role in life starts at a young age. This usually occurs when a child asks for something and the parent says “no” because they do not have money for it. Therefore, if we want to impart a Biblical worldview to our children so they can thrive, we need to help them know how God thinks about or views money.

**The Truth:** God owns everything, including our money. Therefore, we need to see and think about money the way God does.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Any money we earn or receive belongs to us and we can use it however we wish.
- The more money we have, the more value we have as a person.
- Money is the measure of success.
- To be close to God and to be a good disciple, you must not make or have too much money, because money is the root of all evil.
- If you can get enough money, all your problems will be solved.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** For children, having God’s perspective on money, and making this perspective their own, will free them up to handle money in the best possible way. Money will be a blessing and not a curse.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.** You may think that your education is limited, your skills are inadequate, you lack a proper classroom, or you do not have good teaching aids or materials for the children. All of these may be true, but you do not lack what is most important for impacting the children in your care.

You have a **conscience** - the ability to know what is right and wrong. You know how to best live your life and use your skills to bless others. Listen to your conscience and follow it. It is a valuable gift from God. He speaks to you through it.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Class Management – Be aware of the attitudes and emotions children bring into class.**

Some children may walk in after fighting with their siblings or being reprimanded by their parents. Encourage them and help them work to overcome their bad day.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through these scriptures that speak of God's view of money. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God impresses upon your heart.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10** – “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.”

**Psalms 52:7** – “Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold but trusted in his great wealth and grew strong by destroying others!”

**Psalms 62:10** – “Though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”

**Proverbs 11:28** – “Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.”

**Jeremiah 48:7** – “Since you trust in your deeds and riches, you too will be taken captive, and Chemosh will go into exile, together with his priests and officials.”

**Luke 12:15** – “Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”

**Luke 12:21-47** – “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

**1 Timothy 6:17** – “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”

**James 4:13-15** – “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.’”

**Revelation 3:14-19** – “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write...You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”

# Unit Six – Lesson 2

## God’s Design for Life: God’s Purpose for Our Money

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

In Unit 3, we looked at how God has a magnificent and wonderful purpose for our lives. In this lesson, we recognize that money is just one of the resources God puts into our lives so that we can live out his greater purposes for us. God’s purpose for our money is the same as his purpose for our lives.

Do we know and are we seeking to live out God’s purpose for our life? If so, how can we use the money God provides us with to help us live out this purpose?

**The Truth:** God’s purpose for our money mirrors God’s purpose for our lives.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Money is the most important thing in life!
- Money is not important to God. It’s just something we need to help us survive on this earth.
- Money has nothing to do with God or spiritual matters.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** This truth reminds us to integrate all of life under God and his purposes. The tendency is to compartmentalize our lives and treat one box separately from the other. We are especially tempted to do this with money! Children need to know early on that their money and God’s commandments for how to live an abundant life are integrated and inseparable.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.**

You have a **spirit** and, therefore, the ability to give encouragement, vision, and a sense of purpose to children.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching

**Children choose to learn.** Learning is an act of the child’s will to take in information, to wrestle with it, to make it part of who they are and how they think. You can make children sit still, but you cannot make them learn. You can reward or penalize them for knowing or not knowing facts, but you cannot make them really learn. Learning is a choice of the will. A parent or teacher

can force them to remember facts and ideas, but the child must choose to really learn in a way that changes the way they think and behave.

## Teacher Devotional

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures that speak of God's purpose for money in our lives. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God impresses upon your heart.

**Mark 12:29-31** – "'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. *Love the Lord your God* with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" There is no commandment greater than these.'"

**Genesis 1:26** – "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and *let them rule* over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, *over all the earth*, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'"

**Genesis 12:1-2** – "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, *and you will be a blessing.*'"

**Ephesians 4:28** – "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must *work*, doing something useful with his own hands, *that he may have something to share with those in need.*"

**Matthew 6:25-26** – "Therefore I tell you, *do not worry* about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

# Unit Six – Lesson 3

## God’s Design for Life: Managing Your Money

### TEACHER’S GUIDE

#### The Concept: Why Teach This Lesson?

There are more than 1,000 verses in the Bible concerning money and how to use it. Clearly, God cares about money and wants us to be successful in how we handle it. This lesson focuses on four keys to managing our money: giving to God (tithing), giving to others (generosity), planning before we spend (to avoid debt), and saving.

**The Truth:** God has given us special instructions for how to use and manage the money he gives to us.

**The Deception:** This lesson challenges the following counterfeit ideas:

- Giving to God (tithing) is like buying protection insurance. If you do it, then God will take care of you. It is like paying the youth who offers to watch your vehicle. If you don’t pay him, he will let something bad happen to it.
- Giving to God is like paying taxes to the government. He requires it and needs it to keep the church running. And, if you don’t pay tithe, you may eventually get into big trouble with God.
- I cannot be generous toward others because I hardly have enough for myself and my family.
- Most people give to others or act generously in order to get something in return. This is the underlying reason to be generous.
- Planning and budgeting is for businesses. It is not for people like me.
- I cannot afford to save.
- Tomorrow is uncertain so why save? Spend money and live for today. Besides, God says he will take care of tomorrow.

**The Benefit of Knowing This Truth:** Children can take confidence in the fact that God cares about their money and has given instructions for how to best use the money he entrusts to them. They will have confidence in God’s instructions and will follow them. As a result, their lives will flourish and thrive as God designed.

#### Encouragement for the Teacher

**You have important and valuable resources to share with children that can profoundly shape their entire life.**

You have a **mind**, which gives you the ability to continue learning new knowledge and skills to better teach the children.

#### Tip for Successful Teaching



### **Trust is the key to a child learning.**

Children choose to learn and they choose to learn from a person they trust. When they sense a parent or teacher really knows them and cares for them, they open up their minds and hearts to that person's ideas and teaching. You open the door of learning by loving the child!

## **Teacher Devotional**

As you prepare to teach this lesson, please read and pray through this list of scriptures and information that speaks of managing your money. Prayerfully study these scriptures and ask God to show you how you can best share his truth with the children he has blessed you with. Write down your thoughts and what God shows you.

**Genesis 41:34-36** – "Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."

**Psalms 24:1** – "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

**Psalms 112:5** – "Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice."

**Proverbs 11:24-26** – "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

**Proverbs 6:6-8** – "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest."

**Proverbs 21:26** – "...the righteous give without sparing."

**Malachi 3:8-10** – "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'And see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

**Matthew 6:21** – "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

**Luke 3:10-11** – "'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. John answered, 'The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.'"

**2 Corinthians 9:7** – "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**2 Corinthians 8:7** – “Now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.”(NLT)

**2 Corinthians 9:11** – “...your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”



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**Disciple Nations Alliance**  
1110 E. Missouri Ave., Suite 393  
Phoenix, AZ 85014  
[www.disciplenations.org](http://www.disciplenations.org)