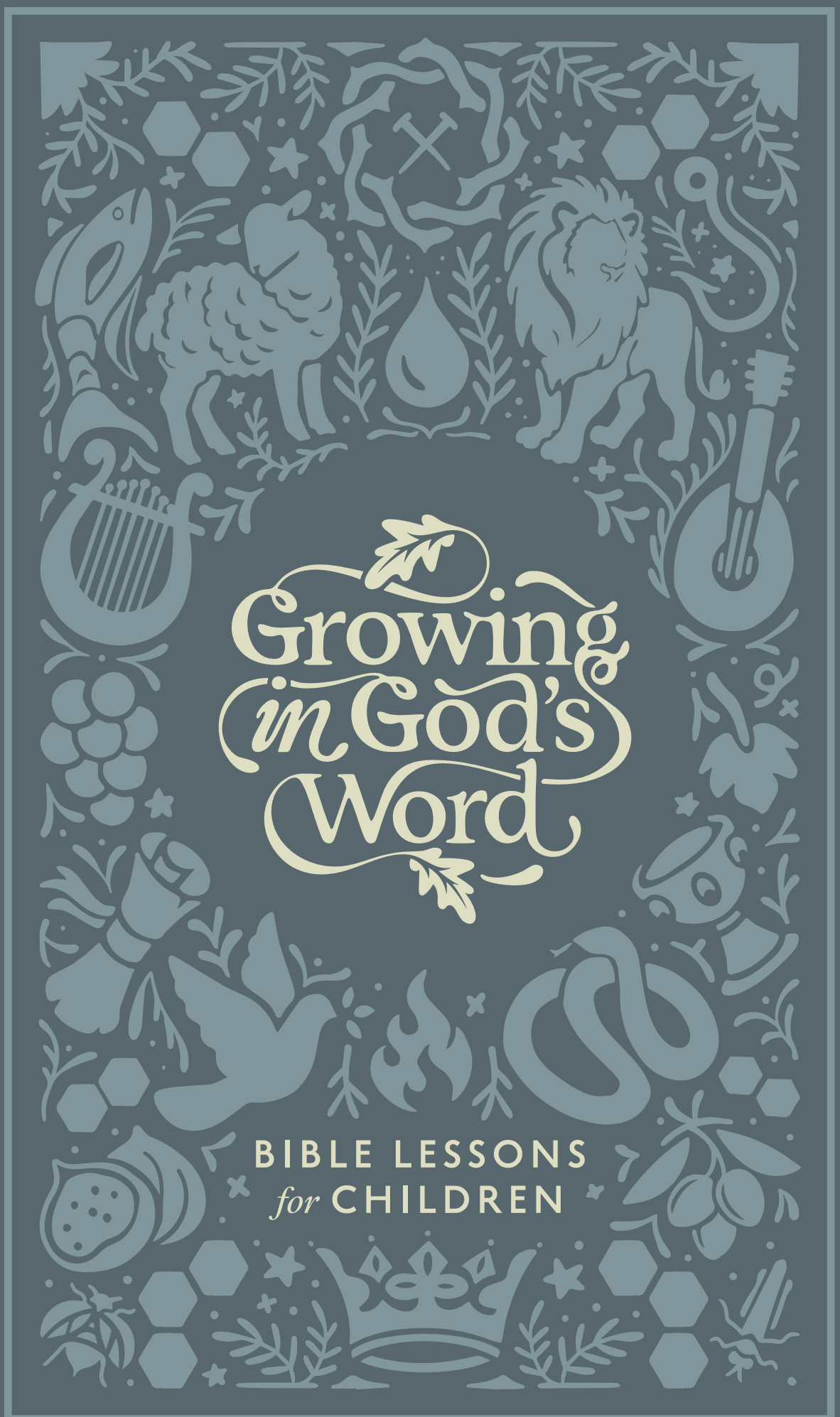
LEVEL ONE | OLD TESTAMENT



Growing in God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

VOLUME 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT

Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 1

LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Growing in God's Word: Bible Lessons for Children,
Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 1
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Growing *in* God's Word

INTRODUCTION

God's Word is clear about the responsibility to teach and train children in the faith. In the Old Testament, God says this to His people:

> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut. 6:4–7)

The New Testament reinforces the importance of this responsibility as well:

> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

Ligonier Ministries' children's curriculum is intended to further that aim, providing churches and families with faithful biblical teaching in the Reformed tradition to help raise up the next generation for Christ and His church.

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

Growing in God's Word is a curriculum to help churches, families, and schools guide children through an overview of the Bible in a year. Grounded in Reformed theology, each lesson emphasizes the five *solas* and the covenantal framework that unites all of Scripture.

The curriculum is designed with three guiding objectives in mind. It is *simple, holistic*, and *accessible*.

1. SIMPLE

- The curriculum is designed to be minimalistic. It includes only the necessary elements for each lesson and each age group.

- The curriculum is static. It does not require churches or families to buy new curriculum every year.

2. HOLISTIC

- The curriculum covers an overview of the Bible every year. The lessons for each age group cover the same story in Scripture, but with age-appropriate detail.

- The curriculum is Reformed, reflecting the biblical truths summarized in the five *solas*, approaching Scripture from a covenantal framework, and providing catechism Q&As.

3. ACCESSIBLE

- The curriculum is divided into fifty-two lessons. Lessons can be adapted for use by churches, families, teachers, or other individuals or groups.

- The curriculum includes supplemental material options for each lesson, enabling churches and families to adapt the curriculum to best fit their needs.

HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM

The PREPARE sections consist of information that should be reviewed by the teacher before teaching the lesson. It includes:

MAIN IDEA,

GOAL, *AND*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Each lesson begins by stating the main idea of the biblical truths being conveyed in that lesson. This is followed by the goal for the lesson. The portion of Scripture being covered is also listed.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Teacher's Guide gives additional information about the Scripture passages and biblical/theological themes being covered in the lesson. The Teacher's Guide provides helpful background information and context for the teacher without being too time-consuming.

REMINDERS

The Reminders section includes points to remember when teaching the lesson. These reminders are the same each lesson, enabling different teachers or substitutes to receive the same reminders even if they are only stepping in to teach occasionally.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Each lesson includes a list of materials needed for that lesson. Materials related to the supplemental Closing Activity are marked so that those not using the Closing Activity do not purchase unnecessary items. Occasionally, items created for or used in a previous lesson are reused in a future lesson.

The TEACH sections consist of the script that teachers will use to guide children through the lesson. It includes:

OPENING PRAYER

An opening prayer introduces the lesson. Teachers may use this scripted prayer or use their own.

KEY VERSE

Each lesson includes a key verse that encapsulates the biblical teaching for that lesson. The key verse may also be used as a memory verse for children. The verse is followed by a brief activity to help children repeat and remember the key verse. Please note that while the same basic verses are used for all grades, younger grades have shorter verses, while older grades have longer verses.

OPENING ACTIVITY

The Opening Activity gives children an opportunity to move around with an engaging activity that correlates to the biblical text and theme being taught in the lesson. Items needed for the Opening Activity are included in the Required Materials section.

BIBLE TEACHING

The main part of the lesson is the biblical teaching on the Scripture passage and theme. The script allows teachers of all experience levels to communicate the same ideas to children without the need for formal theological training or teaching experience. Churches may adapt the scripts as best suits their needs and their teachers.

CLOSING PRAYER

A Closing Prayer concludes the lesson. Teachers may use this scripted prayer or use their own.

The SUPPLEMENT sections can be added to the main lesson or switched out with components from the main lesson, providing a high degree of flexibility to adapt the curriculum as needed. It includes:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This section provides a list of questions and answers about the Bible teaching that teachers can ask children to reinforce the main points of the lesson.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

The Closing Activity gives children an additional opportunity to get physically involved in the lesson and to move around after the teaching concludes. Items needed for the Closing Activity are noted in the Required Materials section.

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS / NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Each lesson that covers an Old Testament passage includes a New Testament Connections section, and each lesson that covers a New Testament passage includes an Old Testament Connections section. These are brief teaching moments that help children make connections between different books of the Bible and scriptural themes, allowing them to see the continuity of God's one big story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation.

OPTIONAL CATECHISM

Each lesson includes a callout box with catechism Q&As. The Presbyterian & Reformed Edition includes the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism. The Baptist Edition includes the Baptist Catechism of 1693. Churches may include or exclude the catechism from the lessons at their discretion. Alternatively, churches may opt to select one Q&A from the list each lesson rather than covering multiple Q&As.

The full text of the catechisms is included in the appendices. Churches may use these classic versions or opt to use another version of the catechism with simplified language geared toward younger children. The scope and sequence appendix includes a list of all the catechism Q&As covered throughout the year. Each grade level covers the same Q&As each lesson.

COLORING SHEETS

Coloring sheets for each lesson are available on the curriculum website to download and print. These coloring sheets are not part of the lesson but may be used supplementally. The coloring sheets do not contain any depictions of Christ out of respect for those who avoid such images in their efforts to honor the second commandment.

HOLIDAY-SPECIFIC LESSONS

Due to the variability of holiday timing, the curriculum does not include specific lessons for Christmas or Easter. However, Lesson 27 covers the incarnation of Jesus and may be used as a Christmas lesson. Also, Lesson 39 teaches on the resurrection of Christ and can be used as an Easter lesson. Please note that if you use these lessons as holiday lessons, you will need to reorder the other lessons.

APPENDICES

LESSON SUMMARIES

Included in the curriculum is a lesson summaries appendix that includes the main idea, Scripture passage, and key verse for each lesson. Churches may use this information to communicate to families what children will be learning each lesson.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The scope and sequence appendix includes the main theme, biblical passage covered, key verse, and catechism Q&As for each lesson.

CATECHISMS

The full text of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism are in the Presbyterian & Reformed Edition. The full text of the Baptist Catechism of 1693 is in the Baptist Edition.

ABOUT LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Since its founding in 1971 by Dr. R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries has served the church by producing trustworthy discipleship resources that are rooted in the historic Christian faith. God has raised up many gifted pastors and theologians to apply the teachings of the Bible and Reformed theology to generations of Ligonier students.

Ligonier offers a deep teaching library of biblical and theological resources available at Ligonier.org or in the free Ligonier app to assist Christians in their own knowledge of God's Word as they seek to pass on the faith to the next generation. This faithful, biblical teaching reaches more than one-hundred million people each year in regions and languages around the world. Our aim is to help Christians everywhere know what they believe, why they believe it, how to live it, and how to share it.

Ligonier Ministries adheres to the ancient statements of faith and affirms the historic Christian faith as expressed in the five *solas* of the Reformation and the consensus of the historic Reformed confessions.

Supplemental materials for *Growing in God's Word* are available at **GrowingInGodsWord.org.**

There, you'll find free downloadable resources such as the printable coloring sheets and instructions for supporting churches, families, and schools using the curriculum.

LESSON 1
Level 1

Creation

MAIN IDEA

God is the Creator who spoke the universe into existence. God created everything that exists, including humans. He gave the first humans some jobs and a command.

GOAL

To help children understand that God is the Creator of all things, which means we are subject to His commands.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Genesis 1–2

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Simple enough for the youngest child to understand and yet sufficiently profound to inspire the greatest thinkers to ponder its ramifications, Genesis 1:1 is certainly one of the most beloved and consequential sentences ever written. We often pass over this text quickly, so accustomed are we to the fundamental idea of the Christian worldview—that God is the Creator and we are His creatures. Yet we must pause to consider this verse lest we miss its enormous implications.

Genesis 1:1 tells us God made everything out of nothing. In the beginning, the verse tells us, there was nothing else besides the Almighty Himself. We read nothing of angels, human beings, or any physical material. Even time itself did not exist before the Creator acted to bring something out of nothing. Moses can only speak of a "beginning" in Genesis 1:1 because of God's intervention to get things started. Prior to His work of creation, the Lord alone was, and He was from all eternity. As Hebrews 11:3 tells us, "The universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

Since God is the Creator, He upholds all things. God's sustaining providence means that every created thing depends on something outside itself for its origin and continuation. This something is God. Unlike His creation, however, our Creator depends on nothing outside Himself for His existence. He is self-existent, having the power of being in Himself. We were created in time, and in God "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:22–34). God, however, is. We know Him by His covenant name, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14). There never was a time when He was not, and there never will be a time when He will not be.

As dependent creatures, we rely on the Lord for everything. We might make things, but He alone "creates" and gives being to all things. We know our place in the universe only when we remember that He is our Creator and we are His creatures.

REMINDERS

- Pray that God would give you a heart for this lesson and the children in your care.
- Remember that it's OK to skip an activity if you are limited on time.
- Many children may already know the facts of the story. Fill in details that they may be missing.
- Always have a Bible ready to show children where the passage can be found so that they become familiar with how the Bible is organized.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chart paper, marker

Note: Save the chart created in this lesson for Lesson 2.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear heavenly Father, You are our Creator. You have made all things. You are God over us all. Help us to honor You by obeying Your commands. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional Catechism

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 1–3

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1–2

KEY VERSE

READ: God created the heavens and the earth. —Genesis 1:1

LEAD the children in the following motions as they say the verse:

> God . . . (*Point to heaven.*)
> created the heavens . . . (*Spread hands overhead in a dome shape.*)
> and the earth. (*Hold palms flat toward the ground.*)

REPEAT a few times to help children memorize the verse.

OPENING ACTIVITY

SHARE with the children the rules of a club or group you belong to. For example:

> I'm in a book club with some of my neighbors. My neighbor, Stephanie, started the club. She decided we would meet once a month and take turns choosing the book. Those are her rules: meet once a month and take turns choosing the book. She created the club, so she gets to make the rules.

SAY: Imagine what type of club or group you'd like to create. Think about the rules for the club. Let's take a few minutes to talk it over with some friends and then share.

ARRANGE the children in groups of 2–4.

INSTRUCT them to come up with a club they'd like to create and a few simple rules for it.

ALLOW the groups to share their ideas with the class.

SAY: If you start your own club, you get to make the rules for the club. If you make a drawing contest, you get to set the rules for the contest. The creator makes the rules.

ASK: Do you know who created the world and everything in it? (*God.*)

SAY: Today, we'll learn about how God created everything. And since He's the Creator, He gets to make the rules. God's rules are perfect, and He knows exactly what is best for human beings because He created us.

BIBLE TEACHING

READ Genesis 1:1–2.

ASK: Before God began working on His creation, what was there? (*God, the Spirit of God, waters, darkness.*)

ASK: If that's all there was, what are some things God must have created to get us where we are today? (*Take responses: land, sunlight, humans, plants, animals, etc.*)

READ Genesis 1:3–2:3. As you read, keep track of God's creation with a simple list like this one on chart paper:

- Day 1 – light (day and night)
- Day 2 – sky (heaven)
- Day 3 – dry land (earth), seas, and plants
- Day 4 – sun, moon, stars
- Day 5 – animals of sea and air
- Day 6 – land animals and man
- Day 7 – God rested from all His work

SAY: God created all this just by speaking the words to do so. He is the only One who can create something from nothing. Now, someone made this table (or chair, or something visible), but God created the person and the tree, so that the person could make the table out of the wood that comes from the tree. God is the Creator. He even created you!

ASK: What did God think of His creation? (*It was very good.*)

SAY: The Bible says again and again that God saw that His creation was good. This is the way God wanted the world to be. Now, as the Creator, He got to make rules to keep it that way.

ASK: Suppose you built something out of Lego bricks, and you got it just right. What rules would you make so that your creation stayed the way you want it? (*Take responses: Do not touch it, don't bump into it, don't add to it, etc.*) What kind of rules do you think God made for His creation so it would stay good? (*Take responses.*)

SAY: God gave a rule to the first human beings in what we call a *covenant*. In a covenant, God makes a promise to do something if the people with whom He makes the covenant obey Him. The first covenant God made with people is called the "covenant of works" or "the covenant of life" because God promised to allow the people in this covenant to live forever if they did a good work by keeping His rule.

READ Genesis 2:8–9 and 2:15–17. As you read, draw two trees on the chart paper, and label them "Life" and "Knowledge of Good and Evil."

ASK: What was God's one rule for the man? (*Do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.*) What would happen if the man broke this rule? (*He would surely die.*)

DRAW a "No" symbol (circle with slash) over the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil on the chart paper.

SAY: God gave the man one rule that he had to follow to live forever. He could eat every good thing from every other plant and tree, but he couldn't eat from the one tree or he would die.

ASK: Is this rule easy to follow or hard to follow? (*Easy.*) If I showed you a mushroom and told you it was poisonous and that if you eat it you would die, would you try to eat it anyway? (*No.*)

SAY: God is a good God. He made a good creation. And God's rules are good. He makes rules to protect us. Sometimes it's easy to follow God's rules, and sometimes it's hard. But we should always obey Him because He is the Creator. He knows what's best for us.

SAY: Next week, we'll learn more about the first man and woman. We'll see if they were able to follow God's one rule for them.

SAVE the chart for Lesson 2.

CLOSING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear God, You are our wonderful Creator. Thank You for this world You made, and thank You for these children You made. Help us to obey You by following Your rules because You are a good God. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who created everything in the universe?
2. What did God create on each day?
3. What did God think of His creation?
4. Who gets to make the rules for creation?
5. What was God's rule for the first man?
6. What would happen if the man broke God's rule?
7. Why should we obey God's rules?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

STAND in a circle.

SAY: Here's a fun way to remember what God did on each day of creation, and all you need is your fingers!

DEMONSTRATE the following words and motions, with children following along after you:

# of fingers to hold up	Motion	Words
1	Blow out 1 finger as if it's a candle	On day 1, God created light
2	Cut/scissors motion with two fingers	On day 2, God separated the waters with the sky
3	Wave 3 fingers like grass blowing in the wind	On day 3, God created land, sea, and plants
4	Palm is the sun, thumb is the crescent moon, fingers are stars	On day 4, God created the sun, moon, and stars

5	Flap arms like a bird and move hand like a swimming fish	On day 5, God created birds and fish
6	1 finger represents people, 5 open fingers represent animals running around	On day 6, God created land animals and people
7	Wrap 5 fingers around the other 2 like a person in a sleeping bag	On day 7, God rested

REPEAT all seven ideas.

LET the children repeat face-to-face with a partner as you monitor.

NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

SAY: Today, we read from the very first chapter of the Bible. It tells us that before creation, the Spirit of God was there. Much, much later, after creation, Jesus was born. But the Bible tells us Jesus was there at creation because Jesus is the eternal Son of God.

SHOW the children where to find the book of John in the New Testament.

READ John 1:1–3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

SAY: Now, the verses I just read don't say the name Jesus. Let me read them once more, and see if you can find the part that means Jesus.

READ John 1:1–3 again.

ASK: What word means Jesus was there in the beginning, at creation? (*The Word.*)

SAY: In the beginning, Jesus existed as the eternal Son of God. He was with God, and He was God. He was with God when God created everything.

Truth *for* Young Minds

God calls His people to pass down the Christian faith to the next generation. As we teach the Bible to our children, we invite them into the captivating story of redemption.

The opening chapters of the Bible direct young minds to the Creator who made them with a purpose. But this story takes a dark turn with the entrance of sin, helping boys and girls understand what's wrong with the world. Yet hope dawns with the promise of a Savior, calling children to trust in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life.

Growing in God's Word is a curriculum from Ligonier Ministries to help churches, families, and schools guide children through an overview of the Bible in 52 lessons. Built on the unique authority of Scripture, each lesson reinforces the truths of Reformed theology and the Bible's unifying covenantal framework.

This curriculum aims to help you nurture children in the Christian faith, that they may discover their place in God's story of salvation in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONTAINED IN THIS VOLUME:

26 OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

- Teacher's Guide
- Grade K–1 Teaching
- Suggested Prayers
- Learning Activities

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- Questions & Answers
- New Testament Connections

OPTIONAL CATECHISM QUESTIONS

- Westminster Shorter Catechism
- Heidelberg Catechism

Find more supplemental resources at **GrowingInGodsWord.org**.



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Ligonier Ministries is the global Christian discipleship organization founded by Dr. R.C. Sproul in 1971 to proclaim, teach, and defend the holiness of God in all its fullness to as many people as possible.

Growing in God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

VOLUME 2: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 1

LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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LESSON 27
Level 1

The Birth of Jesus

MAIN IDEA

Although Jesus is truly God, He was made truly human in every way without ceasing to be God.

GOAL

To help children understand the humanity of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 1–2; Luke 1–2; John 1:1–18

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Christological debates of the early church can be hard to keep track of, but there is one important conclusion from them that we can easily remember—namely, that Jesus' humanity is as important to our salvation as His deity.

That which is of infinite worth, the divine person, cannot give infinite worth to an atonement made according to finite humanity if the human nature and divine nature are not truly united in one person. An ordinary human being is finite, and his sacrifice cannot do anything for anyone other than himself. But a divine person with a true human nature is of infinite worth, so He can save the world.

Because He was and remains truly human as well as truly divine, Jesus atoned perfectly for our sin and helps us in our temptation. He can save us and sanctify us because He is one of us without sacrificing any of His deity.

REMINDERS

- Pray that God would give you a heart for this lesson and the children in your care.
- Remember that it's OK to skip an activity if you are limited on time.
- Many children may already know the facts of the story. Fill in details that they may be missing.
- Always have a Bible ready to show children where the passage can be found so that they become familiar with how the Bible is organized.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chart paper or chalkboard/ whiteboard
- Markers

For Supplemental Closing Activity:

- Red construction paper, scissors

OPENING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear Lord, You love Your people so much that You came to earth to save them. As the Son of God, You were born as a baby and lived as a human. Thank You for living and dying for those who place their trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional Catechism

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 51–52

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 72–74

KEY VERSE

READ: And the Word became flesh . . . the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

WRITE the verse and reference on a whiteboard or chalkboard, and have the children read it out loud.

ERASE one word, and have the children read the whole verse again.

CONTINUE until the children are saying the verse without any words to look at.

OPENING ACTIVITY

SAY: One of the most famous parts of the Bible is the birth of Jesus. Some people call it the Christmas story.

ASK: Who was there when Jesus was born? (*Take responses. For each character mentioned, write the name on chart paper and ask the children what the person or animal did or may have said during the Christmas story. They might mention Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, angels, or animals.*)

SAY: It can be hard to understand how God is a Father in heaven, and God is also Jesus the Son, who became a man, and God is also the Holy Spirit. The important thing we'll focus on today is that Jesus, even though He is God, is really, truly a **human**.

ASK: What do you think it means to be a human? (*Take responses.*)

BIBLE TEACHING

Mary

RECAP any of the accurate points the children shared about Mary during the Opening Activity.

SAY: The Bible tells about the birth of Jesus in several places. First, we'll look at the book of Luke to see what it says about Mary.

READ Luke 1:26–38. (You can explain the term *virgin* by saying that Mary was not yet married and the baby inside her did not have a human father. To avoid confusion, you might also choose to omit the parts about David, Jacob, and Elizabeth.)

ASK: What do you think it means that Jesus is the Son of the Most High? (*He is God's own Son.*)

SAY: Jesus is the **Son of God**. He was God's Son before the world was even made. Jesus is also human because the Son of God took on a human nature in the womb of Mary and was born to her, yet without sin.

Joseph

SAY: Besides having God as His eternal, heavenly Father, Jesus also has an earthly father, Joseph.

RECAP any of the accurate points the children shared about Joseph during the Opening Activity.

SAY: In the book of Matthew, we learn more about Joseph.

READ Matthew 1:18–25.

SAY: When Joseph first learned that Mary was expecting a baby, he knew that he wasn't the baby's father. So at first, he decided not to marry her.

ASK: What is similar about Mary and Joseph in these two passages? (*Possibly: They both receive a message from an angel. They both obey God.*)

Jesus

RECAP any of the accurate points the children shared about Jesus during the Opening Activity.

SAY: The book of Luke tells about Jesus' birth.

READ Luke 2:1–7.

SAY: The book of John also tells about how Jesus became a human. In this book, the author sometimes calls Jesus "the Word."

READ John 1:1–2, 14.

ASK: Where was Jesus before He was born? (*He was with God.*)

The Wise Men

RECAP any of the accurate points the children shared about the wise men during the Opening Activity.

READ Matthew 2:1–2, 9–11.

SAY: The wise men weren't there when Jesus was born. They came to see Him when He was about two years old. The Christmas story has a lot of parts. It's fun to think about the angels and shepherds and wise men. But the most important part of the story to remember is that Jesus, who is God, was born as a human baby without ceasing to be God.

CLOSING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus, who is truly God, to earth. Thank You that He was born as a baby and lived on earth as a human. Help us to remember the important message of the Christmas story all year long. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Where did Jesus come from?
3. How is Jesus similar to you?
4. How was Jesus' birth special?
5. What are some ways you celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

FOLD one piece of red construction paper in half, and draw half of a heart against the fold.

LET the children predict what will happen when you cut "half" of the heart.

SHOW the children the red heart cutout.

ASK: Which part of this is a heart? (*The whole thing.*)

ASK: Which part of this is red? (*The whole thing.*)

SAY: It's not half heart and half red. It is truly a heart and it is truly red. This can remind you that Jesus isn't half God and half man. He's truly both at the same time. Truly God and truly man.

HELP the children make a heart cutout of their own and write "Jesus: truly God, truly man" on it.

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

SAY: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told some people that the Messiah was coming. He told them some clues about Jesus' birth. They wrote these clues down in the Bible. One of these people was the prophet Isaiah.

TURN to the book of Isaiah, and read 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

SAY: Hundreds of years later, this prophecy came true! Mary, a virgin, gave birth to a son. She didn't name Him Immanuel, but people would call Him that because it means "God with us." God became man.

Truth *for* Young Minds

God calls His people to pass down the Christian faith to the next generation. As we teach the Bible to our children, we invite them into the captivating story of redemption.

The opening chapters of the Bible direct young minds to the Creator who made them with a purpose. But this story takes a dark turn with the entrance of sin, helping boys and girls understand what's wrong with the world. Yet hope dawns with the promise of a Savior, calling children to trust in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life.

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CONTAINED IN THIS VOLUME:

26 NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

- Teacher's Guide
- Grade K–1 Teaching
- Suggested Prayers
- Learning Activities

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- Questions & Answers
- Old Testament Connections

OPTIONAL CATECHISM QUESTIONS

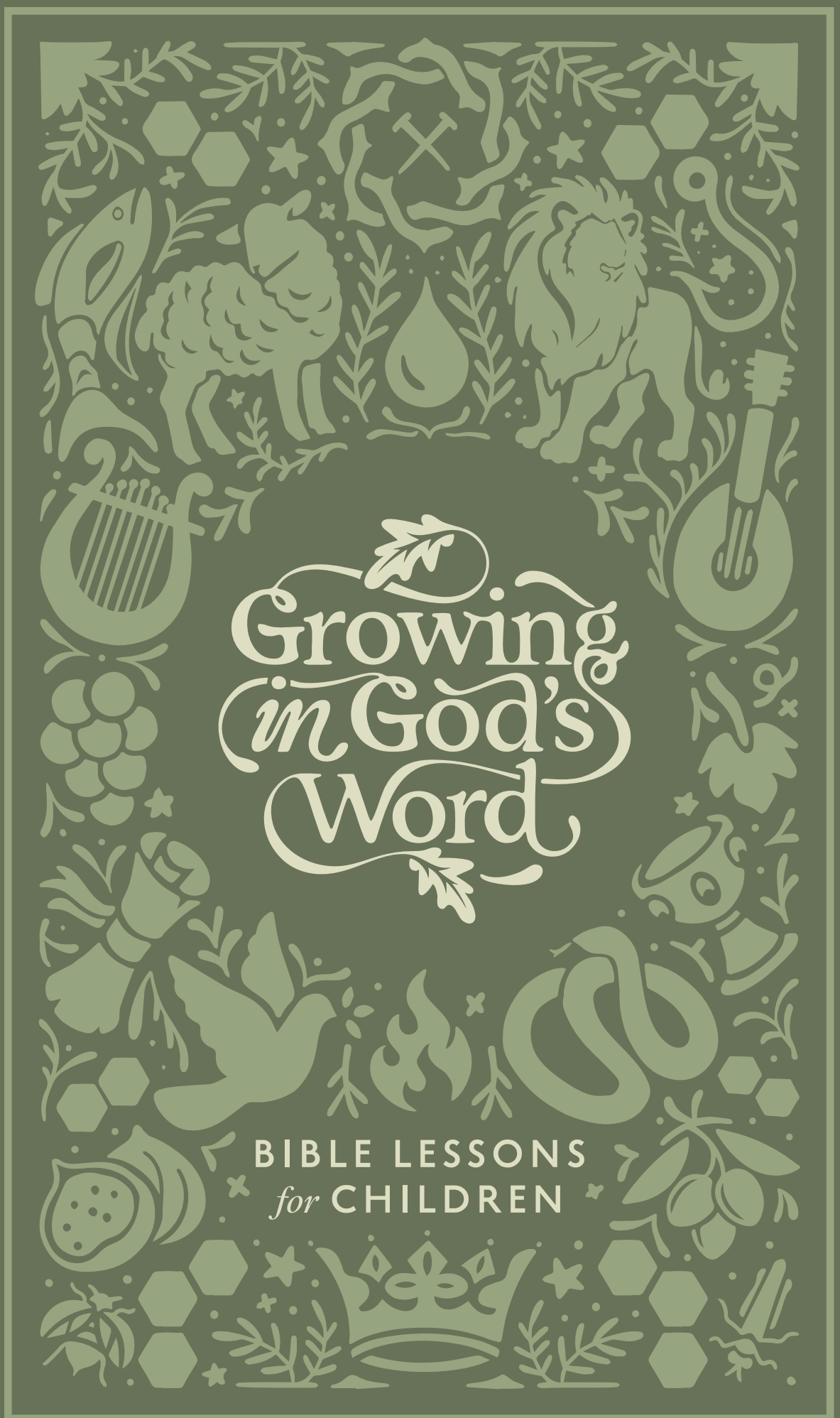
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LEVEL TWO | OLD TESTAMENT





BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

VOLUME 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT

Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 2

LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Growing in God's Word: Bible Lessons for Children
Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 2
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Growing *in* God's Word

INTRODUCTION

God's Word is clear about the responsibility to teach and train children in the faith. In the Old Testament, God says this to His people:

> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut. 6:4–7)

The New Testament reinforces the importance of this responsibility as well:

> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

Ligonier Ministries' children's curriculum is intended to further that aim, providing churches and families with faithful biblical teaching in the Reformed tradition to help raise up the next generation for Christ and His church.

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

Growing in God's Word is a curriculum to help churches, families, and schools guide children through an overview of the Bible in a year. Grounded in Reformed theology, each lesson emphasizes the five *solas* and the covenantal framework that unites all of Scripture.

The curriculum is designed with three guiding objectives in mind. It is *simple, holistic*, and *accessible*.

1. SIMPLE

- The curriculum is designed to be minimalistic. It includes only the necessary elements for each lesson and each age group.

- The curriculum is static. It does not require churches or families to buy new curriculum every year.

2. HOLISTIC

- The curriculum covers an overview of the Bible every year. The lessons for each age group cover the same story in Scripture, but with age-appropriate detail.

- The curriculum is Reformed, reflecting the biblical truths summarized in the five *solas*, approaching Scripture from a covenantal framework, and providing catechism Q&As.

3. ACCESSIBLE

- The curriculum is divided into fifty-two lessons. Lessons can be adapted for use by churches, families, teachers, or other individuals or groups.

- The curriculum includes supplemental material options for each lesson, enabling churches and families to adapt the curriculum to best fit their needs.

HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM

The PREPARE sections consist of information that should be reviewed by the teacher before teaching the lesson. It includes:

MAIN IDEA,

GOAL, *AND*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Each lesson begins by stating the main idea of the biblical truths being conveyed in that lesson. This is followed by the goal for the lesson. The portion of Scripture being covered is also listed.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Teacher's Guide gives additional information about the Scripture passages and biblical/theological themes being covered in the lesson. The Teacher's Guide provides helpful background information and context for the teacher without being too time-consuming.

REMINDERS

The Reminders section includes points to remember when teaching the lesson. These reminders are the same each lesson, enabling different teachers or substitutes to receive the same reminders even if they are only stepping in to teach occasionally.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Each lesson includes a list of materials needed for that lesson. Materials related to the supplemental Closing Activity are marked so that those not using the Closing Activity do not purchase unnecessary items. Occasionally, items created for or used in a previous lesson are reused in a future lesson.

The TEACH sections consist of the script that teachers will use to guide children through the lesson. It includes:

OPENING PRAYER

An opening prayer introduces the lesson. Teachers may use this scripted prayer or use their own.

KEY VERSE

Each lesson includes a key verse that encapsulates the biblical teaching for that lesson. The key verse may also be used as a memory verse for children. The verse is followed by a brief activity to help children repeat and remember the key verse. Please note that while the same basic verses are used for all grades, younger grades have shorter verses, while older grades have longer verses.

OPENING ACTIVITY

The Opening Activity gives children an opportunity to move around with an engaging activity that correlates to the biblical text and theme being taught in the lesson. Items needed for the Opening Activity are included in the Required Materials section.

BIBLE TEACHING

The main part of the lesson is the biblical teaching on the Scripture passage and theme. The script allows teachers of all experience levels to communicate the same ideas to children without the need for formal theological training or teaching experience. Churches may adapt the scripts as best suits their needs and their teachers.

CLOSING PRAYER

A Closing Prayer concludes the lesson. Teachers may use this scripted prayer or use their own.

The SUPPLEMENT sections can be added to the main lesson or switched out with components from the main lesson, providing a high degree of flexibility to adapt the curriculum as needed. It includes:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This section provides a list of questions and answers about the Bible teaching that teachers can ask children to reinforce the main points of the lesson.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

The Closing Activity gives children an additional opportunity to get physically involved in the lesson and to move around after the teaching concludes. Items needed for the Closing Activity are noted in the Required Materials section.

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS / NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Each lesson that covers an Old Testament passage includes a New Testament Connections section, and each lesson that covers a New Testament passage includes an Old Testament Connections section. These are brief teaching moments that help children make connections between different books of the Bible and scriptural themes, allowing them to see the continuity of God's one big story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation.

OPTIONAL CATECHISM

Each lesson includes a callout box with catechism Q&As. The Presbyterian & Reformed Edition includes the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism. The Baptist Edition includes the Baptist Catechism of 1693. Churches may include or exclude the catechism from the lessons at their discretion. Alternatively, churches may opt to select one Q&A from the list each lesson rather than covering multiple Q&As.

The full text of the catechisms is included in the appendices. Churches may use these classic versions or opt to use another version of the catechism with simplified language geared toward younger children. The scope and sequence appendix includes a list of all the catechism Q&As covered throughout the year. Each grade level covers the same Q&As each lesson.

COLORING SHEETS

Coloring sheets for each lesson are available on the curriculum website to download and print. These coloring sheets are not part of the lesson but may be used supplementally. The coloring sheets do not contain any depictions of Christ out of respect for those who avoid such images in their efforts to honor the second commandment.

HOLIDAY-SPECIFIC LESSONS

Due to the variability of holiday timing, the curriculum does not include specific lessons for Christmas or Easter. However, Lesson 27 covers the incarnation of Jesus and may be used as a Christmas lesson. Also, Lesson 39 teaches on the resurrection of Christ and can be used as an Easter lesson. Please note that if you use these lessons as holiday lessons, you will need to reorder the other lessons.

APPENDICES

LESSON SUMMARIES

Included in the curriculum is a lesson summaries appendix that includes the main idea, Scripture passage, and key verse for each lesson. Churches may use this information to communicate to families what children will be learning each lesson.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The scope and sequence appendix includes the main theme, biblical passage covered, key verse, and catechism Q&As for each lesson.

CATECHISMS

The full text of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism are in the Presbyterian & Reformed Edition. The full text of the Baptist Catechism of 1693 is in the Baptist Edition.

ABOUT LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Since its founding in 1971 by Dr. R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries has served the church by producing trustworthy discipleship resources that are rooted in the historic Christian faith. God has raised up many gifted pastors and theologians to apply the teachings of the Bible and Reformed theology to generations of Ligonier students.

Ligonier offers a deep teaching library of biblical and theological resources available at Ligonier.org or in the free Ligonier app to assist Christians in their own knowledge of God's Word as they seek to pass on the faith to the next generation. This faithful, biblical teaching reaches more than one-hundred million people each year in regions and languages around the world. Our aim is to help Christians everywhere know what they believe, why they believe it, how to live it, and how to share it.

Ligonier Ministries adheres to the ancient statements of faith and affirms the historic Christian faith as expressed in the five *solas* of the Reformation and the consensus of the historic Reformed confessions.

Supplemental materials for *Growing in God's Word* are available at **GrowingInGodsWord.org.**

There, you'll find free downloadable resources such as the printable coloring sheets and instructions for supporting churches, families, and schools using the curriculum.

LESSON 1
Level 2

Creation

MAIN IDEA

God is the Creator who spoke the universe into existence. God created everything that exists, including humans. He gave the first humans some jobs and a command. He also made a covenant with them—the covenant of works.

GOAL

To help children understand that God is the Creator of all things, which means we are subject to His commands.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES Genesis 1–2

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Simple enough for the youngest child to understand and yet sufficiently profound to inspire the greatest thinkers to ponder its ramifications, Genesis 1:1 is certainly one of the most beloved and consequential sentences ever written. We often pass over this text quickly, so accustomed are we to the fundamental idea of the Christian worldview — that God is the Creator and we are His creatures. Yet we must pause to consider this verse lest we miss its enormous implications.

Genesis 1:1 tells us God made everything out of nothing. In the beginning, the verse tells us, there was nothing else besides the Almighty Himself. We read nothing of angels, human beings, or any physical material. Even time itself did not exist before the Creator acted to bring something out of nothing. Moses can only speak of a "beginning" in Genesis 1:1 because of God's intervention to get things started. Prior to His work of creation, the Lord alone was, and He was from all eternity. As Hebrews 11:3 tells us, "The universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

Since God is the Creator, He upholds all things. God's sustaining providence means that every created thing depends on something outside itself for its origin and continuation. This something is God. Unlike His creation, however, our Creator depends on nothing outside Himself for His existence. He is self-existent, having the power of being in Himself. We were created in time, and in God "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:22–34). God, however, is. We know Him by His covenant name, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14). There never was a time when He was not, and there never will be a time when He will not be.

As dependent creatures, we rely on the Lord for everything. We might make things, but He alone "creates" and gives being to all things. We know our place in the universe only when we remember that He is our Creator and we are His creatures.

REMINDERS

- Pray that God would give you a heart for this lesson and the children in your care.
- Remember that it's OK to skip an activity if you are limited on time.
- Many children may already know the facts of the story. Fill in details that they may be missing.
- Always have a Bible ready to show children where the passage can be found so that they become familiar with how the Bible is organized.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Ball (any type)
- Bags or baskets of assorted materials (tape, paper clips, sticky notes, wooden blocks, dry pasta, rubber bands, plastic straws, etc.)
- Bibles
- Paper, pencils

For Supplemental Closing Activity

- Chalkboard or dry erase board, timer

OPENING PRAYER

PRAY: Father, we come together in Your name to learn about You as Creator. Help us to understand today's lesson from the Bible. Help us to honor You as Creator. You are the One who created the universe and each one of us. Help us to take care of Your creation and to obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional Catechism

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 1–3

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1–2

KEY VERSE

READ: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. . . . And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. —Genesis 1:1–2

STAND in a circle.

PASS the ball around the circle in order, with each child saying one word from the verse and reference (in order) when they receive the ball. Begin slowly, but increase speed as you repeat the activity and children become more familiar with the verse.

OPENING ACTIVITY

GIVE small groups of children a bag or basket of random materials such as tape, paper clips, sticky notes, wooden blocks, dry pasta, rubber bands, plastic straws, etc.

SAY: Your group has 10 minutes to make something out of the materials you have. You don't have to use everything, but work with only what you've been given. Use your creativity and teamwork to create something useful, interesting, beautiful, or silly.

ALLOW each group to share their creation after 10 minutes of work.

SAY: You did a nice job, but no one here actually created anything. You just rearranged the supplies you had. This piece of paper, for example, came from a store. Before that, it came from a factory. And before that, it came from a tree. God is the One who created the tree. He created the sun and the rain that helped it grow. He created the people who work in the factory. He created their bodies to eat food and get energy to do work. He is the only One who can create something out of nothing.

SAY: Today, we'll learn from the Bible how God created everything in the universe. He's the Creator, and His creation was good. We'll learn about the rules He set in place for His creation to keep it just the way He wanted it.



BIBLE TEACHING

Creation Week

SAY: The very first book of the Bible is Genesis. Its very first chapter tells how God created everything in the universe. Here's how it begins.

READ Genesis 1:1–2.

ASK: Before God began His work of creation, what was there? (*God, the Spirit of God, waters, darkness.*)

GIVE each child a sheet of paper and a pencil.

SAY: Fold your paper so you have eight equal boxes. In the first box, write "Creation." Label the other boxes with the number 1–7, with one small number in each box. As we read, make a note in each box of what God did on that day.

READ Genesis 1:3–27; 2:1–3, or have children volunteer to read. Pause after each day of creation to allow children to fill in their notes like this:

Creation	Day 1 – light (day and night)	Day 2 – sky (heaven)	Day 3 – dry land (earth), seas, and plants
Day 4 – sun, moon, stars	Day 5 – animals of sea and air	Day 6 – land, animals, and man	Day 7 – God rested from all His work

REVIEW each day, allowing children to share what they wrote. If needed, reread the passages from Genesis to clear up any confusion.

ASK: How exactly did God create all these things? (*He spoke these things into existence.*)

SAY: "God said," and so it was. But when He created man, God did something a little different.

Creation of Man

READ Genesis 2:7.

SAY: God's creation of man was different from the way He created everything else. Let's back up to reread Genesis 1:26–27.

SAY: You are God's special creation! You are made in God's image. God created the first man, and He created you.

ASK: What purpose or job did God give to man at creation? (*To have dominion—to rule and reign—over all the animals.*)

READ Genesis 1:28–30.

ASK: What else did God tell man to do? (*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.*) God wanted people to have families and to care for the earth.

God's Rule

READ Genesis 1:31.

ASK: What did God think of His creation? (*It was very good.*)

SAY: The Bible says again and again that God saw that His creation was good. This is the way God wanted the world to be. Now, as the Creator, He got to make rules to keep it that way.

ASK: What kind of rules do you think God made for His creation so it would remain good? (*Take responses.*)

SAY: God gave a rule to the first human beings in what we call a *covenant*. In a covenant, God makes a promise to do something if the people with whom He makes the covenant obey Him. The first covenant God made with people is called the "covenant of works" or "the covenant of life" because God promised to allow the people in this covenant to live forever if they did a good work by keeping His rule.

READ Genesis 2:7–9, 15–17.

ASK: What was God's one rule for the man? (*Do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.*) What would happen if the man broke this rule? (*He would certainly die.*)

SAY: God gave the man one rule. He could eat every good thing from every other plant and tree, but he couldn't eat from the one tree or he would die. And the Bible

also tells us that this rule and the covenant in which God gave it are very important. In fact, the Bible tells us that what Adam did or did not do in keeping this rule affected every human being who has lived since the first man (except for Jesus).

SAY: God is a good God. He made a good creation, and His rules are good. His rules protect us. We should always obey Him because He is the Creator. He knows what's best for us.

SAY: Next week, we'll learn more about the first man and woman and whether they were able to follow God's one rule for them.



CLOSING PRAYER

PRAY: God, our Creator, You made all things. You spoke them into being. You put Your very breath into man to give us life. Thank You for Your good creation. Thank You for giving us life. Help us to honor You as Creator, to care for Your creation, and to obey Your rules for us as we trust in Your son Jesus. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How did the universe begin?
2. What did God create, and how did He do it?
3. What did God think of His creation?
4. What jobs did God give the first man?
5. What rule did God give the first man? What would happen if he disobeyed?
6. Why should we obey God?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

CALL on a child to draw something from God's creation (sun, fish, person, tree, etc.) on the chalkboard or dry erase board.

INSTRUCT the other children to hold up their fingers to show which day of creation it represents. They can use their notes from earlier to help them.

TELL the child who drew something from God's creation to call on someone with the correct answer to draw next.

GIVE children a 10-second time limit to draw. Make sure each child gets at least one turn to draw.

NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

ASK: In the beginning, before creation, who does the Bible say was there? (*God, the Spirit of God.*)

SAY: Much, much later, after creation, Jesus was born. But the Bible tells us Jesus was there at creation because Jesus is the eternal Son of God.

SHOW the children where to find the book of John in the New Testament.

READ John 1:1–3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

ASK: Do these verses include the word *Jesus* anywhere? (*No.*) Reread these verses yourself. What word means Jesus? (*The Word.*)

SAY: In the beginning, Jesus existed as the eternal Son of God. He was with God, and He was God. He was with God when God created everything. And everything was created through Him.

READ Colossians 1:15–16.

Truth *for* Young Minds

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- Learning Activities

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- Questions & Answers
- New Testament Connections

OPTIONAL CATECHISM QUESTIONS

- Westminster Shorter Catechism
- Heidelberg Catechism

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Growing in God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

VOLUME 2: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 2

LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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LESSON 27
Level 2

The Birth of Jesus

MAIN IDEA

Although Jesus is truly God, He was made truly human in every way without ceasing to be God.

GOAL

To help children understand the humanity of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 1–2; Luke 1–2; John 1:1–18

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Christological debates of the early church can be hard to keep track of, but there is one important conclusion from them that we can easily remember—namely, that Jesus' humanity is as important to our salvation as His deity.

That which is of infinite worth, the divine person, cannot give infinite worth to an atonement made according to finite humanity if the human nature and divine nature are not truly united in one person. An ordinary human being is finite, and his sacrifice cannot do anything for anyone other than himself. But a divine person with a true human nature is of infinite worth, so He can save the world.

Because He was and remains truly human as well as truly divine, Jesus atoned perfectly for our sin and helps us in our temptation. He can save us and sanctify us because He is one of us without sacrificing any of His deity.

REMINDERS

- Pray that God would give you a heart for this lesson and the children in your care.
- Remember that it's OK to skip an activity if you are limited on time.
- Many children may already know the facts of the story. Fill in details that they may be missing.
- Always have a Bible ready to show children where the passage can be found so that they become familiar with how the Bible is organized.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Index cards prepared in advance for the Opening Activity
- Bibles
- Chart paper prepared in advance for the Bible Teaching
- Markers
- Whiteboard or chalkboard

For Supplemental Closing Activity

- Ornament paper prepared in advance, materials for decorating the ornament paper

OPENING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear Lord, You love Your people so much that You took on a human nature and came to earth to save them. As the Son of God, You were born as a baby and lived as a human. Thank You for living and dying for those who place their trust in You. Help us today to understand that Jesus is truly God and truly human. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional Catechism

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 51–52

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 72–74

KEY VERSE

READ: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . . the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

WRITE the verse and reference on a whiteboard or chalkboard, and have the children read it aloud.

ASK the children which word in the verse is most important. Underline it. Repeat this for the 6–7 most important words.

INSTRUCT the children to say the entire verse aloud, emphasizing the first underlined word.

CONTINUE reading the verse aloud together, emphasizing a different underlined word each time.

OPENING ACTIVITY

PREPARE index cards with the following quotations:

1) "I bring you good news of great joy. Go to the city and see your Savior, Christ the Lord, in a manger."
2) "Praise God! Our Savior is born! Let's leave the sheep and go worship Him!"

3) "How can this be, that I am pregnant with a child?"
4) "I must do what the angel commanded and take Mary as my wife."
5) "I never thought my food trough would become a bed for God's Son!"
6) "We have traveled from afar to worship the newborn King."

Answers for Teacher: 1) angel, 2) shepherd, 3) Mary, 4) Joseph, 5) animal, 6) wise men

SAY: One of the most well-known parts of the Bible is the birth of Jesus. Some people call it the Christmas story. I think most of you know the story well enough to play a "Who said it?" game.

SHUFFLE the index cards and call a volunteer to read one to the group.

ALLOW the children to guess which character from the Christmas story would have said something like that.

SAY: The birth of Jesus is so important because it's when God became human. It can be hard to understand how God is a Father in heaven, and God is also Jesus the Son, who became a man, and God is also the Holy Spirit. The important thing we'll focus on today is that Jesus, even though He is God, is really, truly a **human**.



BIBLE TEACHING

PREPARE 5 sheets of chart paper with the following headings:

Mary (Luke 1:26–38)
Joseph (Matthew 1:18–25)
Jesus (Luke 2:1–7; John 1:1–4, 9–14)
Wise men (Matthew 2:1–12)
Shepherds (Luke 2:8–20)

DIVIDE the class into five groups, and give each group one of the prepared sheets of chart paper.

INSTRUCT the children to read their passage together and create a poster to share with the class, teaching all about that person or people. They can use words, pictures, comic book–style frames, or any other idea they come up with.

CIRCULATE and offer assistance as the children work. You might offer the following help to specific groups:

Mary: Explain the term "virgin" by saying that Mary was not yet married and the baby inside her did not have a human father.

Joseph: Explain the terms "betrothed," "husband," and "divorce" in a way that children understand they were promised to be married but not yet so.

Jesus: "The Word" and "light" refer to Jesus in these passages.

Wise men: Perhaps show a map of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

ALLOW groups to share their work. After everyone has had a chance to share, review these important points:

ASK: What do you think it means that Jesus is the Son of the Most High? (*He is God's own Son.*)

SAY: Jesus is the **Son of God**. He was God's Son before the world was even made. God the Father placed His Son inside Mary through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is also human because the Son of God took on a human nature in the womb of Mary and was born to her, yet without sin. Jesus is also known as the **Son of Man** because the prophet Daniel predicted that one "like a son of man" would receive an everlasting kingdom from God, and God the Father entrusted to Jesus an everlasting kingdom.

ASK: What is similar about Mary and Joseph in these two passages? (*Possibly: They both receive a message from an angel. They both obey God.*)

ASK: Where was Jesus before He was born? (*He was with God.*)

SAY: The Christmas story has a lot of parts. It's fun to think about the angels and shepherds and wise men. But the most important part of the story to remember is that Jesus, who is God, was born as a human baby. Because God the Son came to earth and took on our humanity, He could do everything God demanded of us

and pay the price for our sin. Because humans sin, only a perfect human can pay for sin, and Jesus is the perfect human who is also truly God.

CLOSING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus, who existed before the world was created. We thank You that Jesus was born as a baby and lived on earth as a human, even though He is also truly God. Only as a real human, who died a real death and rose again, could Jesus save us. Help us to remember the important message of the Christmas story all year long. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Where did Jesus come from?
3. What does it mean to be human?
4. How is Jesus similar to you?
5. How was Jesus' birth special?
6. What are some ways you celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

PREPARE Christmas ornament cutouts (1 per child) by cutting circles out of card stock or printing plain ornament images from the Internet.

GIVE each child an ornament and a name of Jesus from today's lesson (repeat as needed for your numbers):

Jesus	Immanuel	God with us
King of the Jews	the Christ	Ruler
Shepherd	Son of the Most High	Son of God
Son of Man	the Word	the true light

INSTRUCT the children to write the name clearly on their ornament and decorate it.

DISPLAY the ornaments on a Christmas tree (artificial or cut out of paper).

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

SAY: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told some people that the Messiah was coming. He told them some clues about Jesus' birth. They wrote these clues down in the Bible. One of these people was the prophet Isaiah.

TURN to the book of Isaiah, and read 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

SAY: Hundreds of years later, this prophecy came true! Mary, a virgin, gave birth to a son. She didn't name Him Immanuel, but people would call Him that because it means "God with us." God became man.

Truth *for* Young Minds

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- Teacher's Guide
- Grade 2–3 Teaching
- Suggested Prayers
- Learning Activities

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- Questions & Answers
- Old Testament Connections

OPTIONAL CATECHISM QUESTIONS

- Westminster Shorter Catechism
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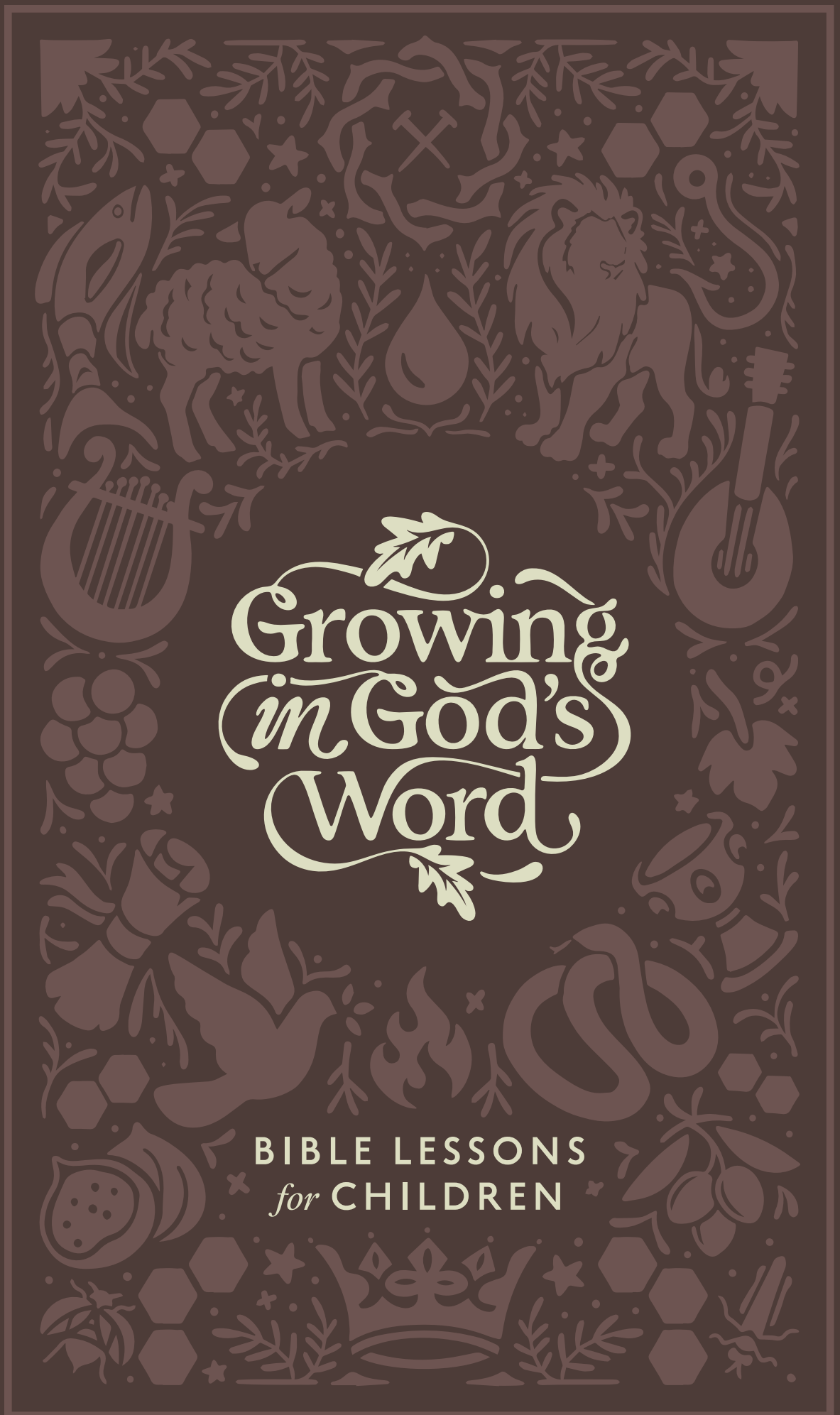
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LEVEL THREE | OLD TESTAMENT



Growing in God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

Growing in God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

VOLUME 1: THE OLD TESTAMENT

Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 3

LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 3
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Growing *in* God's Word

INTRODUCTION

God's Word is clear about the responsibility to teach and train children in the faith. In the Old Testament, God says this to His people:

> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut. 6:4–7)

The New Testament reinforces the importance of this responsibility as well:

> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

Ligonier Ministries' children's curriculum is intended to further that aim, providing churches and families with faithful biblical teaching in the Reformed tradition to help raise up the next generation for Christ and His church.

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

Growing in God's Word is a curriculum to help churches, families, and schools guide children through an overview of the Bible in a year. Grounded in Reformed theology, each lesson emphasizes the five *solas* and the covenantal framework that unites all of Scripture.

The curriculum is designed with three guiding objectives in mind. It is *simple, holistic*, and *accessible*.

1. SIMPLE

- The curriculum is designed to be minimalistic. It includes only the necessary elements for each lesson and each age group.

- The curriculum is static. It does not require churches or families to buy new curriculum every year.

2. HOLISTIC

- The curriculum covers an overview of the Bible every year. The lessons for each age group cover the same story in Scripture, but with age-appropriate detail.

- The curriculum is Reformed, reflecting the biblical truths summarized in the five *solas*, approaching Scripture from a covenantal framework, and providing catechism Q&As.

3. ACCESSIBLE

- The curriculum is divided into fifty-two lessons. Lessons can be adapted for use by churches, families, teachers, or other individuals or groups.

- The curriculum includes supplemental material options for each lesson, enabling churches and families to adapt the curriculum to best fit their needs.

HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM

The PREPARE sections consist of information that should be reviewed by the teacher before teaching the lesson. It includes:

MAIN IDEA,

GOAL, *AND*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Each lesson begins by stating the main idea of the biblical truths being conveyed in that lesson. This is followed by the goal for the lesson. The portion of Scripture being covered is also listed.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Teacher's Guide gives additional information about the Scripture passages and biblical/theological themes being covered in the lesson. The Teacher's Guide provides helpful background information and context for the teacher without being too time-consuming.

REMINDERS

The Reminders section includes points to remember when teaching the lesson. These reminders are the same each lesson, enabling different teachers or substitutes to receive the same reminders even if they are only stepping in to teach occasionally.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Each lesson includes a list of materials needed for that lesson. Materials related to the supplemental Closing Activity are marked so that those not using the Closing Activity do not purchase unnecessary items. Occasionally, items created for or used in a previous lesson are reused in a future lesson.

The TEACH sections consist of the script that teachers will use to guide children through the lesson. It includes:

OPENING PRAYER

An opening prayer introduces the lesson. Teachers may use this scripted prayer or use their own.

KEY VERSE

Each lesson includes a key verse that encapsulates the biblical teaching for that lesson. The key verse may also be used as a memory verse for children. The verse is followed by a brief activity to help children repeat and remember the key verse. Please note that while the same basic verses are used for all grades, younger grades have shorter verses, while older grades have longer verses.

OPENING ACTIVITY

The Opening Activity gives children an opportunity to move around with an engaging activity that correlates to the biblical text and theme being taught in the lesson. Items needed for the Opening Activity are included in the Required Materials section.

BIBLE TEACHING

The main part of the lesson is the biblical teaching on the Scripture passage and theme. The script allows teachers of all experience levels to communicate the same ideas to children without the need for formal theological training or teaching experience. Churches may adapt the scripts as best suits their needs and their teachers.

CLOSING PRAYER

A Closing Prayer concludes the lesson. Teachers may use this scripted prayer or use their own.

The SUPPLEMENT sections can be added to the main lesson or switched out with components from the main lesson, providing a high degree of flexibility to adapt the curriculum as needed. It includes:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This section provides a list of questions and answers about the Bible teaching that teachers can ask children to reinforce the main points of the lesson.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

The Closing Activity gives children an additional opportunity to get physically involved in the lesson and to move around after the teaching concludes. Items needed for the Closing Activity are noted in the Required Materials section.

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS / NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Each lesson that covers an Old Testament passage includes a New Testament Connections section, and each lesson that covers a New Testament passage includes an Old Testament Connections section. These are brief teaching moments that help children make connections between different books of the Bible and scriptural themes, allowing them to see the continuity of God's one big story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation.

OPTIONAL CATECHISM

Each lesson includes a callout box with catechism Q&As. The Presbyterian & Reformed Edition includes the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism. The Baptist Edition includes the Baptist Catechism of 1693. Churches may include or exclude the catechism from the lessons at their discretion. Alternatively, churches may opt to select one Q&A from the list each lesson rather than covering multiple Q&As.

The full text of the catechisms is included in the appendices. Churches may use these classic versions or opt to use another version of the catechism with simplified language geared toward younger children. The scope and sequence appendix includes a list of all the catechism Q&As covered throughout the year. Each grade level covers the same Q&As each lesson.

COLORING SHEETS

Coloring sheets for each lesson are available on the curriculum website to download and print. These coloring sheets are not part of the lesson but may be used supplementally. The coloring sheets do not contain any depictions of Christ out of respect for those who avoid such images in their efforts to honor the second commandment.

HOLIDAY-SPECIFIC LESSONS

Due to the variability of holiday timing, the curriculum does not include specific lessons for Christmas or Easter. However, Lesson 27 covers the incarnation of Jesus and may be used as a Christmas lesson. Also, Lesson 39 teaches on the resurrection of Christ and can be used as an Easter lesson. Please note that if you use these lessons as holiday lessons, you will need to reorder the other lessons.

APPENDICES

LESSON SUMMARIES

Included in the curriculum is a lesson summaries appendix that includes the main idea, Scripture passage, and key verse for each lesson. Churches may use this information to communicate to families what children will be learning each lesson.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The scope and sequence appendix includes the main theme, biblical passage covered, key verse, and catechism Q&As for each lesson.

CATECHISMS

The full text of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Heidelberg Catechism are in the Presbyterian & Reformed Edition. The full text of the Baptist Catechism of 1693 is in the Baptist Edition.

ABOUT LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Since its founding in 1971 by Dr. R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries has served the church by producing trustworthy discipleship resources that are rooted in the historic Christian faith. God has raised up many gifted pastors and theologians to apply the teachings of the Bible and Reformed theology to generations of Ligonier students.

Ligonier offers a deep teaching library of biblical and theological resources available at Ligonier.org or in the free Ligonier app to assist Christians in their own knowledge of God's Word as they seek to pass on the faith to the next generation. This faithful, biblical teaching reaches more than one-hundred million people each year in regions and languages around the world. Our aim is to help Christians everywhere know what they believe, why they believe it, how to live it, and how to share it.

Ligonier Ministries adheres to the ancient statements of faith and affirms the historic Christian faith as expressed in the five *solas* of the Reformation and the consensus of the historic Reformed confessions.

Supplemental materials for *Growing in God's Word* are available at **GrowingInGodsWord.org.**

There, you'll find free downloadable resources such as the printable coloring sheets and instructions for supporting churches, families, and schools using the curriculum.

LESSON 1
Level 3

Creation

MAIN IDEA

God is the Creator who spoke the universe into existence. God created everything that exists, including humans. He gave the first humans some jobs and a command. He also made a covenant with them—the covenant of works. What Adam did in this covenant would affect all human beings.

GOAL

To help children understand that God is the Creator of all things, which means we are subject to His commands.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES Genesis 1–2

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Simple enough for the youngest child to understand and yet sufficiently profound to inspire the greatest thinkers to ponder its ramifications, Genesis 1:1 is certainly one of the most beloved and consequential sentences ever written. We often pass over this text quickly, so accustomed are we to the fundamental idea of the Christian worldview—that God is the Creator and we are His creatures. Yet we must pause to consider this verse lest we miss its enormous implications.

Genesis 1:1 tells us God made everything out of nothing. In the beginning, the verse tells us, there was nothing else besides the Almighty Himself. We read nothing of angels, human beings, or any physical material. Even time itself did not exist before the Creator acted to bring something out of nothing. Moses can only speak of a "beginning" in Genesis 1:1 because of God's intervention to get things started. Prior to His work of creation, the Lord alone was, and He was from all eternity. As Hebrews 11:3 tells us, "The universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

Since God is the Creator, He upholds all things. God's sustaining providence means that every created thing depends on something outside itself for its origin and continuation. This something is God. Unlike His creation, however, our Creator depends on nothing outside Himself for His existence. He is self-existent, having the power of being in Himself. We were created in time, and in God "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:22–34). God, however, is. We know Him by His covenant name, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14). There never was a time when He was not, and there never will be a time when He will not be.

As dependent creatures, we rely on the Lord for everything. We might make things, but He alone "creates" and gives being to all things. We know our place in the universe only when we remember that He is our Creator and we are His creatures.

REMINDERS

- Pray that God would give you a heart for this lesson and the children in your care.
- Remember that it's OK to skip an activity if you are limited on time.
- Many children may already know the facts of the story. Fill in details that they may be missing.
- Always have a Bible ready to show children where the passage can be found so that they become familiar with how the Bible is organized.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Chalkboard or dry erase board
- Paper, pencils
- Bibles
- Chart paper or chalkboard/ whiteboard

OPENING PRAYER

PRAY: Heavenly Father, You are the Creator of the universe and the One who created each person here. Help us learn today about Your wonderful work of creation. Help us to care for what You have created, including ourselves and others. Help us to obey the rules You have set for us out of Your goodness and wisdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional Catechism

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 1–3

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1–2

KEY VERSE

READ: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. —Genesis 1:1–2

WRITE the verses and reference on a whiteboard or chalkboard, and have the children read it aloud.

ERASE one phrase, such as "the heavens and the earth," and have the children read the whole verse again.

CONTINUE erasing phrases until the children are saying the verse without any words to look at.

OPENING ACTIVITY

SAY: Think of something you made that you're really proud of. It could be something you built, a painting you made, or food you prepared for your family. It can even be a clean room that you worked to pick up. Come up with something, anything, that you made yourself.

GIVE children paper and pencils.

INSTRUCT them to make a quick sketch of the thing they made on the top half of the paper.

SAY: On the bottom half of the paper, below your drawing, list some rules for taking good care of that thing you made. What rules would you and others have to obey to keep it just the way you like it?

ALLOW time for the children to list their rules.

INSTRUCT the children to take turns sharing their creations and the rules with the group. For example, "I made a birthday cake. Rule #1 is wait until everyone is served to eat. Rule #2 is one slice per person. Rule #3 is to say 'No, thank you' if you don't want any."

SAY: As the one who created this masterpiece, you get to decide how to best care for it. You get to decide the rules for keeping it just the way you want it. Today, we'll learn from the Bible how God created everything in the universe. Since He's the Creator, He gets to make the rules, so we'll learn about the rules He set in place for His creation.

BIBLE TEACHING

Creation Week

SAY: The very first book of the Bible is Genesis. Its very first chapter tells how God created everything in the universe. Here's how it begins.

READ Genesis 1:1–2.

ASK: Before God began His work of creation, what was there? (*God, the Spirit of God, waters, darkness.*)

SAY: Much later in the Bible, after the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, we learn who else was there at creation.

READ Colossians 1:15–16.

SAY: Even before anything in the universe was created, there was one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

DRAW a chart with three columns on chart paper or a chalkboard/whiteboard, labeling the first two columns "Day" and "Creation." Leave the third column blank for now.

READ Genesis 1:3–27 and 2:1–3, or have children volunteer to read. Pause after each day of creation to fill in the chart like this:

Day	Creation	
1	light (day and night)	
2	sky (heaven)	
3	dry land (earth), seas, and plants	
4	sun, moon, stars	
5	animals of sea and air	
6	land, animals, and man	
7	God rested from all His work.	

ASK: How exactly did God create all these things? (*He spoke these things into creation.*)

SAY: "God said," and so it was.

Creation of Man

SAY: When God created man, He did some things differently. He used a different method and had a different purpose.

INSTRUCT children to read Genesis 1:28–2:15.

ASK: How did God create man differently from everything else? (*He formed man out of the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.*)

SAY: You are God's special creation! You are made in God's image. God created the first man, and He created you.

ASK: What purpose or jobs did God give to man at creation? (*To rule over all the animals, fill the earth and subdue it, take care of His garden.*)

God's Rule

ADD the heading "Conclusion" to the third column of your chart.

SAY: Starting with day 3 of creation, we learn that "God saw that it was good."

POINT OUT Genesis 1:10 and 1:12 to children.

ASK: Where else do we see this conclusion? (*Days 4 and 5. Day 6 was "very good."*)

COMPLETE the chart as shown:

Day	Creation	Conclusion
1	light (day and night)	
2	sky (heaven)	
3	dry land (earth), seas, and plants	It was good.
4	sun, moon, stars	It was good.
5	animals of sea and air	It was good.
6	land, animals, and man	It was very good.
7	God rested from all His work.	Blessed and holy

SAY: The Bible says again and again that God saw that His creation was good. This is the way God wanted the world to be. And as the Creator, God made the rules to keep it that way.

ASK: What kind of rules do you think would keep God's creation good? (*Take responses.*)

SAY: God gave a rule to the first human beings in what we call a *covenant*. In a covenant, God makes a promise to do something if the people with whom He makes the covenant obey Him. The first covenant God made with people is called the "covenant of works" or "the covenant of life" because God promised to allow the people in this covenant to live forever if they did a good work by keeping His rule.

READ Genesis 2:8–9 and 2:16–17.

ASK: What was God's one rule for the man? (*Do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.*) What would happen if the man broke this rule? (*He would certainly die.*)

SAY: God only made one rule for the man. He could eat every good thing from every other plant and tree, but he couldn't eat from the one tree or he would die. And the Bible also tells us that this rule and the covenant in which God gave it are very important. In fact, the Bible tells us that what Adam did or did not do in keeping this rule affected every human being who has lived since the first man (except for Jesus).

READ 1 Corinthians 15:21–22.

SAY: As you can see, what Adam did has led to death for human beings. He did not keep God's good rule, and now the whole world is in trouble. God is a good God. He made a good creation, and His rules are good. His rules protect us. We should always obey Him because He is the Creator. He knows what's best for us. When we don't obey God, problems always come.

SAY: Next week, we'll learn more about the first man and woman and what happened when they chose not to follow God's one rule for them.

CLOSING PRAYER

PRAY: Thank You, God, for clouds, water, mountains, trees, animals, and all of Your great creation. Forgive us for the ways we have failed to care for it. Forgive us for the times we disobey Your rules. Help us to honor You and to obey You. Thank You for making us in Your own image, and thank You that we can be forgiven by placing our faith in Jesus' sacrifice. Help us to become more and more like You. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Is it right that the creator of something gets to make the rules for its use? What if the creator is perfect and good? What if the creator is not?**

2. **What kind of Creator is God?**

3. **What did God think of His creation?**

4. **What rule did God set for man at creation? What would happen if man disobeyed?**

5. **What are some rules God sets for you? Why should you obey God?**

CLOSING ACTIVITY

PLACE the children into groups of 2 or 3.

INSTRUCT them to read Psalm 104 (helping them to find it in their Bibles). Have them count the number of things that are mentioned in the psalm that are part of God's creation.

NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

SAY: The Bible begins in Genesis with the story of creation. And it tells us in many other places that God created everything. Before God made the world and everything in it, there was only God.

READ Revelation 4:11.

SAY: As this verse tells us, God made *all things* by His will. But what is very interesting is what the Bible says about Jesus and creation. Much, much later, after

creation, Jesus was born. But the Bible actually tells us He was with God from the start because He is the eternal Son of God.

READ Colossians 1:15–16.

SAY: Even John, who knew Jesus during His life on earth, learned that Jesus, the Son of God, was there at creation.

READ John 1:1–3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

ASK: Do these verses include the word *Jesus* anywhere? (*No.*) Reread these verses yourself. What word means Jesus? (*The Word.*)

SAY: In the beginning, Jesus existed as the eternal Son of God. He was with God, and He was God. He was with God when God created everything. And everything was created through Him.

Truth *for* Young Minds

God calls His people to pass down the Christian faith to the next generation. As we teach the Bible to our children, we invite them into the captivating story of redemption.

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Find more supplemental resources at **GrowingInGodsWord.org**.



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Growing in God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS *for* CHILDREN

VOLUME 2: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Presbyterian & Reformed Edition, Level 3

LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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LESSON 27
Level 3

The Birth of Jesus

MAIN IDEA

Although Jesus is truly God, He was made truly human in every way without ceasing to be God.

GOAL

To help children understand the humanity of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 1–2; Luke 1–2; John 1:1–18

TEACHER'S GUIDE

The Christological debates of the early church can be hard to keep track of, but there is one important conclusion from them that we can easily remember—namely, that Jesus' humanity is as important to our salvation as His deity.

That which is of infinite worth, the divine person, cannot give infinite worth to an atonement made according to finite humanity if the human nature and divine nature are not truly united in one person. An ordinary human being is finite, and his sacrifice cannot do anything for anyone other than himself. But a divine person with a true human nature is of infinite worth, so He can save the world.

Because He was and remains truly human as well as truly divine, Jesus atoned perfectly for our sin and helps us in our temptation. He can save us and sanctify us because He is one of us without sacrificing any of His deity.

REMINDERS

- Pray that God would give you a heart for this lesson and the children in your care.
- Remember that it's OK to skip an activity if you are limited on time.
- Many children may already know the facts of the story. Fill in details that they may be missing.
- Always have a Bible ready to show children where the passage can be found so that they become familiar with how the Bible is organized.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Sticky notes with references prepared in advance for the Bible Teaching
- Bibles

For Supplemental Closing Activity

- Printed lyrics of well-known Christmas carols, highlighters

OPENING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear Lord, it can be hard for us to comprehend Your divine, eternal nature. It can also be hard for us to understand that You were a human, born as a baby, and like us in every way except for sin. Thank You for loving us enough to come to earth to save us. Help us today to understand that Jesus is truly God and truly human. In Jesus' name, amen.

Optional Catechism

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 51–52

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 72–74

KEY VERSE

READ: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

GIVE the children paper, pencils, and scissors.

INSTRUCT the children to copy the verse and reference onto paper and then cut it into phrases.

INSTRUCT them to scramble and rebuild the verse several times. As they get better at it, they can cut the phrases into single words.

OPENING ACTIVITY

DRAW concentric circles on chart paper so you have 4 sections to write in.

WRITE "Jesus" in the center circle.

SAY: The birth of Jesus, or the Nativity story, is one of the most well-known parts of the Bible.

ASK: Who was most closely connected to Jesus around the time of His birth? Who was in His "inner circle"? (*Mary, Joseph, angels.*)

WRITE these responses in the next circle as shown:



ASK: Who was in the next ring around the birth of Jesus? (*Shepherds, angels, wise men.*)

WRITE these responses in the third circle.

ASK: Can you think of any other figures involved in this story who were a little further removed? (*Elizabeth, Zechariah, Herod.*)

WRITE these in the fourth circle.

SAY: The birth of Jesus is so important because it's when God revealed Himself as a human. In today's lesson, we'll review parts of this story that you probably know well and look at some of these outer ring parts that you might not know as well.

BIBLE TEACHING

ASSIGN individuals or pairs to read the following sticky note passages on their own, looking for "nuggets" in the Christmas story that some people might not know about:

Jesus (Luke 2:1–7; John 1:1–4, 9–14)
Mary (Luke 1:26–38)
Joseph (Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15, 19–23)
Zechariah (Luke 1:5–25, 57–64)

Elizabeth (Luke 1:24–25, 39–45)
Shepherds (Luke 2:8–20)
Wise men (Matthew 2:1-12)
Herod (Matthew 2:1–8, 16–18)

GATHER the class and direct their attention to the chart paper. Working from the inside out, ask the class what they know about that part of the Nativity story. Then, let that individual or pair present any additional "nuggets." For example:

ASK: What do you know about Jesus in the Nativity story? (*Possibly: He was born of a virgin. After He was born in Bethlehem, His mother laid Him in a manger. He's God's Son.*)

ASK: What can our "expert" add to our understanding? (*Possibly: Before Jesus was born, He was with God. He was with God from the beginning, and He is God. The world was made through Him. The Bible calls Jesus the Word.*)

REPEAT for Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, Elizabeth, the shepherds, the wise men, and Herod.

SAY: There are a lot of elements to the story of Jesus' birth, and they each play an important part. But the most important part of the story to remember is that Jesus, who is God, was born as a human baby without ceasing to be truly God. This was the only way that God could save us. Because God the Son came to earth and took on our humanity, He could do everything God demanded of us and pay the price for our sin. Because humans sin, only a perfect human can pay for sin, and Jesus is the perfect human who is also truly God. As a human, He suffered the penalty of sin so that we who are humans and trust in Him do not have to pay it ourselves. As a human, He earned a right to eternal life for us that we could never earn ourselves because we are sinners.

CLOSING PRAYER

PRAY: Dear heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who existed before the world was created. Thank You that Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem and that He was truly human. Only a God who lived as truly human, yet without sin, could save us. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth to save those who believe in Him. Help us to remember the important message of the Christmas story all year long. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Where did Jesus come from?
3. What does it mean to be human?
4. How is Jesus similar to you? How is He different?
5. How was Jesus' birth special?
6. What are some ways you celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

PREPARE printouts of Christmas carol lyrics (1 or 2 copies of each):

O Little Town of Bethlehem	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Silent Night	Away in a Manger
Joy to the World	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
We Three Kings	O Holy Night

GIVE pairs of children a sheet of lyrics and highlighters.

INSTRUCT the children to highlight any parts of the song that they know come straight from the Bible account.

ALLOW the children to share their findings, singing the songs if they like.

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

SAY: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told some people that the Messiah was coming. He told them some clues about Jesus' birth. They wrote these clues down in the Bible. One of these people was the prophet Isaiah.

TURN to the book of Isaiah, and read 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

SAY: Hundreds of years later, this prophecy came true! Mary, a virgin, gave birth to a son. She didn't name Him Immanuel, but people would call Him that because it means "God with us." God became man.

Truth *for* Young Minds

God calls His people to pass down the Christian faith to the next generation. As we teach the Bible to our children, we invite them into the captivating story of redemption.

The opening chapters of the Bible direct young minds to the Creator who made them with a purpose. But this story takes a dark turn with the entrance of sin, helping boys and girls understand what's wrong with the world. Yet hope dawns with the promise of a Savior, calling children to trust in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life.

Growing in God's Word is a curriculum from Ligonier Ministries to help churches, families, and schools guide children through an overview of the Bible in 52 lessons. Built on the unique authority of Scripture, each lesson reinforces the truths of Reformed theology and the Bible's unifying covenantal framework.

This curriculum aims to help you nurture children in the Christian faith, that they may discover their place in God's story of salvation in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONTAINED IN THIS VOLUME:

26 NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

- Teacher's Guide
- Grade 4–5 Teaching
- Suggested Prayers
- Learning Activities

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- Questions & Answers
- Old Testament Connections

OPTIONAL CATECHISM QUESTIONS

- Westminster Shorter Catechism
- Heidelberg Catechism

Find more supplemental resources at **GrowingInGodsWord.org**.



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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Growing *in* God's Word

BIBLE LESSONS FOR CHILDREN

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