

Unit 1



family

DEVOTIONAL

God's Word Is Our Foundation



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

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Unit 1 • Family Devotional

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Answers Bible Curriculum* family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training and teaching their children the things of the Lord:

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.” (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

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

We suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller pieces.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and he delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that his wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



God's Word Is Our Foundation

Lesson Summary

The Bible is the starting point from which we discern truth and make decisions. We need to learn to use it to guide our every thought. Psalm 19 tells us that God's Word is perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous, more to be desired than gold, and sweeter than honey. It is like no other book ever written!

God's Word can also change us. It changes our soul; it makes us wise; it brings joy to the heart; and it allows us to see more clearly—like a light shining in the darkness.

We might think we know all the answers, but we don't know anything compared to God. God is the only one who is omniscient—he knows everything! But he has left us with a guidebook—the Bible—the very Word of God. If we refuse to use his Word to guide us, we will never see things clearly. We need to look at all of life through biblical glasses, using the Bible as our foundation in everything.

First and foremost, God's Word reveals who he is and what he has done for us in sending his Son Jesus as Savior. The Bible exhibits God's plan throughout history to save a people for himself.

God's Word is also a guide—helping us make wise choices that will honor God and glorify him. His Word will help us to determine what is true and what is not as we hear and learn things. This is very important because most people do not stand on the authority of the Bible. We need to know what it says so we know who is telling the truth and who is not. Wearing our biblical glasses is vitally important. It takes commitment to read the Word in order to know what it says.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Psalms 19:7–11

1. How did the psalmist view God's Word? What are some of the adjectives he used to describe it?
2. What are the Scriptures good for? What are some ways that they can change us?
3. Share a specific example with your family of a time when God's Word made you wise or enlightened your eyes.

2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 3:16

4. According to these verses, how was the Bible written? Who is its author?

5. What was the role of God and what was the role of the human authors in writing the Bible?
6. Look up the following passages and note the synonym used for the Bible.
- 1 Peter 2:2
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - Colossians 3:16
 - James 1:18
 - 2 Timothy 3:15
 - Daniel 10:21
 - Isaiah 34:16
 - Nehemiah 8:3
 - Isaiah 30:9
 - Ephesians 6:17
 - Romans 3:2

7. What do these verses tell us about God's Word? Why can we trust it?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

Prayer

Take time to thank God for his Word. Ask him to accomplish his will in and through you as you submit to his Word and seek to obey him in everything.

Family Prayer Requests:



Attributes of God

Lesson Summary

Because there is no way to comprehend the vast depth of our holy God, we are at risk of conjuring up in our minds what we want him to be. This is not acceptable, but is a form of idolatry. We can begin to know who God is only by the revelation of his Word—what he has revealed to us.

David said of him, “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3). And, “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all” (1 Chronicles 29:11). We can’t say it any better than the Apostle Paul: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways” (Romans 11:33)! The glimpses of God we observe from his Word are far, far from complete.

Question 4 of the historic Westminster Shorter Catechism, penned in the 1640s, asks, “What is God?” The answer? “God is Spirit (John 4:24), infinite (Jeremiah 23:24), eternal (Psalm 90:2), and unchangeable (Malachi 3:6) in his being (James 1:17), wisdom (Psalm 147:5), power (Revelation 19:6), holiness (1 Samuel 2:2), justice (Psalm 7:11), goodness (Psalm 107:8), and truth (Deuteronomy 32:4).”

Read and Discuss

1. Read the following passages and discuss together which attributes of God each passage mentions.
 - Exodus 34:4–8
 - Exodus 20:4–6
 - Job 42:2
 - Isaiah 40:25–28
 - Psalm 48:3–5
 - Psalm 90:1–6
 - Psalm 147:1–7
 - 1 John 4:7–11
 - 2 Peter 3:8–9
2. Can we ever fully describe or understand God? Why or why not?
3. After reading these passages, do you think you have a clearer understanding of who God is?

4. Which attribute(s) of God do you sometimes fail to think about?

5. Which attribute(s) of God gives you hope? Comfort?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Psalm 119:89–90 Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

Prayer

Spend some time praising God for who he is (be specific!). Thank him for those attributes that give you hope, comfort, and peace. Thank God that at the cross he demonstrated both his justice and his love, and ask him to help you live in light of who he is.

Family Prayer Requests: