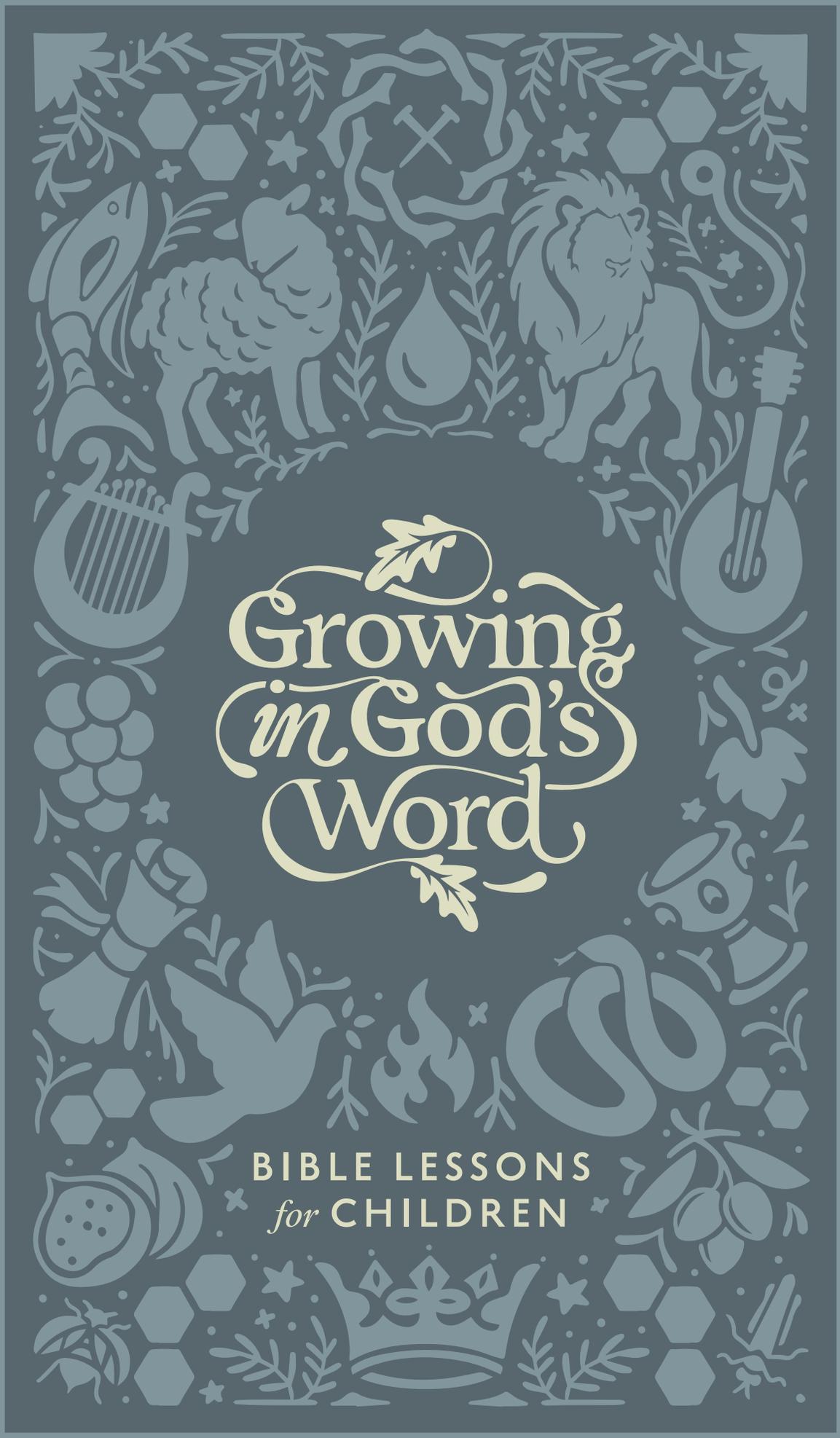


LEVEL ONE | OLD TESTAMENT



# 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 1



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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

© 2025 Ligonier Ministries

Published by Ligonier Ministries  
421 Ligonier Court, Sanford, FL 32771  
Ligonier.org

Printed in China  
Amity Printing Company  
0000525

ISBN 978-1-64289-716-6 (Paperback)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, Ligonier Ministries. The only exception is brief quotations in published reviews.

Cover design: Ligonier Creative and The Druthers Group  
Interior typeset: Katherine Lloyd, The DESK

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Westminster Shorter Catechism taken from *The Confession of Faith and Catechisms of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church with Proof Texts* (© 2005, 2007, 2021). Used by permission of the Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. All rights reserved.

Heidelberg Catechism, adapted from Doctrinal Standards as found in *Psalter Hymnal* (© 1987, 1988, Faith Alive Christian Resources / Christian Reformed Church in North America). Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025933273

# Table *of* Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	vii
<b>Lesson 1</b> Creation.....	1
<b>Lesson 2</b> The Fall.....	11
<b>Lesson 3</b> Noah.....	21
<b>Lesson 4</b> Abraham’s Early Life.....	31
<b>Lesson 5</b> Abraham’s Later Life.....	41
<b>Lesson 6</b> Isaac and Jacob.....	51
<b>Lesson 7</b> Jacob and Esau.....	61
<b>Lesson 8</b> Jacob and Sons.....	71
<b>Lesson 9</b> Joseph.....	81
<b>Lesson 10</b> Moses and the Exodus.....	93
<b>Lesson 11</b> The Ten Commandments.....	101
<b>Lesson 12</b> Wilderness Failure.....	111
<b>Lesson 13</b> Joshua and Jericho.....	121
<b>Lesson 14</b> Ruth.....	131
<b>Lesson 15</b> Samuel.....	141
<b>Lesson 16</b> Saul.....	151
<b>Lesson 17</b> David’s Early Life.....	161

<b>Lesson 18</b>	David's Later Life .....	173
<b>Lesson 19</b>	Solomon .....	181
<b>Lesson 20</b>	The Divided Kingdom, Elijah and Elisha .....	191
<b>Lesson 21</b>	Hezekiah and Josiah .....	201
<b>Lesson 22</b>	Jonah.....	211
<b>Lesson 23</b>	Isaiah .....	221
<b>Lesson 24</b>	Jeremiah and the Exile.....	231
<b>Lesson 25</b>	Daniel.....	241
<b>Lesson 26</b>	Postexilic History.....	251
	Lesson Summaries.....	261
	Scope and Sequence .....	287
	Westminster Shorter Catechism .....	291
	Heidelberg Catechism .....	305

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

# Table *of* Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	vii
<b>Lesson 27</b> The Birth of Jesus .....	1
<b>Lesson 28</b> The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus.....	9
<b>Lesson 29</b> The Disciples.....	19
<b>Lesson 30</b> The Sermon on the Mount.....	29
<b>Lesson 31</b> The Miracles of Jesus.....	39
<b>Lesson 32</b> The Raising of Lazarus .....	49
<b>Lesson 33</b> Parables, Part 1 .....	59
<b>Lesson 34</b> Parables, Part 2 .....	69
<b>Lesson 35</b> The Transfiguration.....	79
<b>Lesson 36</b> The Triumphal Entry.....	87
<b>Lesson 37</b> The Last Supper.....	95
<b>Lesson 38</b> Good Friday.....	105
<b>Lesson 39</b> The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus .....	113
<b>Lesson 40</b> Pentecost .....	123
<b>Lesson 41</b> Early Apostolic Ministry.....	133
<b>Lesson 42</b> Peter and Paul's Ministry to Gentiles.....	143
<b>Lesson 43</b> Romans.....	153

<b>Lesson 44</b>	Ephesians .....	163
<b>Lesson 45</b>	Hebrews .....	173
<b>Lesson 46</b>	James .....	183
<b>Lesson 47</b>	1 John .....	191
<b>Lesson 48</b>	The Means of Grace.....	201
<b>Lesson 49</b>	The <i>Ordo Salutis</i> , Part 1.....	211
<b>Lesson 50</b>	The <i>Ordo Salutis</i> , Part 2.....	223
<b>Lesson 51</b>	Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit .....	235
<b>Lesson 52</b>	The Return of Christ.....	245
	Lesson Summaries.....	255
	Scope and Sequence .....	281
	Westminster Shorter Catechism .....	285
	Heidelberg Catechism .....	299

## 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.

*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 K–1 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](http://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

This curriculum from Ligonier Ministries aims to help you guide children through an overview of the Bible in 52 lessons.

Available in multiple editions and learning levels to serve K–5 students. Learn more at [GrowingInGodsWord.org](http://GrowingInGodsWord.org).



LIGONIER MINISTRIES