



# Using the Bible Studies

## (Part 1: Teaching Non-Christians)

The first five lessons are intended for “using the Bible to teach the Bible” to one or two students who are not Christians. The studies are to be used in a home setting. The lessons start from the point of examining faith in God and progress to the point of conversion to New Testament Christianity. The explanatory comments are an additional resource for those who want to teach these lessons to others.

Lesson 1, “The Beginning,” is designed to instill or strengthen faith in God. Simple evidences are given to show that God is sovereign and that His Word is our authority in life and religion.

Lesson 2, “The Problem,” focuses on sin and the need for repentance and forgiveness. Only when the student recognizes himself as a lost sinner will he come to believe that he needs a Savior.

Lesson 3, “The Blessing,” tells about God’s remarkable plan to redeem mankind, showing how the promises of the old law led to the forgiveness that is possible only through Christ.

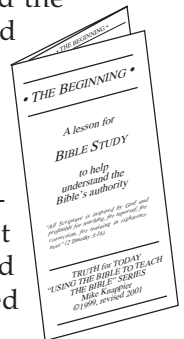
Lesson 4, “The Gospel,” emphasizes Jesus’ great

love and the sacrifice He made for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins. This lesson deals with important truths about repentance, the blood of Christ, and baptism.

Lesson 5, “The Church,” encourages commitment to obeying the will of God. It emphasizes Jesus’ role as the head of the church and thus teaches that Jesus’ church must be Jesus’ way.

You may photocopy “The Beginning” and use them to conduct Bible studies. Each lesson is designed to be copied on the front and the back of a sheet of paper and folded (as shown) into a work booklet to give to each student. If you cannot do this, have each student write his answers on a piece of paper.

Having studies weekly will allow the student time to think about what is discussed in each session and yet will keep what he has learned fresh in his mind.



## NOTES ON LESSON 1: THE BEGINNING

(Also see “The Beginning” and “Answer Guide for Teachers”)

The purpose of the first lesson is to build faith in the God of the Bible, confidence in the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and commitment to obey what the Bible teaches.

Many inexperienced soul-winners will question the necessity or importance of this lesson. Remember the words of Hebrews 11:6: “Without faith it is impossible to please God. . . .” This lesson helps to establish a foundation and tone for the rest of the study. If you have a student who already believes in God, he will be encouraged by this

study, and you will have established some common ground. If he has doubts, this lesson will help to clear those doubts away.

**Matthew 7:24–29; 1 Thessalonians 5:21.** This section challenges the student to test everything and to evaluate his own commitment to truth. The study begins with Jesus’ story of the “wise” and “foolish” men. Since this method exposes the learner directly to the living, active Scriptures (Hebrews 4:12), any pressure he experiences will be from the Word of God, not from the teacher.

**Hebrews 3:4** through **2 Timothy 3:16, 17; John 16:13**. These Scriptures present a defense for the existence of God and for the inspiration of the Bible based on the design of the universe, the practical and scientific sophistication of the Bible, and evidence from prophecy.

Job 26:7 and similar verses are not meant to present the Bible as a science textbook. Some of these points are subtle and may be coincidental, but the point is that the Bible consistently avoids the myths and superstitions prevalent in the writers' days. There are *no statements* in the Bible which are contradictory to scientific fact.

Here are other Scriptures to use as needed:

- The ocean has natural lanes (Psalm 8:8).
- Although the ancients believed there were only 3,000 stars, the stars are too numerous to be counted (Genesis 15:5; Jeremiah 33:22).
- Night and day happen simultaneously on the earth (Luke 17:24).
- The age of everything in our galaxy is the same (Genesis 1:1).
- Both men and women possess the seed of life (Genesis 3:15; 22:18).
- Eating the blood of animals is not a healthy practice (Leviticus 17:12, 14).
- Washing the body and burning clothes after contact with sick animals and humans can prevent the spreading of disease (Numbers 19:5-22).

Isaiah 42:8, 9 and Deuteronomy 18:21, 22 emphasize that fulfilled prophecy is important in establishing that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God. The prophecy chart on the second page of "The Beginning" is an additional resource. These are just a few of the fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus' birth, life, and death. Even though the chart is self-explanatory, study it carefully before you attempt to use it.

When you come to 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 and John 16:13, ask open questions that help the student see the absolute relevance, authority, and importance of the Scriptures. You may want to ask, "If Jesus promised to send the Spirit to lead the apostles into all truth, what about those today claiming to have a new revelation from God?" Emphasize that the Bible is valuable for daily living.

**Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1-18** through **Matthew 28:19**. These verses are important in leading your student to faith. The God of the Bible is a plural unity. Most illustrations fall short; the concept must be accepted by faith. Be sure to emphasize the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In this lesson (and all lessons), it is important not to skip the thought questions. Be aware that

learning is both intellectual and emotional. Avoid rushing through the lessons. Think of other open questions that will help your students understand and apply the Word of God to their lives.

## Review & Summary

After all questions in the review and summary section have been considered, you may find it helpful to ask, "What are your feelings toward God and the Bible?" If the student expresses faith, reinforce his expression of confidence in God and His Word. Ask open questions to help him make application and clarify his understanding. ❖

### Sample Dialogue—Teaching "The Beginning"

*The teacher and two students are seated at a table with their Bibles, pencils, and lessons. Agreement has been reached as to the procedure (reading all verses, questions, and answers aloud). Prayer is offered. Then the teacher opens the lesson "The Beginning."*

**Teacher:** Chad, will you please read Matthew 7:24-29? [He reads the verse but forgets to read aloud.] Please read it out loud.

**Chad:** Oh, I forgot. Let's see. [He reads.]

**Teacher:** Thank you. Now please read the first question.

**Chad:** "A wise person will hear (consider) and put into practice the words of Jesus."

**Teacher:** Would you say that statement is true or false?

**Chad:** I would say "true."

**Teacher:** How about you, Janet?

**Janet:** True.

**Teacher:** Good. How about the next question?

**Chad:** "Anyone who hears the words of Jesus and does not put them into practice is a foolish person." Hey, this verse is about that children's song, isn't it?

**Teacher:** Yes it is. Would you say that is true or false?

**Chad:** Hmm. True.

**Janet:** Definitely, true.

**Teacher:** Why was the man who built on the sand foolish?

**Chad:** Let me see. He heard the words of Jesus but didn't obey them. That wasn't very smart.

**Teacher:** Good point. Now, Janet, will you read 1 Thessalonians 5:21?

*The study continues in this manner.* ❖