

INTRODUCTION

For years I've been using our 'I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist' book (co-authored with Dr. Norman Geisler) to teach and develop curriculum for teenagers and adults that provides the evidence for Christianity in an orderly and understandable way. We've never had something that does that for kids until now.

I've teamed up with Ms. Hanna Sims to write this curriculum. Its purpose is to help kids have confidence that Christianity is true by studying different types of evidence (logical, scientific, historical, etc.) that affirms that Christianity isn't just an opinion, but is a belief based on facts. The evidence is presented in a way that is fun, memorable, and relatable for elementary age kids.

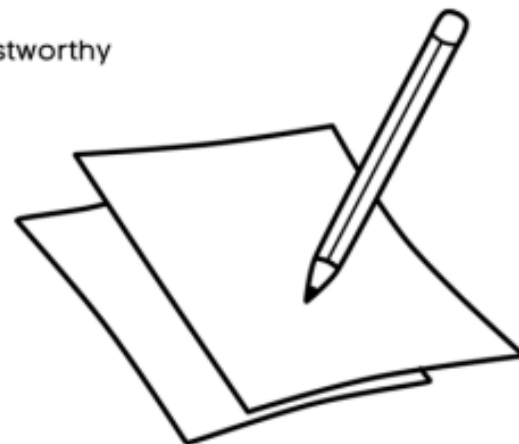
This material needs to be taught early in a child's life. Most kids who eventually leave the faith in high school or college begin doubting their faith much earlier—some as young as 10 years old. Often our kids are physically still in our homes and church buildings participating in Sunday School, AWANA, and VBS but mentally and spiritually many are doubting what they have been taught and are beginning their exit from Christianity. Introducing kids to the evidence for their faith, through the material that is taught in these lessons will help to remove intellectual barriers and strengthen a child's growing faith. It will also prepare kids to answer objections and resist the lies of Satan they will encounter in an increasingly anti-Christian world, so that they will not get swept away in the culture of confusion.

The five questions that are answered in this curriculum are:

1. Is anything really true?
2. Is God real?
3. Can miracles happen?
4. Can I trust the New Testament?
5. Is Jesus God, the Savior?

Each of these questions builds on the next to show that Christianity is true. The answers to those five questions are taught over **twelve lessons**. Below are the main points that are taught for each lesson:

1. There is Truth
2. God is Real – Cause of the Universe
3. God is Real – Designer of the Universe and Life
4. God is Real – Designer of the Animals and Man (not macroevolution)
5. God is Real – Moral Lawgiver
6. Miracles can happen
7. The Copy of the New Testament that we have today is Trustworthy
8. The Testimony in the New Testament is Trustworthy
9. Jesus is God, the Savior
10. The Bible is God's true Word
11. You have a Choice to Make about these Truths
12. Christianity is True



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

These lessons are written like a script that you can read. Be sure to read the lessons ahead of time to be familiar with the content. It is highly suggested that you prepare by reading the lessons out loud so that you can get an idea of the flow of the material.

You could teach these lessons in one sitting, or teach one key point at a time for short devotions that build on each other. Supplies are listed underneath each key point or the activity for that key point.

For each lesson, students will need to have their Student Workbooks and a pencil to fill in the blanks during the lesson.

Each time you see this symbol in the Teacher's Guide that is a reminder that the students need to fill in a blank in their Student Workbook before continuing.



Example call out box

The word(s) that goes in the blank are **bolded** in the call out box in the script of the Teacher's Guide. The students have a word bank in their workbook to help them know how to spell the key words that go in the blanks in their workbook. Sometimes there is an in-class activity or reading in the Student Workbooks as well; some lessons have an extra activity page that can be done after the lesson or assigned as homework.

Each lesson has a written quiz, as well as a review game with verbal review questions. Each quiz reviews the vocabulary words, key points, and key principles for each lesson. The review game could be played with the class in lieu of, or in preparation for, the written quizzes. The review games may be more appropriate for younger students so that they can give verbal answers to review the material, since the written quizzes require the student to be an independent reader.

Additional Learning Activities are provided in the Teacher's Guide to reinforce various teaching points or to lengthen your teaching time. There is also a list of Extra Learning Resources for students and teachers in the back of each book. Visit CrossExamined.org for much more, including helpful video content.

Each lesson has a set of Key Point Cards in the back of the Student Workbook that the students can cut out. The Key Point Cards are the key points that were taught during the lesson and each point has a matching picture to help the students remember that key point. Students can laminate them and/or punch a hole in the corner and put them on a key ring/chain or tie a piece of string through the cards. You may want to keep each lesson set separate. Or you could have the kids put the Key Point Cards in separate envelopes and label the envelopes for each lesson. Kids can use these flashcards to review the key points during/after your teaching time.

For Lessons 2-5 there is another set of summary cards called "Clue Cards". This is a separate deck of cards that students can cut out and collect as clues to help them remember the parts to the answer for the second question: "Is God Real?". Further instructions for these "Clue Cards" are given in Lessons 2-5. You can refer to the "Key Points and Key Point Cards" chart on pg. 5 for further understanding of the Key Point Cards and Clue Cards.

Our prayer is that through this curriculum your students will begin to be equipped to **know** truth and will believe IN Jesus as their Savior, so that as they get older they will be able to **stand confidently** in the truth of God's Word, as well as have an **answer/defense** against those that would try to dissuade them. Thanks for teaching!

VOCABULARY

Lesson 1 - Truth

- **Truth** – Telling what really happened (telling it like it is) or what matches the facts.
- **Lie** – Telling something that is false, did not happen, or does not match the facts.
- **Absolute** – Does not change.
- **Relative** – Changes depending on the situation or someone's opinions instead of something being always right or wrong.
- **Observe** – To pay attention, especially to see or learn something.
- **The Rule of Opposites (also known as the Law of Non-contradiction)** – Opposites cannot both be true and false at the same time, in the same way.
- **Self-Defeating** – To defeat yourself. A self-defeating statement breaks the rule of opposites. It is a statement that is FALSE based on what the sentence is saying.
- **Perspective** – Point of view/opinion.
- **Consequence** – The result of something.

Lesson 2 – God, the Cause

- **Special Revelation** – The Bible; God's special message to mankind. Sometimes it is also called "specific revelation" because it is showing us specific things about God.
- **General Revelation** – Creation; everyone can see it and know that God is real.
- **Universe** – Everything in space and on the earth; it includes things you can see in nature and things you cannot see. All time, space, and matter (materials) are also included.
- **Eternal** – No beginning or end; uncreated.
- **Cause** – The reason WHY something happened.
- **Laws in Science** - Facts in nature that cannot be changed.
- **The Second Law of Thermodynamics or the Law of Entropy** - The energy in this universe is running out.
- **Immaterial** – Not made out of materials; does not have a body that you can touch.
- **Spaceless** – Not occupying any space; limitless.
- **Timeless** – Always existed (or outside of time).

Lesson 3 – God, the Designer (Pt 1)

- **Ridiculous** - Silly or laughable.
- **Reasonable** - The answer that makes sense because it comes from good thinking.
- **Design** - Order, details, or planning something.
- **Darwinian Evolution** - The theory that all life forms got here by natural forces without a designer—no God.
- **DNA** – The special code in every cell of every living thing (it's like a software program on your computer).
- **Declare the Glory of God** - To make known or tell how great God is!
- **Presupposition** - Something you assume to be true.

Lesson 4 - God, the Designer (Pt 2)

- **Evolution** - Change over time
- **Macroevolution** - BIG change over time INTO different animal kinds.
- **Kinds** - Animal families, such as cats, dogs, monkeys.
- **Microevolution** - Small change WITHIN animal kinds.
- **Natural selection and Survival of the Fittest** - Animals pass on characteristics to their babies offspring that help them best survive in their environment. Those that survive are defined as the fittest.
- **Fossil** – The remains of animals or plants that have been turned into rock by quickly getting trapped in mud, wet sand, and water.
- **"Missing Links"** – Fossilized creatures that were supposed be in between one kind and another kind (they were intermediates, or common ancestors between two kinds). All "Missing Links" are still missing.
- **Presupposition** – Something you assume to be true. (Review from Lesson 3)

Lesson 5 – God, the Moral Lawgiver

- **Law** - A rule that is supposed to tell you what is right or wrong.
- **Lawgiver** – A person, or group of people, who sets the law or rule.
- **Moral** – Right and wrong.
- **Moral Laws** – Things everyone knows that are right or wrong.
- **Moral Lawgiver** – The one who sets the standard, or is the standard, of what is right and wrong (like a ruler sets the standard for measuring something); the standard of what is good.
- **Heart / Conscience** – An inner sense you have that tells you what is right and wrong.
- **Redeem** - To bring good out of a bad situation.
- **Faith** - Trusting in what you have good evidence to believe is true.

Lesson 6 - Miracles

- **Miracle** - A rare act of God that is different than what happens in everyday life because it's when God overpowers a natural law. It is a special sign, seal, or stamp confirming that a MESSENGER has come with a special MESSAGE from God.
- **Rare** - Does not happen very often.
- **Seal** - A special sign that a MESSENGER carried a MESSAGE from the king.
- **Communicate** - To talk or tell something.
- **General Revelation** - Something that tells you about God that everyone can see and know.
- **Special or Specific Revelation** - God speaks to people directly, through a special MESSENGER, or through his written Word.
- **Repent** - STOP going the wrong way, and START going the right way.
- **Presupposition** – Something you assume to be true. (Review from Lesson 3)

Lesson 7 – New Testament Manuscripts

- **Trustworthy** - We can rely on it to be true.
- **Ancient** – Old; usually refers to something 1,000 years old or older.
- **Manuscript** - A handwritten copy of a document.
- **Reconstruction** - Something that someone remakes that looks like the original.

Lesson 9 – Jesus

- **Savior** - Someone who rescues someone else from a problem.
- **Sin** - Anything that you think, say, or do that breaks God's Moral Law.
- **Cause** - The reason WHY something happens. (Review from Lesson 2)

Lesson 10 – Bible

- **Canon** – Standard; the New Testament Canon is the collection of books that are the standard of what should be in the New Testament.

Lesson 12 – Conclusion

- **Christianity** - The belief that Jesus is the Savior.
- **Atheists** – Someone who says that God is not real.

Lesson 8 – New Testament Testimony

- **Fiction** - A made-up story.
- **Historical Fiction** - Stories about real places, specific times in history, or real people, but often the main character(s) are not real and some of the adventures that they go on are made up or cannot be completely verified.
- **Non-Fiction** - Contains information and facts that are true.
- **Auto-biography** - A record about a person's life, like a diary, that they wrote about themselves.
- **Biography** – A book that someone writes reporting the facts about another real person.
- **Testimony** - What someone says about something.
- **Eyewitness** – Someone who saw the events with their own eyes.
- **Excruciating** - Painful.
- **Prophecies** - The promises about Jesus' coming.
- **Archelogy** – The study of things from the past by looking at things like old buildings, coins, household items, and writings carved into stones.

Lesson 11 – Gospel

- **Sin** - Anything that you think, say, or do that breaks God's Moral Law. (Review from Lesson 9)
- **Just** - Right and good.
- **Ransom** - To give a payment for the release of a prisoner.
- **Believe** - To trust completely.

KEY POINTS & KEY POINT CARDS

* Key Point Cards are found in the back of the Student Workbook.

* CC = Clue Cards for Lessons 2-5 that help students recall that God is real. These are a separate set of cards from each lesson's Key Point Cards.

<p>Lesson 1 - Truth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truth is...Telling what really happened (telling it like it is). 2. Truth...Matches the facts (what corresponds to reality). 3. Truth is...Unchanging. 4. Truth is...Known through observation and good thinking. 5. Truth is...Undeniable. 6. Truth is...Sometimes unpopular. 7. Truth is...Important. 	<p>Lesson 2 – God, the Cause</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Everything that Had a Beginning Had a Cause</u> (CC 1) 2. <u>The Universe Had a Beginning</u> (CC 2) 3. <u>Nothing Cannot Create Something</u> (CC 3) 4. <u>God is the Cause of the Universe</u> (CC 4) 5. God is the Creator King 	<p>Lesson 3 – God, the Designer (Pt1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>A Design requires a Designer</u> (CC 5) 2. <u>The Universe is Designed "Just Right"</u> (CC 6) 3. <u>Designed Messages Require a Smart Designer</u> 4. <u>Life has a Designed Message</u> (CC 7) 5. God is the Smart Designer of the Universe and Life 6. <u>A Design Points to a Purpose</u> (CC 8) 	<p>Lesson 4 – God, the Designer (Pt2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Macroevolution has not been observed and is NOT likely, but microevolution has been observed 2. <u>Natural Selection is NOT Evolution</u> (CC 9) 3. <u>An animal needs ALL its parts to survive and cannot be built gradually</u> (CC 10) 4. <u>The evidence from the fossil record supports creation, not macroevolution</u> (CC 11) 5. <u>Science does NOT say anything-- scientists DO!</u> (CC 12)
<p>Lesson 5 – God, the Moral Lawgiver</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every Law has a Lawgiver 2. There is a Moral Law 3. <u>There is a Moral Lawgiver</u> (CC 13) 4. <u>God Redeems Suffering</u> (CC 14) 5. God is Real! 	<p>Lesson 6 - Miracles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miracles are Rare 2. Miracles are only from God 3. Miracles Overpower Natural Laws and are Different than what Happens in Everyday Life 4. Miracles are a Seal 5. Creating Everything Out of Nothing was the First and Greatest Miracle 6. The Bible is full of MIRACLES that CONFIRM God's MESSAGE through his MESSENGERS 7. Just because you Personally have not Seen a Miracle does not mean that they Cannot Happen 8. People Sometimes do not Believe in Miracles because of their Beliefs Against God 	<p>Lesson 7 – New Testament Manuscripts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The New Testament must be Trustworthy for Christianity to be True 2. The Original Writings of Most Ancient Authors are NOT Here Today 3. Manuscripts are Careful Copies 4. The Key to a Trustworthy Reconstruction is LOTS of Manuscripts 5. The New Testament has MORE than Enough Manuscripts for a Trustworthy Reconstruction 	<p>Lesson 8 – New Testament Testimony</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Testimony 2. Eyewitness Testimony 3. Embarrassing Testimony 4. Excruciating Testimony 5. Expected Testimony 6. Extra Testimony
<p>Lesson 9 – Jesus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus TOLD that he is God and Jesus TOLD that he is the Savior. 2. Jesus SHOWED that He is God. 3. The Old Testament Promised a Savior. 4. Jesus Showed that He is the Savior. 	<p>Lesson 10 – Bible</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus is God so whatever Jesus Teaches is True 2. Jesus taught that the Old Testament is God's Word 3. Jesus Promised that the New Testament would be God's Word 4. The New Testament is God's Word 5. The Bible Cannot be Wrong because it is from God 6. Anything Opposed to the Bible is Wrong 	<p>Lesson 11 – The Gospel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You have Fallen Short of God's Standard 2. You Deserve the Punishment for your Sin against God 3. Jesus is the Innocent Person who Took Your Punishment 4. Now that You Know This.. You have a Choice to Make 5. A Child of God Receives God's Free Gift of Life 6. Your Job as Child of God is to Know God and Make Him Known 	<p>Lesson 12 – Conclusion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is Truth 2. God is Real 3. Miracles are Possible 4. The New Testament is Trustworthy 5. Jesus is God, the Savior 6. Christianity is True

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Curriculum Objective: After completing this curriculum students should be able to answer and explain the following main questions: Is Anything Really True? Is God Real? Can Miracles Happen? Can I Trust the New Testament? Is Jesus God, the Savior? Is Christianity True? Students should also be able to understand and explain all the key points for each lesson (found on the Key Point Cards).

AFTER COMPLETING EACH LESSON, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO...

Lesson 1 – Truth

- Define truth and explain truth based on the seven key points.
- Understand that truth exists, is knowable, and absolute (unchanging).
- Be able to identify self-defeating statements.
- Explain why truth is important for our temporal and eternal lives.
- Explain the answer to this question: "Is Anything Really True?"

Lesson 2 – God, the Cause

- Understand and explain the following outline:
 1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
 2. The universe had a beginning.
 3. So the universe had a cause.
- Explain the answers to the following questions:
 1. What is the cause of the universe?
 2. Can nothing be the cause of the universe?
 3. Why does God fit the description of the cause of the universe?
 4. Who made God?
- Explain the answer to this question: "Is God Real?" based on the beginning/cause of the universe.

Lesson 3 – God, the Designer (Pt1)

- Understand and explain the following outline:
 1. Every design had a designer.
 2. The universe and life have design.
 3. So there must be a designer.
- Explain why DNA shows that there must be a smart designer.
- State the purpose for the design in the universe and the purpose of man.
- Explain the answer to this question: "Is God Real?" based on the design in the universe and in life.

Lesson 4 – God, the Designer (Pt2)

- Know the difference between macroevolution and microevolution.
- State the 4 questions that help someone understand what another person is thinking.
- Give examples that show that macroevolution isn't likely or true.
- Discern that science does not say anything, but scientists do.
- Discern why people can look at the same evidence but come up with different conclusions.
- Explain the answer to this question: "Is God Real?" based on the evidence that a designer is needed to design all the animals just right.

Lesson 5 – God, the Moral Lawgiver

- Understand and explain the following outline:
 1. Every law has a lawgiver.
 2. There is a Moral Law.
 3. So, there is a Moral Lawgiver.

- Answer this objection: Since bad things happen, God must not exist.
- Explain the answer to this question: "Is God Real?" based on the Moral Law.
- Remember the 14 clues that have been learned from Lessons 2-5 to explain how we know that God is real based on the universe having a beginning (Lesson 2) and being designed (Lesson 3-4), as well as there being a Moral Law (Lesson 5).

Lesson 6 – Miracles

- Define a miracle.
- Explain the purpose of a miracle.
- Name the first miracle that God did and explain why it is the "greatest" display of God's power.
- Understand why people reject miracles.
- Explain the answer to this question: "Can Miracles Happen?"

Lesson 7 – New Testament Manuscripts

- Explain the answer to this question: "Is the copy of the New Testament that we have today the SAME as what the authors first wrote?"
- Describe the process of reconstructing an accurate copy of the original from the available manuscripts.
- Explain why some people still argue that we cannot know what the original New Testament authors wrote when the evidence shows we can.
- Explain the answer to this question: "Can I Trust the New Testament?" based on the manuscript evidence for a trustworthy reconstruction.

Lesson 8 – New Testament Testimony

- Explain the answer to this question: "Can I Trust the New Testament?" based on the six types of testimony that the New Testament has that proves its trustworthiness.

Lesson 9 – Jesus

- Give examples of when Jesus said He is God and the Savior.
- Explain how Jesus showed that He is God.
- Give examples from Isaiah 53 of expected testimony about the promised Savior that Jesus fulfilled.
- Explain how we know that Jesus came back to life again instead of one of the other three possible causes for Jesus' empty tomb.
- Explain the answer to these questions: "Is Jesus God? Is Jesus the Savior?"

Lesson 10 – Bible

- Explain why these three sentences are true:
 1. The Bible is God's Word.
 2. The Bible cannot be wrong.
 3. Anything opposed to the Bible is Wrong.

Lesson 11 – The Gospel

- For the Unsaved – To understand the Gospel and have an opportunity to believe in Jesus, the Savior.
- For the Saved – To realize that they should continue to know God and make him known.

Lesson 12 - Conclusion

- Explain and answer the review questions during this lesson, especially surrounding the six main questions: Is Anything Really True?, Is God Real?, Can Miracles Happen?, Can I Trust the New Testament?, Is Jesus God, the Savior?, Is Christianity True?
- Know five practical steps for going forward with the truth.