



## GOD'S TRUTH

### Seeking Truth

August 6, 2022

## 1 PREPARING

### A. THE SOURCE

**Mark 16:15 (NKJV)** • “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

**John 14:16, 17 (NIV)** • “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

**John 8:32 (NIV)** • “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**Romans 15:8 (NIV)** • “For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed.”

**Romans 1:25 (NIV)** • “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

**Psalms 25:4, 5 (NIV)** • “Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

**3 John 1:4 (NIV)** • “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

**Matthew 11:25 (NIV)** • “At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.’”

(See additional passages in student material.)

### B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “GOD'S TRUTH”

The Bible is a true revelation about God and people. Scripture truth often differs from what the world says is “true.” Yet the Bible is not a scientific textbook to explain all the nuances and details of the natural world. It records God’s dealing with human beings.

While some questions will always exist about the relationship of “scientific evidence” to the Bible, the fact remains that we can learn more about the world God created. And the more we learn, the more we can have confidence in all of the ways God has chosen to communicate with us. Part of this journey is learning how to discover “the truth” through the many voices He uses to communicate with us.

The Bible is our primary source of knowing God. The Bible is not a list of do’s and don’ts. It is a record of the way God dealt with His creatures. Sometimes the stories model behaviors we should copy; sometimes behaviors we should avoid. The idea is to find in the Bible behaviors that please God and honor Him.

In addition to the Bible, God reveals Himself through the life of Jesus, through the created

world, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal experiences, and the experiences of others. It is necessary to consider God's truth as it differs from scientific or worldly truth.

This lesson will also begin to look at the biblical account of Creation as a true, believable, and beautiful account of the beginning of the world, an idea that will be the main focus of next week's lesson.

### C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "GOD'S TRUTH"

As a result of this lesson we would like students to be able to:

1. Discuss the role of the Bible and what it claims to be and do and what it does not claim to be and do.
2. Learn tools for discovering God's truth.
3. Begin to understand the truth and beauty of the biblical account of Creation.

### D. MATERIALS NEEDED

**Beginning** • (Activity A) materials to have a painting session: paint, drop cloth, smock, easel, canvas, small brushes, large brushes, water, paper, palette or board to mix colors, and cleaning cloth; (Activity B) a blindfold.

**Connecting** • Bibles, student lessons.

**Applying** • Pens or pencils, worksheet "Finding God's Truth in Real Life," p. 65.

## 2 BRIDGING

### A. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:**

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.

3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

### B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at [www.realttimefaith.net](http://www.realttimefaith.net))
- >> Service project reports

## 3 BEGINNING

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

### A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • Assemble the needed supplies to paint a picture: drop cloth, smock, easel, canvas, small brushes, large brushes, water, paper, palette or board to mix colors, and cleaning cloth.

**Get set** • Have the paint hidden behind the table and don't set it out until all the other supplies have been put in place. Place the supplies on a table in front of the class (except for the paint), then choose one student at a time to come up and explain how that item is needed and used when painting; save the paint for last.

**Go** • After each supply is added, ask the class if what is sitting in front of them is enough to paint a picture. The answer of course should be "no" until all the supplies are set up and ready.

**Debriefing • Ask: Can you paint a picture without having all the necessary supplies? (Not really; without everything it could be messy; you need paint!) Would it be the same with just one color of paint? (No; one color would**

not be interesting; you need variety.) **What sources do we have to learn about God?** (the Bible, the natural world, other people, our own personal experience interpreted by the Holy Spirit) **How can we make sure that the sources of information we use to learn about God are painting an authentic picture of God? We must test them all by the Bible.**

**Say:** If we truly want to understand God, we need to know everything we can about Him. We begin with the Bible: by it we measure our own life experiences, other people's experiences, and evidence we see of God's activity in the natural world around us—all interpreted by the Holy Spirit. God doesn't contradict Himself, and therefore we can test whether truth is coming from God or not by the consistency of the information we have about Him. See Isaiah 8:20.

## B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • Arrange the students in a circle.

**Get set** • Take one student and put them in the middle of the circle.

**Go** • Have that student raise their arm and point, then spin them around a few times and ask them to describe the person they end up pointing at. They should have no problem doing this.

**Go again** • Next, turn the student so they are pointing at somebody else, blindfold the student, and have them describe the person they're pointing at now. They should have a little more difficulty this time, but they should still be able to remember some significant details about the person's appearance.

**And again** • Finally, with the blindfold still on them, spin the student in the middle enough times so they lose their orientation. While the student in the middle is being spun, have the students forming the circle rearrange themselves. When the blindfolded student in the middle is stopped, ask them once more to describe

the person they are pointing at. It should be an impossible task.

**Debriefing • Ask:** Are there some questions that are harder to answer than others? (Of course, there are some questions whose answer is obvious and others that are almost impossible to answer.) **Could there be some questions about the Bible that are impossible for us to answer?** (Sure, there could be some things in the Bible that we will never understand while we're in a sinful world.) **Could there be things about God that we'll never understand?** (Yes, God is so much bigger than we are; we could never understand absolutely everything about Him or His motives.) **So is it all right if there are parts of the Bible and God that we don't fully understand?** (Sure, we can't do anything about it other than to search for answers and accept our limitations.) **Does that mean that we should stop looking for answers?** (Of course not. While there are some things we'll never understand, that doesn't mean we shouldn't even try; the more we learn about God, the more we can love Him.)

**Say:** There are some answers that are easy to find and others that are very difficult or impossible to find. We can always search for more information about God, but it is important that we don't let the things we don't know about Him get in the way of what we do know about Him. We will have eternity to learn about the things we don't know or understand.

## C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

Have you ever been around a young child asking older siblings, parents, or grandparents questions? And have you heard them ask, "Why?" after every given answer? Read the following illustration. "Do we have to wear shoes outside?" "Yes." "Why?" "Because it protects our feet from getting hurt." "Why?" "Because you could get an infection and get sick." "Why?" "Because there are rocks and sticks that could

cut your foot." "Why?" "Because that is part of our world." "Why?" "Because of disobedience." "Why?" And so on, until the older person gets tired and responds, "Because I said so."

**Say:** Humans are very curious and want to know "why" something is the way it is. Sometimes there are answers, and sometimes there are no answers—it is just the way it is.

**Debriefing • Ask:** What are you looking for when you ask the question "Why"? Why would someone say "I don't know" when asked a question? (Maybe there are some questions that can't be answered; maybe they don't know the answer.)

Continue with questions from the debriefing in Beginning Activity B, or adapt them if you have already used them.

## 4 CONNECTING

### A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

**Say/Ask:** God is trying to recruit us to be special agents in His kingdom. But He has chosen to give us the answers to life's questions only on a "need to know" basis. Why do you think He has chosen to do this? (Because of sin we're imperfect, we can't understand everything about God, He uses humans to carry out His work for Him instead of simply giving us direct instructions. He wants us to actively search for information about Him.) **What are some examples of situations that don't have satisfactory answers?** (cancer, auto accidents, natural disasters, etc.) **How can we be God's agents if we can't understand everything about God and the Bible?** (Even though we may have questions, God wants us to trust Him. He has given us all we need to do His work by following the instructions and principles we do understand.)

**Conclude with these ideas in your own words:**

There are many different ways we learn about God. The Bible is our primary textbook. But for "extra reading," the character of Jesus, our personal experiences with God in answer to prayer, the natural world, and the experiences of other Christians—all interpreted by the Holy Spirit—can help us understand Him. We should never let the things we don't understand get in the way of what we do understand. Let's read together what Jesus said in **John 14:6** about the truth.

### B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

**Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.**

**Ask:** Why were some people threatened by the idea that the sun was at the middle of our solar system? (Because they thought if they had misinterpreted **Joshua 10:13** how could they be sure they really understood what the Bible says.) **What is the purpose of the Bible?** (It's meant to teach us about God and our role as His creation and agents. Refer to **2 Timothy 3:16**.) **What makes you sure the story of Creation is accurate?** (While the Bible doesn't go into every detail about the scientific process of creation, we can be confident that if God didn't create the universe as He said He did, we wouldn't be here. Creation is too complex and effective to have happened by chance.)

### C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

**Pose the following scenario:**

Suppose that you are in science class at a public school. The teacher begins to talk about how all life on this planet evolved from single-celled amoebas. The Bible teaches that God created the world. How could you discover God's truth about the creation of the world?

**Ask:** What different sources should you use in your search for truth? (the Bible, the character of Jesus, the natural world, the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal experiences,

and the godly advice and experiences of Bible-believing Christians all filtered through and interpreted by the Holy Spirit) **What tools could you use in your search through the Bible?** (a concordance, a search through an online or computer Bible, a study guide) **How could you find opinions in the world that disagree with the typical idea of evolution?** (Seek help finding books and other resources that support the Bible narrative about Creation.) **What examples from the natural world would you choose?** (When we look at the complexity of the world, and how well everything works, it is nearly impossible to imagine that it all came about by chance.) **How could you find out how other Bible-believing Christians explain the topic of creation?** (Ask your pastor, other church members, or your parents their ideas and thoughts about creation.) **Jesus said in Mark 16:15, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (NKJV). And in John 8:32, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (NKJV). Once you gather your information, do you have a duty to share it with those who don’t have “God’s truth”?** (When we begin to understand God’s truth, the Bible commands us to share it with the rest of the world, only we need to remember to do so in a sensitive and respectful manner.)

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Distribute the “Finding God’s Truth In Real Life” worksheet from page 65. Have the students complete it either individually or in groups, depending on class size and group dynamics.

Below are some Bible texts for the students to paraphrase on the worksheet.

>> **Leviticus 10:9 (NIV)** “You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.”

- >> **Judges 13:7 (NIV)** “But he said to me, ‘You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.’”
- >> **Proverbs 20:1 (NIV)** “Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”
- >> **Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)** “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”
- >> **1 Timothy 3:8 (NIV)** “In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.”
- >> **Titus 1:7 (NIV)** “Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.”

**Debriefing** • When the students are either finished or enough time has elapsed, call the class back together for a discussion of the worksheet.

**Ask:** What conclusions did you come to about the truth revealed in God’s Word? Which source—the Bible, the character of Jesus, the laws of health that govern the natural world and ensure our well-being, the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal experiences, or the godly advice of mature Christians—did you use to reach those conclusions?

**Say:** We are all confronted with questions in our lives. To discover God’s truth we need to look at His teachings in as many ways as we can, always asking Him to send His Spirit to guide us in our search. By doing this we can gain a clearer picture of God Himself.

## B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is the Christian's primary source for discovering God's truth?
2. What other influences help us understand God?
3. How is trying to discover truth based only on human reasoning dangerous?
4. How can we be sure that we have God's truth and not just the world's so-called truth?
5. Why is knowing God's truth so important to our everyday lives?
6. How can we use God's truth to spread His love?
7. How can it be dangerous to believe the world's so-called truth when it disagrees with God's truth?

## 6 CLOSING

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### SUMMARY

#### In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

The world is a confusing place. We may even fail to understand God's Word, if the Holy Spirit isn't guiding our understanding. God promises in **James 1:5** to give wisdom to any who ask. With God's guidance, using good sources of information, we can discover God's truth. And when we are armed with God's truth we can become better agents for God's kingdom. We have a responsibility as agents in God's kingdom to combine God's truth with God's love and share it with the world. Then, says Jesus in **Matthew 24:14**, after the gospel of the kingdom is preached in all the world, "the end will come" (NKJV).

## FOR LESSON SIX:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE APPLICATION ACTIVITY.

### Finding God's Truth in Real Life

One of your friends who is looking for a biblical excuse to drink alcohol has found the verse in **1 Timothy 5:23**, in which Paul recommends to the young evangelist Timothy that he “no longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities” (NKJV). You know that drinking alcohol is a bad idea. How would you show this to your friend?

Remember what we learned about using different sources to learn God’s principles?

**Source One:** Let’s start with the Bible. Look up and paraphrase the parts of the following verses that apply to your friend’s situation. Be sure to look at the verses around the texts as well so you understand their context.

>> Ephesians 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

>> Titus 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

>> 1 Timothy 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

>> Romans 14:21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

>> Leviticus 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

>> Judges 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

>> Proverbs 20:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Source Two:** Now let’s look at what others have to say about alcohol:

>> According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, in 2017 in America, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes; one every 48 minutes. This accounts for 29 percent of all those killed in traffic accidents that year. (Taken from <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>. Accessed on November 11, 2019.)

>> Of the 220 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2017, over half (118) were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver. (Taken from <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812630>. Click on Children. Accessed on November 11, 2019.)

**Source Three:** You may have heard stories or known someone who has suffered from an alcohol-related accident. Paraphrase those stories here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now that we’ve looked at various sources, what would you tell your friend who was looking for an excuse to drink alcohol?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## STUDENT LESSON

### GOD'S TRUTH Seeking Truth

August 6, 2022

#### Sabbath

#### FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 1, The Holy Scriptures:** “The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and the infallible revelation of His will.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 48-50

#### SEEKING TRUTH

Have you ever heard that at one time people believed the earth was flat? We can look at a photo from space and know the earth is a sphere.

There was also a time many people would die after having surgery, but it was discovered that deaths would decrease if those treating the patient would wash their hands. The medical profession laughed at this idea, but now we know that when we wash our hands we wash away germs and bacteria that cause illnesses and infections.

In the early 1600s most people believed that

the earth was the center of our solar system. They believed that the sun and planets revolved around the earth. People held to this belief because of the story in **Joshua 10:13**, where the children of Israel were fighting the Amorites. The Bible says, “The sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies” (NKJV). They were afraid to change their thinking. Based on further study of God’s universe, we know that the sun is the center of our solar system and the planets revolve around the sun, and that the cycles of day and night are caused by the rotation of the earth around its axis.

It is important that when we are studying the Bible we do not take a verse out of context or throw it away just because we do not understand it or have questions about it.

There are many things that we cannot understand in our current human condition. Over the course of the world’s 6,000-year history, the consequences of sin have left us unable to understand many things about God and eternity.

However, there are many things we can understand when we ask for the Holy Spirit’s help. Whenever we study the Bible or a topic that we have questions about, the resources God has given us—the Bible, nature, life experiences—all help us get a picture of what is truth. The Bible is our guide to understanding God, His character, and His plan for our lives. Every question we have may not be answered while we live in this sinful world, but one day God will answer our questions. And throughout eternity God will show us and answer the most difficult of all questions.

## Sunday

### RESPONDING

- » Read John 14:6.
- » One day you are spending time with one of your non-Christian friends when the conversation comes around to the Bible. Your friend claims that the Bible is untrustworthy because it is “scientifically inaccurate.” Your friend points out some verses such as **Joshua 10:13**, which says that the sun stood still, and **Isaiah 13:10**, which seems to imply that the moon gives off its own light. How would you respond?

## Monday

### BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

- » Read Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 8:20; Hebrews 4:12.
- » God has given us the Holy Scriptures to help us live healthy, and happy lives of service. The Bible is our guide that holds God’s promises to help, guide, and protect us. The Scriptures explain how we should live and how to be faithful to our Heavenly Father. It tells us about a loving Savior Who will one day return and take us to His heavenly home to live with Him forever. The Bible is God’s love letter to us.
- » What does God’s Word in your life mean to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- » Fill in the missing letters. This is what is missing: A=7; E=16; I=16; O=25; U=5; Y=5.

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2 T \_ m \_ t h \_ 3 : 1 6 , 1 7 , N K J V .

## Tuesday

### REFLECTING

- » Read John 16:12, 13.
- » Welcome to the age when you will begin making some decisions on your own. Without the resources and ability to find the truth, you will be susceptible to falsehood. What you believe now has a way of shaping what you think for the rest of your life. If you base your life decisions on just what the world says is truth, you will never be satisfied. Satisfaction, peace, and purpose in life come by a knowledge of God’s truth.
- » Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we learn about God’s truth by: reading and listening to His Word, studying the life and character of Jesus, learning about the natural laws that govern the world around us, and experiencing for ourselves the love of Jesus. It is important to recognize the difference between truth and error. As we rely on God’s guidance through His Word, He will give us the wisdom to see the difference. Paul advised in **Philippians 4:8**: “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (KJV).
- » When we come upon things in the Bible that we do not understand, we should recognize that the things we don’t understand do not

affect the things we do understand. The fact that we don't understand everything in God's Word does not mean that we should doubt His character of love and forgiveness. If we are open to His leading, God will continue to teach us more about Himself.

### Wednesday

## BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the phrase with the text, using Biblegateway.com.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ John 18:37, 38 (NIV)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:16, 17 (NIV)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ John 16:12, 13 (NIV)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Philippians 4:8 (KJV)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 31:5 (KJV)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ John 8:44 (NIV)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:14 (NIV)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:6 (KJV)

- A. "Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way.'"
- B. "If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
- C. "O Lord God of truth."
- D. "The Word became flesh."
- E. "When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- F. "The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him."
- G. "I have much more to say to you."
- H. "You are a king, then!"

### Thursday

## CONNECTING

- » Read John 1:14.
- » Review the memory text.
- » God knows that we won't understand everything about His character or the truth revealed in His Word and in the world around us. We may have notions about life that aren't completely correct. But God has revealed enough to enable us to know Him—not everything about Him, not everything about what has happened in history. But we have enough to know Him personally. And the wonderful thing is that His grace is big enough to accept and love us even with our questions. We don't need to have a perfect understanding about everything for God to love us and for us to love Him. God will help us find the truth by the gift of His Holy Spirit. A gift? The Holy Spirit is a guide into truth—not just some truth, but according to **John 16:12, 13**, all truth that we can comprehend and are ready to accept!

### Friday

## APPLYING

- » Read Psalm 25:4, 5.
- » Pick one or two issues that affect your life and research those topics using the Bible, the life of Jesus, the laws of health that govern the created world, and the godly advice and example of mature Christians. The topics you choose can be anything that affects you. For example: relationships, priorities, behaviors and practices that have an impact on our well-being—anything you're interested in finding God's truth about. Be sure to ask for God's Spirit to lead you to the truth. If you need help you can ask your parents, your pastor, or other church members. When you're finished with your research, write what you discovered in the space that follows.

