

Who Is God?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a biblical worldview course?

Worldview studies help children understand how they (and other people) perceive the world around them. Understanding *what* we believe as Christians and *why* we believe it helps your child to form a worldview that is centered on God's truth as presented in the Bible. Once we learn to see the world the way God sees it, we can begin to look at other worldviews and understand why others believe as they do. This understanding will help our children, as they grow, to communicate effectively with others about the hope that is in us as Christians. The What We Believe series takes a respectful, factual look at other worldviews and teaches children to take notice of differing worldviews coming at them from books, radios, TV, movies, the Internet, friends, etc.

Why should I teach worldview?

Our children are bombarded daily with competing messages. Every song, movie, book, TV show, blog, and game is full of ideas—ideas about God, people, truth, beauty, and right and wrong. Not all of these ideas are true. Some are deceptive and even destructive. The What We Believe series helps children learn to discern the truth by using God's Word as a lens through which to view the world around them—to see everything the way God sees it. *Who Is God?* is the first book in the series and will help you teach the essential foundational truths upon which a biblical Christian worldview is built: *God is truth, and He reveals His truth to people.* Only by knowing who God truly is and by knowing who we are and why we were put on this earth can we build a faith that will last.

How many volumes are there and what do they cover?

The What We Believe series comprises four volumes:

Volume 1

Who Is God? (And Can I Really Know Him?)

Biblical Worldview of God and Truth

Volume 2

Who Am I? (And Why Am I Here?)

Biblical Worldview of Self-Image

Volume 3

Who Is My Brother? (And Why Do We Need Each Other?)

Biblical Worldview of Servanthood

Volume 4

What On Earth Can I Do?

Biblical Worldview of Stewardship

Volume 1 focuses on the person and attributes of God, His provision, His design for creation, the Fall, and His wondrous plan for our salvation. Volume 2 focuses on who we are as people made in God's image, what it means to be made in His image, and how we can know and pursue His plan for our lives. Volume 3 will focus on how we are meant to become more like Christ by serving others. Volume 4 will focus on how we are to glorify God through the proper stewardship of the gifts He has given us, including the earth, our time, our talents, and our possessions.

Will the first book make sense if I don't buy all four?

Yes. Each volume will stand on its own and constitutes a complete course of study. However, you will find the courses to be most effective if you teach them in the intended order. Each volume builds upon the previous one with a minimum of repeated material. You must first know who God is (the subject of volume 1) before you can know who you are (volume 2). You must understand who you are and how you are meant to become more like Jesus (volume 2) before you can serve others as He served (volume 3). And you must understand your role as a servant and as an adopted member of God's family (volume 3) in order for us to work together to care for the earth, steward the message of salvation to the world, and use the gifts God has given each of us to bring glory to Him (volume 4).

When will the other volumes be available?

Volume 1 is available now. Volume 2 will be available for purchase prior to the 2010-11 school year. Volume 3 is scheduled for publication in 2011, while volume 4 is scheduled for 2012.

What is the difference between this course and Building On The Rock?

Who Is God? and the *What We Believe* series are published in partnership with Summit Ministry and based on Summit's original Building On The Rock curriculum. However, several elements distinguish the two products from one another:

1. The original Building On The Rock (BOTR) curriculum was designed for use in a classroom setting in Christian schools, whereas the *What*

- We Believe series has been designed specifically for use by homeschoolers and parents.
2. The BOTR curriculum is designed to be taught over a six-year period, whereas the What We Believe series can be completed in as little as two years or as many as four.
 3. The BOTR curriculum is published for use in Christian schools and can be cost-prohibitive for use in the home. The What We Believe series was designed to be an affordable alternative for parents and homeschoolers.
 4. The BOTR curriculum is designed to teach biblical worldview for the first half of the school year, followed by a Bible survey component in the second semester. For the What We Believe series we have removed the Bible survey component in order to make the series more concise and affordable.
 5. The BOTR curriculum is teacher-directed, whereas the What We Believe series is student-directed. The What We Believe books are written to the student in a conversational style to engage the student and personalize the teaching.

How long will it take for us to work through each book?

Anywhere from four to nine months. A suggested lesson plan is included in the book's Introduction. The lessons are formatted to allow the student to learn at his or her own pace. The course was designed so that you may customize the amount of time you spend on each lesson, depending on your child's interest level and attention span. Although most of the lessons can be covered in two-week segments, some will go a little more quickly, while others may take longer.

Does this curriculum require heavy preparation time to teach?

Not at all! Each volume in the What We Believe series is written directly to the student in a conversational style designed to engage children and help them internalize the content. Older children will be able to complete the course with little supervision. Of course, we suggest you read the text for yourself in order to discuss it with your child, and a few activities in the book may require your participation, depending on your child's age. Otherwise, your preparation time should be minimal. If you wish to explore the topics further or supplement your lessons with additional activities, free Teacher Helps are provided online to assist you in your efforts.

With what ages can I use this curriculum?

The What We Believe series is designed for use with ages 6 to 14.

Can I really use this textbook with my first-grader?

Who Is God? is written at a fifth- to sixth-grade reading level. Older students can read and do the activities on their own, while younger students will probably need an older sibling or parent reading along with them. The book covers a number of potentially difficult-to-understand concepts, including eternity, the Trinity, sin, and salvation. However, the discussion questions provided in the free online Teacher Helps will assist you in guiding younger children through these concepts.

Will my junior-high student get anything out of this?

Absolutely! We think you will find this to be an important course of study for junior-high students. Many eternal truths are presented that can change the way a young teen looks at the world each day. The Notebooking component will prove especially fruitful for older students. We strongly suggest that you require your older child to write at length on the issues raised in the “Make a Note of It” sections of the book.

Can my high school student use this text? If so, can I award credit for it?

While teens will find the material to be rewarding, we do not recommend that you award high school credit for it. For high school credit, we encourage you to check out the online courses offered through ApologiaAcademy (www.apologiaacademy.com). The books *Thinking Like a Christian* and *Countering Culture* by David Noebel and Chuck Edwards are used for the freshman and sophomore classes; juniors and seniors read Noebel’s *Understanding the Times*. You can, of course, use these resources independently at home.

Can I use this curriculum with more than one child at a time?

Yes. The curriculum is flexible and can be used to teach multiple children at different grade levels. You will find the discussion questions provided in the free online Teacher Helps to be particularly helpful for teaching multiple students or for guiding mealtime conversations.

Can I use *Who Is God?* in a classroom setting?

Of course! The What We Believe series is suitable for use in Christian schools, Sunday schools, and youth groups.

Can I use *Who Is God?* in a group setting with adults?

Yes. Although written at a fifth- to sixth-grade reading level, *Who Is God?* covers the foundational truths of the Christian faith in a way that will speak to even the most seasoned believer, thus making it ideal for use in discipleship courses. And because the

authors define their terminology and avoid the use of “Christian-ese,” the material is highly appropriate for use with new believers. (You may note that the NIV Bible translation is written at a seventh- to eighth-grade reading level, while the New Living Translation is written at a sixth-grade level.)

Do I need to buy a separate Teacher’s Manual to teach this course?

No. Each book in the What We Believe series is designed to stand on its own, without the need for additional teaching materials. However, for your convenience, optional Teacher Helps are included with your purchase in the form of a free online download for each and every lesson.

Are the books available in paperback?

No. Each volume in the What We Believe series is written to the child, and so we have made these books to be placed in the hands of children. The high-gloss covers, quality paper stock, and durable bindings have been chosen for their ability to withstand multiple readings by multiple children and even the occasional encounter with peanut butter and jelly! As you will see when you examine a sample chapter at the Apologia website, these beautifully illustrated full-color texts are designed to captivate children while engaging their hearts and minds. And everything you need to teach the What We Believe series is included with the price of each book, making the series a wonderful value.

What if I don’t feel prepared to teach a course called *Who Is God?*

We believe you will find *Who Is God?* easy to use and a valuable addition to your home school. Your purchase of the curriculum comes with free Teacher Helps, which are available online at the Apologia website. If, during the course, you have any questions, you can call the Apologia Help Line or write to us at biblicalworldview@apologia.com. We will be happy to help.

What do the online Teacher Helps consist of?

The free online Teacher Helps are downloadable files designed to enhance your teaching and, subsequently, your child’s learning experience. These helps are mostly 12 to 15 pages in length and include the following:

- Overviews of the lesson’s main idea as well as every topic covered in the lesson
- Key themes and lesson objectives
- Vocabulary words and memory verses
- Suggested activities for use with the lesson

- Child-directed discussion questions for each topic covered in the lesson—you simply read them aloud to help you guide the conversation
- Lists of Bible stories and references that address the key themes
- Recommended reading list for deeper study of the themes, people, and places discussed in the text

The discussion questions are a key component of the Teacher Helps and are especially useful for working with younger children. You may choose to ask your child these questions in a one-on-one instructional setting, or you may use them to start memorable family discussions. The questions are designed to ensure that your child understands and internalizes the key points of each lesson. We encourage you to adapt all questions and activities to the ages and educational needs of each member of your family.

Please keep in mind that every element of the Teacher Helps is optional. These pages are provided to help you, not to overwhelm you.

What do the online book extras consist of?

The book extras are free with the purchase of the curriculum. These include Teacher Helps for each lesson, supplemental Notebooking pages for each lesson, printable House of Truth graphics for use in teaching or as a notebooking component, and links to Internet sites that you may find useful in your Christian worldview studies.

Does this course include a Bible survey component?

No. A survey course works through one or more books of the Bible, often beginning with Genesis and studying through to Revelation. Although the teaching in the What We Believe series is Bible-based and requires the student to explore the Scriptures in detail, there is no study component that covers the books of the Bible from start to finish.

Is there a Bible memorization component?

Yes. Although the Bible is quoted extensively throughout the book, each lesson identifies two specific Bible memory verses. The first of these expresses the main theme of the lesson. Your student will know by memorizing this verse that the theme of the lesson is biblical and something God desires us to know. The second pertains to a character trait that you will want your child to internalize and demonstrate as a result of the lesson. These verses are ideal for Bible memorization or copy work. The translations used for these verses have been chosen carefully for the clarity of the concepts they communicate, but you may prefer to use your family's favorite translation for the memorization of these verses.

What Bible translation does the curriculum use?

The What We Believe series does not intentionally promote the use of one Bible translation over another. Bible verses in each lesson are taken primarily from the NIV, or New International Version, although a number of translations are employed. For the sake of clarity, the authors have also made extensive use of the International Children's Bible (ICB) and the New Living Translation (NLT), as these versions use vocabulary more accessible to younger students. We recommend, however, that your student use your family's preferred translation for the purpose of memorizing Scripture.

What denomination is the curriculum written for?

Who Is God? and the What We Believe series are nondenominational in content and are suitable for families belonging to any of the evangelical or mainline Protestant churches. The authors of the curriculum, who come from different denominational backgrounds, have intentionally omitted from the course minor points of doctrinal difference that separate denominations in order to focus on the larger issues that inform our faith. You may choose to adapt the book's terminology or expand on its lessons to cover what your church teaches about such doctrinal distinctives as water baptism or spiritual gifts.

What is the "integrated learning" component?

Throughout the text we have provided interesting side articles that take an age-appropriate approach to topics related to the main text. Some of these topics are specifically related to elements in one of the short stories, while others are tied directly to the lesson. These articles are designed to help you and your child to pursue the book's ideas and concepts across the fields of art, math, science, history and more. The beauty of the interdisciplinary or integrated learning approach is that it gives the student a broader understanding of the main subject while exposing the student to new interests, skills, and experiences.

What is the House of Truth?

The House of Truth is a memory aid, a visual model constructed one step at a time throughout the What We Believe series. As new concepts are learned, the foundations, walls, and roof of the house are constructed, giving the child a concrete way of thinking about his life within the kingdom of God. In this book, the student will complete the foundation and the first wall of the house. A new wall will be added in the second, third, and fourth volumes of the series. The House of Truth can be used figuratively, drawn in the student's notebook, or built with items you have on hand. Printable House of Truth graphics are also available on the Apologia website.

Where can I buy the House of Truth model?

A three-dimensional, build-as-you-go model is also available for purchase separately from Summit Ministries. This colorful, durable House of Truth is constructed block by block as each affirmation of the biblical Christian worldview is developed lesson by lesson. Although not a requirement to teach the course, the wooden model forms a visual, tactile framework to help children understand these truths and integrate them into their lives. You can purchase the model by calling 1-866-786-6483 and asking for item BOR119-635. You may also purchase the model online at:

www.summit.org/store/product.php?productid=487&cat=0&page=1

Where can I purchase *Who Is God?* and the *What We Believe* series?

You can purchase the series from authorized Apologia sellers. You can also purchase the books online at **apologia.com** or by calling our toll-free number, **1-888-524-4724**.