

The *Studying God's Word* Bible series has been developed and written with the busy teacher in mind. This course has been designed to enable the reader to achieve the greatest amount of spiritual and intellectual growth with the least amount of busywork. The student is encouraged to read and complete each lesson on his own, and then consult with his parents or teachers to review the lesson and discuss the application questions. Parents, especially the fathers, should be available for a few minutes at the beginning and end of each lesson, to guide and direct their students. There may be instances when this book will be studied as a family devotional, at which time the parents would be involved with the course from beginning to end.

This answer key is provided to help parents with the general instruction of the book. It should never be used for copying answers directly, but rather as a tool to check the student's responses. It is strongly recommended that this answer key be kept in a separate place, away from the study book.

During a typical school year, classes can be scheduled to complete one or two lessons for every week of study. For example, there are forty-three lessons in this book. Therefore, the book should be finished in forty to fifty weeks. Naturally, you can work out any type of schedule that works best for your family.

## Why is Bible Instruction Necessary?

Teaching children about the Bible is unlike any other topic or course of study. History, science, and math all fall short by comparison to the Bible and the lessons it contains. Teaching Scripture is much more than presenting facts and figures and telling stories. The things a child learns concerning the Bible are important for guiding him in the decisions he makes during the rest of his life. The key to teaching Scripture is to help the child make applications to his life. This is how the Bible differs from any other course, because proper study demands that the student apply what he has learned to his own life.

There is nothing quite so distressing than to see a person who knows a lot about the Bible, but who has failed to make it relevant in his life. He may know the facts and lessons of the Bible, and have them stored away in his brain, but he has not allowed the principles and applications to filter down and make a change in his heart. Churches, Bible schools, and seminaries do a good job presenting the details of God's Word, but they often fail to help the student grow spiritually from what he has learned. This is where the important responsibility of being both a parent and teacher lies.

There is a balance between head knowledge and heart understanding surrounding God's Word. Head knowledge by itself has no redeeming spiritual value. Heart understanding without the proper knowledge concerning Scripture ends up being misguided and/or improperly focused. Without the proper Biblical knowledge, a person

has the tendency to become overly emotional and weak in his faith. James 1:6 paints a graphic picture of a person who doubts the truth of God's Word. He is likened to the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. This instability is due to the lack of wisdom from God's Word to guide and direct his thoughts and actions. As teachers, you need to present the facts and truths about the Bible as a strong foundation. As parents you must help your children make the proper applications to their lives in order to grow and develop spiritually and to build upon this foundation.

Who is the person that is ultimately responsible for the spiritual instruction of his children? The Bible clearly teaches that this should be the father (Ephesians 5:23, 6:4). Since the father is the head of the family, he is the person who should teach and direct his children's spiritual lives. Most home schools are structured in a way which has Mom busy around the house, teaching the children in the morning and afternoon, while Dad is away at work. This is fine as long as Dad takes an active role in the Biblical education of his children when he is with them. Regardless of how you have divided the tasks of educating your family, the father has the responsibility of teaching the Bible to his children. Naturally, not all situations will lend themselves to this application, but as much as is humanly possible, you should make arrangements to have Dad teach this and all Bible courses to his family.

As fathers, we often forget (or at least neglect) the important role that we play in the development of the lives of our children. Do our sons and daughters learn more about our character by watching our actions and reactions during a football game, or when we are holding them and telling them about the wonderful life of Moses? Hopefully, in both cases, our children see an example of Godliness after which they can pattern their own lives. None of us live in a spiritual vacuum, where all of life's problems are solved by a quick prayer and a slap on the back. Our children are not expecting perfection when they see our character. Rather, they desire to see how we get along in the real world, and how we come up with answers to life's difficult challenges.

We cannot expect our children to learn these things if all we do is spend ten minutes with them at the supper table before going into the family room to watch TV. As fathers, we need to make the sacrifice in our time schedule to teach them from God's Word. Think about your relationship with your dad. The good memories that you have are no doubt when the two of you were alone. Perhaps you were fishing, hunting, or reading a story together. He made you feel more than just a little child. He made you feel like you were his best friend. You spent the afternoon talking, joking, and being together. Finally when the day was through and you were going to bed, your dad was there to tuck you in and kiss you good night. Your only wish was that tomorrow could be just like today. Somehow you knew it would not, but in a way, it did not really matter because the memories of today would last forever. Now, are these not the type of memories that you want to leave with your children? You will, if you spend your time with them to teach them God's Word and let them get to know you as a person.

The responsibility to teach our children is a great one and should not be taken lightly. No matter what the subject is or who the teacher may be, the role of teaching demands discipline and perseverance. James 3:1 admonishes us not to become teachers because we will receive a stricter judgment from God. In other words, we should not teach, because if we fail we also bring down the lives of all the students we are teaching. Of course I am writing with tongue in cheek, but the point is well taken. We are not to

seek after the position of being a teacher unless we are called directly by the Lord to that endeavor. God, by virtue of the fact that he has blessed us with children, has called us to teach them. He has given us the grace to instruct them in the paths of righteousness. As parents, we are teachers whether we like it or not. Therefore, we must be willing to accept the fact that God has given us our children to raise and nurture.

Our responsibility, then, is to shape and mold the moral character and spiritual lives of our children. This is an endeavor that cannot be understated. Before teaching each lesson, be sure you prepare both your heart and mind in accordance with God's Word. Read the background text and go over each story being taught so you can understand what is happening. Then, think of applications you can make to your life in order to share them with your children as part of the thought questions and spiritual instruction of the lesson. You may also desire to do some background research into each section by consulting a Bible dictionary, handbook, commentary, or encyclopedia. This way, you can add important details and experiences from your life to make the lesson more meaningful to your children.

Teaching your children the Bible and raising them in goodness and truth brings with it tremendous blessings. There is nothing more satisfying or fulfilling than to see your children demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him" (Proverbs 23:24). "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth" (Psalms 127:3-4). Children, especially many children, are one of the greatest blessings that God can give to a husband and wife. Whether or not you continue with home education for your children is not the major issue. The issue is that starting now, you spend time each day teaching your children the important principles of God's Word.

## Methods of Instruction

The *Studying God's Word* series presents several different methods of instruction to communicate the message of God's Word to your student. Listed below are some helpful hints and suggestions to help you teach and present this book more effectively.

### I. Memorization

CLASS will not require the student to memorize the memory verse found in each lesson; however, it is strongly encouraged in order that he might know as much Scripture as possible. The command to memorize God's Word is evident throughout the Bible, Psalms 119:11 and Joshua 1:8 and are just a couple of examples. CLASS believes that it is the responsibility of the parent to insure that their child is memorizing God's Word. Oftentimes families have outside church and Bible related activities that account for the child's memorization. It is in cases like these that additional memory work could become burdensome and unnecessary.

It is sometimes asked, "How many verses should my child memorize?" A good rule of thumb to use is one verse each week. This does not merely apply to children. Every

Christian should be in the habit of putting to heart at least one new verse every week of their lives. It is also a good idea to memorize large passages of Scripture rather than single verses. This helps to achieve the proper understanding and interpretation of the complete text. For example, taking the one verse a week pattern, anyone could memorize the entire book of Philippians in two years.

To assist a child in memorization, several methods may be employed. First, the student should read the verse several times to get the feel for the language and flow of words. Then you should write the words of the verse on a chalkboard and erase a few words at a time as the student repeats the verse over and over. The words can also be sung and learned as the lyrics of a favorite old hymn or song. Simply replace the correct words with those of the memory verse and begin singing.

In case your child has a tendency to forget, the three "R's" to memorization are: Repeat, Remind, and Rehearse. Repeat the verse several times in order to learn it. Remind the student of the meaning and significance of the verse. This will encourage the proper application of the verse to his life. Then rehearse the verse a couple of times a day for several weeks. It has been said that a verse, rehearsed every day for one month, will never be forgotten.

## II. Background Text

This is the main body of Scripture that the lesson accompanies. The student should read this out loud, or take turns reading with the instructor or other students. Reading out loud is important for the student's reading skills and ability to communicate. It also helps the student to pay attention to the text and understand the meaning of the passage.

Another aide to reading the Bible is to have the student change the tone of his voice and imitate the voices of the characters as they read. For example, while reading about the experiences of the New Testament church, the student can use different voices for Paul, Silas, Barnabas, Peter, and other characters. If more than one person is involved, each could take the voice and actions of a character and "play out" the events of the lesson.

## III. Questions

The objective of the questions and lesson review is for the student to study the Bible and review what he has learned. Please encourage your student to go back in the book and look up the answers he does not remember.

## IV. Thought Questions

The thought questions are designed to give the reader the opportunity to apply the principles of the lesson to his life. This is a very important part of this book and should not be overlooked by either the student or the teacher. We have already established the necessity of applying God's Word to our lives. The thought questions should be answered honestly and with openness to the Holy Spirit's leading to help make this application.

The thought questions are intended to be difficult and challenging. There may be times when they will not directly apply to your student, or you may find some questions not appropriate. During these instances your student should fill in the blank space by saying, "Does not apply to me." If the student feels more comfortable, he may answer the thought questions orally instead of writing his responses in the book. The purpose of the thought questions is not to embarrass anyone, but to encourage the reader to think about the truths of God's Word, and apply them directly to his life.

## V. Unit Tests

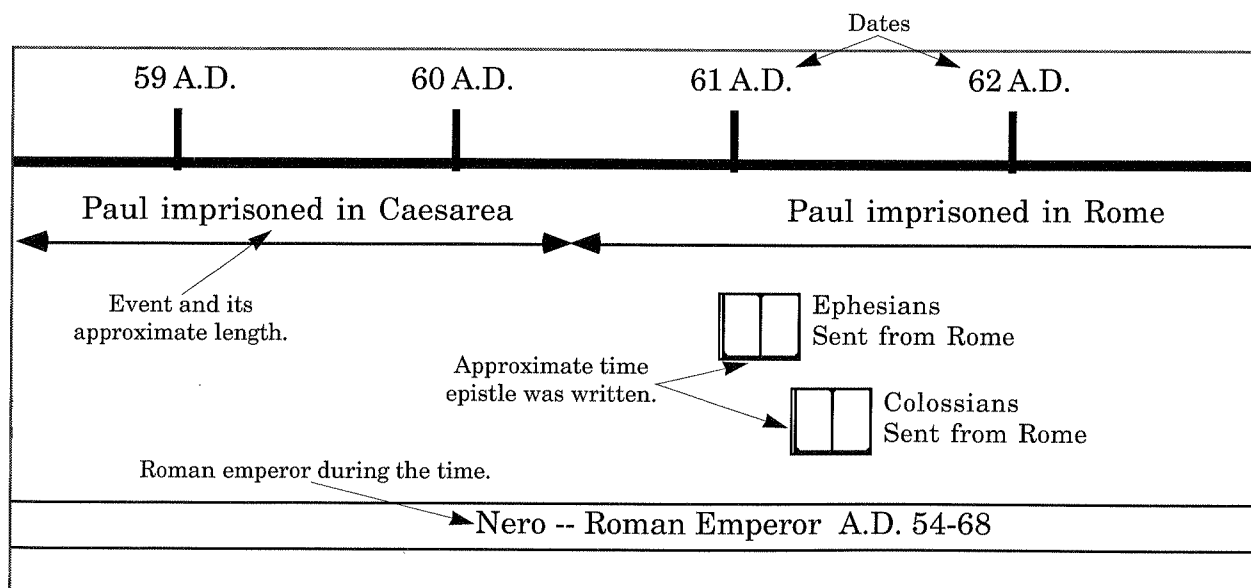
The unit tests cover only the material presented within that section of the book. Teachers should pretest their student before giving the unit tests. It is recommended to review using similar questions to those in the test, but not the exact questions. The purpose of these tests is to help the parents judge how much the student has learned. If as a result of taking the test you discover areas of weakness, please review those areas with your student so he can master that section. The tests should not be removed from the workbook.

## VI. Time Lines

The time lines are a necessary part of this book as they maintain the flow and continuity of Scripture. Spend a few moments at the beginning of each lesson discussing the significant people and events that surround that lesson.

There will be slight differences of opinion regarding the dates on the time line. Because of the nature of the New Testament, it is often difficult to ascertain the exact date each event took place. For example, we know that the Jerusalem Council happened around A.D. 49, but we do not know exactly when. Please explain to your student that like any good Bible study book, the information is presented only as a guide, and is not inspired. Only the Word of God is inspired.

### Example of a time line



## VII. Lesson Preparation

As you work through this series with your child, you will not only discover that there is joy in studying God's Word, but that your child will have many difficult questions that this book does not address, nor are you prepared to answer. As time permits, consult commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Bible encyclopedias, and any other kind of reference material at your disposal. The information gained from these sources will be invaluable to you as you address the difficult questions that arise.

It is the sincere hope of the author and all those at Christian Liberty who were involved in this project that God will use this book as a tool in the spiritual instruction and guidance of your child. May the Lord grant you wisdom and grace as you seek to raise your child in the truths and principles of His Word.

## Lesson #1 Go into All the World

### **Questions (page 3):**

1. F    2. T    3. T    4. T    5. F    6. F    7. T    8. T    9. F    10. T

## Lesson #2 Never Alone

### **Questions (page 5):**

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. prayer    supplication | 6. Matthias      |
| 2. Judas                  | 7. Holy Ghost    |
| 3. reward of iniquity     | 8. tongues       |
| 4. blood                  | 9. confounded    |
| 5. hearts                 | 10. works of God |

### **Lesson Review (page 6):**

1. It is important for all Christians to be witnesses because Scripture commands us to be. Also, being a witness is necessary for the growth of the Church.
2. Christ's disciples were called to be witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.

## Lesson #3 Peter's First Sermon

### **Questions (page 8):**

1. God was to pour out His Spirit upon His people.
2. Peter said that, before the great and notable day of the Lord, the sun would be turned into darkness and the moon into blood.
3. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.
4. Jesus was approved by God among the people by miracles, wonders, and signs.
5. God promised that Christ would be a descendant of the patriarch David.
6. The foes of Christ are to be His footstool.
7. Peter told the people that they should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
8. After the people were baptized, they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread and in prayers.
9. All the believers that were gathered together had all things in common.
10. The believers sold their possessions and parted them to all as they had need.

### **Lesson Review (page 10):**

1. Lonely Christians often turn to the book of Psalms.
2. Omniscient means all-knowing. Omnipresent means everywhere at the same time.
3. The church's social responsibility is to convey the message of the Gospel to the end that men's hearts and minds may be brought into conformity with God's Word.

### **Supplemental Exercise (page 10):**

Answers are listed by verse.

- |               |                  |                 |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 14. WORDS     | 26. REJOICE      | 37. HEART       |
| 15. DRUNKEN   | 27. SOUL         | 38. REPENT      |
| 16. JOEL      | 28. COUNTENANCE  | 39. PROMISE     |
| 17. SPIRIT    | 29. PATRIARCH    | 40. EXHORT      |
| 18. PROPHECY  | 30. OATH         | 41. BAPTIZED    |
| 19. WONDERS   | 31. RESURRECTION | 42. FELLOWSHIP  |
| 20. NOTABLE   | 32. JESUS        | 43. FEAR        |
| 21. SAVED     | 33. EXALTED      | 44. BELIEVED    |
| 22. APPROVED  | 34. ASCENDED     | 45. POSSESSIONS |
| 23. DELIVERED | 35. FOOTSTOOL    | 46. GLADNESS    |
| 24. RAISED    | 36. LORD         | 47. CHURCH      |
| 25. DAVID     |                  |                 |