

Beginnings

by

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illustrated by

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Statistics indicate that the majority of children from church homes will walk away from the Christian faith. I believe one of the major contributing reasons for this sad state of affairs is that most children are not given answers to the evolutionary/millions-of-years indoctrination they receive from television programs, public schools and elsewhere.

Our culture, by and large, treats the Bible as just a book of myths and legends—an interesting compilation of stories that contains spiritual and moral lessons. Secular humanists and others question the Bible’s credibility and claim that “science” has disproved its history.

Children from church homes may be taught through home devotions or Sunday School to believe the Bible is the Word of God, but sadly lacking is teaching that enables these children to be able to defend their faith—in other words, to give reasons for what they believe.

Many parents and teachers avoid trying to answer the “difficult” questions when children ask them:

“Mom, who made God?”

“Miss, where did the Bible come from?”

“Sir, is the earth really millions of years old?”

“Dad, how do we know that the Bible is true?”

Such questions should not be avoided, but answered at a level consistent with the age and education of the child asking them. 1 Peter 3:15 states, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

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The set of seven lessons found between the covers of the book you now hold are a powerful tool to equip children so they will know what Christians believe, and so they will be able to defend the Christian faith against the hard questions that skeptics ask.

Such a series of lessons as this one is actually a program in apologetics—providing a logical, reasoned, defense of the Christian faith. Most Sunday School literature today does not train students from a perspective of defending the faith that they are being taught to believe.

It is my hope that these lessons (and many more to come) will begin to fill the void in Christian literature that is so needed in this skeptical age. Friend, we must do our part to help ensure that generations will arise who will be able to take on the skeptics of the Bible and illustrate clearly that such people are “without excuse.” I pray that thousands (even millions) of students will be influenced by the *Answers for Kids* series (which also includes the *Seven C's of History*) designed to equip children in today's scientific age to not only believe God's Word, but to uphold it and defend the Christian faith and so effectively proclaim the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is just the “Beginnings”—there is much more to come. There are so many questions that need answering today. This is an exciting journey for teacher and student alike. Once you've used this apologetic approach, you will be “hooked” by the revived enthusiasm of the students to reach as many more students as possible. And the students themselves will be excited to know that they can give these much needed answers—what a confirmation of the faith they can have in the only 100 percent trustworthy book in the world—the Holy Word of God!

Ken Ham
President/CEO
Answers in Genesis—USA

Stacia McKeever graduated *summa cum laude* in biology and psychology from Clearwater Christian College in 1997. She has worked full-time for *Answers in Genesis*–USA since then, and coauthored the “Answers for Kids” section in *Creation* magazine. Stacia has written or co-written a number of articles for *Creation* magazine and the AiG website, and has led workshops centered on the “Seven C’s of History” for children at AiG seminars. She lives with her husband, Seth, in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

Dan Lietha has been drawing since he was a child. He graduated in 1987 from the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art and has been a full-time professional cartoonist since 1991. Since joining the *Answers in Genesis* staff in 1997, he has illustrated several books (including *A is for Adam*, *When Dragons’ Hearts Were Good*, and *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved!*), created comic strips for the AiG newsletter and website, and produced countless illustrations which the AiG speakers use to effectively communicate the message that God’s Word can be trusted from the beginning. Dan, his wife Marcia and their daughter Hannah currently reside in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

Acknowledgments

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Nancy Byers, Dr. David DeWitt, Ken Ham, Kym Holwerda, Ellen Liebing, Dr. Jason Lisle, Michael Matthews, Dr. Terry Mortenson, Larry Pierce, Frost Smith, Peter Sparrow, Rosemary Whincop.

Dear Teacher,

Dear Teacher,

The *Beginnings* curriculum is designed to be used by itself or in conjunction with other curricula in the *Answers For Kids* series (there will be some overlap of the information presented in the different curricula). If you use this with the *Seven C's of History* curriculum, we suggest presenting *Beginnings* followed by the Seven C's.

Lesson Components

1. Lesson

We trust these lessons will help you to teach children to uphold the Bible's authority and to answer the questions that are hurled at them by today's increasingly evolutionized culture.

In various places throughout the lessons, we suggest having children read a verse or paragraph out loud. Please feel free to modify this idea according to the abilities of your students or your constraints as a teacher.

2. Activity ideas

This section provides suggested ideas for activities for you to incorporate into the lessons, as you have time.

3. Additional study ideas

For those interested in using *Beginnings* as a spring-board to discussing other topics, we have provided additional study ideas during the appropriate lessons.

continued next page

4. Terms to know

Some lessons feature terms that may not be familiar to your students. Some of these are listed under “Terms to know” (not every lesson has this section). Feel free to modify this list.

5. Recommended resources

This section provides a list of materials that supplement the topic being discussed.

6. On the web

The links given provide more information on the lesson topic.

7. CD-ROM

The accompanying CD-ROM contains the illustrations and handouts that will be used throughout this curriculum. You may wish to use the illustrations in a digital presentation (such as PowerPoint), or simply print them out on transparencies or on plain paper.

8. Student handouts

You will need one set of student handouts per child in your class (there are six handouts per set—these are not included on the CD-ROM). We have included one complete set with the Teacher’s Manual—additional sets are available from www.AnswersBookstore.com.

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at smckeever@AnswersInGenesis.org.

Sincerely,
Stacia McKeever