

Do you trust God's Word in its entirety?

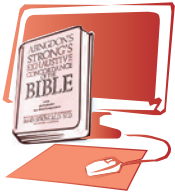
The thirteen lessons in this quarter's study, *My Bible: Can I Trust It?*, are designed to help you answer key questions about the Bible's inspiration, contents, and translation. You will also learn valuable principles of how to study the Bible.



The Real Faith in Life Devotional Bible Study is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through Saturday, along with an

In-Class worksheet to be completed during your group study.

In order for you to gain the most out of your devotional time, use the following tools along with your student book.



Bible study tools: In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance.

If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation.



Journal: Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class each week so that you can take notes during the

lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.

Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as www.blueletterbible.org.

This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study. (This recommendation does not constitute a blanket endorsement by RBP.)

Revelation From God

“How can I know a God I have never seen?”

This question has plagued the minds of many unbelievers who are searching to find the meaning and purpose of Christianity. To those who search with an open heart to find the truth about God, there is hope. The almighty Creator has chosen to reveal Himself to His creation. He has taken the initiative to be sure we have what we need to know Him.

Memory Verses



“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. . . . The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:1, 7).

Monday

As you complete this week’s devotions, you will learn about two different ways in which God has revealed Himself: general revelation and special revelation.

Revelation is the work of God by which He makes Himself and His purposes known to mankind. For the first few days of this week’s devotions, you will study about God’s general, or natural, revelation.

Read Genesis 1:1–31.

1. In the space below, describe God’s work in these verses.



When there was no one else, God existed. Where there was nothing, He created something.

2. Read and summarize Exodus 20:11.

3. What do Genesis 1:1–31 and Exodus 20: 11 reveal about the power and perfection of God?

Take a moment today to thank God for creating the universe—including you!



Memory Verse Activity: As you memorize this week's verses, take time to reflect on how creation and the Bible reveal God to mankind. Reflect on His power and love, and don't forget to thank and praise Him for His Word and His work in creation!

Tuesday

Yesterday you studied the details of God's general revelation. Today you will study the benefits of general revelation.

Read Psalm 19:1 and answer the following questions.

1. What action does creation take, according to this verse?
2. How can seeing God's creation teach us more about Him?



Have you ever observed something that God created and thought about the mighty power of God? That is what God's creation is designed to do: draw the eyes of the created to the power of the Creator. As the created recognizes the power and glory displayed in creation, he or she realizes there is a higher power, greater than him- or herself. And that knowledge leads to a decision.

Read Romans 1:18–20.

3. What does creation clearly reveal to humans (v. 20)?
4. How does that leave humans?



God has every right to hold mankind accountable for the "ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" because He has revealed Himself in creation. If humans were to take an honest approach to creation, they would realize that there is a Creator and that they are accountable to that Creator.

5. How do you view creation? Do you see God and thank Him for revealing His power and majesty in creation? Record your thoughts below. Then spend some time thanking God for revealing Himself through creation.

Wednesday

The purpose of general revelation is to reveal the Creator and to cause humans to become curious, desiring to know the One Who has the ability to create the universe. To find the answer, humans need special revelation. God's Word is special revelation to mankind.

Read Psalm 19:7–11.

1. How do these verses describe God's Word, or "the law of the Lord"?



The Bible is designed to reveal God to us and to draw us into a relationship with Him.

God used four different methods to provide the special revelation of His Word to mankind. Over the next several days, you will learn more about these methods.

Prophets

God relayed truths to special men and women, called prophets.

2. According to 2 Peter 1:21, whose words did prophets, or "holy men," speak?
3. Read Genesis 15:1 and Exodus 9:20. What phrase used in these verses reveals the Source of the message?
4. Read Exodus 4:22, Joshua 7:13, and 1 Samuel 2:27. According to these verses, whose words were these men revealing?



Prophets never gave their own ideas; they provided only the truth of God's message.

5. Based on those verses, how can you know that the Bible came from God and not from human invention?

Thank God for the gift of His Word today.

Miracles

Another method God used to provide special revelation was miracles.

1. Read Exodus 14:19–31 and briefly describe the miracle that took place.
2. Skim Joshua 6 and summarize the account.
3. Read John 5:5–9 and give an overview of this miracle.
4. What do these and other miracles reveal about God?



This all-powerful God is still the same today.

God has revealed Himself in many ways. If you are a believer, He desires to work in your life and to use you in ways that you cannot even imagine. In the space below, write a prayer, thanking God for revealing Himself—and His power—in His Word.

Friday

Visions and Dreams

On occasion, God used dreams as special revelation. Read the following passage and summarize the dreams.

1. Genesis 37:1–11

God also used visions as special revelation. Read the following verses and record the people to whom God gave a vision.

2. Genesis 15:1

3. 1 Samuel 3:11–18

4. Daniel 7:2

5. Ezekiel 43:3

The purpose of visions and dreams was to share the truths that God intended to reveal in those instances. God supplied interpretations to these revelations.

Dreams and visions were used to reveal God's special revelation. Since we now have God's completed revealed Word, the Bible, visions and dreams are no longer necessary. God no longer gives people visions or dreams.



Revelation through the Lord Jesus Christ

The final special revelation that God has provided is the revelation of Jesus Christ Himself.

Read the following verses and record the truths about Christ.

1. John 1:1 and 2

2. Hebrews 1:1–4

3. John 14:7–11



Special revelation gives you the opportunity to know God.

4. Review Wednesday's, Thursday's, Friday's, and today's devotions. What have you learned about God from what you have studied?



Humans have everything they need to know about God revealed in creation and in His Word, the Bible. It is up to every person to make the following decision: What will I do with this knowledge of the Creator God?

Have you come to a decision? Have you chosen to accept the free gift of salvation that God offers to everyone? If not, talk to a pastor, youth leader, or your Sunday School teacher today!

If you are a believer, take a moment to thank God for revealing Himself to His creation.



I am trusting the truth of God's Word when I thank God for revealing Himself through His Word.



Journal Notes

A Psalm of Praise!

Write a psalm of praise, thanking God
for revealing Himself through His Word.