



# What Do We Believe?

## Lesson 5

**Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008**  
Created for use with young, unchurched learners— Adaptable for all ages including adults

# What Do We Believe?

## Lesson 5: The Bible: It Tells Us What We Should Believe

### Scriptures:

1 John 5:13; Exodus 20: 1- 17; Matthew 5, 6, 7; Hebrews 8:10; Exodus 31:18; Psalm 102:18

### Lesson Goals:

Learners should come to appreciate the Bible for guidance in everyday living.  
Learners should become aware of the importance of Biblical instruction in beliefs.  
Learners should come to appreciate the fact that God cares about how we behave.

### Scripture Memory:

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. (Proverbs 1:7)**

### The Lesson:

It is important that we know how to behave and what we should believe. Only very foolish people don't spend time learning what is right and wrong. When we are children, we look to our parents, teachers, and others with more experience and wisdom to help us know what is good and right. When we do something that is bad, or that might hurt us, there should be someone there to say, "Don't do that."

There are times when we really don't know whether to believe something or not. We have to ask someone if it is good or bad, right or wrong. Things can be confusing. Someone will say, "Don't worry, that won't get you in trouble." Or, someone will say, "That won't hurt you." But, we need some advice. As we get older, we look to people who have studied things to help us. Maybe we ask a doctor, or a lawyer, or a teacher, or a minister. Maybe we need to consult a wise friend, or we might look things up in a book.

The very best book to tell us the right things to believe is the Bible. The Bible helps us know how to treat other people. It helps us know what God expects of us. The apostle John, in his first letter, says that he is writing to those "who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13) What he is saying about his writing, other writers in the Bible could say. They were inspired by God to write so that all of us can know what God wants us to know. John was writing about eternal life that is promised to all who believe in Jesus. Others were writing about other things that we should believe.

We can begin with the Ten Commandments as listed in Exodus, the twentieth chapter and the first through the 17<sup>th</sup> verses. The first commandments tell us what we should believe about God and how we should behave toward Him. The last commandments tell us what we should believe about other humans and how we should behave toward them. Exodus 31:18 says that God wrote these commandments with His own finger.

We could begin even before that, and in Genesis 1:1, begin reading about how God created everything we know anything about. These first words in the Bible tell us what to believe about how the world began. We can read stories about Noah and Abraham to see what God wants us to believe about how He cares about this world and what happens in it. We can read about Moses and Joshua and find out what God wants us to believe about how he provides for His people who follow His will.

We can read about King David and learn what God wants us to believe about the way He uses ordinary humans, even little boys, to do His work on earth. We can read about Esther and know how God uses women and what we should believe about His desire to use all of us in His work.

We can read about Jesus and learn how much God loves us and how He sent His Son to the world to live, die, be resurrected and ascend to Heaven for us. We can read the sermon Jesus preached on the mountainside and know how God wants us to behave in many ways. We find that sermon in Matthew, chapters five, six, and seven.

If we read the Book of Acts, we can see what God wants us to believe about His church and how it grew in the early days. If we read about Paul, the Apostle, we will know what God wants us to know about missions and what we should believe about our responsibility to tell His story to everyone.

In Psalm 102:18, the writer says that he is writing down how God treats the hurting person so that people will praise God for His goodness. And I Corinthians 10:11 tells us that God wanted some things written down so that we would be warned about bad things that could happen.

When we read The Revelation of John, we know what we should believe about the future.

God wants us to know and remember what He says in His word. In Hebrews 8:10, God promises that He will make agreements with His people and will write His laws in our minds and hearts.

For many weeks we will be studying what the Bible says about what we should believe. It will take a while, because we want to know as much about what God tells us as we possibly can know.

### Life Application:

What did God tell John to write in his first letter? Do you remember? It's found in I John 5:13. "I'm writing these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. I'm doing it so you will know that you have eternal life." Do you know if you have eternal life? Maybe you don't know because you don't know what that means. Eternal life is life forever with the God who made us! What do you have to do to "have it?" I John 5:13 explains who has eternal life; "you who believe in the name of the Son of God."

Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son? Have you put your trust in Him? Do you believe in Jesus in a way that causes you to have confidence in Him and obey Him? You see, we are all sinners. Romans 6:23 says, "When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." Eternal life isn't something you earn by doing good things. It is a gift. That gift is available to you "because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." What did He do? He died for you and He died for me. Will you accept His gift today? When you do, God's Holy Spirit moves into your life and teaches you. When you read the Bible, you will understand what you should believe and how you should behave.



Planning for Lesson 6  
The Bible: It Tells Us About  
God's People

# Learning Activities



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Play a clapping and snapping word game to practice the memory verse.
- ◆ Make a chart for use with a discussion of the Ten Commandments. Label one side, “What we should believe about God and how we should behave toward Him.” Label the other side, “What we should believe about other humans and how we should behave toward them.” Read through the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) together and place each commandment under the correct heading.
- ◆ Encourage your students to become reporters. Provide newsprint, markers, and reporter’s hats! Assign your students different segments from the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. For example: Assign one student the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), while assigning another the passage on Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16), and so on. Encourage them to read the passage, looking for instructions on how God wants us to behave. Headline your paper with “THE BIBLE: It Tells Us What We Should Believe.”
- ◆ Continue to encourage daily Bible reading. The only way to know what God wants of us it to spend time with Him. He has given us His word to communicate with us. What have your students been reading that pertains to today’s lesson?
- ◆ Dig Deeper: Read through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), paragraph by paragraph, with your students. Was Jesus simply teaching about salt, light, murder, etc? Is following Jesus simply checking off a list of rules kept? Look closer at Matthew 5:17-20. Discuss the implications of these verses on the discourse that follows.

**The fear of the Lord  
is the beginning  
of knowledge,**

**but fools despise  
wisdom and discipline.**

**Proverbs 1:7**

**How were the Ten Commandments written? Trace the letters to find out.**

**They were written with . . .**

**God's own**

FINGER

# Word Search



K	N	O	W	I	S	I	D	R	A	E	F
I	N	D	L	R	P	O	W	F	S	O	P
L	E	O	I	D	G	E	M	I	B	O	L
B	R	N	W	E	R	B	P	W	R	S	E
D	S	I	I	L	G	S	N	N	E	O	L
E	I	P	S	L	E	O	O	L	V	B	S
S	P	S	D	D	P	D	V	E	O	I	S
F	E	S	O	P	R	I	G	W	R	B	G
O	D	G	M	L	O	O	C	E	P	N	I
O	T	Z	O	P	I	V	E	S	R	E	N
L	A	W	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G
S	I	K	D	T	W	B	E	G	N	D	M

**discipline**

**wisdom**

**Lord**

**beginning**

**Proverbs**

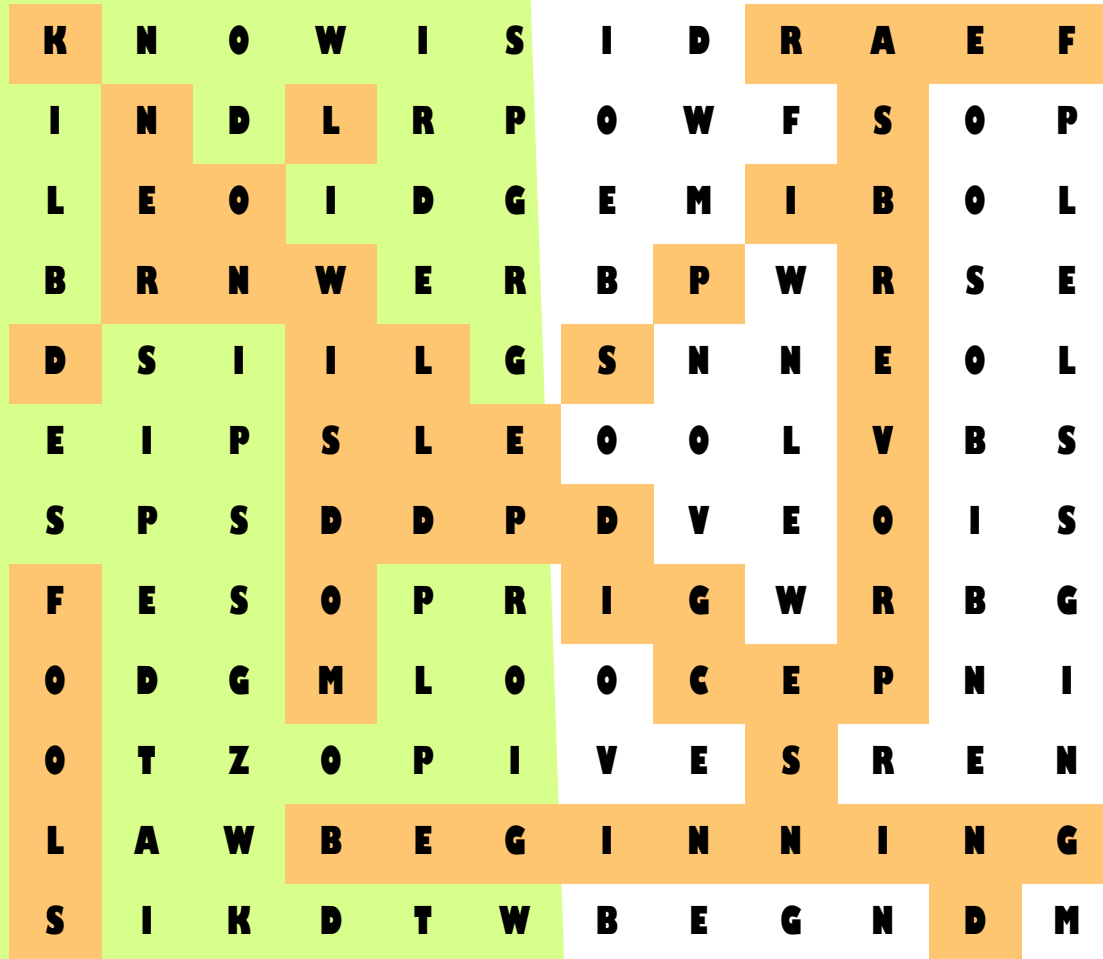
**knowledge**

**despise**

**fools**

**fear**

# Word Search



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