

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

a Modern Catechism

Answering the Essential
Questions of Christianity

ISRAEL WAYNE

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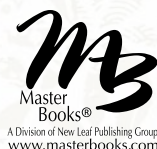
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How To Use This Book

Take a moment to review how to effectively utilize this book below. *Foundational Truths* is structured into 52 weekly lessons, aiming to equip you to live a deeper life with God every single day. It is versatile and can be used by individuals, families, study groups, and more. The primary goal is to impart the fundamental teachings of God's Word through a question-and-answer format. Each week:

Begin with a **Life Question** presented on the first two-page spread, such as "Who made God?," "What is Sin?," or "What is the Greatest Commandment?"

Read the **Bible Answer**, which serves as a summary of the Bible verses used to address the initial questions.

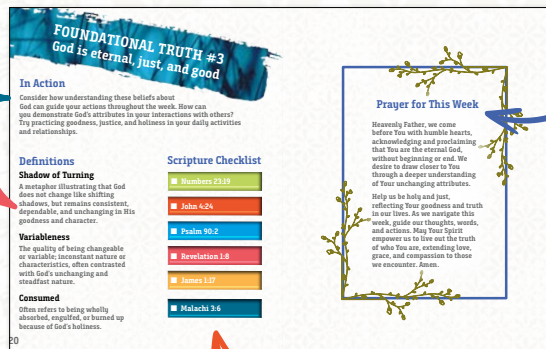
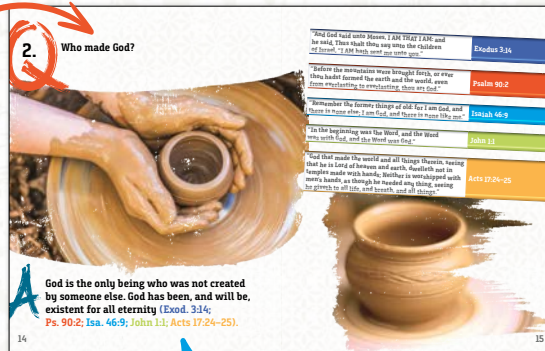
Proceed to read the **Full Verses** in the King James Version, provided on the opposite page, or reference them in a translation of your preference. Please note that the Bible verses are color-coded to correspond with the Scripture mentioned in the answer summaries.

Take note of the **In Action** section, providing guidance on how to apply what you have learned during the week.

A **Prayer for This Week** is provided to set the tone for the week's focus.

Turn to the next two-page spread, where you will find various **Definitions** of theological or challenging terms discussed in the previous two pages.

Scripture Checklist is included if you wish to memorize the verses throughout the week.



Introduction

God knows you. He wants you to know Him. Do you? Do you really know Him... and the kind of relationship He wants with you?

Think of this book like a personal Q&A with God. Delve into this modern non-denominational catechism (the part concerning questions and answers about God and the Bible). You'll find some very important things for you to understand in His Word.

Can you give God a few minutes a day? Maybe just a few minutes for:

- Your personal devotion time to restore your faith
- Enrichment of your children's understanding and responsibilities in being a part of God's family
- Giving God a small part of your day to realize His Work in your life

Let's look over a brief history of and foundation for learning to live from God's Word. Let these 52 weekly lessons prepare you to live a deeper life with God every single day.

In our modern church age, the term "catechism" sounds a bit strange and unfamiliar to most of us. What is a catechism, and how can it be useful for your family?

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "catechism" this way:

1

A form of instruction by means of questions and answers, particularly in the principles of religion.

2

An elementary book containing a summary of principles in any science or art, but appropriately in religion, reduced to the form of questions and answers, and sometimes with notes, explanations, and references to authorities.

Asking questions can be a wonderful means of teaching.

In ancient Greece, the philosopher Socrates developed a teaching approach that involved asking critical thinking questions to his students that became known as “The Socratic method.”

God asked many questions of people in the Bible. Jesus taught His disciples not merely by telling them what they should believe, but by asking them questions. (For more on this, see the books *Questions God Asks* and *Questions Jesus Asks*, by Israel Wayne, published by New Leaf Press.)



What Is Luther's Catechism?



Martin Luther, the founder of the Protestant Reformation, realized that it would be important not only for adults to read the Bible for themselves (in their own language) but for children to learn it as well. In 1529, Luther wrote a catechism for children.

Luther's Large Catechism (also called *Book of Concord* 1580) contained the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys and Confession, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Table.

What Are Some Other Popular Catechisms?

Here are several historic catechisms that have been used and appreciated by the Christian church since the Protestant Reformation:

(A.D. 1549–1662)	The Anglican Catechism (Church of England)
(A.D. 1563)	The Heidelberg Catechism (Dutch Reformed Church / CRC)
(A.D. 1647)	Westminster Larger Catechism (Presbyterian: 196 questions)
(A.D. 1693)	Benjamin Keach's Catechism (The Baptist Catechism) (118 questions)

What Is the Purpose of a Catechism?

What are the benefits of a catechism? The Anglican (Church of England) Catechism (1549–1662) answers this question for us:

A large, stylized orange letter 'Q' with a thick, brush-stroke texture.

What dost thou chiefly learn in these Articles of thy Belief (the creed)?

A large, stylized blue letter 'A' with a thick, brush-stroke texture.

First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me, and all the world.

Secondly, in God the Son, who hath redeemed me, and all mankind.

Thirdly, in God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect people of God.

The purpose of questions provided in any catechism is ultimately to help us to know God. Jesus Himself affirmed this goal as being the most important pursuit of our life:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

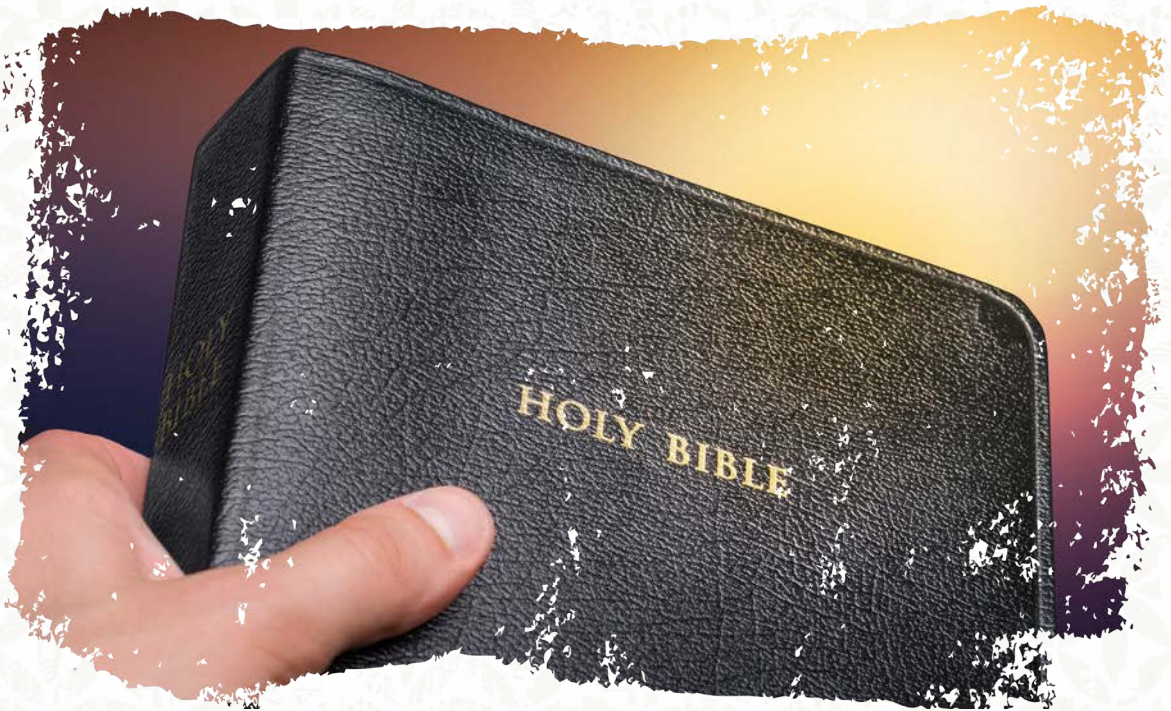
John 17:3

There is no substitute for the Bible. Creeds, confessions, and catechisms are not ever to be a replacement for the Bible. They are simply tools that can help Christians to understand, in a more systematic way, what the Bible teaches. If any of these tools are ever in disagreement with the Bible, they must be set aside in the same way we would dismiss a sermon by our own local church's pastor if it taught something that does not align with the Bible.

Why Do We Need All of These Other Resources? Isn't the Bible Sufficient?

The Bible is all we need for our salvation and our life in Christ. It alone is the living breath of God. But we are blessed today to have many other tools that may be helpful to us in our journey and growth as a Christian. If we do not find these tools to be useful, that's fine. We are not obligated to use them. But often we don't use things like catechisms because we simply don't know they exist or understand their purpose. Our goal in this resource is to point you back to the Word of God directly, in an organized and focused way.

The questions contained in this resource can be memorized if you wish by individuals, students, or by an entire family. You could take one question per week to commit to memory (feel free to shorten answers for young children). It is often helpful to recite the answers together, at least once daily, if you're doing this as a family. This strongly aids in memorizing the answers.



What Bible Translation Is Used in This Book?

For universal application, we chose the King James Version, but feel free to read and/or memorize the verses referenced in this resource in whatever Bible version your family prefers.



1.

How can we know there is a God?



God's creation plainly reveals His wisdom (Ps. 19:1; Prov. 3:19) so we are without excuse (Rom. 1:18–20). Our moral conscience knows right and wrong, pointing to a moral lawgiver (God) (Rom. 2:14–15). The Scriptures are God's Word given to us by God revealing the way of salvation (1 Cor. 1:21–24; 2 Tim. 3:15).

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Psalms 19:1

"The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens."

Proverbs 3:19

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

Romans 1:18-20

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

Romans 2:14-15

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

1 Corinthians 1:21-24

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 3:15

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH #1

We know God through creation and the Scriptures

In Action

Strive this week to make your actions like those desired by God, found in the teachings of the Scriptures. Each day, identify an opportunity to act in a way that reflects God's wisdom and moral standards. This could involve acts of kindness, forgiveness, love, or seeking justice.

Definitions

Creation

Describes the universe, starting with Earth and all living things made by God in six days. God created the world and everything in it through His divine command, culminating in the creation of humanity in His image.

Unrighteousness

Signifies moral wrongdoing or actions that are opposite of the righteous and just standards set by God, often associated with sin and disobedience to God's commandments.

Wisdom

The ability to apply knowledge, understanding, and discernment in a way that aligns with God's truth and leads to righteous living and a deep relationship with God.

Scripture Checklist

■ Psalm 19:1

■ Proverbs 3:19

■ Romans 1:18–20

■ Romans 2:14–15

■ 1 Corinthians 1:21–24

■ 2 Timothy 3:15



Prayer for This Week

Dear Lord, as we embark on this week, we stand in awe of Your creation. Your creation plainly reveals Your wisdom and grandeur. We are humbled and without excuse, for You have made Your presence and wisdom evident through what You have created. We understand that the Scriptures are divinely inspired and a revelation of Your truth. It shows us the way of salvation, guiding us toward a deeper understanding of Your purpose and love. We offer this week to You, seeking to honor Your wisdom revealed in creation and through Your Word. May we live our lives in a manner that reflects Your wisdom and grace, sharing the message of salvation with those around us. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

2.

Who made God?



A

God is the only being who was not created by someone else. God has been, and will be, existent for all eternity (Exod. 3:14; Ps. 90:2; Isa. 46:9; John 1:1; Acts 17:24–25).

"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, "I AM hath sent me unto you."

Exodus 3:14

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

Psalms 90:2

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."

Isaiah 46:9

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."

Acts 17:24-25



FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH #2

God is everlasting to everlasting

In Action

Set aside time this week to consider incorporating daily prayer and contemplation on the nature of God's eternal existence, expressing gratitude and reverence for this understanding, and seeking to deepen your relationship with God each day.

Definitions

Everlasting

Something that lasts forever or has no end, often used to describe God's attributes or promises.

Existent

Currently exists or has reality or being.

Moses

A biblical figure and prophet who led the Israelites out of Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai.

Scripture Checklist

☐ Exodus 3:14

☐ Psalm 90:2

☐ Isaiah 46:9

☐ John 1:1

☐ Acts 17:24–25



Prayer for This Week

Oh God, we come before You in awe and wonder at Your timeless existence. Thank You for revealing Yourself as the Alpha and Omega, without beginning or end, the source of all existence and wisdom.

Help us to grasp the magnitude of Your eternal nature and find comfort in Your presence. Guide us in our journey this week to know You more deeply and to focus our lives on Your purpose. In Your everlasting name we pray.

Amen



3.

Who is God?



A

God is a Spirit (**John 4:24**), without beginning or end (**Ps. 90:2; Rev. 1:8**), unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth (**James 1:17; Mal. 3:6**). There is only one true eternal God: Father, Son, and Spirit.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

Malachi 3:6

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH #3

God is eternal, just, and good

In Action

Consider how understanding these beliefs about God can guide your actions throughout the week. How can you demonstrate God's attributes in your interactions with others? Try practicing goodness, justice, and holiness in your daily activities and relationships.

Definitions

Shadow of Turning

A metaphor illustrating that God does not change like shifting shadows, but remains consistent, dependable, and unchanging in His goodness and character.

Variableness

The quality of being changeable or variable; inconstant nature or characteristics, often contrasted with God's unchanging and steadfast nature.

Consumed

Often refers to being wholly absorbed, engulfed, or burned up because of God's holiness.

Scripture Checklist

■ Numbers 23:19

■ Malachi 3:6

■ John 4:24

■ James 1:17

■ Revelation 1:8

A light beige background with a repeating pattern of stylized leaves and flowers. A blue rectangular frame is centered on the page, with decorative olive branches and small white flowers extending from the top, bottom, and left sides. The text is contained within this frame.

Prayer for This Week

Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, acknowledging and proclaiming that You are the eternal God, without beginning or end. We desire to draw closer to You through a deeper understanding of Your unchanging attributes.

Help us be holy and just, reflecting Your goodness and truth in our lives. As we navigate this week, guide our thoughts, words, and actions. May Your Spirit empower us to live out the truth of who You are, extending love, grace, and compassion to those we encounter.

Amen

4.

How can God be one and yet three persons?



A

There is one God (**1 Cor. 8:6**) who eternally exists as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (**John 15:26**). These three persons are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

"The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens."

Proverbs 3:19

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 28:19

"I and my Father are one."

John 10:30

"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

John 14:9

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

John 15:26

"But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit.... thou hast not lied unto men but unto God."

Acts 5:3-4

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

1 Corinthians 8:6

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

2 Corinthians 13:14

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH #4

God is three persons, one in essence

In Action

Dedicate time this week for focused prayer and reflection on the Trinity and consciously apply this understanding in your daily life, living out the belief in one God existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and reflecting on their unity and equality in power and glory.

Definitions

Baptizing

Water baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the new life found in Him.

Proceedeth

To move forward, continue, or take action in a particular direction or manner.

Essence

The fundamental nature or being of God, comprising Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit.

Scripture Checklist

■ Proverbs 3:19

■ Matthew 28:19

■ John 10:30

■ John 14:9

■ John 15:26

■ Acts 5:3–4

■ 1 Corinthians 8:6

■ 2 Corinthians 13:14



Prayer for This Week

Thank you, Father, for Your unfailing love, for creating us and guiding our lives. We are grateful that You help provide our homes and food to sustain us. We thank You, Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, for Your sacrifice and teachings. Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide, we welcome Your presence and wisdom.

Help us to grasp the depth of Your unity and embrace the beauty of Your triune nature. May we reflect this unity and love in our lives, treating one another with grace and compassion. In Your name we pray.

Amen

5.

What does God know?



A God knows all things (1 John 3:20): the certain future (Isa. 46:9–11), all possibilities, and even the thoughts (Ps. 139:1–4) and intents of our hearts (John 2:24–25).

"O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether."

Psalms 139:1-4

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Ecclesiastes 12:14

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."

Isaiah 46:9-11

"But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

John 2:24-25

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Hebrews 4:13

"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

1 John 3:20

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH #5

God knows about all things

In Action

Practice surrendering and trusting God's knowledge this week. Keep a journal to jot down your thoughts, concerns, and experiences throughout the week. At the end of each day, write down moments when you felt God's guidance or saw evidence of His knowledge in your life. By consciously acknowledging and surrendering to the fact that God knows all things, and incorporating this awareness into your prayers, reflections, and actions, you can deepen your faith and trust in His wisdom and plan for your life.

Definitions

Condemn

To pronounce judgment or express disapproval of something based on moral or ethical standards, often associated with denouncing sinful actions or behavior.

Compassest

Conveys the idea that God surrounds, understands, and is intimately aware of every aspect of an individual's life.

Testify

To give a personal account or declaration of one's faith, beliefs, experiences, or knowledge.

Scripture Checklist

☐ Psalm 139:1-4

☐ Ecclesiastes 12:14

☐ Isaiah 46:9-11

☐ John 2:24-25

☐ Hebrews 4:13

☐ 1 John 3:20



Prayer for This Week

Heavenly Father, we come before You, acknowledging that You are the all-knowing God. You know the certain future, all possibilities, and the depths of our hearts. Thank You for Your wisdom that surpasses our understanding.

Help us trust in Your plans, even when we can't see the way. May we surrender our worries and fears, knowing that You hold all things in Your hands. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen