

**Seven Lessons to  
Biblical Confidence and Competency**

Journey into  
**Building Spiritual  
Foundations**

**Student Edition**



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**Journey into Building Spiritual Foundations  
STUDENT EDITION (ESV®)**

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**ISBN 978-1-934072-06-6**

Printed in the United States of America by Tommy Hagle Publishers, Inc.

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# Preface

This study is designed to help students become confident and competent using a hard copy of the Bible. As I reflected with our student pastor, we became concerned about our students' growing dependence on technology. Our students were using their phones more and their Bibles less. If they want to know what the Bible says about a particular topic, they just ask their phones. The phone provides information but makes no distinction between timeless truth and dangerous heresy. A hard copy study Bible provides a healthy filter of information that can be trusted.

If students feel uncomfortable using their Bibles, they will always reach for their unfiltered phone. However, if they are comfortable with their own Bible, students will tend to flip through pages of godly counsel instead of clicking links to who knows what.

With three children in my home, I have become more aware of this recently. My 9<sup>th</sup> grader will be out of the house in four short years. I want my children to develop healthy patterns for finding answers to life's circumstances. I want them to have the confidence and competence to look into God's Word for answers instead of looking in a search box that takes them who knows where.

The content in each of the lessons is short for a reason. I want to balance the teaching time with the hands-on practice time. This is about developing **Bible skills** and **Bible understanding**. So, don't get long-winded and cut the activity time short. Leave plenty of time for them to "handle" God's Word.

My prayer is that each student's Bible will become a familiar and well-used companion for the rest of his or her life.

# 1: Why Is the Bible So Important?

When I was a kid, a wealthy family built a luxury house near our home. It was two stories with a swimming pool and an outdoor kitchen. It was the fanciest house I had ever seen. It was the talk of the town. But, if you go there today that same house is falling apart and abandoned. The house's foundation was built on sandy soil and it literally started falling apart a couple of years after it was built. The roof leaked, and the walls cracked. It was so bad that the family wanted to move but no one wanted to buy it. A house is only as good as the foundation upon which it is built.

What does Jesus say about building your life in Matthew 7:24?

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Your life will only be as strong as the foundation you build it on. This journey will give you the skills needed for building on God's Word.

## **Why should I work hard to know the Bible?**

You cannot have a happy and healthy life if you don't know the purpose for your life. You cannot know the purpose for your life if you don't know the God who created you. Let's learn the three ways you can know God:

### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation**

This is what you can know about God by natural observation and logical thinking. Paul says there are basically two things we can know about God from examining nature with our senses. Look up Romans 1:19-20 and see what these two things are.

**I can plainly see:**

1. God's eternal \_\_\_\_\_
2. God's divine \_\_\_\_\_ (His intelligence)

So, from nature you can know God has amazing power and intelligence. How does Isaiah 55:9 describe this?

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There is a second, deeper way we can know God:

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation**

This describes the **supernatural works and words of God** that are recorded in the Bible. "Special" means these are unique occasions in history when God revealed Himself to humankind. Through special revelation, we can know God more deeply in two basic ways:

**Through special revelation I can know:**

1. God's \_\_\_\_\_
2. God's \_\_\_\_\_

A good example is: Moses would never have figured out the Ten Commandments by using his natural senses and logic. God had to reveal these commandments to Moses in a "special" way. This special revelation is preserved in the Bible for everyone to know about God's purposes and how we relate to Him and other people.

In another special revelation, to Jeremiah, God tells us something about His character. Read Jeremiah 9:24 and list some attributes of God's character.

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Jesus' coming to earth is the ultimate **special revelation**. He was God's power, intellect, purpose, and character put into flesh and blood. He didn't just deliver a message; He lived it out. He is the *Word* of God who *became flesh* (John 1:14). Jesus is the measuring stick—the standard by which we interpret and understand the Old Testament.

But Jesus says it is not enough to just know facts about God. You can't be saved by just believing in God and believing that Jesus was from God. How does James 2:18 explain this?

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This brings us to the third, and deepest, way we can know God. It is through this deepest knowledge we can be saved.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship

Jesus uses the object lesson of a grapevine and branches to explain this saving level of knowing God. Write out John 15:5 in your own words here:

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A personal relationship with Jesus means your faith results in fruit (obedience). If there is no action, there is no saving faith in your heart. Jesus made it simple: *If you love me, you will keep my commandments*. (John 14:15) So, you cannot love Jesus without obeying His Word. This is why you must know the Bible!

## Lesson Activity:

Look at the picture of the Old and New Testament libraries in the slide show. Make tabs corresponding to the different shelves of the OT and NT libraries and insert as follows.



Tab Name	Where to put it
OT	First page of <i>Genesis</i> (top of page)
PSALMS	First page of <i>Psalms</i> (top of page)
NT	First page of <i>Matthew</i> (top of page)
LAW	First page of <i>Genesis</i> (bottom of page)
HISTORY	First page of <i>Joshua</i>
WISDOM	First page of <i>Job</i>
PROPHETS	First page of <i>Isaiah</i>
GOSPELS	First page of <i>Matthew</i>
HISTORY	First page of <i>Acts</i>
LETTERS	First page of <i>Romans</i>
PROPHECY	First page of <i>Revelation</i>