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About the Author



Israel Wayne and his wife Brook are homeschooling parents to eleven children.

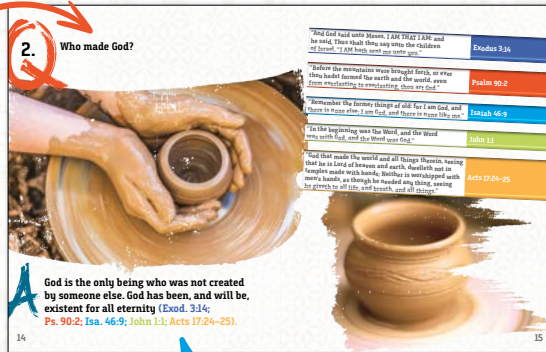
He is also an author and conference speaker who has a passion for defending the Christian faith and promoting a Biblical worldview. He is the author of *Education: Does God Have an Opinion?*, *Pitchin' A Fit! Overcoming Angry and Stressed-Out Parenting*, *Raising Them Up - Parenting for Christians*, *Answers for Homeschooling - Top 25 Questions Critics Ask*, *Questions God Asks*, *Questions Jesus Asks*, and *Foundations in Faith*.

Since 1995, Israel has traveled the nation speaking on family, homeschooling, revival, discipleship, and cultural issues. He is a frequent guest on national radio and television programs and has been a keynote speaker at numerous conferences. Israel also serves as the Director of Family Renewal, LLC (FamilyRenewal.org) and is the Site Editor for ChristianWorldview.net (a Christian apologetics site).

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.

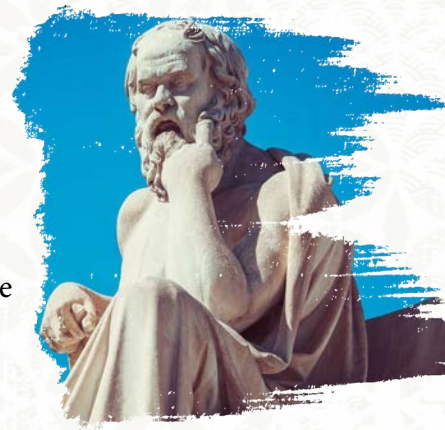
2

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:



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



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.”

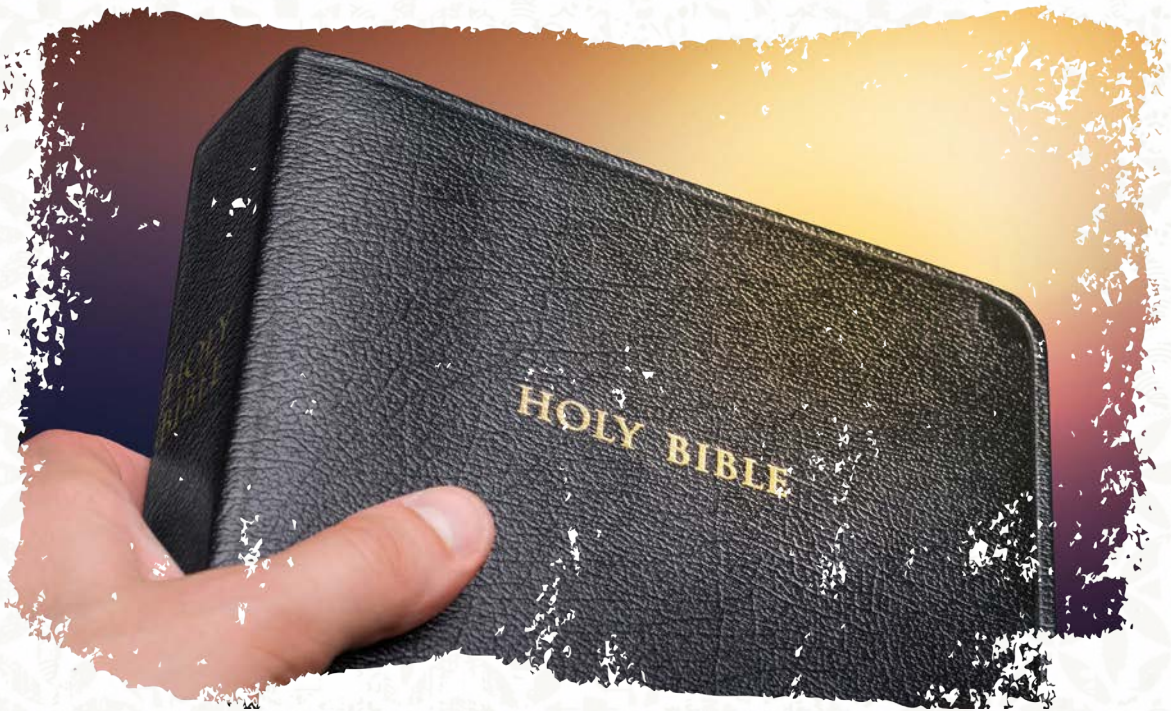
John 17:3

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.