



APOLOGETICS FOR TWEENS

5TH GRADE LESSON CURRICULUM

T H O M A S J . G R I F F I N

APOLOGETICS FOR TWEENS

*How to save your children from doubts and
unanswered questions about Christianity*

5TH GRADE LESSON CURRICULUM

ISBN: 978-1-947844-02-5

THOMAS J. GRIFFIN

June 2017

© 2017 Thomas J. Griffin. All rights reserved. Also, scriptural references and high level messages from LifeWay Bible Resources and reThink Group: adapted by Thomas J. Griffin at First Baptist Church, Peachtree City, GA 30269.



Please read the Leader's Guide first before the curriculum to understand what is included, how to use the curriculum, and importantly the background and purpose for the curriculum as well as real world stories that emphasize the need for apologetics with our youth. To summarize here for you, the curriculum includes a weekly scripture lesson and apologetics lesson for a school year. It also has some recommendations for activities, contests and games as well as top questions and answers about the Bible and Christianity that came up over a twelve year period.

Please note regarding copying and distribution of the materials: We do encourage and expect the curriculum will be copied and handed out to students weekly during the teaching sessions. The curriculum and Leader's Guide are intended to be copied locally by the purchaser as needed for the audience/participants. There is no limit to how many copies can be made for this purpose but copies are only allowed for the purchaser's local needs and class/audience/participants, whether in your home or institution. The material is not allowed to be copied, sold or distributed to other families or organizations without express permission from Resurgens Consulting. All rights are reserved otherwise. See www.resurgensconsulting.com for more details.



www.resurgensconsulting.com



www.athanatos.org

CONTENTS

5th Grade Lesson Index	1
August Lessons (beginning year)	4
September Lessons	16
October Lessons	28
November Lessons	41
December Lessons	55
January Lessons	69
February Lessons	81
March Lessons	95
April Lessons	107
May Lessons	117
June Lessons	130
July Lessons	138
August Lessons (end of year)	148
Extra Lessons	154
Bible Bowl Contest	176
Top Tough Questions	190

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Scripture verses	Gen 18, 21, 22
High level key topic	I should trust and obey because God has a bigger plan

SCRIPTURAL LESSON NARRATIVE

Today's lesson is about trusting and obeying God. God has a much greater plan for the world than just our little part. But we cannot see that grand plan so when things happen in our little piece of the world that we do not understand we must still trust that what we are doing somehow fits into God's overall plan. Perhaps when we get older we will see how it all fits (reference my call to ministry), or maybe once we are in heaven and all is revealed we will understand it. But if you continue to pray to God to guide your steps and your actions and ask forgiveness when you sin you will complete the part of God's plan that involves you. Nothing you do will thwart God's plan.

Our scripture today is about such an event. It continues the story of Abraham. Remember many decades earlier God predicted to Abraham he would have a son. Now at the age of 99 the Lord and some angels visit him and once again predict a year later he will have a son. His wife Sarah overhears and laughs about it because she is too old to have children. But a year later at the age of 100 Abraham has a son named Isaac (which means laughter). This is the first of many descendants who will all build great nations and be blessed through Abraham. This proclamation is called the Abrahamic covenant. A covenant is an agreement.

Abraham dearly loves his son due to all the circumstances. But over time he focuses too much on him and makes him like an idol. So God sent a test of his faith (read Gen chap 22). He asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on the altar. Abraham made the preparations and took Isaac and tied him on the altar and put wood over him to prepare to burn. But at the last minute the Lord brought forth a ram from the bushes for the sacrifice. Many do not understand why God would do all this or why Abraham would go along with it. But remember that God sacrificed His own son for our benefit, and Heb. 11:17, 19 indicate that Abraham might have believed God would raise Isaac from the dead even if he sacrificed him. In any case, Abraham did what God asked.

At 100 years old it must have been hard for Abraham to believe he would still have a son and that all his descendants would create the nations of the world. But all he had to do was believe the one thing that God told him: he would have a son. That was his part in the grand plan at that time. Remember he doubted God's plan at one point and had a child Ishmael with his wife's servant girl because he worried about having an heir. He should have trusted that God would deliver as He always keeps His promises.

THE LAW OF OPPOSITES (NONCONTRADICTION - CAN'T GO AGAINST)

Remember that last week we discussed how we know there is actually truth in the world. Truth is what corresponds to the facts; to reality. We discover truth by examination of the evidence. To deny truth is to confirm it. When you say there is no truth you make a self-defeating statement and confirm there is such a thing as truth.

The reason we need to understand truth is because we could go through an all-day discussion of the evidence that shows Christianity is true but someone else might say, "Well it may be true for you, but Islam is true for me."

The next part of truth is to understand that anything that teaches the opposite must be false. This is a universal law of logic that applies to everyone at all times. It is not just some Christian idea. It goes back to the 4th century BC and was developed by Aristotle. This is a critical part of thinking because without it we cannot function in our lives. But many people ignore it for their own purposes.

The law of opposites (noncontradiction) says that two things that teach opposites cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense or way. Let me explain this further and why it is important for Christians.

Many people have this idea that all religions could be true and that Christians are narrow-minded and insensitive and intolerant to think that we have the only truth about religion. They try to shame us to get us to agree that other religions might be true. Would it be important to know if other religions could be true? Of course, otherwise how do you know you believe in the right one?

Remember the simple example I used to show the law of opposites? Let's review:

- I.e. Ben in/out of room
 - » I was looking at him at the time and he was all in the room
 - » I didn't say part of Ben was in the room and part out
 - » By definition, Ben means all of Ben
- But points out a piece of today's lesson - law of opposites/noncontradiction
 - » Contradict means go against
 - » Noncontradiction means cannot go against
- Law stated - two things that teach opposites cannot both be true at the

same time and in the same sense

- » I.e. hot today but cold tomorrow, not hot and cold at same time
- » She looks hot today – hot temperature, hot in her looks – different sense
- Can something be up and down at the same time and in the same way? –no
- Can you get an A on the test but not get an A on the test? no
 - » Let's say you cheated and got caught – that's not in the same sense
- Can something be dead and alive at the same time? – no
- Can you be on the airplane and not on the airplane? – no
 - » Let's say you are standing on a model plane but not in an airplane
 - o Again that is in a different sense
- Can God be good and evil? – no
- If Christianity is true, can other religions be true? – no

Here's why it is important to us as Christians:

- What about religions – can they all be true? No
 - » Could all be false – logically possible because they can be either true or false but not both
 - » Cannot all be true because they contradict each other
 - o I.e. key belief of Christianity – Jesus is God
 - » No other religion believes that
 - o Islam – Jesus is not god, didn't die on the cross, wasn't resurrected
 - o Judaism – Jesus is not Messiah/God
 - o Hinduism – universe is god, so Jesus is not God
 - » So if we determine that Christianity is true through examination of the evidence, then anything that teaches the opposite is false
 - o Therefore all other religions are false
 - » How do we decide if Christianity is true? – examine the evidence

Law of noncontradiction – law of opposites

- 2 things that teach opposites cannot both be true at same time and same sense

JOSEPH SOLD

Scripture verses	Gen 37
High level key topic	When you think you are alone, you can trust that God is with you

SCRIPTURAL LESSON NARRATIVE

This month we focus on trust. Trust is when you put your belief in someone you can depend upon. Often times in life we cannot explain or understand why things happen in our lives. It is confusing and we usually want to try to take control of all the circumstances ourselves. Yes, we should do what we can but first we should pray and ask God to guide us. Then He will guide our steps. When things are all wrong, problems and suffering happen. Instead of trying to understand why these things would happen and what to do about it, pray and turn it over to God. Say, "Lord, I don't know why this has to be, but I trust you and will continue to have faith that you will do what is best. Guide me to do what you want of me." Then don't worry about it anymore and focus on the next thing you think you need to do. Leave the rest to God.

Our scripture is about the story of Joseph because he is one of the best examples of trust in the Bible. It explains how the Israelites ended up as slaves in Egypt eventually. Today we will just look at the beginning of the story. Remember last week we had the lesson about Abraham and his son Isaac, how God asked him to sacrifice him as a test of faith, but then stopped him before it happened. And God promised Abraham, then Isaac, that all their descendants would form all nations of the earth. Isaac grew up to have two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob was the favored son. When Jacob grew very old he had his last son Joseph. Sometimes when a parent has a child in old age, they favor them and spoil them. That was what Abraham did with Isaac and now it happens with Jacob and his son Joseph.

Joseph is made responsible, even though the youngest brother, to track and report on his brothers' activities tending the flocks for his father. This makes the other brothers jealous. Jacob gives a special coat of many colors to Joseph and again the brothers are jealous. Then Joseph has a dream and tells his brothers that one day they will all bow down to him and he will rule over them. This angers them and they begin to plot against him.

One day as Joseph travels to find his brothers tending flock and report about their activities they see him coming and plot to kill him. They throw him in a pit and plan to leave him there. The oldest brother Reuben tries to save him but the other brothers win out. But because he is their brother, they change their mind and sell him to a trading caravan that comes by on the way to Egypt and receive 20 pieces of silver. The caravan then sells him to Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Joseph never loses his faith in God through this ordeal and trusts that God has a plan for him.

BIBLE BOWL CONTEST

100 pts each for first answer; 50 points for second team answer if first team is wrong

1. Is the universe eternal or did it have a beginning?

It had a beginning

2. A word we use to call the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together?

Trinity

3. Adam and Eve lived over 900 years old. True or False?

True

4. After the flood, God changed people's average life span to how many years?

120 years

5. He was over 9 feet tall.

Goliath

6. He wrote most of the Psalms.

King David

7. He wrote most of the Proverbs.

King Solomon

8. He led the Israelites out of the wilderness over a period of 40 years.

Moses

9. He was in the burning furnace along with Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego.

Jesus

10. Spell one of the above correctly.

see above

11. Describe apologetics or give a definition defense, defending Christianity

12. What is a prophecy prediction, message from God

13. The famous characters of the Bible are role models for Christians. True or False?

False

14. Which famous character of the Bible is a role model for Christians?

Jesus

TOP TOUGH QUESTIONS

The following are typical questions you may encounter and should be prepared to answer. In case some of the curriculum lessons do not cover a few of these or go too deep, I have provided some short answers or suggestions to review. This material can be used to fill in gaps when scriptural or apologetics lessons are not available or to mix up the format with something a little different. Mix a few of these in here and there as regular discussion items.

1. Were there dinosaurs when Adam and Eve lived?

- *No, dinosaurs went extinct 66 million years before humans were created. This occurred in the earlier part of day six in Genesis. (be prepared to address young earth/old earth at some point and explain that the Bible actually supports an old earth or a young earth whichever is found to be true ultimately)*

2. Where did all the people come from if only Cain and Abel were the children?

- *Actually the Bible mentions a third son Seth and says that Adam and Eve had other children. It is a sensitive fact to discuss that until after the flood, God allowed marriage between cousins, nieces, nephews, etc. After about 48 generations God laid down a new law prohibiting such. This corresponds with our science today that shows birth defects can occur after about 48 generations. God already knew that.*

3. How did they get all the animals on the ark?

- *If you read Genesis carefully, it talks about certain 'kinds' that entered the ark. So insects and fish and other related species like of the cat family for example were not necessary to be boarded. The ark in its recorded measurements was large enough to hold about 16,000 to 50,000 animals but perhaps only about 2,000 were needed (equivalent space of 569 railroad cars).*

4. Did people really live to 900 years old?

- *Yes, Methuselah was the oldest and lived to 969 years old. Adam and Eve both lived to about 920 years old. This is best answered by a supernovae explosion called Vela that occurred after the flood and sent destructive cosmic radiation pouring onto earth and eventually limited human life spans. More specifically, Gen. 6:3 explains that after the flood sometime, God limited human life spans to 120 years so we could not do so much evil. Genetic mutations may also play a major role over the millennia.*

APOLOGETICS FOR TWEENS

5TH GRADE LESSON CURRICULUM

THOMAS J. GRIFFIN

June 2017



ATHANATOS
PUBLISHING GROUP
www.athanatos.org

© 2017 Thomas J. Griffin. All rights reserved. Also, scriptural references and high level messages from LifeWay Bible Resources and reThink Group: adapted by Thomas J. Griffin at First Baptist Church, Peachtree City, GA 30269.

APOLOGETICS FOR TWEENS

5TH GRADE LESSON CURRICULUM
THOMAS J. GRIFFIN



Resurgens

www.resurgensconsulting.com

ISBN 978-1-947844-02-5



ATHANATOS
PUBLISHING GROUP

www.athanatos.org