

A SURE FOUNDATION

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Essential Bible Truths for Children

Michael J. McHugh

Great Light Publications
Palatine, Illinois

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Preface

The primary goal of *A Sure Foundation*, is to enable young students to obtain a solid understanding of and appreciation for the essential teachings of the Holy Scriptures. For this reason, the entire focus of the study material contained in this book is centered upon the teachings of the Bible, rather than the opinions of men. Young people within the Christian community, more than ever before, need to be equipped with the whole armor of God's Word so they can stand firm in the faith.

Each unit in this Bible study text contains multiple readings directly from the Word of God that speak to the topic or theme that is being presented. The topic for each unit is driven by a series of questions and answers that are taken largely from the *Catechism for Young Children*. Key vocabulary terms are also highlighted in each unit, along with helpful comprehension exercises, memory work, and activities. The activities are designed to re-enforce the particular biblical truth that is being considered within a given unit, without being overly complicated or time consuming.

The material in *A Sure Foundation* was written for children ages seven to eight. In most cases, however, students at this age level will be incapable of completing their Bible study lessons and activities on an independent basis. Instructors, therefore, must plan on personally guiding their students through the material that is contained in each unit. The guidance of instructors will be particularly needful when it comes to many of the hands-on projects or activities that students are expected to complete, as well as the catechism drill and vocabulary terms.

The hours that are invested in nurturing young minds with the truth of Scripture are well spent. It should be stressed, however, that it is critical for instructors to regularly pray that God the Holy Spirit would be pleased to bless and save each young person who is exposed to biblical truth. It is the duty of parents and educators to plant and water the good seed of the Gospel of Christ in the hearts of children, but only God can make such human effort fruitful.

May the only wise God use this Bible study text to bless the lives of children who are exposed to it, and in the process, build and strengthen His church.

—Michael J. McHugh

How To Use This Book

A Sure Foundation contains a total of sixty-three units. Each unit has five separate lessons that begin with at least one catechism question and answer. Educators within a homeschool or traditional Christian school will often plan to complete this book over a period of three semesters, or in basically one and a half years. Teachers from this background will commonly complete one unit each week during the school year.

When this text is utilized by teachers within a Sunday school setting, it may be more appropriate to have students complete lessons one and two from a given unit on one Lord's Day, and then finish lessons three to five from that unit the next. These suggestions, of course, are subject to change or modification based upon the individual needs of both students as well as schools. In the end, instructors must develop a schedule that works well for their particular teaching situation.

Each unit opens with catechism drill that students should be encouraged to memorize. Have students read this material out loud several times, and help them to know how to correctly pronounce words that are unfamiliar to them. It may also be helpful for instructors to continue to drill their students over the catechism material all through the school week to ensure progress.

The second lesson in each unit always contains reading selections from the Scripture that are designed to promote the theme of the catechism question(s). Teachers should encourage their students to look up and read each Bible passage for themselves aloud. At the same time, teachers must be ready to help their student(s) read through and comprehend any portion of the Scripture readings that prove to be too difficult for them to navigate. Lesson two in each unit also contains a short list of key vocabulary terms that students should be encouraged to carefully note and memorize.

The third lesson in each unit presents a Bible story that can either be read in whole or in part by the student. Instructors must be sure to discuss the significance of the story with their student(s), particularly as it relates to the topic or theme of the unit.

Students should also be encouraged to talk about how the Bible story relates to the topic, or perhaps how it relates to something that is taking place in their life.

The fourth lesson in each unit, contains a rather simple series of written exercises that are designed to re-enforce many of the key points that have previously been presented. Students should only require a few minutes to complete this comprehension exercise.

The fifth and final lesson in each unit, contains a special activity of some kind that helps to support the main theme of the unit. These activities vary in their scope and focus, yet many of them require educators to obtain household items of some kind where there are hands-on projects. For this reason, it is important for instructors to note exactly what special items they will need to have on hand well before the activity lesson begins. It will often take a day or two for teachers to pull together what they need in order to be prepared to help their student(s) complete their assigned activity.

It is worth stressing that not all young children have the same level of ability when it comes to memorization, or in regard to the completion of projects. For this reason, teachers must be ready and willing to accept the fact that some of their students may not be able to successfully complete every memory drill or activity that they confront in their lessons. In these cases, it is important for teachers to simply encourage their students to do the best that they can with each lesson or activity. Never forget that most children need to have the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith presented to them multiple times before such truths finally begin to be fully understood.

Unit 22—We Fell in Adam

Catechism Drill Lesson 1

35. Question: Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of works?

Answer: No. He represented all of his descendants.

36. Question: What did Adam’s sin do to his descendants?

Answer: Everyone is born in a state of sin and guilt.

Catechism Drill was memorized on _____ (date)

Scripture Reading Lesson 2

Read Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 with your teacher. When our lesson says that Adam “represented” mankind in the garden of Eden, it means that he acted on behalf of everyone who would be born after him. Adam was given the authority to represent the human race as its head, in much the same way as a king represents the people who are under him. Just as the actions of a king, be they foolish or wise, affect everyone living under him, so the actions of Adam fell upon all of mankind.

All people are descendants of Adam and Eve, and are born with the sinful nature that they inherited from Adam. For this reason, all of mankind shares in the guilt and penalty of sin which is death. No person who has been born with the stain of original sin needs to learn how to sin or feel guilty. This is the reason why all

human beings find it easy to sin and hard to obey. All people are born spiritually blind and in bondage to their sinful nature. Only the grace of God which draws sinners to the Savior Jesus Christ, can set people free from the curse of sin.

Words you need to know.

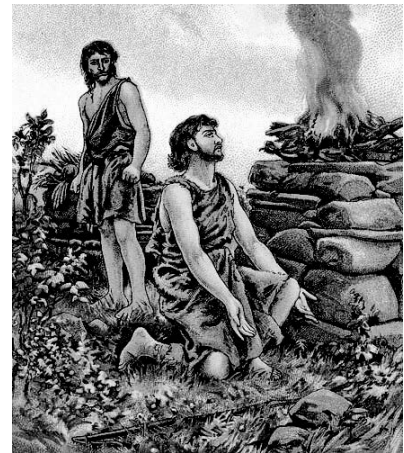
- Descendants** The people who come after or from a particular set of parents
- Guilty** To be convicted of a sin or crime, or to feel worthy of punishment because of some unrighteous behavior
- Represented** When a person acts on behalf of others or takes the place of others
- Affect** The results that come to a person or thing because of an action taken by themselves or others

Bible Story

Lesson 3

Open the Bible and read chapters four and five in the book of Genesis. This portion of Scripture explains how God used Adam and Eve, even after the fall, to bring children into the world so the human race could grow.

The merciful Creator blessed Eve so that she would be able to have many children. The first family, Adam and Eve, had many children to follow them as their descendants. It is important to note, however, that each child that came from Adam and Eve had a sinful nature.



The boy named Cain that is mentioned in Genesis chapter 4, clearly demonstrates his sinful nature as he murmurs against God and murders his own brother. It did

not take long for the affects of sin in the hearts of men to show up in the form of sinful actions. It also should be noted how the penalty of sin eventually destroyed Adam himself, for the Bible declares in Genesis 5:5 that he died. This is just what God promised would happen if Adam disobeyed.

Written Exercise

Lesson 4

Complete the sentences using the words below.

guilty

Cain

represented

Adam

1. Adam _____ all of his descendants in the garden.
2. The sin of Adam made all people _____ and sinful.
3. After 930 years, _____ died.
4. Wicked _____ killed his brother Abel.

Activity

Lesson 5

To help you understand how the actions of a person who represents others can affect those who are under their leadership, make an effort to speak with your father or grandfather. The Word of God teaches that a father is to lead his family, and to act as its representative head. The decisions that a father makes each day have a direct effect upon everyone in the home that is under his care and leadership. If possible, ask your father or grandfather what it is like to be a leader over others, and to be responsible for how your actions affect each family member. Close this lesson by reading Ephesians 5:22 through Ephesians 6:4.

Unit 23—How Bad Is Sin?

Catechism Drill Lesson 1

37. Question: How sinful are you by nature?

Answer: I inherit original sin and am corrupt in every part of my being.

Catechism Drill was memorized on _____ (date)

Scripture Reading Lesson 2

Read Psalm 51:1-5 and 1 John 1:5-10 with your teacher. These Scripture passages teach readers that everyone is born with a completely corrupt nature. The fall of the human race was so complete, that people are unable to keep from living a sinful life. Every part of man was affected when our covenant head, Adam, chose to sin. Since the fall, all people lack the will and ability to be able to live a life that is consistently righteous.

It should be understood, however, that God has not permitted fallen men to be as bad as they can be. Almighty God is constantly at work in the hearts of men to keep them from acting upon all of their sinful desires. Although every part of man has been corrupted by the fall, only Satan himself is totally evil all of the time. We can be grateful that the Lord is at work to keep people from being as bad as they would often like to be.

Words you need to know.

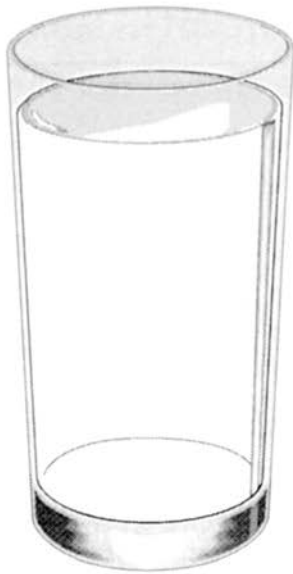
- Nature** The character and essential quality of a person or thing
- Corrupt** Ruined or damaged in whole or in part
- Being** The whole of a person in body and spirit
- Consistently** Something that is said or done in the same manner over a long period of time

Bible Story

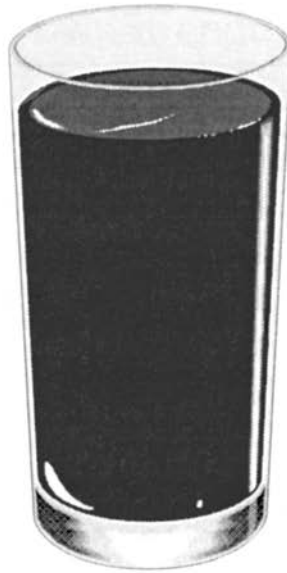
Lesson 3

Open your Bible and read the story of Korah's wicked rebellion against Moses from Numbers chapter sixteen. This story gives readers a true example of how God acts in the world to restrain wicked people from doing whatever they want. Moses was very grateful that the Lord chose to stop the wicked rebels who were seeking to cause trouble for the people of Israel.

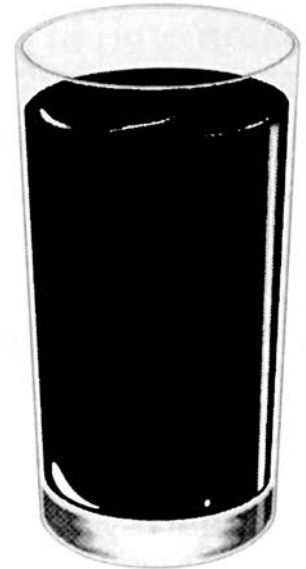
Whenever we ask God for anything, we must always be quick to say that we only want it if our request is pleasing to Him. It is sometimes true that even Christians ask for things that are not in agreement with God's will. For this reason, when we pray we must ask that God's will be done, because only the Lord always knows what is best. As fallen sinners, we can never trust our own wisdom. God alone can be trusted to guide our life in a proper direction.



**PURE AND
SINLESS**



**CORRUPTED
BY SIN IN
EVERY PART**



**EVIL AS
CAN BE**

part and made it unfit for its original use. The third glass is like Satan, for he is as dark and bad as he can be all of the time.

Although sinners are not as evil as Satan, yet, they still need to recognize their need for a Savior. Only the blood of Christ can wash away the guilt and darkness of sin, and make one pure and holy in the sight of God.