

God Is Love Bible Curriculum User Guide

The Bible lessons in this set were prepared with the goal of presenting a more accurate view of the character of God than is generally available in most “Christian” schools. These lessons take the “Design Law” view of God's character of love.

This set of seventy-two lessons is intended to be one year's worth of a two-year series. As of this writing the author has yet to begin work on the second year, but the first year is complete. Since it took less than a year to produce the first seventy-two lessons, it is hoped that the second year's set will be ready before another school year begins.

What you have is only the text lessons. There are no additional learning activities beyond the “Possible Thought Papers” items at the end of each lesson. Users will need to supplement these lessons with appropriate learning activities.

We strongly suggest that the curriculum also be linked with a “Bible Labs” element. If you are not familiar with this, Bible Labs are opportunities for students to perform acts of service in the local community. We strongly believe that selfless service to others is the best character development activity available to the human race.

As we will establish in the first unit, character development is the real work of salvation; that which will prepare the student for eternal life. These lessons have been designed to lead students to see what characteristics make up a truly Christlike character. Practice in service helps to develop those characteristics, something “book” learning can never do.

Another possible supplemental activity would be to have students read the Bible through in a sort of Bible year. It might be possible to develop a list that would take two years to complete, making a complete reading of the Bible correspond with the two-year intended run of these lessons.

We make the point in these lessons that students shouldn't take our word for what the Bible says, so they need to have ways to learn what the Bible says for themselves so they can form their own opinions about whether these lessons are accurate.

These lessons are intended to be non-denominational. They do take positions on doctrinal issues that run contrary to the teachings of many major denominations. But we have avoided suggesting that any one denomination is better than another, choosing rather to examine doctrines based on the evidence of the scriptures themselves.

Each lesson includes a “memory” verse. Do not think that students have to memorize them all. We do believe that Bible memorization is useful, but it should not be made a burden. The “memory” verse is intended in part to give attention to a Bible text that expresses an important concept from the lesson. An attempt has been made to select verses reflective of the Bible's overall message.

The Bible version used in these lessons is the New International Version. Do not take this as an endorsement of this particular translation. It has its faults, some of which are pointed out in these lessons. But the author has found this version useful and believes the language far more accessible to average readers.

These lessons are new and have not yet been tested, so if you find them useful, please provide feedback to the author.

Sincerely,

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