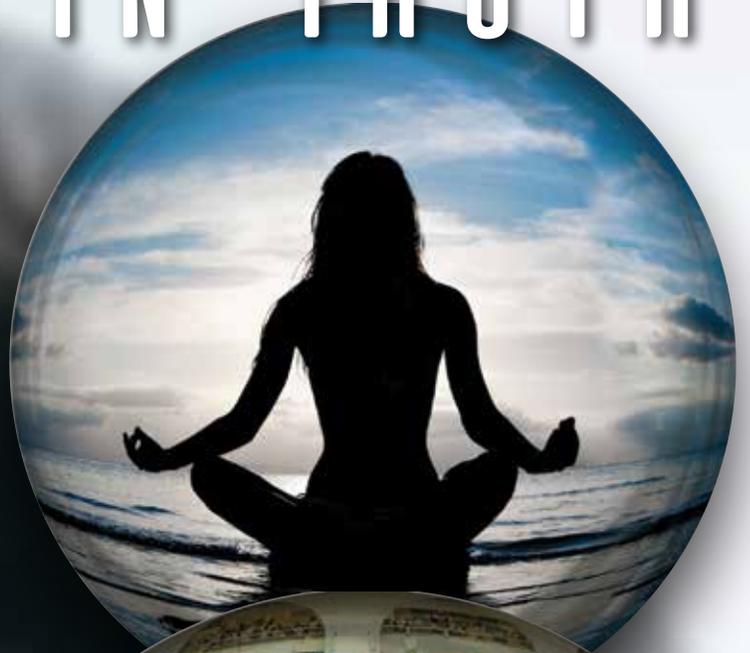


# WALKING IN TRUTH™



## SAMPLER

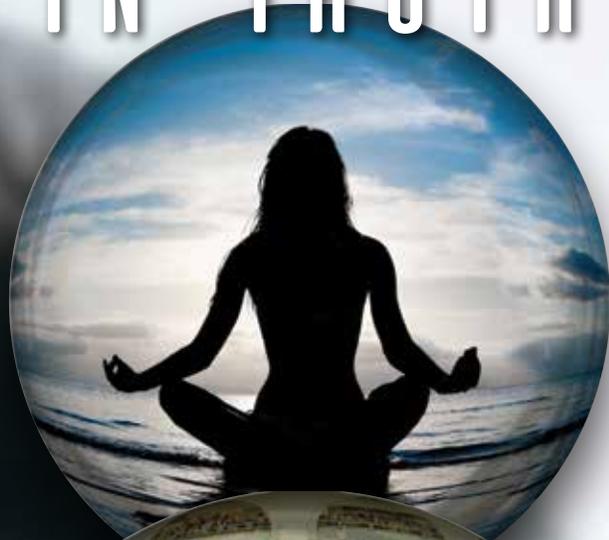
LESSONS 8 AND 14

TEACHER MANUAL | STUDENT WORKBOOK | STUDENT TEXT

Competing  
Worldviews 7



# WALKING IN TRUTH™



## Competing Worldviews

TEACHER MANUAL

7

*Samples reduced; not actual size*

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### Walking in Truth Table of Contents—Teacher’s Manual

Foreword .....	vii
Introduction .....	viii
Summit’s Faith and Convictions .....	ix
Scope and Sequence.....	x
Using Walking in Truth.....	xi

#### Worldview Section

<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Christianity.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Lesson 1	The House of Truth .....	3
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	4
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	6
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	8
Day 4	Topic 4 .....	9
Day 5	Topic 5 .....	11
Day 6	Test .....	13
Lesson 2	The Biblical Christian Worldview .....	19
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	20
Day 2	Topic 2, Part 1 .....	22
Day 3	Topic 2, Part 2 .....	23
Day 4	Topic 3, Parts 1–2 .....	25
Day 5	Topic 3, Parts 3–4.....	26
Day 6	Topic 4 .....	28
Day 7	Topic 5 .....	30
Day 8	Test .....	31
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Islam.....</b>	<b>37</b>
Lesson 3	History of Islam .....	39
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	40
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	43
Day 3	Topics 3 and 4.....	45
Day 4	Test .....	48
Lesson 4	The Islamic View of Truth.....	51
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	52
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	55
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	58
Day 4	Topic 4 .....	59
Day 5	Topic 5 .....	62
Day 6	Test .....	63
Lesson 5	The Islamic View of God .....	67
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	68
Day 2	Topic 2.....	70
Day 3	Topic 3, Part 1.....	71
Day 4	Topic 3, Part 2.....	73
Day 5	Topic 4.....	75
Day 6	Topic 5.....	76
Day 7	Test.....	78

Lesson 6	The Islamic View of People and the Universe .....	83
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	84
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	87
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	89
Day 4	Topic 4.....	91
Day 5	Topic 5.....	94
Day 6	Test .....	96
Lesson 7	The Islamic View of Moral Laws and Values.....	101
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	102
Day 2	Topic 2.....	104
Day 3	Topic 3, Part 1.....	106
Day 4	Topic 3, Part 2.....	108
Day 5	Topic 3, Part 3.....	110
Day 6	Topic 4.....	112
Day 7	Topic 5.....	114
Day 8	Topic 6.....	115
Day 9	Test .....	117

<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Naturalism .....</b>	<b>123</b>
Lesson 8	The Naturalist View of God and Truth.....	125
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	126
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	128
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	130
Day 4	Topic 4.....	132
Day 5	Test .....	134

Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	138
Day 2	Topic 2, Part 1 .....	140
Day 3	Topic 2, Part 2 .....	142
Day 4	Topic 3.....	144
Day 5	Topics 4 and 5, Part 1 .....	145
Day 6	Topic 5, Part 2.....	148
Day 7	Test .....	150

Lesson 10	The Naturalist View of Moral Laws and Values.....	155
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	156
Day 2	Topic 2.....	158
Day 3	Topic 3.....	160
Day 4	Test .....	162

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>New Spirituality .....</b>	<b>165</b>			
<b>Lesson 11</b>	<b>The New Spirituality View of God and Truth.....</b>	<b>167</b>			
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	168	Day 3	Topic 3 .....	241
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	170	Day 4	Topic 4 .....	242
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	172	Day 5	Topic 5 .....	244
Day 5	Test .....	173	Day 6	Test .....	244
<b>Lesson 12</b>	<b>The New Spirituality View of People and the Universe .....</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>Lesson 18</b>	<b>Divisions in the Church.....</b>	<b>249</b>
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	178	Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	250
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	180	Day 2	Topic 2 .....	252
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	183	Day 3	Topic 3 .....	254
Day 4	Topic 4 .....	185	Day 4	Topic 4 .....	255
Day 5	Test .....	187	Day 5	Topic 5 .....	257
<b>Lesson 13</b>	<b>The New Spirituality View of Moral Laws and Values.....</b>	<b>191</b>	Day 6	Test .....	258
Day 1	Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2.....	192	<b>Lesson 19</b>	<b>Stumbling Blocks .....</b>	<b>263</b>
Day 2	Topics 3 and 4.....	194	Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	264
Day 3	Test .....	197	Day 2	Topic 2 .....	266
<b>Lesson 14</b>	<b>Sin and the Need for Salvation .....</b>	<b>201</b>	Day 3	Topic 3 .....	267
Day 1	Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2.....	202	Day 4	Topic 4 .....	268
Day 2	Topic 3 .....	204	Day 5	Test .....	269
Day 3	Topic 4 .....	206	<b>Lesson 20</b>	<b>Worship and Spiritual Gifts .....</b>	<b>273</b>
Day 4	Topic 5 .....	207	Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	274
Day 5	Topic 6 .....	208	Day 2	Topic 2 .....	276
Day 6	Test .....	210	Day 3	Topic 3 .....	277
Day 6	Test .....	210	Day 4	Topic 4 .....	279
<b>Lesson 15</b>	<b>Faith and the Way of Salvation .....</b>	<b>215</b>	Day 5	Topic 5 .....	280
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	216	Day 6	Test .....	282
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	218	<b>Lesson 21</b>	<b>The Truth of the Resurrection.....</b>	<b>287</b>
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	219	Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	288
Day 4	Test .....	220	Day 2	Topic 2 .....	290
<b>Lesson 16</b>	<b>Freedom in Christ .....</b>	<b>223</b>	Day 3	Topic 3 .....	291
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	224	Day 4	Case for the Resurrection, Part 1 .....	292
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	225	Day 5	Case for the Resurrection, Part 2 .....	293
Day 3	Topic 3 .....	227	Day 6	Topic 4 .....	293
Day 4	Topic 4, Part 1 .....	228	Day 7	Test .....	295
Day 5	Topic 4, Part 2 .....	230	<b>Lesson 22</b>	<b>The Nature of Ministry .....</b>	<b>299</b>
Day 6	Topic 4, Parts 3 and 4 .....	231	Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	300
Day 7	Test .....	232	Day 2	Topic 2 .....	302
<b>Lesson 17</b>	<b>Life in Christ.....</b>	<b>237</b>	Day 3	Topic 3 .....	304
Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	238	Day 4	Test .....	305
Day 2	Topic 2 .....	240	<b>Lesson 23</b>	<b>The Sacrifice of Ministry .....</b>	<b>309</b>
			Day 1	Getting Started and Topic 1 .....	310
			Day 2	Topic 2 .....	312
			Day 3	Topic 3 .....	314
			Day 4	Topic 4 .....	315
			Day 5	Topic 5 .....	316
			Day 6	Test .....	317

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Lesson 24 Giving and Exhortation.....	321
Day 1 Getting Started and Topic 1.....	322
Day 2 Topic 2.....	324
Day 3 Topic 3.....	325
Day 4 Topic 4.....	327
Day 5 Test.....	328
Index .....	331

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### Introduction

Children's beliefs and values develop early in life, and students bring these into the classroom. Foundational beliefs and values influence how students interpret the world and guide their actions. Walking in Truth is a unique curriculum designed to help students in sixth through eighth grades build foundational beliefs and values from a biblical perspective. In an age of competing worldviews, this curriculum will help middle school students formulate a biblical perspective of the world and then live accordingly. Walking in Truth incorporates worldview and Bible survey curricula in a way that cohesively presents and affirms the biblical Christian worldview within the historic truths of creation, the fall, and redemption. It also addresses three worldviews that compete with Christianity—Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality—so students may engage in evaluative and comparative studies of biblical and unbiblical worldviews.

Christian schools have a unique opportunity to model educational excellence, preparing students to enter society with a distinctly biblical worldview in which they integrate their faith with their academic knowledge. From this integrated approach to education, students are enabled to not only remain firm in their Christian faith, but are also encouraged to make valuable contributions to society.

#### Summit Ministries

Established in 1962, Summit Ministries exists to train future Christian leaders to understand our times, faith, and culture and to know what it means to think and act like a Christian in every area of life. Summit Ministries is committed to developing curricula that will help students articulate and apply the biblical worldview. Key strategies in this battle for the mind are Building on the Rock (for elementary students); Walking in Truth (for middle-school students); and *Understanding the Times*, *Understanding the Faith*, and *Understanding the Culture* (for high school students and adults). The latter three texts examine 10 academic disciplines within a framework of six worldviews, including Marxism, secularism, postmodernism, new spirituality, Islam, and Christianity.

#### Design of Walking in Truth

The design and goals for Walking in Truth are based on the premise that no worldview curriculum can, or should, provide an exact model for Christian thinking and action. Rather, a worldview curriculum must present a framework of biblical truth and values, encourage students to reflect upon it, and provide opportunities for students to apply what they have learned. Ultimately, it is up to students to individually embrace biblical truth and to act upon it as they are enabled by the Holy Spirit. Within these parameters, the goal of Walking in Truth is to help students develop a cohesive Christian worldview through which they can interpret the world around them and respond to it biblically in both their thoughts and actions. It prepares students to answer the big questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong. Walking in Truth also equips students to identify the inherent contradictions and false ideas of unbiblical worldviews.

A common concern among many Christian school teachers is that after years of religious education, students neither understand the relationships between the Bible facts they have memorized, nor link those facts with a clearly defined worldview. Bible stories, such as Noah and the Ark, David and Goliath, and Daniel in the Lions' Den, remain unrelated to the real-life issues students face. This situation creates a disjointed perspective, reinforcing a sacred-versus-secular dichotomy of thought. Walking in Truth is a correlated worldview and Bible survey course that examines the major themes and truths of Christianity within the framework of the Bible. The worldview component of the curriculum is designed to be taught during the first part of the school year, which is then followed by the Bible survey. The biblical truths and character traits presented in the Building on the Rock K–5 series are reviewed in the worldview section of Walking in Truth Grade 6 and are woven into the Bible survey sections of the Grade 6–8 curriculum.

From its founding in 1962, Summit Ministries has focused on applying Christianity's essential doctrines to guide students to understand the times and know what our society ought to do.<sup>1</sup> Summit's board of directors, employees, and volunteers seek to clearly state our faith as well as the convictions that flow from it.

#### Statement of Faith

As a Statement of Faith, **Summit** agrees with and holds to the Apostles' Creed, an ancient profession affirmed by Jesus-followers for more than 1,500 years:

[We] **believe** in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

[We] **believe** in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

[We] **believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic [universal] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

## Summit's Faith and Convictions

### Statement of Convictions

As an outworking of this Statement of Faith, Summit agrees with and holds to certain convictions describing what we know to be true about the world:

**God.** *God, existing eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the source of all truth and he expresses his nature relationally.*<sup>ii</sup> God has revealed himself both in nature and through the Bible, the only inerrant, inspired, authoritative word of God.<sup>iii</sup> This has implications for the institutions of church, family, commerce and government.<sup>iv</sup>

**Humanity.** *All human beings bear God's image and are thus inherently valuable—beginning at conception—whether or not society regards them as healthy, productive, or useful.* As God's image-bearers, men and women of all races and nationalities have the capacity and the calling to steward creation, create economic and social value, pursue justice, stand against evil, and act in a transforming way in culture.<sup>vi</sup>

**Salvation.** *Through sin humanity has departed from God's way, but through our Lord Jesus Christ God has made a way for us to be reconciled to him, to be transformed to understand and do his will, and to be ambassadors of his gospel.*<sup>vii</sup> Further, God has instituted the church as a vital means by which his gospel would be proclaimed and practiced.

**Society.** *Citizens of the kingdom of heaven will always be the best citizens of the kingdom of man, because obeying God above all earthly powers is what best secures the blessings of liberty.* Government is God-ordained to punish evil and protect the good. When it oversteps its bounds by failing to recognize the value of each person, or by constraining conscience, or by calling good what God calls evil and calling evil what God calls good, we must call it to account.<sup>viii</sup>

**Marriage.** *God made human beings male and female, equal in value but complementary in their relationship to one another (Genesis 1:26-27). Gender is not a mere social construction, but part of a loving Creator's design that is lived out in singlehood as well as in marriage, which we believe to have been created by God and intended for one man and one woman, for life (Genesis 2:18-25).*<sup>ix</sup> Man/woman marriage is the only proper place for intimate sexual relationship, and it is the proper place in which to welcome children—by birth or adoption—as a blessing from God.<sup>x</sup> As valuable as marriage is, though, we believe that only God can ultimately meet our need for intimacy, and that our identity is properly placed in Christ rather than in our marital status or our assessment of our feelings of sexual attraction.<sup>xi</sup>

**Stewardship.** *Human beings were given charge over God's creation, and we take seriously our calling to care for it.*<sup>xii</sup> We are called to bear God's image through creativity and industriousness.<sup>xiii</sup> We support the principles of free exchange, respect for private property, and honesty as being means by which we best care for our planet, serve one another, and alleviate poverty and its effects.<sup>xiv</sup>

We see these convictions as based on justified true beliefs describing the world as it actually is, not on mere opinion or upbringing. Thus, out of gratitude and commitment to our Lord, we will believe them, act upon them, and seek to persuade others.<sup>xv</sup>

The following endnotes reference various chapters from the Understanding the Times book series to further illustrate and explain our convictions.

<sup>i</sup>Understanding the Times, chapters 1 and 2.

<sup>ii</sup>Understanding the Faith, chapter 4.

<sup>iii</sup>Understanding the Faith, chapter 3.

<sup>iv</sup>Understanding the Times, chapter 15, and Understanding the Culture, chapter 12.

<sup>v</sup>Understanding the Faith, chapters 5, 8, and 9, and Understanding the Culture, chapter 8.

<sup>vi</sup>Understanding the Culture, chapters 15 and 16.

<sup>vii</sup>Understanding the Faith, chapters 6 and 17.

<sup>viii</sup>Understanding the Culture, chapter 13.

<sup>ix</sup>Understanding the Culture, chapter 10.

<sup>x</sup>Understanding the Times, chapter 13, and Understanding the Culture, chapter 10.

<sup>xi</sup>Understanding the Culture, chapter 9.

<sup>xii</sup>Understanding the Culture, chapter 11.

<sup>xiii</sup>Understanding the Times, chapter 16, and Understanding the Culture, chapters 14.

<sup>xiv</sup>Understanding the Times, chapter 16, and Understanding the Culture, chapters 17.

<sup>xv</sup>Understanding the Culture, chapter 1.

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### Scope and Sequence

Walking in Truth is built on the strong foundation of the worldview component from Summit’s elementary Bible series, Building on the Rock. The Walking in Truth series explores the big worldview questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong. Students will first seek the answers to these questions through a biblical perspective. Then they will evaluate and critique how three competing worldviews—Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality—interpret these questions in relation to the Christian worldview. The Walking in Truth series culminates with a comprehensive Christian approach toward the disciplines of theology, philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, and biology. Students will be able to apply biblical principles to all aspects of their lives as they learn what it means to think, make decisions, and act in ways that glorify God and align to his Word.

	<b>Grade 6 The Christian Worldview</b>	<b>Grade 7 Competing Worldviews</b>	<b>Grade 8 Christianity in Action</b>
<b>Worldview Focus</b>	Christian answers to worldview questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong	Evaluation, analysis, and critique of Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality in comparison with Christianity	Cultural engagement and life application of the Christian worldview within the disciplines of theology, philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, biology, and history
<b>Bible Survey Themes</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Acts of the Apostles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The birth, early growth, and persecution of the church</li> <li>• Peter takes the gospel to the Gentiles</li> <li>• The spread of the gospel to Judea and Samaria</li> <li>• The spread of the gospel to Syria, Greece, and Turkey</li> <li>• The spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth</li> <li>• Paul’s arrest, trial, and journey to Rome</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sin, faith, and salvation</li> <li>• Free from sin, alive in Christ</li> <li>• Moral issues in the church</li> <li>• Worship, the Lord’s Supper, and spiritual gifts</li> <li>• The certainty of the resurrection</li> <li>• God’s ambassadors</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Epistles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul’s counsel to the churches</li> <li>• Mentoring a young pastor</li> <li>• The superiority of Christ</li> <li>• Faith lived out</li> <li>• Humility and hope</li> <li>• Love, faith, and the last days</li> </ul>

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### Using Walking in Truth

#### Materials and Components

Walking in Truth is created to guide students to the understanding that there is no difference between the secular and sacred—all truth is God’s truth. Its unique cross-curricular design integrates multiple subjects including mathematics, science, social studies, ethics, psychology, sociology, theology, art, and language arts. This enables students to practice critical thinking and collaborative skills as well as to gain the understanding that knowledge is interdependent and connected rather than a set of individual, isolated subjects.

Each grade level of Walking in Truth includes a teacher manual, student textbook, full-color student workbook, and blackline masters and presentations slides. The House of Truth model that was constructed in *Building on the Rock* is not used in Walking in Truth. However, the 20 Biblical Truths and 20 character traits that make up the House of Truth are reviewed in Grade 6.

The Teacher Manual is divided into two sections—Worldview and Bible Survey. The number and length of the Worldview and Bible Survey lessons vary within each grade level, however, there is always a total of 136 daily lessons. This format accommodates those schools that hold weekly chapel services in lieu of Bible class. Enrichment activities are provided to enhance student learning, provide additional content, or extra lessons. The Worldview section builds on the foundational truths from Summit’s elementary series called *Building on the Rock*.

The Bible Survey section covers specific books of the New Testament with different themes each year. Both Worldview and Bible Survey sections are divided into units, each beginning with a unit divider page, followed by a lesson preparation page, which includes an overview of the lesson, a complete list of the supplemental materials required for the lesson, the lesson objectives, and a planning ahead sidebar, which lists the materials to be obtained in advance.

The subsequent pages for each lesson include sidebars for the memory verse, key terms, preparation, enrichments activities, and pertinent topic comments. Each lesson is divided into daily teaching, which can be identified by an orange rectangle with the number of each day (e.g. Day 1), and the student textbook and student workbook pages to be covered on that day. Each lesson begins with a section called *Getting Started*, followed by several Topics that flesh out the lesson content. Lesson backgrounds are provided for each topic, as well as instructional cues for the teacher and suggested discussion questions that you can choose from to create engaging dialogue. The last day of each lesson allows for reviewing the material and administering the student performance assessment. Student Workbook (SW) answers are shown on reduced-size images at the back of each main lesson in the Teacher Manual.

The Student Textbook (ST) is a hard-bound book which provides the course content for students. The Student Textbook can be read aloud in class or you can assign the reading the night before. Unless otherwise specified, all Scripture is taken from the New Living Translation® (NLT®) version.

The Student Workbook (SW) is a full-color work text with perforated pages designed for students to complete and turn in for assessment. Daily lessons have a corresponding two-page student workbook assignment. Students will often have to use their Student Textbook or read from their Bible to complete the exercises.

Blackline masters (BLMs) are available online (see the back cover of this manual for the web address, username, and password). These materials serve a variety of purposes; some have cooperative-learning activities and games, such as debates, plays, and a mock trial; while others are enriched student learning and assessment tools. Tests are provided at the end of each lesson. Presentation slides (PSs) are also available on the Summit website. Presentation slides are full-color visual aids used to enhance instruction and can be displayed using a computer, an overhead projector, or an LCD projector.

### How to Teach a Lesson

**1** The number 8 tells you that this is Lesson 8.

**2** The memory verse is shown on the first day of the lesson, but it may be introduced on a different day. You can use the Bible version approved by your school for the memory verse.

**3** Key terms are listed on the first day of the lesson, but may be introduced in later lessons.

**4** Preparation **P** identifies what you need in order to prepare for class. A **P** icon will be located by the Instruction section whenever preparation is needed.

**5** The orange horizontal bar tells you that it is Day 1 and you will be using Student Textbook pages 112–114 and Student Workbook pages 79–80.

8

**1** The Naturalist View of God and Truth

**5** Day 1

Student Text pp. 112–114 Student Workbook pp. 79–80

Getting Started—What Is Naturalism?

**6** *Lesson Background*

In contrast to theism and theistic worldviews that view God as the ultimate Reality and Creator of the physical cosmos, naturalism views the material universe as the only and, therefore, ultimate reality. God simply does not exist, or he might exist (agnosticism) but is irrelevant to the natural world and the issues of life. Because naturalists reject the concept that creation necessitates a Creator, they believe the matter that makes up the physical cosmos is eternal. It has always existed. It simply is and always has been, without a Creator.

Therefore, the foundation for a naturalistic worldview cannot be revelation from a higher authority or God. Only things that can be observed, touched, or proved to exist through the scientific method are real. Everything that happens within the material world is caused by forces or factors contained within the material world itself. There is no outside intervention. Admitting such a possibility would open the door to speculation about a Creator or an intelligent force, concepts that are rejected by people holding a naturalistic worldview.

**7** *Instruction* **P** **C**

**1** Read **BLM 8.1A Short Story**. Then cut the story into pieces with about three or four words on each piece while discussing the following questions with students.

**Discussion Questions**

- How long ago did this story take place?
- What caused the explosion?
- What happened to the matter?
- What was eventually formed?
- This story is actually a theory—what is the name of the theory? (the Big Bang)
- What are two significant problems with this theory? (It doesn't account for where the original matter came from. There is no logical way the exploded or expanded matter could just come together and organize itself into stars and other celestial bodies.)

After the story has been cut into pieces, invite a student to the front of the class. Hand the student all the pieces of paper with the words and have him or her toss them into the air in an effort to re-create the identical story. Correlate the activity with the irrational explanations posed by atheists for the origin of the universe and life (Big Bang theory, unicellular organisms evolving from non-living matter, and the evolution of species). Discuss the even greater improbability of such an event occurring if the letters of each word were cut apart and tossed into the air first to create the words and then the story.

However, it is important to note for students that the Big Bang theory does not disprove the existence of God. It's quite the opposite actually. The Big Bang theory seems to lead to the conclusion that the universe had a beginning and all beginnings have a cause. Therefore, if the universe is caused, there must be a first cause, or a Creator!

**6** The Lesson Background offers a summary of each section students will read in the Student Textbook.

**7** Instruction provides a systematic plan to present the lesson content. Discussion Questions are provided to create meaningful dialogue and assess students' understanding.

# Teacher Manual

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

- 2 Direct students to turn to the Unit 3 title page (ST page 111). Ask: Why might someone look at a picture like this and conclude we live in a world without God? Why do you think the word *naturalism* is used to identify the worldview that rejects the existence of a Creator God?
- 3 Read *Getting Started—What Is Naturalism?* (ST page 112). Emphasize the definition of *naturalism*.

### Discussion Questions

- What are the only kinds of things naturalists accept as true?
- Why do naturalists reject the supernatural?
- What source of truth do naturalists reject? Why?
- Do you think naturalists and biblical Christians share any of the same beliefs about the universe?
- What major differences do you think there are between a naturalist and biblical Christian?

### Topic 1—A Universe without God

#### Lesson Background

Naturalism unashamedly denies the existence of the supernatural, meaning anything outside of nature. This includes God, Satan, angels, demons, and the human soul. This foundational belief demands, therefore, that the cosmos be self-existing, not created or dependent on any spiritual being for its continuation. Naturalism is the worldview held by secular humanists, people who believe that humans are the highest of all beings and that truth and knowledge rest in science and human reason.

The Bible says that those who deny God's existence are fools (Psalm 53:1). Scripture clearly reveals that those who refuse to acknowledge the God they know exists become futile in their thinking and darkened in their hearts. In claiming themselves wise, they become fools (Romans 1:21–22). Tragically, those who put their trust in human wisdom and strength only are cursed by God and have no hope for the future (Jeremiah 17:5–6).

#### Instruction

- 1 Display **PS 8.1A Illustrations**. Explain that by using two diagrams, the naturalist view of the existence of God can be compared and contrasted with the biblical Christian view. In Diagram 1, the natural universe is represented by everything within a circle. The only things that exist are things that can be seen, measured, or proved to exist by scientific exploration. Notice that the circle is closed—there is absolutely nothing outside the circle. In other words, God does not exist. The supernatural does not exist. There is no God to cause the natural universe or to control it in any way.

In Diagram 2, the natural universe is represented by everything within an open circle. Outside this open circle is God. This God is the one who created everything inside the circle. God controls everything inside the circle and acts on it to bring about his eternal plan for creation.

8

Enrichment offers a variety of extra activities to enhance students' learning. All enrichment ideas are optional.

8

#### ENRICHMENT

- Lead a nature hike (or a discussion) to help students identify some of the attributes and characteristics of God that are revealed in nature (his omnipotence, omniscience, creativity, orderliness, goodness). Have students correlate their observations with God's various attributes and characteristics.
- Obtain copies or select and post excerpts from various editions of the *Humanist Manifesto*. Help students state the key ideas in their own words. Discuss in relation to the biblical Christian worldview.
- The three strong evidences for God's existence discussed in Topic 2 are based on three types of arguments. Use **BLM 8.2A Arguments for God's Existence** to further students' understanding of the apologetics for the existence of God.

127

9

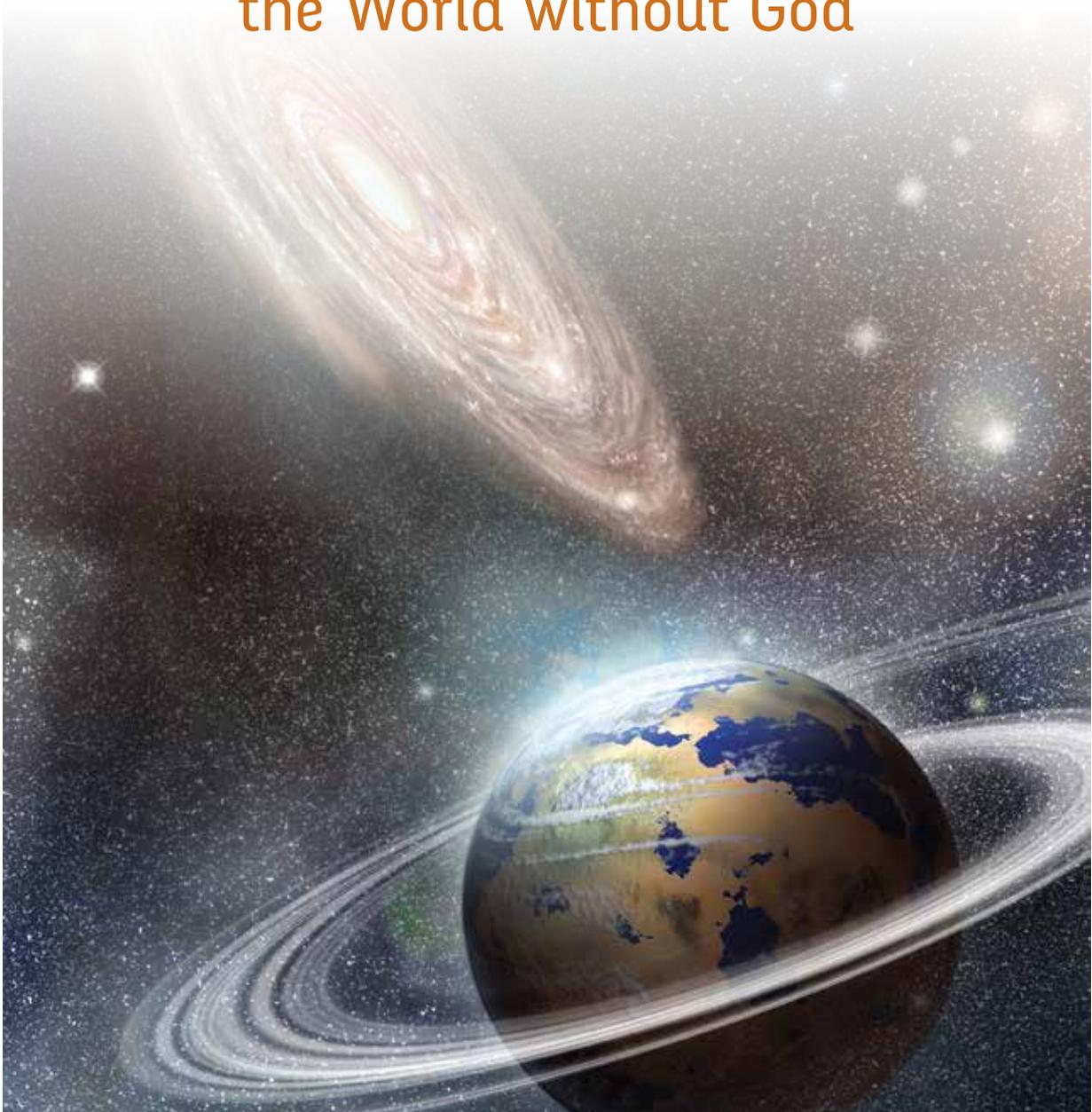
On the third page of the lesson (not shown here) the Comments C sidebar offers additional information on certain Topics. A C icon will be located next to Topics with coordinating comments. On the remaining pages of the lesson you may use the Notes sidebars to write additional questions or helpful teaching hints of your own.

xiii

Unit 3

# Naturalism

An Unbiblical View of  
the World without God



*Samples reduced; not actual size*

# The Naturalist View of God and Truth

## Lesson 8

### Overview

Units 1 and 2 explored the theistic worldviews of biblical Christianity and Islam, which are founded on belief in the existence of one supreme God. Naturalism, the subject of Unit 3, is founded on the denial of God and the supernatural. Naturalism at its core is atheistic and rests on the belief that ultimate reality is only material. The physical universe is all there is, was, or ever will be. Only that which can be measured, seen, touched, or proved to exist is real. Human beings, not God, are the highest beings in the natural world although they, too, are merely one part of the mechanistic and material universe. Some naturalists, however, are agnostic—being unsure that God exists and believing that the existence of God (or gods) is not an important matter to be concerned with.

*Naturalism* is an inclusive term for a number of worldviews, including materialism, scientism, atheism, and secular humanism. Although each of these worldviews bears distinguishing characteristics, the essential belief that binds them together is that nature is the ultimate reality.

Naturalism is an increasingly aggressive worldview in Western cultures, competing directly with all theistic worldviews, especially biblical Christian theism. Although the West is considered to be “Christian” in the broadest sense of the term (although it is considered post-Christian by many), true biblical Christian theism is being syncretized with elements of naturalism, or in some cases completely abandoned in favor of naturalism.

Lesson 8 introduces students to the worldview of naturalism by exploring the basic implications of a universe without God. Specifically, it compares and contrasts the biblical Christian and naturalist views of truth by examining some of the problems inherent in a view of truth and reality that denies the existence of God and the truth of his Word.

### Objectives

Students will be able to

- contrast the basic tenets of naturalism and biblical Christianity.
- summarize three strong evidences for God’s existence.
- distinguish several ways in which the naturalist view of truth differs from the biblical Christian view.
- evaluate the naturalist view of truth.

### PLANNING AHEAD

For **Day 2**, you will need a bowl of cereal.

For **Day 3**, you will need to obtain a bottle of juice, a bag of gummy candies, and a baseball cap.

### NOTES

### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

#### Blackline Masters

BLM 8.1A Short Story  
BLM 8.2A Arguments for God’s Existence  
BLM Test 8

#### Student Workbook

SW 8.1 Getting Started and Topic 1  
SW 8.2 Topic 2  
SW 8.3 Topic 3  
SW 8.4 Topic 4

#### Presentation Slides

PS 8.1A Illustrations  
PS 8.2A Design and Order

## 8 The Naturalist View of God and Truth

### Day 1

Student Text pp. 112–114 Student Workbook pp. 79–80

#### MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 17:5

#### KEY TERMS

- naturalism
- objective

#### PREPARATION P

- **Day 1:** Print a copy of **BLM 8.1A Short Story**. (*Getting Started: Instruction 1*)
- **Day 2:** Obtain a bowl of cereal and place it on your desk. (*Topic 2: Instruction 3*)
- **Day 3:** Obtain a bottle of juice, a bag of gummy candies, and a baseball cap. (*Topic 3: Instruction 1*)

#### Getting Started—What Is Naturalism?

##### Lesson Background

In contrast to theism and theistic worldviews that view God as the ultimate Reality and Creator of the physical cosmos, naturalism views the material universe as the only and, therefore, ultimate reality. God simply does not exist, or he might exist (agnosticism) but is irrelevant to the natural world and the issues of life. Because naturalists reject the concept that creation necessitates a Creator, they believe the matter that makes up the physical cosmos is eternal. It has always existed. It simply is and always has been, without a Creator.

Therefore, the foundation for a naturalistic worldview cannot be revelation from a higher authority or God. Only things that can be observed, touched, or proved to exist through the scientific method are real. Everything that happens within the material world is caused by forces or factors contained within the material world itself. There is no outside intervention. Admitting such a possibility would open the door to speculation about a Creator or an intelligent force, concepts that are rejected by people holding a naturalistic worldview.

##### Instruction P C

- 1 Read **BLM 8.1A Short Story**. Then cut the story into pieces with about three or four words on each piece while discussing the following questions with students.

##### Discussion Questions

- How long ago did this story take place?
- What caused the explosion?
- What happened to the matter?
- What was eventually formed?
- This story is actually a theory—what is the name of the theory? (the Big Bang)
- What are two significant problems with this theory? (It doesn't account for where the original matter came from. There is no logical way the exploded or expanded matter could just come together and organize itself into stars and other celestial bodies.)

After the story has been cut into pieces, invite a student to the front of the class. Hand the student all the pieces of paper with the words and have him or her toss them into the air in an effort to re-create the identical story. Correlate the activity with the irrational explanations posed by atheists for the origin of the universe and life (Big Bang theory, unicellular organisms evolving from non-living matter, and the evolution of species). Discuss the even greater improbability of such an event occurring if the letters of each word were cut apart and tossed into the air first to create the words and then the story.

However, it is important to note for students that the Big Bang theory does not disprove the existence of God. It's quite the opposite actually. The Big Bang theory seems to lead to the conclusion that the universe had a beginning and all beginnings have a cause. Therefore, if the universe is caused, there must be a first cause, or a Creator!

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

- 2 Direct students to turn to the Unit 3 title page (ST page 111). Ask: Why might someone look at a picture like this and conclude we live in a world without God? Why do you think the word *naturalism* is used to identify the worldview that rejects the existence of a Creator God?
- 3 Read *Getting Started—What Is Naturalism?* (ST page 112). Emphasize the definition of *naturalism*.

### Discussion Questions

- What are the only kinds of things naturalists accept as true?
- Why do naturalists reject the supernatural?
- What source of truth do naturalists reject? Why?
- Do you think naturalists and biblical Christians share any of the same beliefs about the universe?
- What major differences do you think there are between a naturalist and biblical Christian?

### Topic 1—A Universe without God

#### Lesson Background

Naturalism unashamedly denies the existence of the supernatural, meaning anything outside of nature. This includes God, Satan, angels, demons, and the human soul. This foundational belief demands, therefore, that the cosmos be self-existing, not created or dependent on any spiritual being for its continuation. Naturalism is the worldview held by secular humanists, people who believe that humans are the highest of all beings and that truth and knowledge rest in science and human reason.

The Bible says that those who deny God's existence are fools (Psalm 53:1). Scripture clearly reveals that those who refuse to acknowledge the God they know exists become futile in their thinking and darkened in their hearts. In claiming themselves wise, they become fools (Romans 1:21–22). Tragically, those who put their trust in human wisdom and strength only are cursed by God and have no hope for the future (Jeremiah 17:5–6).

#### Instruction

- 1 Display **PS 8.1A Illustrations**. Explain that by using two diagrams, the naturalist view of the existence of God can be compared and contrasted with the biblical Christian view. In Diagram 1, the natural universe is represented by everything within a circle. The only things that exist are things that can be seen, measured, or proved to exist by scientific exploration. Notice that the circle is closed—there is absolutely nothing outside the circle. In other words, God does not exist. The supernatural does not exist. There is no God to cause the natural universe or to control it in any way.

In Diagram 2, the natural universe is represented by everything within an open circle. Outside this open circle is God. This God is the one who created everything inside the circle. God controls everything inside the circle and acts on it to bring about his eternal plan for creation.

### ENRICHMENT

- Lead a nature hike (or a discussion) to help students identify some of the attributes and characteristics of God that are revealed in nature (his omnipotence, omniscience, creativity, orderliness, goodness). Have students correlate their observations with God's various attributes and characteristics.
- Obtain copies or select and post excerpts from various editions of the *Humanist Manifesto*. Help students state the key ideas in their own words. Discuss in relation to the biblical Christian worldview.
- The three strong evidences for God's existence discussed in Topic 2 are based on three types of arguments. Use **BLM 8.2A Arguments for God's Existence** to further students' understanding of the apologetics for the existence of God.

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

### COMMENTS

• **Getting Started:** The most recently estimated total number of species on Earth is about 8.7 million, and the vast majority have not been identified yet. With this many species as well as the amazing variety of organisms, it is difficult to imagine that they all just randomly formed without a Creator. If we cannot cause something to randomly come together and form an organized object, it is not rational to believe that the universe and life started this way.

• **Topic 2:** Theologians and philosophers have developed compelling arguments for God's existence. Three of these arguments are: The cosmological argument, which argues from the law of cause and effect—something cannot exist without a cause; the teleological argument, which supports design and purpose; and the moral argument, which reasons that the existence of a universal moral law within humans along with the sense of responsibility to do right implies the existence of a moral Lawgiver.

2 Read *Who Are the Highest Beings?* in *Topic 1* (ST pages 112–113).

#### Discussion Questions

- Who are the highest beings according to naturalists?
- What is the belief that humans are the highest being called?
- How did the writers of the *Humanist Manifesto I* express their atheism?
- How did the writers of the *Humanist Manifesto II* express their disbelief in the existence of God?
- How did the writers of the *Humanist Manifesto 2000* express their disbelief in the existence of God?
- When humanists say people must not look beyond themselves for salvation, to whom are they referring?
- What do humanists mean when they say that we are responsible for our own destiny?

3 Finish reading *Topic 1* (ST pages 113–114).

#### Discussion Questions

- According to the book of Daniel, in what ways does the biblical Christian worldview differ from the naturalist worldview?
- How does the Bible describe the naturalist? Why?
- How does God curse those who reject him?
- According to Jeremiah, whom does God bless and not curse?

4 Read and introduce **Jeremiah 17:5** as the memory verse.

5 Assign **SW 8.1 Getting Started and Topic 1** to be completed by students.

## Day 2

Student Text pp. 114–117 Student Workbook pp. 81–82

### Topic 2—Can God's Existence Be Proved?

#### Lesson Background

The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God. It does not begin with a list of 10 proofs that God exists. Rather, it makes the dramatic and familiar statement, “In the beginning God . . .” (Genesis 1:1). Scripture tells us that believing in the existence of God is a prerequisite to knowing him personally and to having his existence substantiated to us (Hebrew 11:6). However, faith in the existence of God is not a leap in the dark without any support. In Paul's letter to the Roman church, the apostle clearly explains that God provides visible evidence of his existence: “For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God” (Romans 1:20).

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

chemical reactions and evolutionary natural selection. Naturalists deny that moral values are evidence of or flow from a supreme moral being. Rather, they are the result of evolution and human choice, meaning they are relative to the evolutionary stages of life and to particular situations in which people determine what is right or wrong.

Naturalists, of course, also reject special revelation. They concur that the existence of the Bible and the life of Jesus on Earth are objective truths. But they deny that the Bible and the life of Jesus on Earth are special revelation of God's truth. They understand the Bible as a product of human endeavor and Jesus as merely a notable, but certainly not a divine, human being.

### Instruction P

- 1 Display a bottle of juice, a bag of gummy candies, and a baseball cap. Ask students to make a true and then a false statement about each item. Have students explain why the statements are true or are false. Ask: How do you know something is true or not? What makes something untrue?
- 2 Read *What Is Truth?* in *Topic 3* (ST page 117).
- 3 Read *How Do We Know Truth?* (ST pages 117–118). Discuss the definition of *objective*. Distribute one of the gummy candies to each student. Have students think of one objective statement about their piece of candy. Invite several students to share their responses and discuss if they are truly objective statements and what makes them objective. Allow students to eat their candy.

### Discussion Questions

- How could you determine if a weather alert reporting clear skies, hot temperatures, and heavy snowfall all in the same place on the same day is truthful?
- What kinds of things can we determine are true or untrue through our senses?
- Can we perfectly know or discover truth through our senses? Why or why not?
- Give some examples of our senses deceiving us.
- If your teacher told you that  $6 \times 6 + 18 - 4 = 42$ , would she be telling you the truth? How would you know?
- If someone declared that a house could design and create itself, would he or she be telling you the truth? How would you know?
- How perfectly does reason lead us to truth? Why does reason sometimes fail to lead us to truth?
- What is another way we come to know truth besides through our senses and reasoning?
- What are some truths we could never know if God did not reveal them to us?

- 4 Read *The Naturalist View of Truth*.

### NOTES

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

### NOTES

#### Discussion Questions

- What do most naturalists believe about objective truth?
- What methods or means of discovering truth would a naturalist accept?
- Why would a naturalist believe in the truth of the law of gravity?
- Why are scientists—many of whom are naturalists—able to develop space shuttles and space stations?
- Do you think naturalists recognize the limitations of discovering truth through their senses, science, and reason? Why?

- 5 Read *How Does the Naturalist View of Truth Differ from the Biblical Christian View?* (ST pages 118–119).

#### Discussion Questions

- Why do naturalists reject the truth of God’s existence?
- Why did the Russian cosmonaut, Valery Bykovsky, reject the existence of God?
- Because naturalists reject God’s existence, what means of discovering truth must they also reject? (any revelation from God)
- How do naturalists respond to the biblical truth that “the heavens proclaim the glory of God” and “the skies display his craftsmanship” (Psalm 19:1)?
- If naturalists reject the biblical truth that creation reveals the truth of God’s existence, what explanation do they offer for the existence of the universe?
- How do naturalists respond to the biblical truth that “even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law . . . demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts” (Romans 2:14–15)?

- 6 Assign **SW 8.3 Topic 3** to be completed by students. The fact that science is not listed as an answer for Exercise 3 may need to be explained to students. While the biblical Christian worldview does not deny that truth can be learned through scientific discovery, it also focuses on knowing truth through God’s revelation. Also, most scientific discovery is made through the senses and reasoning.

### Day 4

Student Text pp. 119–120 Student Workbook pp. 85–86

### Topic 4—Problems with the Naturalist View of Truth

#### Lesson Background

By asserting that God is only a creation of the human mind and therefore nonexistent, naturalists are faced with several problems as they try to construct theories for the existence of the cosmos and the nature of humanity. Avowing to unlock the mysteries of reality through science and reason alone, naturalists reach a point in their search where they must take an enormous leap of faith. At this point, they must abandon their devotion to

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

reason, contradicting their commitment to discovering truth through reason. For example, naturalists concur with the argument of causation—every effect must have a cause. However, they refuse to accept that ultimately reason dictates that we must eventually arrive at the existence of a grand or uncaused “grand Cause” that is not an effect itself. For theists, the uncaused grand Cause is God. The problem for naturalists then is that by denying the existence of a grand Cause, they must abandon the reasonableness of causation when it comes to the origin of primal matter from which they believe the universe was formed. With no explanation for the origin or cause of this primal matter, naturalists are forced to take the leap of faith and state that matter itself is eternal. They reach this belief by acknowledging that matter could not have come from nothing and by denying the existence of the true eternal Cause, God.

Another problem naturalists face relates to the reality of design and order within the universe. Prior to Darwin, most naturalists maintained a “God-hypothesis” for explaining the obvious order of the cosmos. However, according to Richard Dawkins, the atheist philosopher-scientist, Darwin’s theory of natural selection displaced the long-held belief that the universe was the work of an omnipotent, purposeful God. The purpose and design of the universe could be attributed to the “blind, unconscious automatic process which Darwin discovered.”<sup>1</sup> This theory, however, ignores the obvious questions: How can eternal matter blindly and unconsciously result in the creation of an orderly universe? How can these factors create human beings with intelligence who purposely create and design everything from works of art, music, poetry, and literature to computers, space stations, and life-saving medical devices? How can lifeless matter blindly and unconsciously create human life with an inherent drive for purpose and meaning as well as an inherent awareness of universal right and wrong? Again, by rejecting the existence of an omnipotent, purposeful, moral Creator, naturalists must abandon rational thinking and embrace instead the irrational—that design, order, purpose, and moral awareness are simply the product of random, amoral, purposeless automatic processes.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1986), 5.

### Instruction

- 1 Read *Topic 4* (ST pages 119–120). Divide the class into groups of four or five. Have them discuss whether naturalist thinking is reasonable or not. Read the first discussion question below and give students several minutes to discuss their answers within their groups. Then discuss as a class. Continue in this manner with the next two questions.

#### Discussion Questions

- Naturalists don’t believe in a Creator God. They also don’t believe that matter or anything else can create itself out of nothing. What problem do these beliefs create for the naturalist?
- What solution do they offer to solve this problem?

### NOTES

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

### NOTES

- Naturalists recognize that the universe is complex and orderly. They recognize that people are intelligent, creative beings who live with purpose and moral awareness. But they also believe that the universe is the result of unplanned, accidental processes involving eternal nonliving matter. What problems do these opposing beliefs create for naturalists?
- Naturalists believe it is completely unreasonable to think a computer or airplane could create itself accidentally. They also believe that the universe and everything in it was formed entirely by accident. What problems do these opposing beliefs create for naturalists?

**2** Assign **SW 8.4 Topic 4** to be completed by students in class.

### Day 5 Test

Review Lesson 8. Use **BLM Test 8** as a student performance assessment. Have students begin reading Lesson 9.

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 8

Getting Started and Topic 1 8.1

8. What do you think of the 17? ... **Answer: 17 is all right.**

8.1.1. **Getting Started and Topic 1, continued**

8.1.2. **Topic 2, continued**

8.1.3. **Topic 3, continued**

8.1.4. **Topic 4, continued**

Getting Started and Topic 1, continued

8.1.1

8.1.2

8.1.3

8.1.4

Topic 2 8.2

8.2.1

8.2.2

8.2.3

Topic 2, continued

8.2.1

8.2.2

8.2.3

Topic 3 8.3

8.3.1

8.3.2

8.3.3

Topic 3, continued

8.3.1

8.3.2

8.3.3

Topic 4 8.4

8.4.1

8.4.2

8.4.3

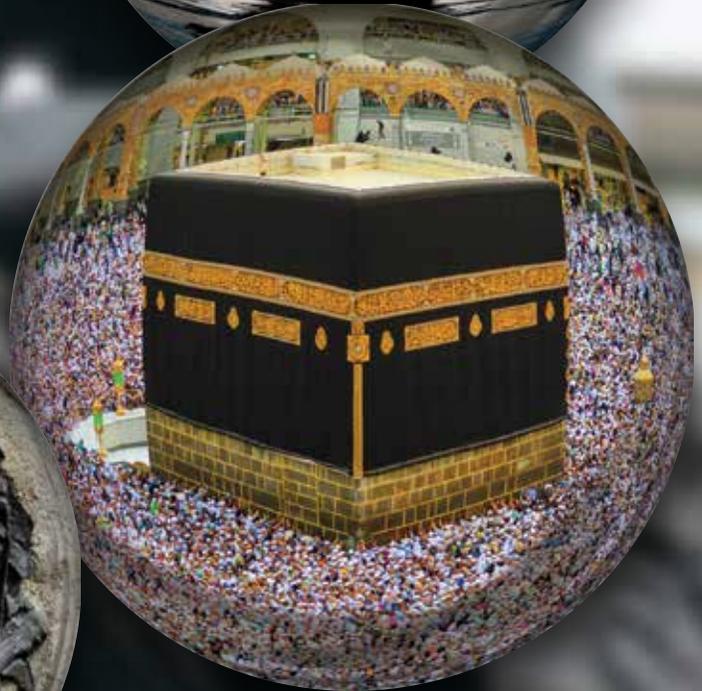
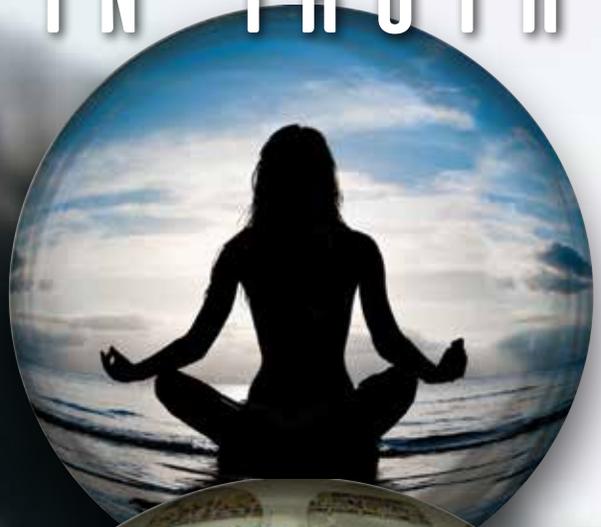
Topic 4, continued

8.4.1

8.4.2

8.4.3

# WALKING IN TRUTH™



## Competing Worldviews

STUDENT WORKBOOK

7

*Samples reduced; not actual size*

# Student Workbook

## LESSON 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting Started and Topic 1

8.1

1. Write the words of Jeremiah 17:5 and answer the questions. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

a. According to this verse, what three behaviors characterize naturalists? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

b. Do you think it is wise to trust in your own strength? Explain.

---

---

---

c. What consequences will humanists suffer for rejecting God and relying on human strength? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---



2. State whether the following statement is true or false. Explain why.

**Naturalism is one of the three major monotheistic worldviews.**

---

---

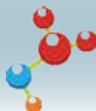
---

3. Fill in the circle in front of the term that does not belong in the group.

atheism     agnosticism     naturalism     supernaturalism     humanism

4. Circle the statements that are not a belief of naturalism. Place a check mark in front of each statement that is false.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ___ Theism belongs in the past.                   | ___ Humans are the highest beings.  |
| ___ God is the highest authority.                 | ___ The supernatural doesn't exist. |
| ___ Humans are responsible for their own destiny. | ___ There is no Creator.            |
| ___ Humans must look to God for salvation.        | ___ There is no heaven or hell.     |



# Student Workbook

## LESSON 8

### 8.1 Getting Started and Topic 1, continued



Classify the statements below according to the worldview they represent.

	Naturalism	Biblical Christianity	
5. The physical universe is all that exists.			
6. Some people with this worldview are agnostic.			
7. Supernatural beings exist.			
8. Humans are the highest forms of life.			
9. God controls the universe.			
10. People who trust in God will be blessed.			
11. It is an atheistic worldview.			
12. This is a monotheistic worldview.			

13. Compare and contrast the two diagrams. On the line below each diagram, write the name of the worldview it represents. Then explain in detail the meaning of the diagrams in relation to the beliefs of each worldview.

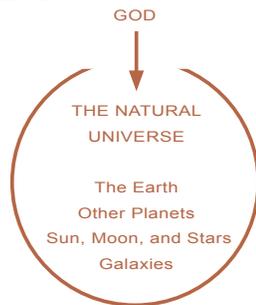


Diagram 1 \_\_\_\_\_



Diagram 2 \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---



---



---

# Student Workbook

## LESSON 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 2 8.2



1. Does the Bible prove that God exists? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, what does it do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). What two truths about God can you deduce from this verse?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the circle of the correct answer(s).

3. What does it take to believe in God?  
 a science textbook     proof that he exists     faith     a statement that says he exists
4. Read the following verses. Which verse verifies the answer in Exercise 3 above?  
 Genesis 8:22     Jeremiah 17:5     Psalm 53:1     Hebrews 11:6
5. What does Hebrews 11:6 say that God will do for those who believe he exists?  
 protect them     reward them     trust them     love them
6. a. If you hear someone on television make a statement, does it mean the statement is true?  
How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. What are some ways you can find out if something is true? List at least three ways.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8.2 Topic 2, continued

7. What are three strong evidences for God's existence?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. Your mother brought home a cheese pizza for dinner. Explain the chain of events that occurred in order for that pizza to exist in order to prove that everything which exists or happens has a cause.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Your brother Hans wants to go to a well-respected college but needs excellent grades to do so. When report cards came out, Hans had straight As. Your parents praised him for his good work. Hans shrugged it off and went to his room. You went up to see what was wrong. Hans confessed that he had been cheating to get good grades. Which of the three evidences in #7 is this an example of?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Use the image to the left to explain how the statement that the universe that exists has perfect design and order shows that there must be a Creator.



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Student Workbook

## LESSON 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 3 8.3

1. Fill in the circles of all the correct answers.

All worldviews are based upon what people believe is true about . . .

weather.

people.

God.

moral laws and values.

dietary laws.

the universe.

2. Rearrange the words to write the definition of *objective*.

think reality of existing may as what a independently feel or we

---

---

3. Give an example of an objective truth. \_\_\_\_\_

---

4. List three basic ways we can know truth. Give an example of a truth we can know through each way.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_

---

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_

---

c. \_\_\_\_\_ Example: \_\_\_\_\_

---

5. What are three ways naturalists discover objective truth?

---

6. Why don't naturalists believe revelation from God is a way of knowing truth?

---



# Student Workbook

## LESSON 8

### 8.3 Topic 3, continued

7. Explain why naturalists deny the truth of God's existence. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read the biblical Christian statements below. Write the letter of the naturalist statement that contradicts the biblical truth. Then write a Scripture and its reference that defends the biblical Christian belief.

- A. Invisible beings do not exist because they can't be proven through the senses.
- B. The universe came into existence by itself.
- C. The Bible is only a collection of stories and beliefs written by people.
- D. People decide what is right and wrong.

8. God reveals truth to us through creation. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Supernatural beings, such as God and angels, exist. \_\_\_\_\_

10. God gave us a conscience and revealed his moral laws in the hearts of people. \_\_\_\_\_

11. The Bible is the inspired word of God. \_\_\_\_\_

12. Fill in the circle of the definition of truth.
- that which agrees with what you see, hear, taste, smell or touch
  - that which is stated as fact
  - that which agrees with, accurately describes, and accurately explains what is real
  - that which agrees with what scientific discovery proves

13. Read the false statement. Circle the way in which you know it is false.  
I have a mind, so I can decide what is right and wrong.  
senses                      reasoning                      revelation                      science

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 4 8.4

Fill in the circle(s) of the correct answers.

1. Why do most naturalists believe the material from which the universe was formed is eternal?  
 The material is eternal because God is eternal.  
 God does not exist, so God did not create matter.  
 The material in the universe created itself and cannot be destroyed.  
 Matter cannot create itself out of nothing. If God didn't create it, it must have always existed.
2. Naturalists do not believe the universe was designed or created. What explanation do they give for its existence?  
 The universe was always there.  
 The universe evolved from pre-existing galaxies.  
 The universe came into existence accidentally through the interaction of eternal matter.  
 Naturalists don't attempt to explain the existence of the universe.
3. Although naturalists don't believe the universe was designed or created, they see and depend on design and order every day in the natural world. Give five examples of design that naturalists can't ignore and on which they depend.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When naturalists reject the existence of God, what and who else are they rejecting? Include a Scripture to prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### 8.4 Topic 4, continued

5. What major problems or questions do naturalists have to face because they believe the universe was formed by accident? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

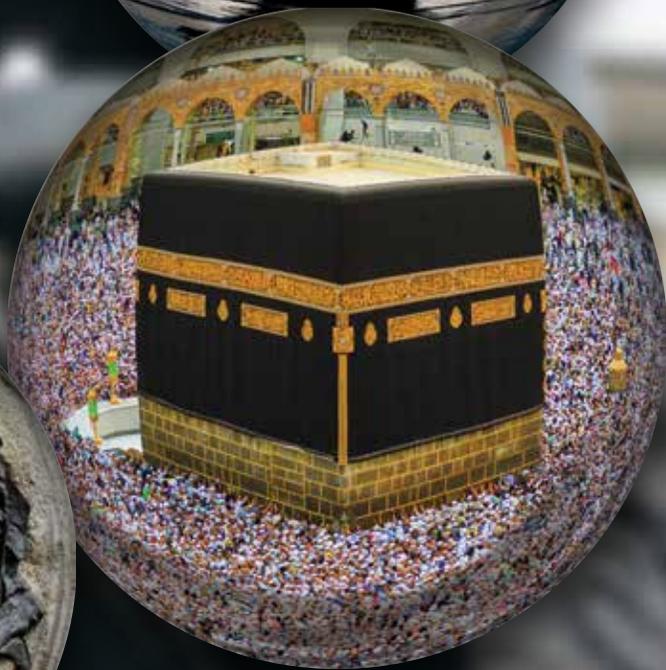
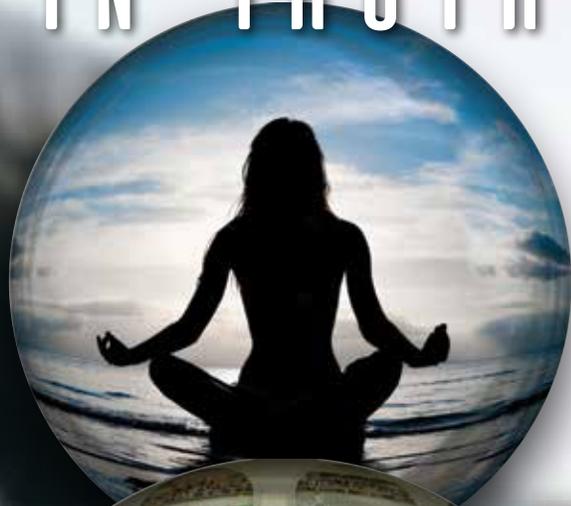
6. Naturalists know that human beings are able to reason, solve problems, create complicated machines, write beautiful music, and know right from wrong. What problem does this knowledge about human beings create for naturalists? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Naturalists understand through reason and experience that it is impossible for a computer, airplane, or anything else to create itself. What problem does this understanding create for naturalists?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Both the naturalist and Christian worldviews require faith. Which worldview do you think takes less faith? Which worldview do you think is more logical and why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# WALKING IN TRUTH™



## Competing Worldviews

STUDENT TEXT

7

*Samples reduced; not actual size*

## Lesson 8 The Naturalist View of God and Truth

### Getting Started—What Is Naturalism?

So far in our study of *Competing Worldviews*, we've explored biblical Christianity and Islam, two of the three major monotheistic worldviews and religions of history. (The third, Judaism, the worldview and religion of the Jewish people, is not included in this study.) Now we're ready to study a worldview called **naturalism**. Notice the root word *nature*. This worldview holds that only things that can be observed or proved to exist in the natural world are real. Naturalism is an atheistic worldview based on the belief that our senses, science, and reason prove that the natural or physical universe is all that exists. The supernatural—immaterial things that are *super* or above nature—simply does not exist. Included in the supernatural are God, spiritual beings such as angels and demons, and the Spirit that God placed in each image-bearer. Most naturalists, therefore, are atheistic, meaning God is not a part of what they believe is true about the world. However, some naturalists are *agnostic*—meaning they are unsure if God exists. They do not feel that the existence of God (or gods) is an important matter to be concerned with.



Like all worldviews, naturalism is based on what naturalists believe is true about truth itself. Since naturalists believe that truth is limited to what can be proved to exist in the natural world, they deny the truth that God reveals through creation, through the Bible, and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. As we explore the naturalist views of God and truth, we'll contrast them with the biblical Christian view as we did with Islam. In Lesson 9, we'll explore the naturalist view of people and the universe, and in Lesson 10, we'll explore the naturalist view of moral laws and values.

#### Naturalism

An atheistic worldview based on the belief that our senses, science, and reason prove that the natural or physical universe is all that exists

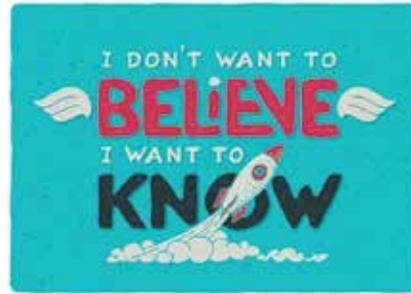
### Topic 1—A Universe without God

**Who Are the Highest Beings?** Now let's explore this question: In a universe without God or any other supernatural beings, who are the highest beings? If your answer is humans, you're right. Naturalists believe there are no higher living beings than humans. This way of thinking is called *humanism*, and people who hold this belief are known as *humanists*.

# Student Text

## LESSON 8

In 1933, a group of humanists wrote and signed a manifesto or document that listed 15 beliefs they held about God, the universe, and human beings. This document was called the *Humanist Manifesto I*. The writers expressed their disbelief in God in these words: “We are convinced that the time has passed for theism.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, these humanists believed that the time for believing in God was over. The time had come for people to believe that humans are the highest beings or forms of life, not God.



Forty years later, another group of humanists published the *Humanist Manifesto II*. Like the writers of the first manifesto, they also expressed their disbelief in God. These humanists wrote, “We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural. As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God . . .”<sup>2</sup>



Humanists continue to write manifestos or documents declaring their disbelief in God. In 2000, another group of humanists expressed their disbelief in God with these words: “As humanists, we urge today, as in the past, that humans not look beyond themselves for salvation. We alone are responsible for our own destiny.”<sup>3</sup>

By destiny, humanists do not mean heaven or hell because they do not believe in either. When humanists say they are responsible for their own destiny, they mean they are in charge of planning and directing their lives. In other words, they are their own highest authority. Since God doesn't exist, they have the right to take complete charge of their own lives.

**The Biblical Christian View:** The naturalist belief that people are the highest beings in the universe is not in harmony with the biblical Christian view of God and people. The Bible declares that God exists and that he is the supreme authority over all people and the earth. He is the one who determines everything that happens in the world. He is the one who rules over the lives of all his image-bearers. God clearly revealed this truth to the prophet Daniel.

<sup>20</sup> He said,

“Praise the name of God forever and ever,  
for he has all wisdom and power.

<sup>21</sup> He controls the course of world events;  
he removes kings and sets up other kings.

He gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to the scholars.

Daniel 2:20–21



In one of his psalms, King David described the folly of people who refuse to believe in God.

Only fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

Psalm 53:1

The prophet Jeremiah described God's judgment against people who set themselves up as the highest authority in their lives.

# Student Text

## LESSON 8

<sup>5</sup>This is what the LORD says:  
“Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans,  
who rely on human strength  
and turn their hearts away from the LORD.  
<sup>6</sup>They are like stunted shrubs in the desert,  
with no hope for the future.  
They will live in the barren wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salty land.      Jeremiah 17:5–6



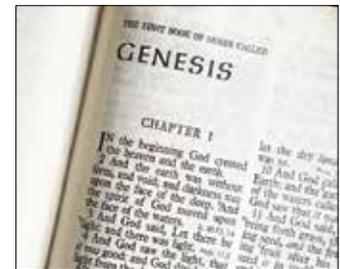
In contrast to the judgment that God promises will come to people who trust only in themselves, Jeremiah also told of the great blessings God promises to people who believe and trust in him.

<sup>7</sup>“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD  
and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.  
<sup>8</sup>They are like trees planted along a riverbank,  
with roots that reach deep into the water.  
Such trees are not bothered by the heat  
or worried by long months of drought.  
Their leaves stay green,  
and they never stop producing fruit.      Jeremiah 17:7–8



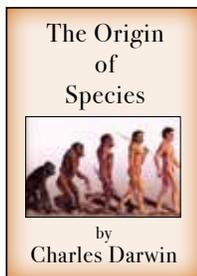
### Topic 2—Can God’s Existence Be Proved?

**The Bible Doesn’t Try to Prove that God Exists.** While humanist manifestos deny that God exists, the Bible declares his eternal existence in its very first sentence: **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth** (Genesis 1:1). Notice that the Bible does not begin with a list of 10 ways to prove that God exists. It simply tells us that he exists and that he is the one who created everything. In fact, the biblical Christian worldview begins with faith in God rather than proof that he exists. God revealed this important truth to the writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews.



And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.      Hebrews 11:6

This Scripture does not mean that we should ignore the evidence for God’s existence. But it does say that we must believe by faith that God exists. Then God will reveal himself and truths about himself to those who earnestly seek to know him. Do you remember what Jesus said to Thomas, his disciple who said he wouldn’t believe Jesus had been raised from the dead unless he saw him in person?



Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”      John 20:29

**Evidence for God’s Existence:** There are many ways naturalists communicate their belief that God does not exist. Some write science textbooks stating that the universe and everything in it have evolved accidentally from eternal matter. Some communicate their beliefs through songs or literature. Some communicate their message through movies and television dramas. Because the naturalist message that God does not exist is so powerful and common today, it’s important to remember three strong evidences for God’s existence.

# Student Text

## LESSON 8



**1. Everything that Exists or Happens Has a Cause.** Think about what you ate for breakfast this morning. Did the cereal, milk, toast, eggs, bacon, or other foods just appear on your table from nothing? How did these foods get into your kitchen in the first place? How did they get into the grocery store? How were the cereal, bread, eggs, and bacon made before they arrived at the market? If you follow the chain of events further back, you realize that a cause exists for every step it takes to grow, prepare, market, buy, cook, and place food on your table.

This example, of course, is only one illustration of the truth that everything that exists or happens has a cause—everything, that is, except God himself. God is uncaused. If he were caused, there would be someone or something more powerful than God that caused him to exist. But the Bible tells us that God is eternal. He has no cause. He has no beginning or end. He has always been and always will be. In fact, the eternal, uncaused God is the cause for the heavens and Earth and everything in them. This truth was revealed to Moses, who wrote the oldest psalm in the book of Psalms.

Before the mountains were born,  
before you gave birth to the earth and the world,  
from beginning to end, you are God. Psalm 90:2



The very existence of the heavens and Earth is powerful evidence of God's eternal existence. Paul wrote in a letter to Christians in Rome that creation clearly reveals to all people that its cause is the eternal, all-powerful God. Creation reveals its cause so clearly, in fact, that people have no excuse for not giving God glory and thanks for it.

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Romans 1:20

**2. The Universe that Exists Has Perfect Design and Order.** People not only believe in God because they know the universe must have a cause, they also believe in God because they see perfect design in everything that exists. By God's inspiration, King David described the incredible design of the earth, including its stability in space, its land and water forms, and the permanent boundaries of the oceans.

- <sup>5</sup>You placed the world on its foundation  
so it would never be moved.
- <sup>6</sup>You clothed the earth with floods of water,  
water that covered even the mountains.
- <sup>7</sup>At your command, the water fled;  
at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.
- <sup>8</sup>Mountains rose and valleys sank  
to the levels you decreed.
- <sup>9</sup>Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,  
so they would never again cover the earth.

Psalm 104:5–9



# Student Text

## LESSON 8



God made a promise to Noah after the flood that revealed his design and control of night and day and the seasons.

“As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”  
Genesis 8:22

But is all this order and design really evidence that God exists? To find out, let's think about these questions: Could a computer exist without a hardware and software engineer? Could it work if each of its pieces were not perfectly designed and fit together with other perfectly designed pieces? Could a skyscraper exist without an architect? Could it provide safe and comfortable apartments and offices if its elevators, plumbing, electricity, and heating and cooling systems were not perfectly designed to work in harmony with all the other parts and systems? Could the earth continue to exist without its perfect design and balance of air and water, plants and animals, seasons, and exact distance from the sun? Of course not. Computers and skyscrapers reveal careful design. So does the earth. This evidence from design and purpose leads people to acknowledge the existence of a supremely wise engineer or architect, who is much greater than the universe itself. For people who hold a theistic worldview, such as biblical Christianity, the engineer or architect is God.



### 3. All People Possess an Inner Sense of Right and Wrong.

Although people with different worldviews hold many different beliefs about God, almost all people share similar beliefs about things that are right to do and things that are wrong to do. For example, most people agree that it is good and right to help someone who is in danger or someone who is suffering. Most people agree that it is bad and wrong to lie and steal. Most people agree that it is wrong to murder, kidnap, or abuse another person. And most people, even

with very different worldviews, agree that it is wrong for a married person to be unfaithful by having a relationship with someone who is not his or her spouse.

Most people also have an inborn sense of responsibility to do what they believe is right and to avoid doing what they believe is wrong. This inner light that guides people to do right and avoid doing wrong is called *conscience*. Every human being born since the creation of the world has this inner light or conscience. Of course, since the fall, people's consciences are imperfect. Unfortunately, people don't always follow their conscience even when it clearly tells them something is wrong or right to do. When people don't listen to and follow the leading of their conscience, they experience guilt feelings and fears of being caught and punished for doing what they know is wrong or failing to do what they know is right. Conscience works like an alarm system in a car that sounds off to remind us we haven't fastened our seat belts.

This fact that all people, even those with different worldviews, believe that certain things are right and certain things are wrong is another evidence that God exists. People don't need to be taught that certain behaviors are wrong. They know. And their knowing has a cause. The cause is God. God is the great Lawgiver, who created people with a built-in awareness of right and wrong.



# Student Text

## LESSON 8

In the book of Romans, Paul describes the inner light or conscience that all people possess.

<sup>14</sup> Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. <sup>15</sup> They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. Romans 2:14–15

### Topic 3—The Naturalist View of Truth

**What Is Truth?** You've learned that worldviews are based upon what people believe is true about God, people, the universe, moral laws and values, and even truth itself. Whether people are Christians or Muslims or naturalists, they believe only in ideas or things they think are true. They never intentionally include beliefs in their worldview that they know are false (even though some of their beliefs may be false). So how do people arrive at the beliefs in their worldview that they hold as true? Before answering this important question, let's review the meaning of truth.

*Truth is that which agrees with and accurately describes and explains reality.* For example,  $2 + 2 = 5$  is not true because it does not agree with the reality that  $2 + 2 = 4$ . And to say that a round object is square is also untrue. This is because such a statement does not agree with the reality that no object can be two shapes at the same time. The minute you force something square into another shape, it is no longer square.



Truth is always **objective**. This means that it exists as a reality independently of what people think or feel. The fact that someone may believe or feel that the world is flat does not change the objective truth that the world is round. Objective truth also applies to morals. The fact that someone thinks or feels it is not wrong to cheat and steal does not change the objective truth that such behavior is morally wrong.



**How Do We Know Truth?** So how do people decide whether something is true or not? If someone tells you it's 100 degrees outside, the sun is shining, and it's snowing, how do you know if he or she is telling the truth? You could go outside and let your senses tell you. You might feel that the temperature is 100 degrees and you might see that the sun is shining. But you wouldn't see or feel any snow. Of course, there's another way you could tell whether the person was telling the truth or not. You wouldn't need to go outside and feel or see anything. Based on what you've learned about weather and seasons, you could very well reason with your mind that such a statement could not be true.

We can come to know many things that are true through our senses and reason. A Christian, a Muslim, a naturalist, and all other people can determine either through reason or their senses that the statement about a snowstorm on a hot summer day is not true.

But we also know that our senses and reason don't always lead us to truth. Our eyes can play tricks on us as they do when we look at the lines in Figure 1. Sometimes we fail to reason correctly because we don't have all the facts. Then we reach conclusions that are simply not true.

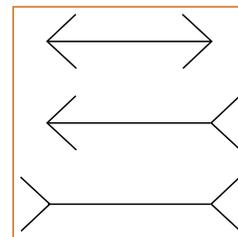


Figure 1

There is another way many people believe they can come to know truth. As you learned, Christians and Muslim believe some truth can be known only by revelation from God. For example, Islam and biblical Christianity declare that God reveals

# Student Text

## LESSON 8

moral truth through conscience. Christianity and Islam are also based on the belief that God reveals truth about his existence through his creation. And both Christians and Muslims believe some truth can be known only through God's written revelation, either in the Bible or in the Quran. Of course, this does not mean that everything Muslims believe is revealed truth from Allah is actually truth. But it does mean that both Christians and Muslims believe there is some truth that can be known only through revelation.

### Objective

Existing as a reality independently of what we may think or feel

**The Naturalist View of Truth:** Now let's apply what you know about truth to naturalism. First, most (but not all) naturalists believe there is such a thing as objective truth. For example, they would agree that the existence of the physical universe is an objective truth. They believe its existence is real or true because they can observe it with their senses. Naturalists also believe that through their senses, reason, and science they can discover many objective truths about the universe. For example, you probably would never hear a naturalist



deny the objective truth of the law of gravity. They know the truth of this law because they can observe things being held in place on the earth's surface. And they know the truth of this law because they can observe things in the earth's atmosphere returning back to Earth. No naturalist would ever jump off a skyscraper thinking he or she could defy the law of gravity. He knows the law of gravity is an objective truth, whether he likes it or not. And no naturalist scientists would ever design and launch a space shuttle without confidence in the laws of gravity and other laws of the universe. They design rockets powerful

enough to launch the shuttle against the forces of gravity. And they design the shuttle with wings and rockets to safely return to Earth in harmony with the forces of gravity. If they could not count on the truth and reliability of the law of gravity as well as other laws of the universe, there could be no space program.

While naturalists believe they can discover truth through their senses, they also know that their senses don't always show or tell them the truth. Years ago, many people believed the earth was flat because that's what their eyes showed them. They believed that ships would eventually sail over the edge of the planet when they reached the far horizon. But scientific exploration later disproved this belief, and it had to be rejected.



Naturalists also know that reason doesn't always lead to truth. They know that sometimes the things they believe are untrue because they seem unreasonable later turn out to be true. This happens as their reasoning changes or as they discover more facts and other objective truths. Of course, the opposite is also true. Sometimes naturalists discover that things they once believed were true are not true. This happens as they discover other objective truths through their senses, through science, and through reason.

**How Does the Naturalist View of Truth Differ from the Biblical Christian View?** Now let's ask ourselves some questions: If both naturalists and Christians believe there is objective truth that can be discovered through the senses, science, and reason, is there any difference then in how each views truth? If they both agree that the law of gravity is an objective truth they can prove through scientific investigation, is there really any difference in the way they search for truth? To answer these questions, let's review our earlier definition of

# Student Text

## LESSON 8

naturalism. You learned that naturalism is an atheistic worldview based on the belief that our senses, science, and reason prove that the natural or physical universe is all that exists. From this definition, can you identify how the naturalist view of truth differs from the biblical Christian or even the Islamic view? Let's explore some of these differences.

First, naturalism denies the truth of God's existence. Remember, naturalists don't believe in the supernatural. That's because they can't see, touch, or prove through science that invisible, spiritual beings, such as angels and God, exist. In 1963, the Russian cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky told newspeople that no Soviet cosmonaut believed in God. And he said that none of them had seen anything to change their minds during their space flights. In other words, because they hadn't seen God, he doesn't exist.



Second, because naturalists don't believe that God exists, they don't believe truth can be known through revelation from God. Naturalists, therefore, do not believe that God reveals the truth of his existence through creation. This is not in harmony with the biblical truth that "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship" (Psalm 19:1). As we will explore in Lesson 9, naturalists believe the universe came into existence by itself from materials that have always existed. In other words, matter is eternal, not God. And one day, without any help from God, that eternal matter accidentally began to interact in ways that eventually produced the universe, including life on Earth.

Naturalists not only reject the idea that God reveals truth through creation, they also reject the idea that God reveals his moral laws in the hearts of people. They reject the truth that God places a moral compass in our heart that tells us if our thoughts or actions are right or wrong. This belief is also not in harmony with the biblical truth that **even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law . . . demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts (Romans 2:14-15)**. Although many naturalists believe that some things are right and some things are wrong, they do not believe that God has revealed any absolute moral laws. They believe instead that people determine their own moral values. And they believe that these moral values can and do change as people's beliefs and feelings change.



If naturalists reject God's revelation of truth through creation and through the heart or conscience, they most certainly reject his revelation of truth in Scripture. They believe the Bible is only a collection of stories and beliefs written by people. They might agree that some of the stories describe real historical events. And they might even agree that some of the moral teachings of the Bible are good for people. But they would never agree that the Bible is truthful revelation from God. Therefore, the naturalist belief that God did not reveal his truth through Scripture is not in harmony with the biblical truth that **all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true (2 Timothy 3:16)**.

### Topic 4—Problems with the Naturalist View of Truth

**What Is Wrong with the Naturalist View of Truth?** When naturalists reject God's existence, they also reject the one who is Truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). By rejecting God

© Walking in Truth Grade 7

119

and his truth, naturalists are left completely on their own to discover truth. But as you know, all people are imperfect. And some things they think are true simply are not. For example, because naturalists deny that God created the universe, they try to discover through science and reason just how the universe came into existence. They know that the material that makes up the universe could not have created itself out of nothing. That's not reasonable. Therefore, the only explanation that naturalists can give for its existence is that it has always existed. In other words, since there is no God to create it, it must be eternal. They have no way of proving this belief. They simply accept it by faith.



Once naturalists believe that matter is eternal, they must try to discover how it all came together to produce the universe and life. Now here there is a real problem. Because naturalists are intelligent, they can see through reason and science that the universe is extremely orderly. Everywhere they look, they see how well designed it is. They also know that there must be a cause for every event. For example, seasons come and go every year in exactly the same way. Naturalists know that the seasons are caused because a slightly tilted Earth rotates each year around the sun. They see that plants and animals always reproduce after their kind. They know that apple trees are always caused by apple seeds that contain all the special genetic material that reproduces only apple trees. However, because naturalists see the order of the universe and because they understand there must be a cause for every event in the universe, they are faced with a big problem. Let's briefly explore this problem.



According to naturalism, the material that makes up the orderly universe has no cause. It is eternal. And according to naturalism, the universe itself has no outside cause or reason such as God for its existence. It's simply an accident. That's the only way it can exist if there is no Creator God.

The problem, therefore, is this: How can uncaused eternal material accidentally produce the perfectly ordered and designed universe? How can an accident produce humans who can think, choose, discover, and create? Accidents just don't produce such perfect order, design, and intelligence. Not only that, accidents can't produce people with moral awareness of right and wrong. There is no right or wrong in an accident. Only a holy and omnipotent God could ever design and create an orderly universe and fill it with his image-bearers who think, feel, choose, know right from wrong, and create. But because naturalists reject God, the only explanation they can offer for the existence of such an amazingly designed universe populated with intelligent human beings is that it just happened accidentally. That's as far as their reasoning and science can lead them.

No naturalist would ever believe that a computer or airplane could create itself accidentally out of eternal matter. They would say believing such a thing is totally unreasonable and therefore untrue. They know computers and airplanes and works of art and music cannot possibly create themselves accidentally. But when naturalists look at the world and reject its Designer and Creator, they are left only with one explanation for its existence—it's all an accident. What naturalists are saying then is this: It's unreasonable to think that a computer or airplane could create itself. However, it's not unreasonable to think that the universe could create itself. Now you decide. Is this kind of thinking among naturalists reasonable or unreasonable?



#### ENDNOTES

- 1 John Dewey, Paul Kurtz, and Edwin H. Wilson, *Humanist Manifesto I* (Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1933), 8.
- 2 Paul Kurtz and Edwin H. Wilson, *Humanist Manifesto II* (Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973), 16.
- 3 Paul Kurtz, *Humanist Manifesto 2000: A Call for a New Planetary Humanism* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2000), 63.

120

© Walking in Truth Grade 7

# Black Line Masters

## LESSON 8

### Short Story 8.1A

Once upon a time—about 14 billion years ago—an odd thing happened! Apparently, the pull of gravity caused all the primitive matter and energy in the universe to squeeze together into a tiny point. The matter and energy became so densely packed that it began to expand at a very fast rate. Within seconds, atoms formed. Over time, stars, planets, and the entire universe formed.

### Arguments for God's Existence 8.2A

1. The Cosmological Argument: Derived from the Greek word *cosmos*, meaning *universe*, this is an argument that looks at the world and then argues from the law of cause and effect. The existence of an effect reveals the existence of a cause. With reference to the existence of God, the argument is based upon three premises:

- (1) The universe had a beginning.
- (2) Anything that had a beginning must have been caused by something else.
- (3) Therefore, the universe was caused by something else.

All things must be traced to a first cause. From a biblical perspective, this first cause is God (Genesis 1:1).

2. The Teleological Argument: Derived from the Greek word *telos*, meaning *purpose*, this is an argument from design and purpose. Not only does the universe exist, there is a clear and orderly design to it. All parts of the universe have a purpose, and each part exists in harmony with the others. Moreover, purpose in creation reveals a purposeful Creator. Accidental or natural causes could not possibly produce the intricacies found in the universe any more than wind could have carved Mount Rushmore or a cosmic explosion could have produced a watch, a computer, or a work of literature. This argument from design and purpose proves the existence of an intelligent Designer greater than the creation itself. The Designer, the Bible affirms, is God.

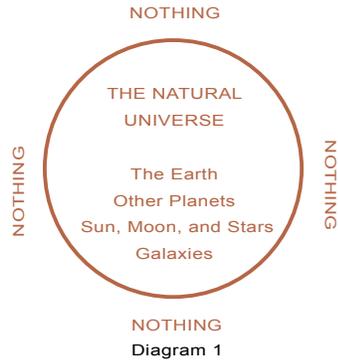
3. The Moral Argument: Human beings are moral beings. They possess an inner sense of right and wrong and almost universally advocate that certain things are universally right or just (honesty, protection of life, respect of personal property, and marriage fidelity for example), and that some things are universally wrong or unjust (such as murder, adultery, lying, and stealing). They also possess a sense of responsibility to do what is right and to avoid doing what is wrong. The moral argument reasons that the existence of a universal moral law within humans along with the sense of responsibility to do right implies the existence of a moral Lawgiver above and beyond human beings (Romans 2:14–15). The Lawgiver, the Bible affirms, is God.

# Presentation Slides

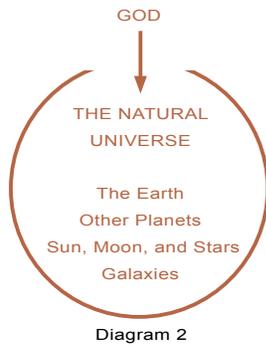
## LESSON 8

### Illustrations PS 8.1A

#### Naturalist View



#### Biblical Christian View



© Walking in Truth Grade 7

*Samples reduced; not actual size*

### Design and Order PS 8.2A



Solar System



Nautilus Shell



Pitcher Plant



Moth with Camouflage and Mimicry

© Walking in Truth Grade 7

Unit 5

# Bible Survey



*Samples reduced; not actual size*

# Sin and the Need for Salvation

## Lesson 14

### Overview

The epistle, or letter, to the Romans is the sixth book in the New Testament, following the Gospels and Acts. Bible scholars believe it was composed by Paul, probably in AD 55 or 56. Its 16 chapters make it one of the longest of the Pauline epistles. Romans is essentially a theological treatise containing the basic elements of Christian doctrine. A study of this book is foundational for students to hold and articulate a biblical Christian worldview.

Although Paul was not the founder of the church at Rome, he knew of its existence, perhaps from Aquila and Priscilla, who were expelled from Rome around AD 49 and had returned to live there sometime later (Romans 16:3). The church was composed of both Gentile and Jewish believers who worshipped in various house churches (Romans 16:5). Because of the backgrounds of the Roman believers, Paul first explained how all people—both Jews and Gentiles—are sinners and subject to God’s righteous judgment. Paul then laid out the doctrine of justification and salvation for all by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The apostle reminded the Romans that they were not only saved from eternal death but saved to a life dedicated to bringing glory to God. He addressed the topic of willful sin and its condemnation by God, who is absolutely just in punishing sin.

Righteousness, the state of moral perfection required by God, is not attainable through human works. Paul reminded the Romans that neither strict adherence to the Law nor attempting to live a righteous life apart from the Law will ever meet God’s standards of righteousness.

Muslims, naturalists, and new spiritualists all have views on right and wrong that differ from those held by Christians. Muslims define *sin* as *disobedience to Allah*, but do not consider the sins of one’s thoughts to be opposed to him. Naturalists pragmatically avoid behaviors which violate the law or that would produce conflict between individuals. New spirituality followers believe that misdeeds cause negative karma, affecting future incarnations.

### PLANNING AHEAD

For Day 2, you will need a timer.

### NOTES

### Objectives

Students will be able to

- describe the church in Rome and Paul’s intent in writing Romans.
- reason that because of God’s general revelation to all people, human sinfulness is not justified.
- explain that God judges both Gentiles and Jews for their sin, despite Jews’ special revelation.
- analyze whether God’s judgment of humankind is fair.
- compare Christian teaching on sin to Muslim, naturalist, and new spiritualist views.

### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

#### Blackline Masters

BLM 14.1A Greek Words for Sin  
BLM 14.2A General Knowledge Quiz  
BLM Test 14

#### Student Workbook

SW 14.1 Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2  
SW 14.2 Topic 3  
SW 14.3 Topic 4  
SW 14.4 Topic 5  
SW 14.5 Topic 6

#### Presentation Slides

PS 14.1A Rome  
PS 14.1B Dynam

14 Sin and the Need for Salvation

Day 1

Student Text pp. 170–172 Student Workbook pp. 121–122

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 1:16

KEY TERMS

- doctrines
- general revelation
- special revelation
- righteousness

PREPARATION **P**

- **Day 2:** Obtain a timer. Print out one copy of **BLM 14.2A General Knowledge Quiz** for each student in your class. Print a copy of the answers for yourself. (*Topic 3: Instruction 1*)

Getting Started—The Main Ideas

Lesson Background

The book of Romans is more accurately titled *Paul's Epistle to the Romans* because the book is really a letter, or *epistle*. Paul, who called himself an apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13), wrote this letter while staying with Gaius, a believer who lived in Corinth. Paul addressed the letter to the church in Rome—a congregation, or several small congregations, made up of both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. Phoebe, a believer who lived in Cenchrea, near Corinth, who was a leader in the church, took the letter to Rome (Romans 16:1–2). Later, the letter was copied by hand so it could be circulated among all the congregations of the early church.

The apostle Paul was also known as *Saul*, which was his name during his early years as a persecutor of Christians. Later, Saul referred to himself by his Latin name, *Paul*, which means *small* or *humble*. As a native of Tarsus, a prominent city of Cilicia, Paul was a Roman citizen, but he was also a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin. He was trained as a Pharisee under Gamaliel. Paul supported himself through tentmaking.

For three years after Paul's first encounter with Jesus, he went into the desert where he was taught by the Holy Spirit of God. Later, Paul went to Jerusalem to stay with Peter for a brief period (Galatians 1:16–18). Paul was instrumental in establishing doctrines for the church, including the doctrine of salvation through faith alone.

Instruction **C**

- 1 Display **PS 14.1A Rome**. Ask students if they can identify the landmarks shown. Explain that these include the Roman Colosseum, the Forum, the Trevi Fountain, and the Tiber River (with St. Peter's Basilica in the background). Guide students to use the pictures to make deductions about Rome, such as it has an ancient history, it was a center of power with enough wealth to build big monuments, it is a place where different religions have vied for supremacy, and its access to water made it a center of trade. Add that today's lesson begins a study of the book of Romans.
- 2 Read *Getting Started—The Main Ideas* (ST page 170).

Discussion Questions

- When Paul wrote to the Christians in Romans, had he met them?
- Why did he write to them?
- What did he write about?

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

### Topic 1—God’s Good News

#### Lesson Background

In the first chapter of Romans, Paul, called himself a *slave* (or *servant*), a title which he often used to refer to himself. He reminded the church that the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) was foretold by the prophets. As a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and King David, Jesus was truly a human being. By the Holy Spirit’s power, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, showing himself to be truly God the Son. This dual nature of Jesus is a key doctrine of the Christian faith. False teachings, such as *gnosticism*—the ideology of various cults of late pre-Christian and early Christian centuries—were distinguished by the conviction that matter is evil. So, gnostics believed that Jesus was not really God incarnate because flesh (matter) is evil. This teaching crept into the church and caused some believers to stumble.

#### Instruction **C**

- 1 Ask students if they have ever received a personal letter from someone. Create discussion by asking the following questions: Did you know the letter was coming? Did it come by mail or email, or was it delivered in person? Were you excited to receive it? How do you think the Christians in Rome felt when they received Paul’s letter?
- 2 Read *Topic 1—God’s Good News* (ST pages 170–171). Emphasize the key term *doctrines*.

#### Discussion Questions

- Why was Rome home to so many people?
- Why might Paul have felt it was important for him to write to the Christians in Rome?
- What kinds of people were part of the church in Rome?
- How did Paul address them?
- What doctrines did he teach about in Romans 1:1–7?

### Topic 2—God’s Power for Salvation

#### Lesson Background

In Romans 1:16, the apostle stated that the gospel, the “Good News about Christ,” holds the power (*dunamis*) of salvation. *Dunamis* is the Greek root for the English words *dynamic*, *dynamo*, and *dynamite*. It is used over 15 times in the New Testament, 10 times in the book of Acts alone. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The explosive power of the gospel changed the world!

Paul prefaced his statement by saying that he was not ashamed (*epi aischunomai*) of the gospel. Salvation by and through faith in Christ’s atonement is a major theme of the book of Romans. Paul concluded this section by quoting an Old Testament Scripture: “It is through faith that a righteous person has life” (Habakkuk 2:4).

#### ENRICHMENT

- For greater understanding of the New Testament terms for sin, see **BLM 14.1A Greek Words for Sin**. Have students read the Bible verses listed and discuss the context of the various terms for sin.
- Encourage students to write their own versions of Romans 1:17–29, substituting Christians for Jews, nonbelievers for Gentiles, the Bible for the law, and making other adjustments to reflect their current situation. Have students share their rewrites to discuss hypocrisy in the church and how Christians are perceived by nonbelievers.
- Remind students that there are other worldviews not studied in this course. Discuss how sin is perceived in animist or polytheistic societies, for example, in contrast to how it is perceived in the monotheistic faiths of Christianity and Islam.
- Lead a discussion on how sin is portrayed in the media, such as when a rich chocolate dessert is described as “sinful.”

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

### COMMENTS

- **Getting Started:** The study of the doctrine of sin, known as *hamartiology*, is more complex than indicated in this lesson. The Greek New Testament uses 10 different terms for sin and the English language does not reflect these nuances.
- **Topic 1:** The apostles' teaching about Jesus' dual nature—both human and divine—would later lead to debates in the early church about whether Jesus was a real human being or a spirit.
- **Topic 3:** The sinfulness and decadence of Rome was highlighted by the apostle John, who referred to it as “Babylon the Great” (Revelation 17:5). He identified the city with “seven hills” (Revelation 17:9) as “the great city that rules over the kings of the world” (Revelation 17:18), describing it as an adulterous prostitute whose sins “are piled as high as heaven” (Revelation 18:5) and whose downfall is certain.
- **Topic 4:** Paul uses the term *law* several times in Romans. When it refers to specific revelation, such as the Pentateuch or the Ten Commandments, the term is capitalized. When it refers to general revelation, or God's principles, it is not capitalized.

### Instruction

- 1 Display **PS 14.1B Dynamo**. Explain that the hydroelectric power plant generates electricity as water flows through it and sends energy to a motor, or dynamo, that converts kinetic energy into electricity. Wind turbines do the same thing, but with the power of the wind. When you ride a bicycle with a light attached to it, your pedaling powers the dynamo that converts kinetic energy into electricity to power the lamp. Finally, many toy construction kits for building robots, cars, and other items come with one or more little motors, or dynamos, to generate electricity. Ask whether any students have used dynamos. Add that in writing to the Romans, Paul used a word in Greek that is the root for the English word *dynamo*.
- 2 Read *Topic 2—God's Power for Salvation* (ST pages 171–172).

#### Discussion Questions

- What is salvation?
- What are you saved from and to?
- What is the Greek word for power?
- Whose power is mentioned in Romans 1:16?
- How does Paul feel about the good news? Why?
- How does Paul feel about the Christian in the church in Rome, and what does he want for them?
- What does Paul teach the Roman believers about faith?

- 3 Read **Romans 1:16** and introduce it as the memory verse.
- 4 Assign **SW 14.1 Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2** to be completed by students.

### Day 2

Student Text pp. 172–174 Student Workbook pp. 123–124

### Topic 3—God's Anger at Sin

#### Lesson Background

The Roman Christians lived in the capital of the most influential culture of the time. Rome set the standards for law, culture, and language in the territories it conquered. The government was a republic rather than a monarchy or dictatorship, although it was nowhere near the free and democratic society that we enjoy today. Rome operated on a class system with the emperor and patricians (mostly wealthy landowners from established families) being the top tier; with soldiers, farmers, merchants, and workers skilled in a trade or craft ranking in the middle; and with slaves ranking lowest of all. Slavery was a pervasive evil in Roman society, with perhaps 33 percent of the populace living as the property of others.

The culture permitted and encouraged idolatry. Roman gods and goddesses were taken from the Greek pantheon of gods but given Latin names. Pagan worship included asking favors

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

of particular gods or goddesses, depending on what the worshipper wanted. If the favor was granted, the worshipper generally had to do something in return. Sacred meals were celebrated during festivals and there would be a place set at the table and food set aside for a god or goddess. This tradition of offering food, either in homes or at a temple, would later cause problems within the church.

Paul addressed this pagan culture directly, calling out the unrighteousness of the people. He explained that the people of the Roman world really had no excuse for not knowing God because God had made himself clear to them through the earth and sky. They could see his eternal power and divine nature, yet they chose to ignore God and live lives “full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip” (Romans 1:29).

### Instruction P C

- 1 Announce you will be distributing a fun quiz that students will have three minutes to complete. Distribute **BLM 14.2A General Knowledge Quiz** facedown to students. Do not allow students to start answering the questions until you start the timer and give the signal. After the allotted time, go over the answers and have students grade their own quizzes. Ask students whether they found the questions easy or hard to answer. (Most students should have done well and found the quiz easy to complete.)

Ask what subjects the quiz covered. Point out that the quiz did not have any questions related to the Bible or religion or spiritual matters. Have students brainstorm what a general knowledge quiz about spiritual matters should cover. What kind of questions would be on such a quiz for seventh graders? Write four or five of their questions on the board. After your discussion, explain that in today’s lesson, students will read what the Bible says that everyone on Earth should know about spiritual matters.

- 2 Read *Topic 3—God’s Anger at Sin* (ST pages 172–174). Emphasize the term *general revelation*.

#### Discussion Questions

- What was life like in the Roman Empire?
- What is general revelation?
- What does the Bible say that everyone should know about spiritual matters?

Refer to the list of questions on the board that the class developed earlier. Compare what the class said everyone should know with what the Bible says everyone should know. Then continue discussing the reading.

#### Discussion Questions

- What two sources did Paul give for human beings’ spiritual knowledge?
- Why did he say that people ignore what they know is true about God and what he is like?
- What do people do when they willfully ignore the truth?

### NOTES

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

### NOTES

- Does everyone do all the things listed in this passage?
- Who is guilty of sin?
- How do you think that the Christians in Rome felt when they read what Paul wrote? Why?

**3** Assign **SW 14.2 Topic 3** for students to complete.

### Day 3

Student Text pp. 174–175 Student Workbook pp. 125–126

### Topic 4—God’s Judgment

#### Lesson Background

The Roman Empire extended from England in the north to modern-day Libya in the south; from Syria in the east to Spain in the west. The empire ruled its vast territory through governors and procurators who upheld Roman laws, thus ensuring *Pax Romana* (Roman peace). Roman citizens had rights under the Roman Republic that had never been granted to citizens under previous monarchies; including the right of appeal. Paul himself was sent to Rome to appeal his case to Caesar (Acts 25:11).

Despite advancements in legal and governmental policies, Romans were still captive to their sinful natures. Paul decried sinful pagan practices and blamed Gentiles for ignoring God’s general revelation of himself, mentioning that God’s attributes are seen in his creation (general revelation). Then he argued that the Jews, who had the Scriptures (special revelation), also broke God’s Law through their sinful attitudes and actions. Paul informed his fellow Jews, “For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God” (Romans 2:28–29).

Paul called both Jews and Gentiles to have a changed heart produced by the Holy Spirit. He explained that “a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people” (Romans 2:29).

#### Instruction **C**

- 1** Remind students that at the time Paul wrote to the Romans, he and other apostles and missionaries had established churches in a number of different cities. The good news about Jesus had spread, and now there were churches in places that Paul had not visited, including Rome. Recall that Paul began his letter by talking about how much he wanted to meet the believers in Rome. Then he switched topics. He talked about sin, especially the pagan practices and worship of the Gentiles.
- 2** Read *Introduction* and *Part 1—Sin’s Consequences* in *Topic 4* (ST pages 174–175).

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

### Discussion Questions

- Why does Paul say God is kind?
- Can God be kind and just at the same time? Why or why not?
- What will be punished? What will be rewarded?
- Will everyone receive the same punishment or reward? Why or why not?
- What does the Law have to do with how people are judged by God?
- Is God fair to both Jews and Gentiles?

### NOTES

Have students work in pairs. One person in each pair should play the part of a Gentile believer, and the other should play the part of a Jewish believer. Have pairs discuss how each might have felt when they heard Paul's condemnation of sin read aloud at church, and why. Then have students switch roles. Call on a few pairs to share with the class. Emphasize God's anger at sin.

- 3** Read *Part 2—The Law and Sinners*. Contrast the term *special revelation* with the term *general revelation*.

### Discussion Questions

- What do you think that being God's chosen people meant to the Jews?
- How do you think they felt when Paul questioned whether they obeyed God's law?
- Was it fair for Paul to compare the Jews with the Gentiles? Why or why not?
- What did Paul say is necessary for someone to be a true Jew?

- 4** Assign **SW 14.3 Topic 4** for students to complete.

## Day 4

Student Text pp. 176–177 Student Workbook pp. 127–128

### Topic 5—God's Faithfulness

#### Lesson Background

In Romans chapter 3, Paul anticipated the Jewish argument that there was no advantage to being one of God's chosen people. Paul rebutted this position by reminding the Jewish believers that they had been entrusted with the full revelation of God's plan of salvation through the writings of their leaders and prophets. Having the Law was a huge advantage for the Jews; they knew God's absolute standard of righteousness. Jesus himself upheld the value of the Law and the warnings of the prophets.

Yet the Jews were incapable of right standing before God through obedience to the Law, as they did not keep it. So, if Gentiles ignored the law of God written on their hearts, and Jews failed to keep the written Law, both were guilty before God. Paul addressed the topic of the

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

### NOTES

Law itself after condemning both Gentiles and Jews. He made it clear that the Law did not cause people to sin. If it did, then it would not have come from a good and gracious God. The Law acted as a mirror. By comparing their behavior to the standards written in the Law, both Jews and Greeks could see just how sinful they were.

### Instruction

- 1 Divide the class into four groups. Have each group designate someone to facilitate the group's discussion, someone else to take notes, and a third person to summarize the discussion for the class. Have groups discuss what is fair and what is not fair for their assigned topic. Assign Group 1 to discuss fairness in group projects or assignments. Assign Group 2 to discuss fairness in sports, including player selection and participation. Assign Group 3 to discuss fairness and social cliques. Assign Group 4 to discuss fairness at home, including birth order and chores. After a few minutes, have groups share what they discussed. Encourage students to brainstorm solutions for how to promote fairness at school. Then announce that today's reading will discuss whether God is fair.
- 2 Read *Topic 5—God's Faithfulness* (ST pages 176–177). Emphasize the term *righteousness*.

#### Discussion Questions

- What advantage did Paul say that Jews had compared with Gentiles?
- Did the Jews benefit from the revelation of God, or were they sinners like everyone else?
- Is it fair for God to judge human beings for their sins? Why or why not?
- Did Jesus think that Jewish traditions were valuable? How do you know?
- What is righteousness?
- Who is righteous?
- What does the Law accomplish?

- 3 Assign **SW 14.4 Topic 5** for students to completed in class.

### Day 5

Student Text pp. 177–179 Student Workbook pp. 129–130

### Topic 6—Comparing Views about Sin

#### Lesson Background

The doctrines of sin and righteousness outlined by Paul in the early chapters of Romans represent the biblical Christian worldview regarding sin. Other worldviews also hold doctrines about sin or unrighteous behavior. Muslims, for example, do not believe that children are born sinful; rather they became sinful by the influence of sin around them. Sin, according to the Muslim worldview, involves only actions. If a Muslim has a sinful thought, but doesn't act on it, it is not considered a sin.

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

The naturalistic view of sin does not include judgment from any higher power, such as God or Allah, because they do not believe in the existence of God or gods. However, naturalists would admit that some deeds are inherently “bad” (sinful or illegal) because they hurt others, provoke revenge, or cause people to hold grudges. These deeds may also produce feelings of guilt and a desire to be forgiven.

While most followers of new spirituality do not believe there is any difference between good and evil (good and evil are both the same), they do believe in karma—the total of good and bad actions in a person’s life. A new spiritualist believes that a person’s karma results in good or bad consequences either in this life or in a reincarnated life and that cycles of reincarnation will end only when people realize that they are god and that god is everything that exists. Since there are no written standards for what is good or bad, new spiritualists make judgment calls on their own behavior.

### Instruction

- 1 Review the four key terms introduced in this lesson: *doctrines*, *general revelation*, *special revelation*, and *righteousness*. On the board, write the heading *biblical Christianity*. Have the class decide on four or five statements to summarize the Christian doctrine of sin; write them under the heading. Explain that today’s lesson will address sin in other worldviews. Write three additional headings on the board: *Islam*, *naturalism*, and *new spirituality*. Leave sufficient space under each heading for statements to summarize that worldview’s concept of sin.
- 2 Read *Introduction* and *Part 1—The Islamic View of Sin* of *Topic 6* (ST pages 177–178).

#### Discussion Questions

- How is what Muslims believe about sin similar to what Christians believe?
- How is what Muslims believe about sin different from what Christians believe?
- Is it helpful to distinguish between major and minor sins? Why or why not?
- Do sinful thoughts and attitudes matter if they are never acted upon? Why or why not?

Direct students’ attention to the statements previously written on the board and discuss whether Muslims would agree or disagree with each one. Have students develop statements for the Islam section.

- 3 Read *Part 2—The Naturalist View of Sin* (ST pages 178–179).

#### Discussion Questions

- What do naturalists believe about sin that Christians also believe?
- Who decides what sin is, according to naturalists? Who do Christians say decides sin?

### NOTES

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

### NOTES

Have students develop statements on naturalists' doctrine about sin. Write them on the board in the appropriate section.

- 4 Read *Part 3—The New Spirituality View of Sin*.

#### Discussion Questions

- What do new spiritualists believe about sin that Christians also believe?
- According to new spiritualists, what do karma and reincarnation have to do with sin?

Have students complete the remaining section on the board with statements summarizing new spiritualists' beliefs on sin.

- 5 Extend the discussion of the sin summaries on the board by having students identify which statements within each worldview represent general or special revelation. Then, discuss what each worldview suggests as a solution for sin.
- 6 Assign **SW 14.5 Topic 6** for students to complete.

### Day 6 Test

Review Lesson 14. Use **BLM Test 14** as a student performance assessment. Have students begin reading Lesson 15.

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2 14.1

Fill in the circle(s) to answer the questions.



1. Who was Paul writing to when he wrote the letter to the Romans?  
 friends he knew personally  
 strangers he had never met  
 people he prayed for and planned to visit  
 Gentile believers  
 Jewish followers of Jesus

2. What is the letter to the Romans about?  
 sin  salvation  soldiers  prison

3. Where was Paul when he wrote to the Romans?  
 Jerusalem  Corinth  Athens  Cenchrea

4. Who took Paul's letter to the church in Rome?  
 Peter  Gaius  Phoebe  Paul  Luke

5. Why did Paul call himself a *slave* or *servant* when he began his letter to the Romans?  
Many of the people he was writing to were likely slaves and he wanted to identify with them.

6. Paul was an apostle. What did he say he had been given the authority and privilege to do?  
to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they would believe and obey God, bringing glory to his name.

7. Explain the good news. Possible answer: Jesus was born, died on the cross for our sins, and then was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can be saved by believing and trusting in Jesus.

8. Explain why Rome was an important city.  
It was the capital of the Roman Empire and one of the largest cities in the ancient world. It was a place of wealth and diversity and religious and political influence.



© Walking in Truth Grade 7 121

### 14.1 Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2, continued

9. Complete the table explaining what the terms Paul used in Romans meant.

	Greek Term	English Term	Meaning
A.	dunamis	power	God's power to save us from sin to a new life with Jesus
B.	soteria	salvation	the result of being rescued, delivered, or set free
C.	epi aichanomai	not ashamed	not being embarrassed or humiliated by the gospel

10. Write the definition of *doctrines*. The principal teachings or system of beliefs of a religious faith

11. Write the words and reference for your memory verse. Romans 1:16 will vary according to Bible version used.



12. Sometimes Jacob finds it hard to tell others about Jesus. How might you encourage him?  
Answers will vary.

13. Read Romans 1:17. What does it say is necessary to be made right in God's sight?  
faith

14. Read Romans 1:6-7. What did Paul say about all who belong to Jesus?  
They are loved by God and called to be his own holy people.

© Walking in Truth Grade 7 122

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 3 14.2

1. Read Romans 1:18-20 and 32. Cross out the sentences below that are not true.  
 People try to hide the truth about what God is like.  
~~It is not right for God to be angry at people who have never heard of him.~~  
~~God cannot expect people to understand his invisible qualities.~~  
 The earth and sky tell us about God's power.  
 Nature tells us what God's character is like.  
 Our consciences tell us that some things are right and some things are wrong.  
 God judges sin, and anyone who sins should be punished.  
~~Death is an excessive punishment for sin.~~

2. Read Romans 1:21-23, 28-29. Underline the consequences of refusing to acknowledge God.  
 • an unbiased view of reality • confused thinking • lack of gratitude • wisdom  
 • a thankful heart • immorality • doing what shouldn't be done • foolishness  
 • righteous lives • worshipping idols • sinful attitudes and behavior

3. What is *general revelation*? the knowledge of God through creation and through our conscience



4. Write something you learned about God from nature.  
Possible answer: From the beauty and variety of creation I have learned that God is more powerful and amazing than I could ever imagine.



5. Write something you learned about God from your own conscience. Possible answer: Because I feel guilty when I lie, I have learned that God hates lying.

© Walking in Truth Grade 7 123

### 14.2 Topic 3, continued



6. Sinful people choose sin rather than acknowledge God. For each of the sins listed below, write an opposite virtue and a way that you can show that virtue in your own life. An example has been included below.  
Gossiping: loyalty. Instead of saying something mean behind someone's back, I could defend him or her and say something nice instead.

a. boasting: Possible answer: humility. Instead of bragging about how I helped my team win the game, I could recognize the contributions that my teammates made too.

b. deception: Possible answer: Truthfulness: I could choose to tell the truth about what I think and feel, instead of hiding it, even when I think my friends won't agree with me.

c. disobedience: Possible answer: Obedience: Instead of giving excuses for not doing something I promised to do, I can check my schedule to make sure I can do it as promised.

d. envy: Possible answer: Gratitude: Instead of envying what other people have, I could thank God that they have those blessings.

e. greed: Possible answer: Generosity: Instead of thinking about how I can get more for myself, I could think about how to give more of myself to others.

f. hate: Possible answer: Love: Instead of hating others, I could try to find reasons to love them whether they are worthy of that love or not.

g. disrespect: Possible answer: Respect: Instead of thinking about all the reasons someone else does not deserve respect, I could treat that person as deserving of respect and dignity.

7. Rome was at the center of the Roman Empire, which had conquered territory all around the Mediterranean Sea. Fill in the circles that show what Roman culture was like.  
 Rome had political and religious influence.  
 Many people were slaves.  
 The people had many gods.  
 Divorce was common.  
 The people benefited from being part of the Empire.  
 Citizens had no power or rights.  
 Fathers could kill their children for any reason.  
 Only the emperor and his armies had rights.  
 Children were protected and valued.



© Walking in Truth Grade 7 124

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic 4 14.3**



1. Read Romans 2:1. Answer the questions.

a. Who were the people who deserved punishment?  
Gentiles or pagans or wicked people or sinners

b. Who were the people who were judging and condemning others? Jewish believers

c. What did Paul say that lets you know whether he approved of their attitude and actions?  
Possible answer: Paul said the Jewish believers were just as bad as the people they judged, because they committed sin too.

2. What is God like, according to Deuteronomy 32:4 and Psalm 97:8-9? God is faithful, just, and fair. He reigns from the throne and judges the nations fairly.

3. What is God like, according to Psalm 86:15 and Psalm 103:8-10? God is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry, and full of love.

4. What is God's kindness toward us intended to do, according to Romans 2:4? God's kindness is intended to turn us from our sins.



5. What happens when we are stubborn about giving up sin? If we are stubborn and refuse to turn from sin, then we store up God's judgment for ourselves.



© Walking in Truth Grade 7 125

**14.3 Topic 4, continued**

6. Cross out the false statements.

God wants people to obey the law and follow its principles.  
God will judge everyone's secrets.  
Jews, who do have God's Law, will be judged by that Law.  
~~Listening to the law makes us right with God.~~  
~~Gentiles who never had God's Law will not be judged by it.~~  
God's law is written in our hearts.  
Our conscience and thoughts tell us if we are obeying God's law.



7. Paul made it clear that God will judge people according to their deeds. Check those deeds that will incur God's righteous judgment.



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> self-centeredness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being greedy
<input type="checkbox"/> having concern for others	<input type="checkbox"/> being wicked
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> stealing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> coveting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disobedience to parents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> murder
<input type="checkbox"/> doing good deeds	<input type="checkbox"/> seeking righteousness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lying in court	<input type="checkbox"/> helping the needy
<input type="checkbox"/> obeying God's Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> doing evil deeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> judging other people	<input type="checkbox"/> trusting in Jesus
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> showing willful disobedience to God	<input type="checkbox"/> relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance
<input type="checkbox"/> relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> having an unrepentant attitude toward sin

8. Explain the difference between *general revelation* and *specific revelation*. Possible answer: General revelation is available to everyone, Jews and Gentiles alike, because it comes through nature and through our conscience. Special revelation is the unique knowledge of God through the Scriptures and through Jesus Christ.



© Walking in Truth Grade 7 126

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic 5 14.4**

Fill in the circle(s) to answer the questions.

1. What is *righteousness*?  
 an attitude that you are better than other people  
 a willingness to give your money to the poor  
 the state of moral perfection required by God



2. What does sin do?  
 It ruins the relationships that people have with themselves, God, one another, and creation.  
 It highlights God's righteousness and brings him more glory.  
 It motivates people to pay attention to their own needs and wants rather than God.

3. What does God's written Law do?  
 It shows people how sinful they are.  
 It is a standard that people can use to see whether they are doing right or wrong.  
 It shows that you can be made right in God's eyes by obeying his commandments.

4. What advantage did the Jews have over the Gentiles?  
 They did not have to obey the Law because God used them to tell Gentiles what the Law was.  
 They were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.  
 They were always proven right in court.



5. Read Matthew 5:17 and Luke 16:16-17. Answer the questions.

a. Did Jesus value the Law? Explain your answer. Yes, Jesus valued the Law. He said he came to fulfill it, not to abolish it.

b. What did Jesus say was accomplished by the Law? Jesus said it was a guide for the people until the gospel came.

6. Read Romans 3:19-20. What did Paul say was accomplished by the Law? Paul said that the Law shows us how sinful we are.

© Walking in Truth Grade 7 127

**14.4 Topic 5, continued**

7. Paul said that all people are under the power of sin. Read Paul's words in Romans and the Old Testament reference he quoted from. Complete the table.

	Romans	Old Testament Reference	Who Said It	About Whom?
A.	3:10-12	Psalm 14:2-3	David	no one, everyone
B.	3:13	Psalm 140:1-3	David	evil people
C.	3:14	Psalm 10:2, 7	A psalmist	wicked people
D.	3:15-17	Isaiah 59:7-8, 12	Isaiah	"they, us, we" (sinners)
E.	3:18	Psalm 36:1	David	wicked people

8. Do you think that it is fair to say that all people are sinners? Why or why not?  
Yes, it is fair to say all people are sinners because Romans 3:10 says no one is righteous.



9. Read Mark 10:17-27 and Romans 3:19-20. Answer the questions.

a. Could the young man be saved by keeping all the commandments? No. Romans 3:20 says no one can be made right with God by keeping the commandments.

b. How did the young man feel when Jesus told him he had to give away his wealth? He felt sad.

c. How did Jesus feel about the young man? Jesus loved him.



d. What does this parable say about God's standards for moral perfection?  
Possible answer: It says that God's standards are much higher than we think they are. God not only wants us to keep the commandments but to sincerely love him and love other people.

e. How did the disciples feel when they heard what Jesus said about entering the kingdom of God?  
They were amazed or astounded.

f. How do Jesus' words in Mark 10:27 give us hope? Jesus promised that nothing is impossible with God. Even if it is impossible for us to keep God's commands, God can save us.

© Walking in Truth Grade 7 128

# Teacher Manual

## LESSON 14

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 6 14.5

Read the statements. Place a check mark by the worldview(s) they represent: biblical Christianity, Islam, naturalism, or new spirituality.

	Teaching about Sin				
1.	There is no afterlife, so sin does not result in eternal separation from God.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.	Sin involves only actions, not thoughts or attitudes.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3.	A sinful life can result in bad consequences and karma.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.	Everyone is accountable to God for his or her sins.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5.	Every sin separates you from God.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
6.	People become sinful because everyone born after the fall is sinful.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
7.	People hurt one another and are selfish, but there is no such thing as sin because that is a religious term.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.	People become sinful by learning to sin from those around them.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
9.	People are not born with a sinful nature.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.	Jesus lived a sinless life so he could be our Savior.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

11. Read the sentences. Cross out the ones that are false.

Muslims say Allah forgives small sins if you avoid the great sins.

Many Muslims scholars agree that fleeing from a battle is a major sin.

~~Muslims believe that Adam and Eve's disobedience separated them and all humanity from God.~~

Muslims believe God created death as a natural process, and it is not a result of the fall.

© Walking in Truth Grade 7

129

### 14.5 Topic 6, continued



12. Muslims believe that there are major and minor sins. What do Christians believe? Hint: Read Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 64:6. **Possible answer:** It does not matter whether there are major and minor sins because all sin separates us from God. God's standard for holiness is higher than we can imagine.

13. Do naturalists believe in sin? Explain. Naturalists do not believe in sin, because they do not believe in God and sin is a religious term. But naturalists do believe that people can do things that are selfish and destructive.



14. What is the basis that naturalists use to decide whether an action is good or bad? What is the basis that Christians use? Each naturalist decides whether an action is good or bad based on his or her personal moral code and on whether the action is legal and approved by society. Christians decide whether an action is good or bad based on the Bible, their conscience, and the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

15. Read Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 12:6, and John 17:17. What do these verses say about God's Word?

These verses say that God's Word lasts forever, that it is flawless, and that it is true.



16. What do new spiritualists believe about sin? Explain. New spiritualists do not believe people are born with a sinful nature. Many also believe there is neither good nor bad. Instead, they talk about karma, which brings consequences for one's actions.

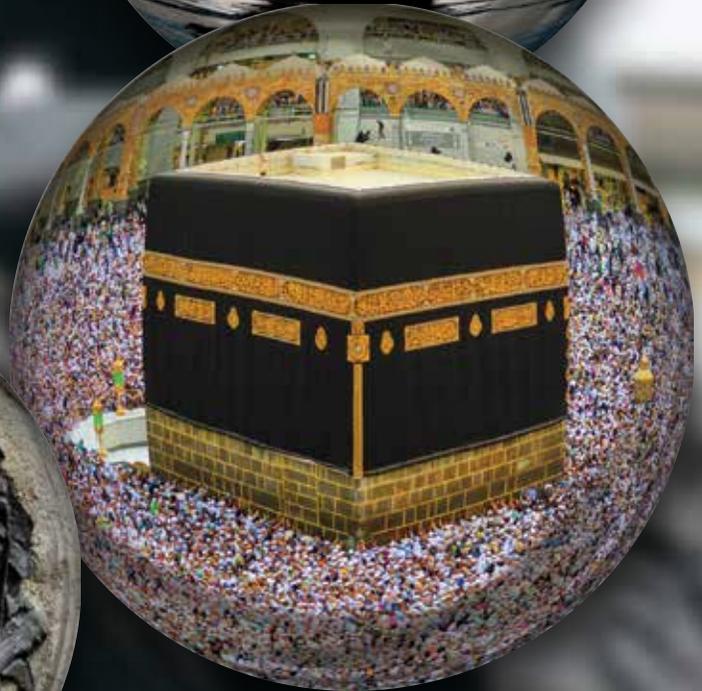
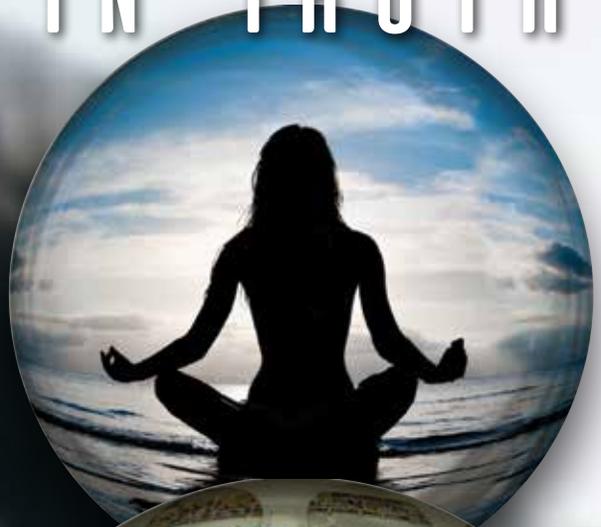
17. New spiritualists believe in karma and reincarnation. What do Christians believe? Read Hebrews 9:27, Ecclesiastes 3:2, and John 11:25.

Christians believe that people are born and die only once and that after that they are judged on the basis of whether they believe in Jesus.

130

© Walking in Truth Grade 7

# WALKING IN TRUTH™



## Competing Worldviews

STUDENT WORKBOOK

7

*Samples reduced; not actual size*

# Student Workbook

## LESSON 14

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2 **14.1**



Fill in the circle(s) to answer the questions.

1. Who was Paul writing to when he wrote the letter to the Romans?
- friends he knew personally
  - strangers he had never met
  - people he prayed for and planned to visit
  - Gentile believers
  - Jewish followers of Jesus

2. What is the letter to the Romans about?

- sin                       salvation                       soldiers                       prison

3. Where was Paul when he wrote to the Romans?

- Jerusalem                       Corinth                       Athens                       Cenchrea

4. Who took Paul's letter to the church in Rome?

- Peter                       Gaius                       Phoebe                       Paul                       Luke

5. Why did Paul call himself a *slave* or *servant* when he began his letter to the Romans?

---

---

6. Paul was an apostle. What did he say he had been given the authority and privilege to do?

---

---

7. Explain the good news. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

8. Explain why Rome was an important city.

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Student Workbook

## LESSON 14

### 14.1 Getting Started and Topics 1 and 2, continued

9. Complete the table explaining what the terms Paul used in Romans meant.

	Greek Term	English Term	Meaning
A.	dunamis		
B.	soteria		
C.	epi aischunomai		

10. Write the definition of *doctrines*. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

11. Write the words and reference for your memory verse. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---



12. Sometimes Jacob finds it hard to tell others about Jesus. How might you encourage him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

13. Read Romans 1:17. What does it say is necessary to be made right in God's sight?

---

14. Read Romans 1:6–7. What did Paul say about all who belong to Jesus?

---

---

# Student Workbook

## LESSON 14

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 3 14.2

1. Read Romans 1:18–20 and 32. Cross out the sentences below that are not true.

- People try to hide the truth about what God is like.
- It is not right for God to be angry at people who have never heard of him.
- God cannot expect people to understand his invisible qualities.
- The earth and sky tell us about God's power.
- Nature tells us what God's character is like.
- Our consciences tell us that some things are right and some things are wrong.
- God judges sin, and anyone who sins should be punished.
- Death is an excessive punishment for sin.

2. Read Romans 1:21–23, 28–29. Underline the consequences of refusing to acknowledge God.

- an unbiased view of reality
- confused thinking
- lack of gratitude
- wisdom
- a thankful heart
- immorality
- doing what shouldn't be done
- foolishness
- righteous lives
- worshipping idols
- sinful attitudes and behavior

3. What is *general revelation*? \_\_\_\_\_



4. Write something you learned about God from nature.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Write something you learned about God from your own conscience.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Walking in Truth Grade 7

123

### 14.2 Topic 3, continued



6. Sinful people choose sin rather than acknowledge God. For each of the sins listed below, write an opposite virtue and a way that you can show that virtue in your own life. An example has been included below.

*Gossiping: loyalty. Instead of saying something mean behind someone's back, I could defend him or her and say something nice instead.*

- a. boasting: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. deception: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c. disobedience: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- d. envy: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- e. greed: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- f. hate: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- g. disrespect: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. Rome was at the center of the Roman Empire, which had conquered territory all around the Mediterranean Sea. Fill in the circles that show what Roman culture was like.

- Rome had political and religious influence.
- Many people were slaves.
- The people had many gods.
- Divorce was common.
- The people benefited from being part of the Empire.
- Citizens had no power or rights.
- Fathers could kill their children for any reason.
- Only the emperor and his armies had rights.
- Children were protected and valued.



124

Walking in Truth Grade 7

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic 4 14.3



1. Read Romans 2:1. Answer the questions.

- a. Who were the people who deserved punishment? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Who were the people who were judging and condemning others? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What did Paul say that lets you know whether he approved of their attitude and actions? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is God like, according to Deuteronomy 32:4 and Psalm 97–8? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is God like, according to Psalm 86:15 and Psalm 103:8–10? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is God's kindness toward us intended to do, according to Romans 2:4? \_\_\_\_\_



5. What happens when we are stubborn about giving up sin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walking in Truth Grade 7

125

### 14.3 Topic 4, continued

6. Cross out the false statements.

- God wants people to obey the law and follow its principles.
- God will judge everyone's secrets.
- Jews, who do have God's Law, will be judged by that Law.
- Listening to the law makes us right with God.
- Gentiles who never had God's written Law will not be judged by it.
- God's law is written in our hearts.
- Our conscience and thoughts tell us if we are obeying God's law.



7. Paul made it clear that God will judge people according to their deeds. Check those deeds that will incur God's righteous judgment.



- self-centeredness
- being greedy
- having concern for others
- being wicked
- stealing
- coveting
- disobedience to parents
- murder
- doing good deeds
- seeking righteousness
- lying in court
- helping the needy
- obeying God's Law
- doing evil deeds
- judging other people
- trusting in Jesus
- showing willful disobedience to God
- relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance
- having an unrepentant attitude toward sin

8. Explain the difference between *general revelation* and *specific revelation*. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

126

Walking in Truth Grade 7

# Student Workbook

## LESSON 14

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Topic 5 14.4

Fill in the circle(s) to answer the questions.

**1. What is *righteousness*?**

an attitude that you are better than other people

a willingness to give your money to the poor

the state of moral perfection required by God

**2. What does sin do?**

It ruins the relationships that people have with themselves, God, one another, and creation.

It highlights God's righteousness and brings him more glory.

It motivates people to pay attention to their own needs and wants rather than God.

**3. What does God's written Law do?**

It shows people how sinful they are.

It is a standard that people can use to see whether they are doing right or wrong.

It shows that you can be made right in God's eyes by obeying his commandments.

**4. What advantage did the Jews have over the Gentiles?**

They did not have to obey the Law because God used them to tell Gentiles what the Law was.

They were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.

They were always proven right in court.





**5. Read Matthew 5:17 and Luke 16:16–17. Answer the questions.**

a. Did Jesus value the Law? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What did Jesus say was accomplished by the Law? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Read Romans 3:19–20. What did Paul say was accomplished by the Law?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

© Walking in Truth Grade 7
127

14.4 Topic 5, continued

7. Paul said that all people are under the power of sin. Read Paul's words in Romans and the Old Testament reference he quoted from. Complete the table.

	Romans	Old Testament Reference	Who Said It?	About Whom?
A.	3:10–12	Psalms 14:2–3		
B.	3:13	Psalms 140:1–3		
C.	3:14	Psalms 10:2, 7		
D.	3:15–17	Isaiah 59:7–8, 12		
E.	3:18	Psalms 36:1		

**8. Do you think that it is fair to say that all people are sinners? Why or why not?**



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Read Mark 10:17–27 and Romans 3:19–20. Answer the questions.**

a. Could the young man be saved by keeping all the commandments? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How did the young man feel when Jesus told him he had to give away his wealth? \_\_\_\_\_

c. How did Jesus feel about the young man? \_\_\_\_\_

d. What does this parable say about God's standards for moral perfection? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. How did the disciples feel when they heard what Jesus said about entering the kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

f. How do Jesus' words in Mark 10:27 give us hope? \_\_\_\_\_

© Walking in Truth Grade 7
128

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Topic 6 14.5

Read the statements. Place a check mark by the worldview(s) they represent: biblical Christianity, Islam, naturalism, or new spirituality.

	Teaching about Sin				
1.	There is no afterlife, so sin does not result in eternal separation from God.				
2.	Sin involves only actions, not thoughts or attitudes.				
3.	A sinful life can result in bad consequences and karma.				
4.	Everyone is accountable to God for his or her sins.				
5.	Every sin separates you from God.				
6.	People become sinful because everyone born after the fall is sinful.				
7.	People hurt one another and are selfish, but there is no such thing as sin because that is a religious term.				
8.	People become sinful by learning to sin from those around them.				
9.	People are not born with a sinful nature.				
10.	Jesus lived a sinless life so he could be our Savior.				

**11. Read the sentences. Cross out the ones that are false.**

Muslims say Allah forgives small sins if you avoid the great sins.

Many Muslims scholars agree that fleeing from a battle is a major sin.

Muslims believe that Adam and Eve's disobedience separated them and all humanity from God.

Muslims believe God created death as a natural process, and it is not a result of the fall.

© Walking in Truth Grade 7
129

14.5 Topic 6, continued

**12. Muslims believe that there are major and minor sins. What do Christians believe? Hint: Read Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 64:6.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**13. Do naturalists believe in sin? Explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**14. What is the basis that naturalists use to decide whether an action is good or bad? What is the basis that Christians use?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**15. Read Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 12:6, and John 17:17. What do these verses say about God's Word?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**16. What do new spiritualists believe about sin? Explain.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**17. New spiritualists believe in karma and reincarnation. What do Christians believe? Read Hebrews 9:27, Ecclesiastes 3:2, and John 11:25.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

© Walking in Truth Grade 7
130

Unit 5

# Bible Survey



## Lesson 14 Sin and the Need for Salvation

### Getting Started—The Main Ideas

Paul's letter to the Romans is the longest letter in the New Testament. Paul began the letter by telling the Christians in Rome how much he longed to meet them because he had heard about their congregation, but he didn't know them personally. Paul wanted to visit them and encourage their faith as they encouraged his.



The book of Romans contains the basic teachings of Christianity. Paul first proclaimed the good news of the power of salvation to set believers free from sin and into a restored relationship with God. Paul commended the believers for their changed hearts, but he also reminded them that a changed heart must result in a changed life. Christians, both Gentiles and Jews, cannot continue to willfully sin against God and think they will escape his righteous judgment.

The doctrines concerning sin and righteousness outlined by Paul in his letter to the Romans are the foundations of the biblical Christian worldview. Muslims, naturalists, and new spiritualists also have views about right and wrong behavior, although these views may be deeply personal and not the same for all followers of each faith.

### Topic 1—God's Good News

**Introduction:** The book of Romans is more accurately titled *Paul's Epistle to the Romans* because the book is really a letter, or an *epistle*. The apostle Paul wrote this letter while staying with a fellow believer, Gaius, who lived in Corinth. Paul addressed the letter to the church in Rome—a congregation made up of both Jewish converts to Christianity and Gentile believers. Bible scholars believe that Paul wrote the epistle during his third missionary journey at the time he stayed in Corinth (Acts 20:2–3). This would place the date of the letter at about AD 55–56. Phoebe, a woman who lived in Cenchrea, near Corinth, probably took the letter to Rome. The letter was then circulated among the churches and copied by hand. The picture to the right is an early copy of Romans 1:1–16 in the original Greek.



ROMANS 1:1–16 ON PAPYRUS

# Student Text

## LESSON 14

### Part 1—Introduction to Romans

The church in Rome was made up of both Jewish converts to Christianity and Gentile believers. It probably included many slaves. (A third of Rome’s population was enslaved.) So Paul began his letter by identifying himself as *a slave*, or *servant*, of Christ Jesus and an apostle sent to preach the good news.

Paul added that he was writing to all in Rome **who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people** (Romans 1:7). This designation was a wonderful reminder to a church made up of Jewish and Gentile believers, free and slave, rich and poor, and citizens and foreigners. Paul began to teach both Jews and Gentiles the essential **doctrines** of the Christian faith, those teachings that are important for believers to learn in order to live as God’s holy people. The word *doctrine* comes from the Latin *doctrina*, which means *teaching*.

#### Doctrines

The principle teachings or system of beliefs of a religious faith

### Part 2—A Letter from Paul

In addition to greeting the Roman church, Paul stated that Jesus’ coming to Earth was foretold by the prophets. As a descendant of David, Jesus was truly human. Yet Jesus rose from the dead, showing himself to be truly God the Son. A major theme of the book of Romans is the power of salvation through faith in Christ’s resurrection. Through Christ, Paul and the other apostles were granted authority to reach the Gentiles with the good news of salvation so that God would be glorified.

<sup>1</sup> This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. <sup>2</sup> God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. <sup>3</sup> The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, <sup>4</sup> and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.



<sup>6</sup> And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Romans 1:1–7

### Topic 2—God’s Power for Salvation

**Introduction:** The Greek word Paul used for salvation (*soteria*) is the noun form of a verb meaning *to rescue*, *deliver*, or *set free*. Paul explained to the Roman church that not only are they saved *from* something, but they are also saved *to do* something. Paul wrote that not only have the Roman Christians been set free, or delivered, from eternal separation from God, but they had also been called to belong to Christ and to obey him, bringing glory to his name.

# Student Text

## LESSON 14



The Greek word for *power*—when discussing God’s salvation power—is *dynamic*. (This is the same word from which the English words *dynamic*, *dynamo*, and *dynamite* come from.) God’s power to save changes lives, yet it is important to remember that this power is God’s; it is not under human control. The good news that Paul proclaimed to the Romans begins with the fact that no one is able to save himself or herself. It is as if a drowning person calls out for help, saying, “Somebody help me!” And God says, “I will help you.” The good news proclaims that Jesus did what human beings could never do. Salvation is both rescue and restoration; believers are delivered from sin and restored to harmony with God, within themselves, with others, and with creation.

Paul wanted not only to remind the Roman Christians of their salvation and restoration but also to strengthen their faith and to impart a spiritual gift. The love and respect that Paul had for the believers is evident throughout the letter. Though he desired to see them personally and to help them grow spiritually, he had been prevented from visiting them so far.



Paul emphasized that he was not ashamed of the gospel, the good news. The word *ashamed* comes from two Greek words. The first word (*epi*) acts to make the second word stronger. The second word (*aischunomai*), means *to be humiliated*. When Paul said he was not ashamed of the good news, he meant he was not humiliated. He was not embarrassed by the message he boldly proclaimed.

<sup>8</sup> Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. <sup>9</sup> God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.

<sup>10</sup> One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. <sup>12</sup> When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.



<sup>13</sup> I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. <sup>15</sup> So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

Romans 1:8–17

### Topic 3—God’s Anger at Sin

**Introduction:** The Roman Christians lived in the capital of the most influential culture of the time. The empire gave them many advantages that previous cultures did not have, including rights for citizens. However,

# Student Text

## LESSON 14

it was also a culture that practiced slavery, idolatry, and all kinds of evil. Divorce was common, and fathers had the right to put their children to death for any reason they wished. The sad truth is that people in the first century suppressed the truth of their own sinful nature. Instead of crying out to God for rescue, they denied that they were drowning in sin. From the time of Adam and Eve, to today, sinful human beings do not want God in their business. They will do anything to get away from God. If they even acknowledge God's existence, they say, "Get lost, God. I can live my own way and rely on myself." They want nothing to do with God's law or knowledge of him. Everyone on Earth is guilty of sin.



Some versions of the Bible call this irreverent attitude toward God *unrighteousness*. Sin always begins with an unrighteous or ungodly attitude. God's anger, or wrath, is revealed from heaven toward all unrighteousness—both sinful deeds and sinful attitudes. Even people who have never heard of God are guilty and subject to God's wrath, because God reveals himself through the natural world and through all human beings' innate understanding of right and wrong. This is called **general revelation**.

<sup>18</sup> But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. <sup>19</sup> They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. <sup>20</sup> For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

<sup>21</sup> Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. <sup>23</sup> And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. Romans 1:18–23

The people Paul described thought it was a good idea to abandon God. However, Paul argued that this was not a very good idea at all, and it had bad consequences.

### General Revelation

The knowledge of God through creation and through our conscience

<sup>28</sup> Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. <sup>29</sup> Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. <sup>30</sup> They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. <sup>31</sup> They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. <sup>32</sup> They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too. Romans 1:28–32

# Student Text

## LESSON 14



This final passage in Romans 1 marks a very low point in the history of human beings. After reading it, no one would ever be tempted to yell, "Hooray for humankind!" Ever since the fall, all people have been born with a sinful nature. Not only do people continue to practice all sorts of sin, but they encourage others to do so too. Human beings constantly fail in doing what is right and good.

### Topic 4—God's Judgment

**Introduction:** Many of the Roman Christians had been Gentiles who previously engaged in pagan practices (Romans 1:5–6). But Paul told the Roman Christians who had a Jewish background that they were guilty of many of the same sins. Jewish believers felt that because they had the Law and were circumcised, they would escape God's judgment and wrath for their evil deeds. Paul's assertion that it is impossible to sin and still maintain a relationship of harmony with God must have shaken their faulty beliefs. Christians today cannot continue in willful disobedience to God and expect to escape his judgment.

### Part 1—Sin's Consequences

<sup>1</sup>You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. <sup>2</sup>And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. <sup>3</sup>Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? <sup>4</sup>Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?



<sup>5</sup>But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup>He will judge everyone according to what they have done. <sup>7</sup>He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. <sup>8</sup>But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. <sup>9</sup>There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. <sup>10</sup>But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:1–11



Paul made it clear that God's judgment falls on all those who live self-centered, wicked lives. Gentiles, who do not have the written Law, are judged according to their good or evil thoughts and actions. Do they respect their parents? Do they steal, murder, bear false witness, or cover what belongs to others? Even though Gentiles might not know the Law, they are judged by their obedience to its principles. The law's principles were written on their hearts, and their consciences either approve or condemn them. Jews who do have the written Law are judged according to their obedience to it.

<sup>12</sup>When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. <sup>13</sup>For merely

174

Walking in Truth Grade 7

### Topic 5—God's Faithfulness

**Introduction:** Have you ever heard a foolish question such as "Could God make a rock so heavy that he couldn't lift it?" or "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" Questions like these have no answers and really don't make sense. One foolish thought some of the Roman believers may have held was that their sinfulness was actually a good thing, because it provided a contrast to God's nature, showing him to be righteous. If sinfulness was actually a good thing, then God would have been wrong to punish them for their sins. Paul showed them the foolishness of this type of thinking.

### Part 1—God Is Fair



<sup>1</sup>Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision? <sup>2</sup>Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.

<sup>3</sup>True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? <sup>4</sup>Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him,

"You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court."

<sup>5</sup>"But," some might say, "our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn't it unfair, then, for him to punish us?" (This is merely a human point of view.) <sup>6</sup>Of course not! If God were not entirely fair, how would he be qualified to judge the world? <sup>7</sup>"But," someone might still argue, "how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him more glory?" <sup>8</sup>And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, "The more we sin, the better it is!" Those who say such things deserve to be condemned.

Romans 3:1–8

Notice that Paul anticipated the Jewish believers' questions about the value of Jewish traditions, especially circumcision. When Jesus was asked about keeping the Law, he said, "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose" (Matthew 5:17). Both Jesus and Paul upheld the value of the Law as an absolute standard (a perfect measure) to show people how sinful they are. The argument that sin is actually a good thing, because it gives God a chance to show how good he is, is completely ridiculous!



### Part 2—No One Is Righteous

After condemning both Gentiles and Jews, Paul went on to address the question of who is righteous (morally perfect) before God. Righteousness would have been understood by the Gentiles as living a decent life. The Jewish believers would have defined righteousness as right standing before God fulfilled by keeping the Law. Both Gentiles and Jews saw righteousness as the ticket to eternal life.

Jesus was asked about eternal life by a rich young man. In Mark 10, this young man asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. The youth knew that righteousness came through obedience to the Law because he bragged that he had followed the commandments all his life. However, he flinched when Jesus told him that he lacked one thing—he needed to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor. Jesus

176

Walking in Truth Grade 7

### Part 2—The Law and Sinners

listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. <sup>14</sup>Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. <sup>15</sup>They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. <sup>16</sup>And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

Romans 2:12–16

Because God will judge all people without showing favoritism, Paul warned Jewish believers against hypocrisy. The Jews felt comfortable and secure, boasting in their superior knowledge of God's written law, his special revelation. And because the Jewish Christians had God's special revelation as well as the covenant of circumcision, they felt it unnecessary to turn from their sinful attitudes. They were, after all, God's chosen people! But Paul stripped away their boasting and revealed them to be just as sinful as the Gentiles. He encouraged the Jewish believers to be "true Jews," those with hearts that are right toward God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Special Revelation**  
The unique knowledge of God through the Scriptures and through Jesus Christ

<sup>17</sup>You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, and you boast about your special relationship with him. <sup>18</sup>You know what he wants; you know what is right because you have been taught his law. <sup>19</sup>You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. <sup>20</sup>You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth.



<sup>21</sup>Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? <sup>22</sup>You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? <sup>23</sup>You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. <sup>24</sup>No wonder the Scriptures say, "The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."

<sup>25</sup>The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. <sup>26</sup>And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? <sup>27</sup>In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it.

<sup>28</sup>For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. <sup>29</sup>No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

Romans 2:17–29



Walking in Truth Grade 7

175



wasn't adding the requirement of monetary poverty to be righteous with God; he was pointing out the young man's breaking of the second greatest commandment of the Law—to love one's neighbor as oneself. Paul reminded the Roman Christians, both Jews and Gentiles, that no one can attain righteousness through one's own efforts.

**Righteousness**  
The state of moral perfection required by God

<sup>9</sup>Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. <sup>10</sup>As the Scriptures say,

"No one is righteous— not even one."

<sup>11</sup>No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.

<sup>12</sup>All have turned away; all have become useless.

No one does good, not a single one.

<sup>13</sup>Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave.

Their tongues are filled with lies.

"Snake venom drips from their lips."

<sup>14</sup>"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

<sup>15</sup>They rush to commit murder.

<sup>16</sup>Destruction and misery always follow them.

<sup>17</sup>They don't know where to find peace."

<sup>18</sup>"They have no fear of God at all."



<sup>19</sup>Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. <sup>20</sup>For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Romans 3:9–20

### Topic 6—Comparing Views about Sin

**Introduction:** The doctrines of sin and righteousness outlined by Paul in the early chapters of Romans represent the Christian worldview regarding sin. Other worldviews also have beliefs about sin or unrighteous behavior. The apostles Paul and Peter instructed Christians to speak to non-Christians on the topic of sin (or any other topic) with the love of Christ—never belligerently or defensively. Recall that Muslims believe there is one true God. But their understanding of the one and only true God of biblical Christianity is incomplete, as are their views on sin. When discussing sin with a person of a different faith, remember Paul's advice to live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone (Colossians 4:5–6).

Walking in Truth Grade 7

177

# Student Text

## LESSON 14

### Part 1—The Islamic View of Sin

Recall that the Allah of Islam is not the God of the Bible. Although the existence of evil, individual accountability, and judgment for sin are included within Islamic teaching, its idea of sin is different from the biblical Christian worldview that says sin is sin, regardless of whether it is small or great by human standards. Paul states in Romans 3:23 that all people are guilty of sin.



Muslims agree that people are sinful. The Quran states that if Allah were to punish men for their wrongdoing, he would not leave any living creature on the earth (Quran 16:61). Yet Muslims believe that there are small sins that Allah may forgive, or overlook.

*But if you avoid the great sins you have been forbidden, We shall wipe out your minor misdeeds and let you in through the entrance of honour.* Quran 4:31

Muslims do not see the fall in the same way as Christians see it. The fall did not result in a death sentence for all human beings; it was merely a mistake. Death is not a punishment for sin, but it is simply a natural process. Adam was created as God's *khalifa* (vicegerent) on Earth, yet he was not created in God's image, and neither was Eve. Satan deceived Adam and Eve into eating forbidden fruit; but this act of blatant disobedience did not separate them from God. When Adam and Eve repented, Allah accepted their repentance because he is a merciful and forgiving God (Quran 2:37). People became sinful because they learned to sin from those around them. Sin, according to the Muslim worldview, involves only actions. If a Muslim has a sinful thought, but does not act on it, it is not considered a sin.

Below are some of the numerous sins that many Muslim scholars agree are major sins:

1. *shirk* (idolatry; worshipping other gods instead of or in addition to Allah)
2. magic
3. murder (killing those who oppose Islam in jihad is not considered murder)
4. usury (lending money at unfair interest rates)
5. taking advantage of orphans
6. fleeing from a battle
7. false charges of adultery
8. disobedience to parents

Biblical Christianity asserts that sin is willful disobedience against God. Unlike Islam, Christianity teaches that people commit sins by their thoughts, not just their actions. Any sin, no matter how small, separates us from God. No amount of good deeds can fix this problem, because even our most righteous deeds are as filthy rags when compared with the absolute holiness of God (Isaiah 64:6). But Jesus, who was sinless, died and rose again to redeem us from our sins. Through faith in him we can have forgiveness and be made new to live eternally with him.

### Part 2—The Naturalist View of Sin

The idea of God's judgment for sin after the death of an individual is foreign to the naturalist because he or she does not believe in an afterlife. Sin, therefore, does not result in eternal separation from God. Naturalists do not usually use the term *sin* because it is a religious term, and they do not believe in God or any religion.

178

© Walking in Truth Grade 7



They admit that some deeds are inherently "bad" because they hurt others, provoke revenge, or cause people to hold grudges. These deeds may also produce feelings of guilt and a desire to be forgiven. Selfish and destructive acts turn people against one another, resulting in the destruction of human relationships. Naturalists also say that some deeds are "bad" because they go against the norms, or laws, of society. Such deeds, or illegal acts, can result in judicial punishment.

Naturalists do not believe that God exists, which means there is no God that reinforces their "good" behavior or punishes their "bad" behavior. They rely on other people for correction as well as their own feelings. Since there is no God to make the rules, it is up to people to make the rules. Whether an action is good or bad is a matter of individual decision and one's own moral code or the laws of one's government. However, if people make the rules, then the rules can change at any time. They can also change from person to person or from country to country.

Contrary to the naturalist viewpoint, Christians believe that God has written his laws on human hearts and given every human being a conscience. The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin. Christians believe that God, who knows everything, will judge all human beings justly—whether or not they recognize their sins or believe in Jesus (Romans 2:14–16).

### Part 3—The New Spirituality View of Sin

Though followers of new spirituality do not believe people have a sinful nature, they do have various views about what is right and wrong, good and bad. Many new spiritualists believe there is neither good nor bad. Right and wrong are the same.

Many new spiritualists believe in reincarnation. They believe that individuals are required to go through numerous cycles of death and birth in which they continue their quest for godhood in other bodies. Cycles of reincarnation will end only when people realize that they are god and that god is everything that exists. Once people understand they are god, nothing they can do is good or evil. They and god are the same. New spiritualists also believe in karma—the total of a person's good and bad actions that results in good or bad consequences in this life or in a reincarnated life. Therefore, if someone has accumulated bad karma, it will affect him or her either in this life or a reincarnation. However, there is no deity to judge which actions are good or bad. So, who decides what actions are right and wrong? This is difficult for the new spiritualist to answer.

The new spirituality view of God, people, and karma is opposed to Christian teaching. For Christians, salvation does not depend on how hard you work to progress toward higher consciousness. No amount of meditation will make you divine. Biblical Christianity teaches that a person is cleansed from sin only through repentance and sincere faith in Jesus' sacrifice. As Paul put it when he greeted the Roman Christians:



<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes. . . . <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." Romans 1:16–17

© Walking in Truth Grade 7

179

# Black Line Masters

## LESSON 14

### Greek Words for Sin 14.1A

1. ἁμαρτία, or *hamartia*, is the word for sin that appears most often in the New Testament. It means *to miss the mark or make a mistake*. (used in Romans 5:12, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
2. παράβασις, or *parabasis*: *to overstep, neglect, or transgress a law*. (Romans 2:23, Galatians 3:19)
3. παράπτωμα, or *paraptōma*: *to fall, to deviate from truth and what is right, or to err*. (Romans 5:15, Ephesians 2:1)
4. παρακοή, or *parakoē*: *disobeying or not listening* (due to inattention or unwillingness to do so). (Romans 5:19, Hebrews 2:2)
5. ἀδικέω, or *adikēō*: *to sin, to violate the law, to do wrong, or to hurt someone*. (Acts 25:11, Colossians 3:25)
6. ἀσέβεια, or *asebeia*: *to fail to show reverence or worship*. (Romans 1:18, Titus 2:12)
7. ἀνομία, or *anomia*: *without law, or lawless*. (Titus 2:14, 2 Thessalonians 2:3)
8. ἀγνοσία, or *agnoō*: *ignorance or lack of understanding*. (Acts 17:23, Romans 10:3)
9. ἡττάω, or *hētēō*: *a decrease, defeat, fault or failure, or loss*. (Romans 11:12, 1 Corinthians 6:7)
10. πονηρός, or *ponēros*: *utter corruption, wickedness, and evil*. (Matthew 16:4, Ephesians 5:16)

### General Knowledge Quiz 14.2A

1. What is the capital city of the United States?
2. What is the capital city of China?
3. Where is Antarctica?
4. What is the largest country in South America?
5. How many days are in a leap year?
6. What is a millennium?
7. What gas do you need to breathe to live?
8. What elements is water made of?
9. At what temperature does water boil?
10. What is  $9 \times 8$ ?
11. What is one-fifth of 60?
12. How do you write the numeral for twelve million, one hundred two thousand, two?
13. What animal does bacon come from?
14. What kind of animal is a bat?
15. What kind of animal is an osprey?
16. What year was the United States founded?
17. What year did Columbus first cross the Atlantic Ocean and reach the Americas?
18. What is an adverb?
19. What is a simile?
20. What is gravity?

# Presentation Slides

## LESSON 17

### Rome PS 14.1A



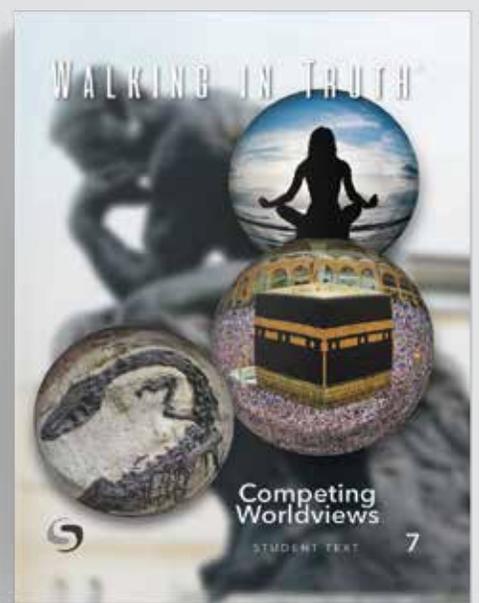
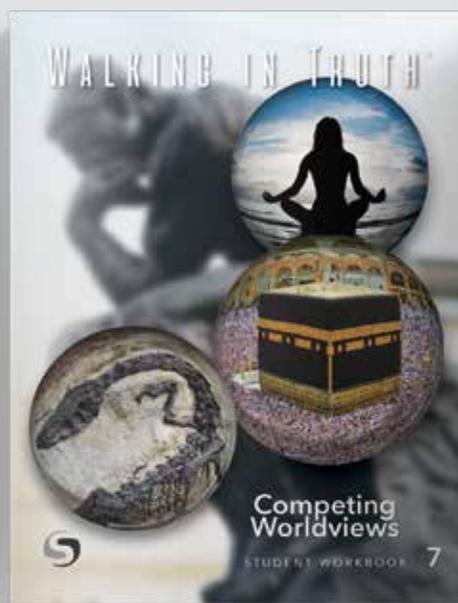
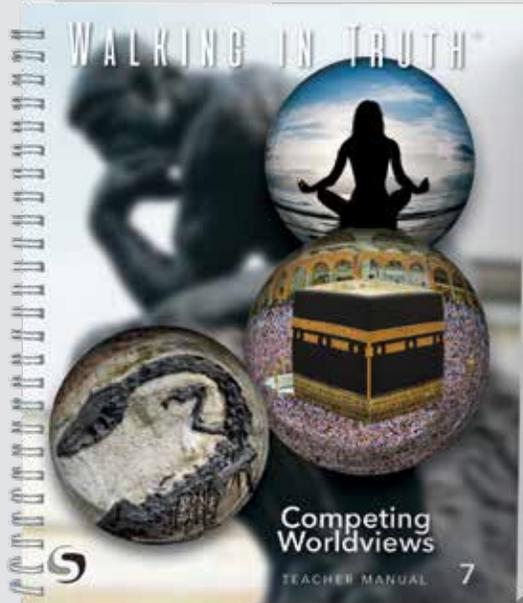
© Walking in Truth Grade 7

### Dynamo PS 14.1B



© Walking in Truth Grade 7

*Samples reduced; not actual size*



**SUMMIT**  
FAITH FOR LIFE

MANITOU SPRINGS, CO 80829

>[summit.org/curriculum](http://summit.org/curriculum)  
866.786.6483