



## Frequently Asked Questions

What is the theological perspective of the writers of the curriculum?

We are evangelical, conservative, Reformed believers in Christ. We hold to the absolute sovereignty of God, the crucified and living Christ who reigns over all things, the authority of Scripture and the belovedness of Christ's Church.

Is this a home-school curriculum, or can it be used in church or other ministries?

The curriculum was developed by home schoolers and is currently being piloted by home school families. However, our mission is not to serve only the home schooling community, but any family who longs to give their children the Bible that they might believe. The structure of the materials as they exist right now is a 5-day a week, hour a day structure, which works well if you are home schooling. Of course, any family could do the study for an hour in the evening if their children are in traditional school.

A Christian school could potentially use the curriculum, too, if it were willing to devote an hour or so per day to Bible instruction. The curriculum would be ready for classroom use in its current form.

In the future, Lord-willing, we hope to adapt the curriculum to be used in Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, and possibly mid-week programs. The content is certainly appropriate for these venues, but the structure is not yet suited for the more limited time frames of these types of programs.

Can any of the resources be used individually, or do I have to buy the whole curriculum?

The Creator Student Workbooks do require that you also have the Teaching Book, the Memory Passages CDs, the Memory Passages, Story Lines, and Summaries Booklet, The Creator Little Book, and Theology Lessons Book 1. The Student Workbook cannot be used well without these other resources.

However, if you don't want to commit to doing the Student Workbook for an hour each day, there are ways of using the other materials individually within your own curriculum design. For example, if you just want a great Bible memory resource, purchase the CDs and play them regularly, and your children will learn a lot of Scripture! Or, if you're looking for a simple presentation of the Creator gospel story, get the Little Book and the Kit to go with it and use it as a fun activity you can do with your children. Theology

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Lessons Book 1 can also be used alone as a Reformed doctrines primer. It contains a Q/A for 36 doctrines and a story to illustrate the doctrine, as well as discussion questions and suggestions for further reading in two different Wayne Grudem resources.

Can I do the study with all my children at the same time?

Yes, The Creator study is designed so that each child is working on a Student Workbook at his or her own reading and writing level. But all the students will be learning and studying the same memory passage. This allows you to save time and also to enrich your family discussions. At our house, we have an 8-year old, a 6-year old, and a 2-year old working through The Creator, and all three children are learning the passages and understanding them at levels which are appropriate to their ages.

How much preparation does the study require? How much time does it take to teach?

To prepare for each week, there are several crucial things you should do. First, you'll need to have played the Memory Passages CD in your home or car enough so that when the week begins, the song for the passage for that week is at least familiar to your children (in many cases, they'll come to the week with the passage already memorized--you will be ASTOUNDED at how effective simple listening can be for memorization.) Second, you'll need to look over the activities for the week in the Student Workbooks, particularly the Theology lesson. This is important for one of two reasons: you may find that you do not fully understand the doctrine and are not prepared to teach it, OR you may feel you have disagreement with it. In either case, Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology is a wonderful resource. Grudem presents his views articulately and clearly and also discusses opposing views fairly and gently. By reading Grudem, you will be off to a good start in understanding the doctrine being taught in the curriculum, and if you still have questions or disagreements with it, you will be better able to pursue them in discussion with your own pastor. Reading Grudem before each week also helps you to put words to beliefs you may hold true but have never had to articulate before.

What if I disagree with one of theology lessons?

Most of the theological lessons and interpretations contained in the curriculum will be familiar and common to any evangelical Christian. There are a few lessons which are distinctly Reformed, and the Teaching Book gives suggestions for ways of exploring these within your own family and church. However, we do not view any of the doctrines taught in the curriculum to be "minor." Our purpose is not to parade around our own pet doctrines or get people onto our personal bandwagons, but rather to faithfully and thoroughly represent the gospel as it comes to us through Scripture.

In the end, the Disciple Curriculum is a resource. The studies are rich and heavy with Scripture, and will be a blessing to any true gospel believing family. But we are not your children's teachers--you are. As with any

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curriculum, you must use the resources available to teach what you believe God is leading you to teach.

Do I have to use Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology?

The Grudem text is highly recommended, and the Disciple Curriculum is very much dependent upon it. For some excellent comments about Grudem's Systematic Theology written by both Reformed and non-Reformed readers, see the comments for this book on Amazon.com.

Grudem does give generous lists of other Systematic Theologies from various evangelical traditions. If you are interested in looking in-depth into the differences between different theological perspectives, you can always supplement your own reading with one or more of these. But the Disciple Curriculum itself will use Grudem specifically.

What translation is used for the memory passages? What if our family prefers another translation?

We use the New International Version (the old one, NOT the TNIV) because it is a very popular, very readable translation with not too many problems. It is recommended as a reliable and accurate translation by Fee and Stuart in the highly respected book, *How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth*.

If your family normally uses another translation, you can easily teach your children to compare translations for a richer understanding of the text. They will, however, be committing a lot of Scripture to memory in the NIV. If this presents a problem for you, you may have trouble using the curriculum as it is written.

How much Bible knowledge do I need to teach the study?

The materials are complete and do not depend upon your having a seminary degree to teach them. However, if you do not feel that your Bible knowledge is that great, you should be prepared to LEARN along with your children each week, first by memorizing the passages with them, and secondly by reading the Grudem texts before each week. You will not need to bring much to the lessons to complete the Workbook pages, but most lessons lead to some discussion, and it will be frustrating for your children if they sense that you are not committing the same effort to learning God's word that you are requiring of them.

Are there any other academic studies integrated with the Bible curriculum?

Because the Bible is a book, it requires a certain level of language skills in order to be read, discussed, and meditated upon. Many Christian heroes of the past had only a Bible education which proved to be sufficient if not superior in preparing them to become politicians, writers, or preachers. The Student Workbooks require careful reading of the Bible text (and they are designed to train students to read carefully). There is also an emphasis on writing starting

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in Level 2, as writing is a discipline which finely tunes language and learning. Storytelling is also emphasized because we believe that a strong sense of story in general will tune our children's hearts to the mode of instruction present in Scripture and to the gospel message itself.

Occasionally, there are other types of activities which may utilize math (such as in drawing a Noah's ark to scale with accurately scaled animals and people) or history or science, but we are not attempting to use the Bible to teach the "subjects." Our purpose is to let the Bible itself determine the course of study and submit to that, whether it be history, theology, poetry, story, or some other study.

Can I do the study with a group of friends?

Absolutely. Right now we are piloting the curriculum with a group of 5 families with children of all different ages, ranging from 2 to 13. Once a week, we meet together to have fun singing the song. Occasionally, the children will share stories they have written for the lessons.

If you had a group of mostly older children you might hold a weekly debate about the theology lesson, or prepare a program in which the students could perform the music for their churches or some other audience.

You could also do the study as a co-op, and teach small classes of same-age children who are all using the same Student Workbook Level.