



FAQ for *Ancient World Echoes*

What is *Ancient World Echoes*?

Ancient World Echoes is a read-aloud resource for families to accompany the Foundations Cycle 1 Memory Work. There are two stories for each of the twenty-four weeks and one fable. The stories are tied to the Cycle 1 geography and offer traditional tales from Africa, China, Greece, Japan, Persia, India, and Israel.

What does *Ancient World Echoes* look like?

Ancient World Echoes is a quality paperback book with both color and black-and-white illustrations to accompany the stories and fables.

Who will use this resource?

We hope that families will gather their children of all ages to read and discuss these stories. They are both timeless and timely and can be enjoyed by people ages 4 to 94.

How long will it take to use this resource?

The readings were selected so that families could spend about thirty minutes, two to three times per week, reading and discussing the stories and fables.

How were the stories chosen?

The stories were chosen to correlate with the history and geography for the Foundations Cycle 1 Memory Work. Many of the stories and fables also serve to prepare students for the literature and reasoning assignments in Challenge.

Do students work through the entire resource in one year?

The stories and fables are numbered by week to make it easy for families to pick up this resource two to three times a week. However, the stories and poems do not have to be read in order. We hope that families will find favorites that they read again and again.

Do families need any additional supplies to be able to use the resource?

No. In order to use this resource, families just need thirty minutes and a comfortable spot to gather, whether that is a couch or a picnic blanket.

Can siblings share the resource?

Yes. You just need one book to share with the whole family.

Is the resource consumable?

No. Your family can enjoy it for years to come.

Is there any difficult or dark subject matter? Yes. It is impossible to avoid this in any literature—including Scripture—because stories are a reflection of our fallen, sinful world. In *Classical Conversations*, we believe that we are part of an ongoing conversation that began with the creation of mankind. Sometimes bad things happen to good people. It is important for us to strengthen our moral imaginations by seeing examples of people who rise up and overcome their difficult circumstances.

This book is designed to be read aloud and discussed with the whole family. This allows you to establish the practice of asking questions about difficult material and sharing your beliefs with your children. Establishing this practice early allows you to continue to have great discussions with your children as they grow older and encounter more adult topics. As Christians, we must learn to talk about hard things so that we may become wise.

As an example, *Old World Echoes* contains a children’s version of *Romeo and Juliet*. After Jennifer Courtney read it aloud to her family, her ten-year-old daughter asked, “Mom, why did you think this was an appropriate story to put in a book for children?!” They then had a conversation about the consequences of two families feuding and of children keeping secrets from their parents. That’s why the story is included in the book—good, new conversation about an old classic.

What about fantasy? There are two good reasons to read fantasy. First, imaginary worlds create distance, which allows us to look at difficult topics more calmly and objectively. Second, as Christians, we should not imitate the secular materialists around us. All too often, we succumb to thinking that the physical world is all there is. Fantasy reminds us that

there are spiritual forces at work all around us. Sometimes we are assailed by dark forces, and sometimes we are rescued by a Savior. Fairy godmothers and benevolent wood cutters remind us that we are not asked to fight the battle alone.