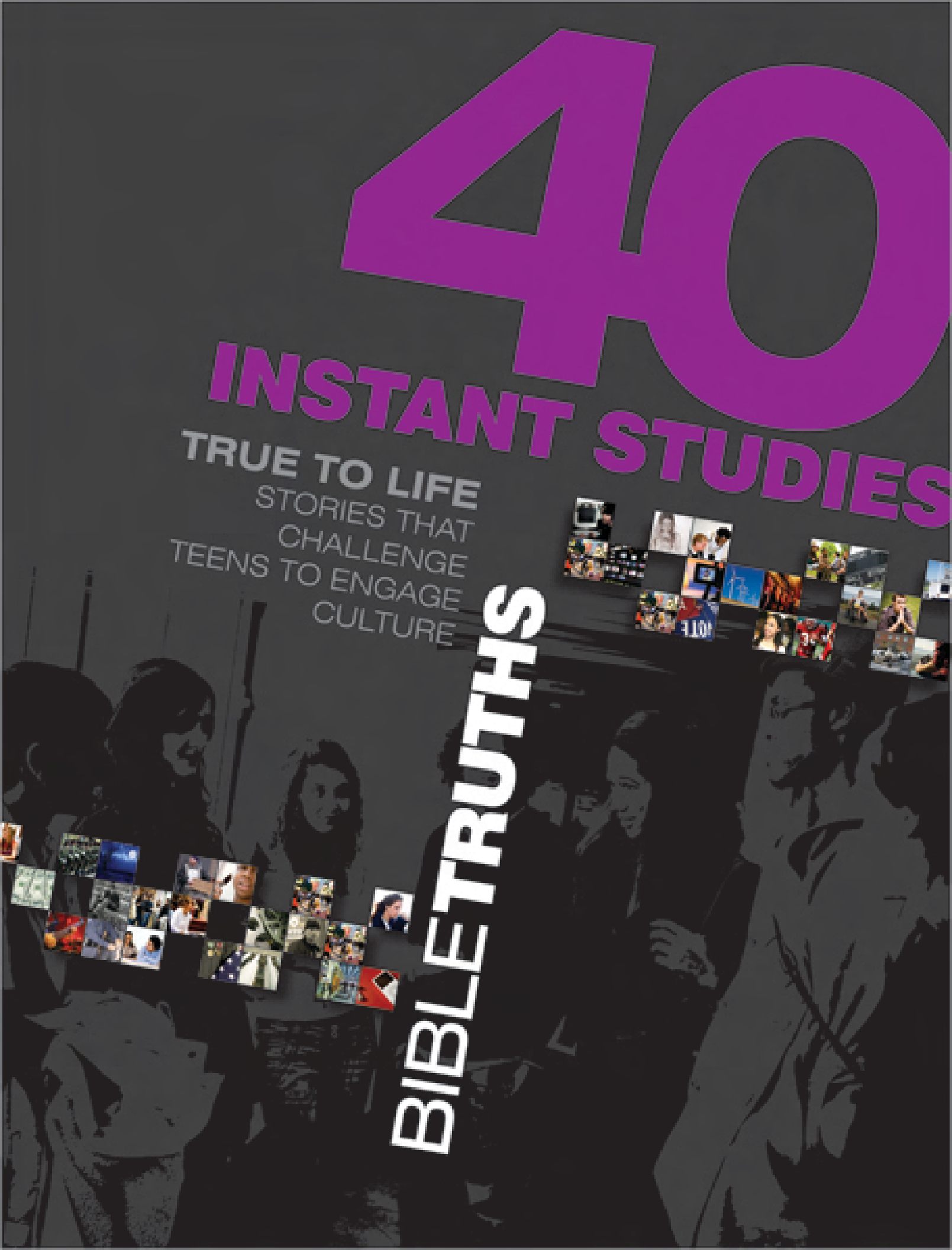


# 40

## INSTANT STUDIES

TRUE TO LIFE  
STORIES THAT  
CHALLENGE  
TEENS TO ENGAGE  
CULTURE

BIBLETRUTHS



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Standard®  
PUBLISHING

Cincinnati, Ohio





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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

IT'S AN AGE OF ENDLESS INFORMATION, AND STUDENTS ARE OVERWHELMED. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING HOW—AND EVEN *IF*—ALL THAT THEY KNOW FITS TOGETHER. THEY ARE DROWNING IN THE FLOOD OF DATA THAT POURS FORTH FROM THEIR MEDIA-RICH YET WISDOM-POOR WORLD.

Help them make a significant connection between the Bible and culture with **40 Instant Studies: Bible Truths**. Each two-page study is easy to prepare, yet rich with true-to-life relevance and biblical depth.

This book is designed as a resource for those in student ministry. In this volume you will find 40 easy-to-prepare lessons that can be used in a pinch or as a part of a larger strategy you have in mind. Each lesson contains:

## A REAL STORY

Each lesson is contained on the front and back sides of a single sheet. Remove a lesson by tearing on the handy perforations and head to the copy machine. Make a copy of the introductory story and discussion questions for each student. Start your lesson with high student interest and involvement.

## AN EASY-TO-FOLLOW LESSON PLAN

Keep the back page of the lesson to help you guide your group through a Bible study that addresses the questions raised by the introductory article. At your fingertips you have probing discussion questions and clear Scripture commentary.

## A CLOSING CHALLENGE

A good Bible study should inspire one to action. At the end of each lesson is a simple activity designed to give your students something concrete to do as a result of the study. These challenges use a variety of teaching methods, but are always focused and memorable.

In addition, find a quick summary of each lesson in the table of contents. Search the Scripture index for specific Bible references used, the story index for the topics covered in the introductory activity, or the topic index to find how specific scriptural themes are handled. You will find a wealth of teaching resources at your fingertips.

In an age of information glut, you need a way to grab the attention of your students and help them apply God's Word to the world around them. Do exactly that with **40 Instant Studies: Bible Truths**.





**THE  
BIG  
TRUTH**

WE CAN BE PREPARED TO WITHSTAND  
A TEST OF OUR FAITH.

**CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE:**  
LUKE 4:1-13

# How should I respond to temptation?

## The Hunt Is Off

**Several years ago when the American political scene was focused upon a hotly contested Presidential election and war in Iraq, quite a different political controversy was approaching a showdown in Great Britain. What was this important issue? The British government battled over whether or not to ban the traditional sport of foxhunting.**

Next to tea and crumpets, there is surely no more distinctive image of England than the foxhunt. Yet this practice experienced its moment of truth in the United Kingdom.

Earlier a plan to allow only licensed foxhunts was rejected by the elected lawmakers, the House of Commons. A few months later, they voted to ban foxhunting altogether. Thousands of pro-hunting protestors filled Parliament Square that day. During that session, protestors stormed the Commons chamber. The session had to be suspended for over a half hour while protestors were arrested and physically removed from the scene.

At the end of that night, it was agreed that foxhunting would be banned, but the law would not take effect until July 2006. By keeping the bill from being implemented until after the next election, it was hoped that it would prevent further protests and civil disobedience.

Nevertheless the unelected lawmaking body, the House of Lords, considered a legal maneuver that forced the House of Commons either to accept licensed hunting or enforce the ban immediately.

Foxhunter Michael Collins pledged to defy the fox hunting ban if it were enforced. "It's an immoral law," he said, "and I don't recognize immoral laws of any sort." Mike Hobday, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said that pro-hunting protestors "have no respect for the police, no respect for law and order and no respect for parliamentary democracy."

The Hunting Act 2004 went into effect on February 18, 2005. Although more than thirty people have been arrested for violating the law, police generally consider its enforcement to be a low priority.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What is meant by the phrase "moment of truth"? Why might this controversy be called a "moment of truth for foxhunting"? How has the practice changed because of the law? How did lawmakers try to postpone this moment of truth?
- Looking back on your life, think of a crucial decision that you had to make. How is your life different now because of your decision? Was it a decision you could have avoided or postponed? Explain.
- This controversy caused changes in England. But there have been much greater showdowns in history. The Bible tells us one of the most important moments of truth that ever occurred. It took place when Satan tempted Jesus. Jesus did not try to postpone it, but met it boldly.



## BIBLE TRUTH 1

**Satan attempts to use our natural drives against us.** LUKE 4:1-4

■ **How do our natural drives tempt us to reject God? What does that say about our faith?**

**INSIDE STORY:** Satan often approaches at moments when our natural hungers seem to have control over us. Jesus was hungry from his fast. Satan challenged him to turn a stone into bread, suggesting he might die without food. Jesus refuted that idea by quoting Scripture (Deuteronomy 8:3). This idea is echoed elsewhere in Scripture. David was a lonely and probably hungry fugitive when Saul was in power. During these weak moments David wrote, “Taste and see that the LORD is good” (Psalm 34:8). Later David would repeat this theme. “How sweet are your words to my taste . . . therefore I hate every wrong path” (Psalm 119:103, 104). When tempted to let physical needs drive him, David testified that only God’s Word truly satisfied. Solomon remembered his father’s words when he advised young men in his day. “Honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul . . . and your hope will not be cut off” (Proverbs 24:13, 14).

## BIBLE TRUTH 2

**Satan tries to get us to sacrifice our values for power.** LUKE 4:5-8

■ **What types of power do you long for? What are legitimate and illegitimate ways of attaining power?**

**INSIDE STORY:** Satan promised power to Jesus in exchange for his submission to him, offering a crown without a cross. Jesus again responded by quoting Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:13). Bowing down to Satan would be sin and would thus disqualify Jesus from being the sinner’s Savior. Ambitions make us vulnerable to temptation. The Israelites were enticed by the power promised by the religions of the people that surrounded them. Samuel warned them to “rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to

the LORD and serve him only” (1 Samuel 7:3). Sennacherib of Assyria tempted Hezekiah with military provisions if Israel joined forces with their enemy. Isaiah the prophet told Hezekiah that the power of the Lord was greater than any power Sennacherib could offer (2 Kings 18:23; 19:6, 7). The Jewish power structure offered the apostles freedom from persecution if they obeyed the will of the Sanhedrin, but Peter refused (Acts 5:27-29).

## BIBLE TRUTH 3

**Satan manipulates our fears to lead us into sin.** LUKE 4:9-13

■ **In what ways is being a Christian risky? How have your fears kept you from doing the right thing sometimes?**

**INSIDE STORY:** Rabbinical tradition taught that the Messiah would appear on top of the temple to reveal himself to the nation. Satan challenged Jesus to prove his divinity by jumping. Such an act would capture the attention of the crowds and virtually remove the possibility that Jesus would be crucified. Jesus countered Satan’s lie by quoting once again from God’s Word (Deuteronomy 6:16). Jesus knew that it was wrong to take an *easy* path instead of counting on God to give strength for taking the *right* path.

It is easy to let our fears keep us from being faithful to God’s plan for us. God knows this. The command, “Do not be afraid,” appears almost *one hundred times* in Scripture! When Abram was afraid that he would die childless and was tempted to find another heir, God said it (Genesis 15:1-5). When King Jehoshaphat and his subjects saw their enemies surrounding them, God said it (2 Chronicles 20:2, 14, 15). When Joseph was afraid of the embarrassment he would suffer when he married a pregnant woman, God said it (Matthew 1:18-20).

**CHALLENGE** Have the class look up the word *temptation* in a concordance. List some of the verses and challenge students to commit one to memory this week.

# “WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW THIS STUFF?”

IT'S AN AGE OF ENDLESS INFORMATION, AND STUDENTS WONDER HOW MUCH MORE THEY CAN CRAM INTO THEIR HEADS . . . AND WHY THEY SHOULD EVEN BOTHER TRYING.

Help them make a significant connection between the Bible and culture with **40 Instant Studies: Bible Truths**.

## REAL STORIES

Copy the first page of each study so every student can read about and offer an opinion on a recent event. All 40 real stories cover topics like:

- **media**
- **sports**
- **news**
- **technology**
- **world events**

## DEEP DISCUSSION

Use the Scripture commentary and discussion questions on the second page to lead a Bible study that addresses the topic raised in the story. Studies on Bible Truths include:

- **Can the Devil make me do it?**
- **Why didn't God make me beautiful?**
- **Is abortion always a bad choice?**
- **How does Islam differ from Christianity?**

## CLOSING CHALLENGE

Inspire your students to action at the end of each study.

**So . . . why do your students need to know this stuff? Because this isn't just information. It's wisdom for handling the struggles and absurdities of everyday life.**

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