

Firm Foundations

Creation to Christ

book 2

Lessons 1 – 12

Creation – Cain and Abel

Trevor Mcilwain



The Scripture version used in these lessons is the New King James Version (NKJV).

Second Printing 2013

Firm Foundations Creation to Christ (Revised Edition)
Book 2: Lessons 1-12: Creation – Cain and Abel

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What is *Firm Foundations*?

Just what is *Firm Foundations*? It is foundational, chronological Bible teaching.

This method of teaching is patterned on God's progressive revelation of Himself and His plan to rescue people from sin, Satan and death. Lessons start "in the beginning." Moving through the Old and New Testaments, *Firm Foundations* highlights the themes that run through all of God's Word. This builds, from lesson to lesson, an understanding of the Bible as a whole.

This practical approach has been used all over the world, and is proven for:

- Evangelism
- Grounding new believers
- Teaching maturing believers
- Planting churches.

Firm Foundations arose from the experience of Trevor McIlwain in the 1960s. While working cross-culturally with a people group in the Philippines, Trevor saw the need to establish proper biblical foundations. He developed Bible lessons to meet that need. As Trevor states, "The Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and framework of history. Therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God's way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures."

Trevor shared this approach with other missionaries who were also teaching cross-culturally, initially distributing his basic outline and later detailed Bible lessons. They discovered, as he had, that this *Firm Foundations* approach was exceptionally effective.

When these missionaries returned home, their glowing testimonies inspired pastors and other Bible teachers to adopt this method. As a result, the *Firm Foundations* lessons were modified for churches and home Bible studies, and this approach has proven equally effective in English-speaking settings as in cross-cultural settings.

Since that time, adaptations of the *Firm Foundations* materials have been developed for many languages, cultural contexts and age groups.

You are now a part of the *Firm Foundations* legacy!

About This Curriculum

Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ is a set of Bible lessons by Trevor McIlwain.

This curriculum moves through key Bible passages to reveal truth about God and man. It covers Old Testament stories which reveal the holy nature and character of God and show that sinful man is separated from God and totally incapable of making himself acceptable to his perfect Creator. It also emphasizes stories and verses that highlight how God planned from the beginning to rescue man through a Deliverer. The New Testament lessons focus on the fulfillment of God's promises to provide a Savior, and show that the only way of salvation is through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ is presented in five teacher's volumes:

- Book 1 Chronological Teaching: Why and How
- Book 2 Lessons 1-12: Creation — Cain and Abel
- Book 3 Lessons 13-24: The Flood — Ten Commandments
- Book 4 Lessons 25-36: The Tabernacle — Plots against Jesus
- Book 5 Lessons 37-48: Jesus calms the storm — Ascension

The course itself is for the teacher. Students use their Bibles, along with an optional study guide.

***Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ* includes:**

- Teacher's Guide
- Study Guide (complimentary copy for the teacher)
- Illustration posters for classroom use
- Maps, showing the locations referred to in the lessons
- Time Line, covering the events referred to in the lessons
- PowerPoint DVD, with slides of key points and illustrations for each lesson

Supplementary materials:

- Study Guides
- Posters, Maps, and Time Line are part of the Teacher Set, but can also be purchased separately.

Important:

For teaching in a cross-cultural setting, either with rural ethnic people or tribal groups, this curriculum's cross-cultural edition is more suitable and highly recommended.

Firm Foundations Materials Available

***Firm Foundations* by Trevor McIlwain (Teacher Guides and Study Guides available)**

- Books 1-5: *Creation to Christ*
- Book 6: *Secure in Christ*
- Book 7: *Growing in Christ – Acts*
- Book 8: *Growing in Christ – Romans*
- Book 9: *Growing in Christ – Ephesians*

***Building on Firm Foundations [Cross-cultural Edition]* by Trevor McIlwain**

- Volume 1: Guidelines for Evangelism and Teaching Believers
- Volume 2: Evangelism: Genesis to the Ascension
- Volume 3: Teaching New Believers: Genesis to the Ascension
- Volume 4: Teaching New Believers: Acts
- Volume 5: Teaching New Believers: Romans and Ephesians
- Volume 6: Teaching New Believers: 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy and Titus
- Volume 7: Teaching New Believers: 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Revelation
- Volume 8: Teaching New Believers: Galatians and Colossians
- Volume 9: Teaching New Believers: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon and 2 Timothy
- Volume 10: Teaching New Believers: Hebrews and James
- Volume 11: Teaching New Believers: 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude
- Volume 12: Teaching Maturing Believers: Genesis through the Epistles

Note that the latter BOFF volumes are in the process of revision or development. Check the NTM website for availability.

Information about the above publications, along with information about translated materials, and other resources, can be found at:

Canada: www.ntmc.ca or email bookstore@ntmc.ca or 519.369.2622

United Kingdom: <http://uk.ntm.org/shop> or email books@ntm.org or 44 (0) 1472.387700

USA: www.ntmbooks.com or email books@ntm.org or 800.321.5375

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Teacher Key

This curriculum is unlike traditional materials in that each lesson builds on the foundation laid in the previous lesson. For that reason it is extremely important that these lessons be taught consistently and thoroughly.

Do not pick and choose which parts of the lessons to teach. Each point is a building block and is important to laying a solid foundation for your students to understand truth.

To teach these lessons in the most effective way, it is important that you read *Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ*, Book 1. For substitute teachers, however, this Teacher Key gives a synopsis about teaching the lessons.

Preliminary boxes

1. **Overview:** This box contains the outline content of the lesson along with all Scriptures that are used in the lesson. This gives you as the teacher a quick overview of the lesson.
2. **Gaining perspective:** This box is for the teacher and highlights a particular truth, or truths, from the lesson. Not all lessons have this box.
3. **Teacher tips:** This box addresses specific teacher issues that pertain to the lesson. For example, the content of one teacher tip gives suggestions for handling a longer lesson.

Lesson format

1. **Outline points:** These numbered outline headings are lesson division markers. They **don't have to be spoken** as part of the flow of the lesson.
2. **Bulleted Points:** These bulleted points are **intended to be spoken**. They are essential to the flow of teaching the material. That is, **you should teach the bulleted points** and smoothly transition into the text below it. The bulleted points do not function as an outline per se, although they will help you keep on track as you teach.
3. **Text:** The text below the bulleted points is to be taught. It is important that you do not merely read this material to your students. Be familiar with each point. As you prepare for class, highlight words and phrases that will jog your mind as you teach.

Jot notes to yourself of other details you plan to incorporate to expand a point, and remind yourself of any adjustments you plan to make to illustrations.

SAMPLE

1. God is the focus of these lessons.

- **Our focus in these lessons will be on what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible.**

Some people view the Bible as just a book of doctrines or teachings about what we should and should not do. It is far more than that.

Dialogue approach

Gray shading signifies information that is only for you, the teacher. Directions that are applicable throughout the curriculum are given at the first occurrence in each lesson, for the benefit of a substitute teacher.

Teacher directives

Gray shading signifies information that is only for you, the teacher.

SAMPLE

Questions

There are three types of questions in these lessons. They are described on pages 3-4.

Anytime you see the question icon [?], ask your students the question(s) that follows it. As you will see in the samples on page 3, an expected answer is usually provided in italics. If the question is rhetorical, a teacher's note will indicate that you should not expect a verbal answer.

The given answers are important points which lead the lesson forward and reinforce prior teaching. Sometimes students may give an incorrect response, and sometimes more than one answer is acceptable. Whichever the case may be, handle it appropriately and then teach the answer provided in italics.

1. **Review questions**, which are at the beginning of each lesson.

SAMPLE

? Who is the central person of the Bible?

*God is. It is **His** story.*

2. **Participation questions**, which are interspersed throughout the lesson, providing opportunities for student interaction.

SAMPLE 1

? Why do you think God revealed so much about Himself?

Because He wants us to know Him.

SAMPLE 2

? What characteristic do you see in the fact that God promised to send the Deliverer?

- **He is loving, merciful and gracious.**
Adam and Eve had disobeyed God's command, and because of this God could have abandoned them or immediately banished them to eternal punishment. But instead, because God is merciful and gracious, He promised to send the Deliverer.

3. **Rhetorical questions**, which help the students apply truth to themselves.


SAMPLE

Just think about this:

- Are we going to accept by faith what God says in the Bible, or are we going to ignore Him and only believe what we can see?

Scripture

There are three ways you will be using Scripture in these lessons:

1. When you see the **open Bible icon**  with the words “Read [Scripture],” invite a student to read that passage aloud.

SAMPLE



Read Genesis 1:1.

2. Anytime a portion of a verse is quoted, you should read it directly from the lesson. Do not read the whole verse, or have your students turn to it, because the rest of the verse contains themes not pertinent to the topic being taught.

SAMPLE

Psalm 14:1 says, “*The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’*”

3. **Verification verses** are intended as a resource for you and are not to be read to the students.

SAMPLE

Teaching aids

1. **Chronological Maps:** A set of three maps cover the key locations covered in these lessons. Instructions tell you when to point to a location on the map. Always have the appropriate map or maps on display.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

2. **Chronological Time Line:** Designed specifically to be used with these lessons, the time line highlights the characters and events covered in this course. Instructions tell you when to point to it. Always keep it on display. A copy of this time line is included at the end of each lesson to show you where you are in the teaching curriculum.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

3. **Prophecy Chart:** This chart lists Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ. Instructions tell you when to point to it. Once it has been introduced in Lesson 30, it should always be on display. It is Supplemental Visual 28.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

4. **Posters:** These supplemental visuals will greatly enhance your teaching. Instructions tell you when it is appropriate to use them. If you prefer digital copy, you will find them on the DVD.

INSTRUCTION SAMPLE

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 1.

DVD

A PowerPoint-type presentation of the key points for each lesson is located on the DVD that comes with the lessons. This will be helpful for students as they take notes, and will aid you in keeping the class on track.

The DVD also includes the chronological maps, time line and other supplemental visuals.

Student Notebook

This optional notebook provides space for the students to jot down key lesson points during class.

Each notebook lesson also contains questions for personal study and review after class, along with an answer key so the students can check their answers to the personal study questions. It is not intended for the teacher to check the answers or review the questions during class time, because it would take too long. Built into each lesson is a short time of review; key questions from the notebook are covered in that review.

Lesson

1

The Bible is God's message to all people.

Overview

1. Introduction
2. God is the focus of these lessons.
3. We will study the Bible chronologically.
4. We will study the Bible's foundational themes.
5. The Bible is structured with clearly marked units.
6. The Bible is the Word of God. (Isaiah 45:22; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
7. The Bible is a true record of what God said to the prophets. (Psalm 12:6-7)
8. The Bible is an accurate historical record. (Psalm 119:89)
9. The Bible is God's personal message to each of us. (Hebrews 4:12)
10. Conclusion

Teacher tip

As you go through the lesson, remember that the numbered outline headings do not need to be spoken. They are lesson division markers, and appear, not only in this teacher's manual, but also in the optional student notebooks and the supplemental PowerPoint. They are designed to keep you and the class on track.

The bulleted points and text below them are intended to be taught. The bolded bulleted points are an essential part of the flow of the lesson. This format is intended to help you keep on track as you teach.

You should teach everything in this lesson except the content in the gray boxes.

1. Introduction

God is a communicator, and He wants to communicate with us.

These studies are designed to give us an historical overview of who He is, what He is like and what His design is for all people. These are truths God wants each of us to know.

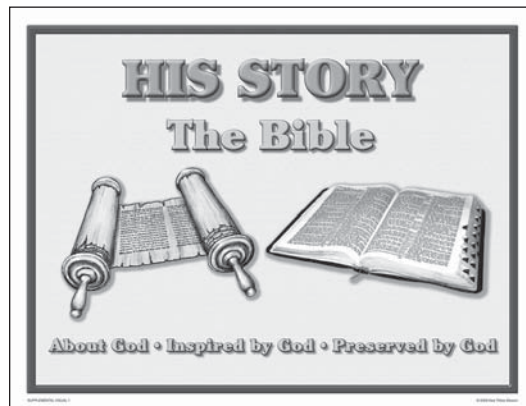
2. God is the focus of these lessons.

- **Our focus in these lessons will be on what God has revealed about Himself in the Bible.**

Some people view the Bible as just a book of doctrines or teachings about what we should and should not do. It is far more than that; it's God's record of how He has walked through history with man and how He has interacted with people and Satan. God is central throughout the Bible. We need to see each event from His perspective.

- **The Bible is first and foremost "HIS-story."**

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 1.



In our study of the Scriptures, we are going to “walk” through the Bible with our attention focused first on God and then on man’s and Satan’s response to Him. As we do, we will see God in action within the framework of history.

Therefore, as we study, we will learn more and more about:

- Who God is
- What He is like – His personality and character
- How He has interacted with real people in history
- What He has done for the good of all people
- What He thinks of us personally and of all people today
- What His attitude is toward people after they die
- What His attitude is toward Satan.

3. We will study the Bible chronologically.

- **We are going to study a large section of Bible history chronologically.**

We will follow the flow of history from the beginning of the world, considering key events in the order in which they occurred.

We will be stretching out the biblical time line and placing key events on that line so that you can understand where they fit into the over-all picture. But we will not put every biblical event on it.

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 2.



- **We are going to begin our next lesson in Genesis, which is the first book of the Bible.**

Genesis is the foundational book of the Bible. This is where God's story of history begins.

- **Our understanding of God and His story will grow in much the same way as a house is built.**

Teacher: Give an illustration about the steps in construction to help the students focus on the importance of foundations. Involve your students in the illustration by asking questions as given in the illustration box below. Note that the expected answer is indented and in italics. Allow the students to respond when you ask the questions. If they do not provide the answer in italics, you should teach it. Be aware that the last question and answer in the box below are key to applying this illustration.

When a contractor constructs a house, he certainly does not begin by putting the roof on!

? What does he build first?

The foundation.

? How is the rest of the structure built?

One piece at a time.

? What happens if the foundation isn't built properly?

The rest of the house will be structurally weak.

The same is true of this Bible study. Everything we study will become part of the foundation for our future studies, so it is very important that you attend every lesson. If you miss a session, you will find it more difficult to understand later lessons.

4. We will study the Bible's foundational themes.

- **The Bible is rich and deep in content and themes.**

Although there are many layers and depths of details, we aren't going down deeply into these layers. Rather, we are going to skim the top of the vast wealth contained in the Bible.

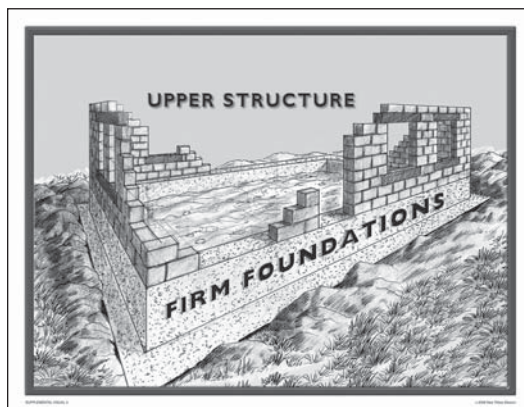
Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 3.



Teacher: If before attempting to teach this curriculum you did not read Book 1, **it is critical that you take the time to do so now.** Otherwise, you will entirely miss why teaching in the manner suggested is so effective.

- **We are going to be laying blocks for a firm foundation.**

Teacher: Show Supplemental Visual 4.



If a building is to stand, it needs a firm foundation. That is the purpose of this study. We are going to concentrate on the foundation of the Bible and will not work on the upper structure until the base is firmly built.

So, if you ask a question that goes down deeply into the details or pertains to the upper structure, I'll suggest that we wait to discuss it until the foundations