

Firm Foundations

Creation to Christ

book 4

Lessons 25 – 36

The Tabernacle – Plots Against Jesus

Trevor Mcilwain



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

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Firm Foundations Creation to Christ (Revised Edition)

Book 4: Lessons 25-36: The Tabernacle – Plots Against Jesus

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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.

God told the Israelites to build the Tabernacle.

Overview

1. Introduction
2. God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone. (Exodus 24:12, 16-18)
3. God commanded Moses to build the Tabernacle. (Exodus 25:1-8)
4. The Tabernacle had to be built exactly as God instructed Moses. (Exodus 25:9-11, 17-22; 26:31-33; 27:1-2, 9; Leviticus 1:1-5)
5. God chose Aaron and his sons to serve Him as priests. (Exodus 28:1; Leviticus 16:2-3, 15)
6. God came to live in the Tabernacle. (Exodus 39:42-43; 40:17, 34)
7. Conclusion

Visual aids

The use of visual aids is recommended when teaching this lesson so that your students can better understand what the Tabernacle was like. Several pictures of the Tabernacle are included in the supplemental visual aids packet that is available for this curriculum. And many other models, diagrams and pictures of the layout of the Tabernacle can be purchased commercially.

In this lesson we will not be teaching about every part of the Tabernacle, rather only those listed below:

- The outer fence
- The courtyard
- The brazen altar
- The Holy Place
- The Most Holy Place
- The curtain
- The ark
- The mercy seat.

If your students inquire about other pieces of furniture depicted in your picture or model, explain that you will not be discussing these items at this time.

Point out each part of the Tabernacle as you come to it in the lesson.

Teacher tip

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

1. Introduction

- **We will begin by looking back at what we have already learned.**

Teacher: Review the previous lesson by asking your students the following questions. The expected answer follows each question, indented and in italics.

❓ Why did God give the Ten Commandments?

- *To reveal His holy standard.*
- *To show that all people are sinners who cannot please God by what we do.*

❓ God considers that if a person hates someone, he has already committed murder. Likewise, God considers lust equivalent to adultery. What does this tell us about how God judges people?

He judges attitudes and intentions as equal to actions.

❓ How many times can we break God's commandments and not be condemned by God?

None. If we disobey one of God's commandments, even one time, we are guilty of sinning and are condemned by God.

❓ Why can't people obey the Ten Commandments perfectly like God demands?

Because man is a sinner and is incapable of complete obedience.

- **We will now turn our attention to the focus of this lesson.**

God specifies how we can approach Him.

He knew that the Israelites would never be able to keep their agreement to obey His Law and that, because of their sin, they would be separated from Him. But because He is merciful and gracious, He made a way for them to come to Him. His instructions were clear, and He expected the Israelites to pay close attention to them.

2. God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone.

- **The Lord did not want the Israelites to forget His commandments that He had spoken to them from the mountain.**

So God told Moses to go up the mountain where He planned to give him a permanent, written record of His holy standard.

Teacher: Anytime you see the open Bible icon with the words “Read [Scripture],” as below, invite a student to read that passage aloud.



Read Exodus 24:12.

- **Moses obeyed the Lord and ascended the mountain.**

He was accompanied by his assistant, Joshua.

Teacher: Point on the Chronological Time Line to “Joshua.”

They stayed on the mountain for 40 days and nights.



Read Exodus 24:16-18.

While Moses was on the mountain, the Lord gave him the Ten Commandments, written on two tablets of stone. The Lord also explained to Moses other rules and customs that He commanded the Israelites to follow.

While Moses was on the mountain, the Lord told him to have the Israelites build a special place where He would live with them.

3. God commanded Moses to build the Tabernacle.

- **The Lord instructed Moses how the Israelites were to build the Tabernacle.**

Teacher: Point on the Chronological Time Line to “Tabernacle.”

The Tabernacle was not only where God would dwell with the Israelites, but it was also the place where they would bring Him their sacrifices and worship Him.



Read Exodus 25:1-8.

- **It is important to understand why the Tabernacle was so necessary for the Israelites.**

You will remember that God made an agreement with the Israelites.

Teacher: Anytime you see the question icon, as below, ask your students the question(s) that follows it and pause for them to respond. Sometimes more than one answer is correct, but occasionally there is only one correct answer. Whatever the case, if the students do not respond with the answer provided in italics, you should teach it.

- ❓ According to the agreement, what would happen if the Israelites obeyed His laws?

God would be with them and would protect and prosper them.

- ❓ What would happen if they failed to obey God?

He would not bless them as a nation, and would punish by death those who disobeyed Him.

- **The Lord knew that the Israelites would fail.**

- ❓ They had promised to keep the Ten Commandments, so why was it inevitable that they would fail?

Because they were sinners and incapable of keeping God's laws.

Unless God provided some way for them to receive His forgiveness, they would have no way to escape the punishment they deserved for their disobedience.

- **The Israelites had already failed.**

Even while Moses was on the mountain receiving these instructions from the Lord, the Israelites had made a golden calf and were worshipping it, claiming that it was the god who had delivered them from Egypt.

Verification verses for teacher only: Exodus 32

Teacher: We are not including the story of how Israel made and worshiped the golden calf. Our purpose in this series of lessons is to focus on those stories which point forward to Christ and reveal the sinful condition of the human heart before God. These are the stories that maintain the historical flow of the Old Testament overview. The account of the golden calf does not fall within these categories.

- **God provided the Tabernacle as the place where the sins of the Israelites could be forgiven.**

- ❓ Why did the Lord provide this place where their sins could be forgiven?

Because He is merciful and gracious and didn't want to destroy them.

They could come to the Tabernacle to receive His forgiveness and mercy and be saved from the punishment they deserved for breaking His laws.