

# Firm Foundations

Creation to Christ

book 5

Lessons 37 – 48

Jesus Calms the Storm – Ascension

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 5: Lessons 37-48: Jesus Calms the Storm – Ascension*

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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](http://www.ntmc.ca) or email [bookstore@ntmc.ca](mailto:bookstore@ntmc.ca) or 519.369.2622

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

**USA:** [www.ntmbooks.com](http://www.ntmbooks.com) or email [books@ntm.org](mailto: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

## **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.

## Jesus calmed a storm and released a man from the control of demons.

### Overview

1. Introduction
2. Jesus calmed a storm. (Mark 4:35-41; Colossians 1:16)
3. Jesus released a man from the control of demons. (Mark 5:1-20)
4. Conclusion

### Teacher tip

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

This is one of the shorter lessons in this curriculum so you might finish earlier than your class-allotted time. If so, perhaps you could fill in by asking the students about their personal workbook time, and if they ran into any particular problems answering the questions. This will allow you to address and clear up areas of concern.

### 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 Jesus have the authority to forgive the sins of the paralytic?  
*Because He is God.*
- ❓ Who did Jesus come to save?  
*Those who agree with God that they are sinners and know they can only be saved by His mercy.*
- ❓ Why did the Pharisees hate Jesus so much?  
*Because He told them that they were sinners and exposed their hypocrisy before the people. Furthermore, they were jealous of Jesus because crowds of people followed Him.*
- ❓ Why did the evil spirits recognize Jesus?  
*Because they had served Him in Heaven before they followed Satan.*

? Why did Jesus silence the evil spirits?

*He didn't want anyone to believe in Him because of anything they might say.*

? On what basis does Jesus want us to believe in Him?

*On the basis of what is written in God's Word, the Bible.*

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

Because Jesus was not just man but also God, He had complete power over all of His creation. He demonstrated who He was – not a mere man but also the mighty Creator.

## 2. Jesus calmed a storm.

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



Read Mark 4:35-37.

- **The Sea of Galilee is situated in a basin surrounded by mountains.**

**Teacher:** Point on Chronological Map 3 to "Sea of Galilee."

Cool air currents dropping down through the narrow mountain passes clash with the hot air over the water. The temperature changes contribute to sudden and violent storms on the Sea of Galilee.

- **This was a frightening storm.**

The wind was howling, and the waves were beginning to swamp the small boat.

If you have ever been at sea in a violent storm, you know exactly how the disciples felt.

**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.

? If you had been in the boat with Jesus and the disciples during this storm, what would you have done?

**Teacher:** Allow the students to give **their** thoughts, and then go on to read what the disciples did.



Read Mark 4:38.



- **Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat.**

❓ Why do you think Jesus, being God, was sleeping in the back of the boat?

*Because He was also a real man who tired and needed rest, like any other person.*

- **The disciples woke Jesus.**

They could not understand how He could sleep during this terrible storm. They realized they needed His help, so they woke Jesus and asked, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re about to drown?”

❓ Why should the disciples have already known that Jesus cared what was happening to them?

*Because they had seen His compassion for people as He healed the sick and cast out demons.*

- **Jesus calmed the storm.**



Read Mark 4:39.

- **Jesus had complete authority over the sea and the wind.**

❓ Why did Jesus have this authority?

*Because He is God, the Creator and rightful owner of all things.*

Colossians 1:16 says, “... by Him all things were created.”

- **Jesus asked the disciples why they were fearful and lacked faith.**



Read Mark 4:40-41.

❓ What should the apostles have realized about Jesus, even though they felt unsafe?

*That the Son of God knew all about their situation and would not allow them to come to harm.*

Even if they had not awakened Him, He would not have allowed them to drown.

When they saw that Jesus could control the wind and the waves, they were amazed. They had never seen Him do anything like that before.

### 3. Jesus released a man from the control of demons.



Read Mark 5:1-5.

- **The demon-possessed man was helpless.**

This man could not free himself from the control of the evil spirits. Others had tried to restrain him, but the demons in him were so strong that they even

broke the iron chains that bound him. No one was able to help him. Satan had the possessed man in his power, and no one could deliver him.

- **This man's condition reminds us of our spiritual condition at birth.**

We may feel sorry for a person like this and think it is good that we are not like him. However, we need to remember that every person born into this world is just as helpless and hopeless as this man was.

? Why is this so?

*Because we were all born under Satan's control.*

We cannot help ourselves, and it is useless for us to hope that anyone else can deliver us from Satan. We are his captives unless we are set free by Jesus, the Deliverer.

- **Satan and his demons want to destroy people.**

? Why is their goal to destroy man?

*Because they hate God, and they hate man whom God created.*

Think about what the demons did to this man:

? Because they controlled his life, where was he living?

*In caves where the dead were buried.*

? What was he continually trying to do to himself because of their torment?

*Injure himself, cutting his own body with stones.*

Like this man, many people today attempt to take their own lives. Satan has put suicidal thoughts into their minds – convincing them that the only way for them to escape the misery they are facing is to kill themselves.

Satan has ensnared others so they are unable to escape doing the very things that are ruining their lives. They are hopelessly enslaved by drugs, alcohol and other addictions, and even when they want to be free, they continue to be held in Satan's grip.

Many people may have tried various avenues of help without finding lasting relief. Some people are very much like the man of Gadara – they can no longer function in society, and society has no answers for them.

? Why do people who are enslaved by Satan feel there is no hope for them?

*Because Satan and his demons have deceived them.*

- **The demon-possessed man met Jesus.**

There was hope for this man. Although he could not save himself from the control of the demons, Jesus could deliver him.



Read Mark 5:6-7.

- **The demons called out because they recognized that Jesus was God.**

These evil spirits were controlling what this man was saying.