

LEARNING THE BASICS: Why Study Biblical History?

First of all, let's ask the question "Why should we study history in general"? I was always told that we need to study history so we do not make the same mistakes as were made in the past. We should learn from others in the past so we can learn from their successes – what they did right, as well as learn from their failures – what they did wrong. We should also study history to help us remember past events, our culture and family traditions.

So why should we study Biblical history? God is awesome and we need to remember what all He has done in the past and relate it to our present lives. We must remember His Creation and how He created – it is a testimony to His infinite Power and Intelligence. By studying the Bible, we can see how He cared for His people, but we can also see His judgment on those who disobeyed Him.

We need to study Biblical history too in order to learn more and more about God and Jesus. The Bible is God's Word and His revelation to us about Himself. God wants us to develop a strong personal relationship with Him. To grow in a relationship with God, we must communicate with Him and think about Him often. We talk to Him through our prayers, and He talks to us through His written word. God likes it when we confess to Him, and to others, what we know about Him and His word. But in order to confess what we know, we must study to learn.

So how can you help people remember the stories of the Bible? We often learn by association and repetition. Jesus often told parables using familiar objects to help people remember His lessons. Over the centuries, people have helped others remember these parables and other stories of their past by telling them over and over. This is how we remember the details of Christmas and Easter, by retelling the stories every year.

Therefore if we want to help adults and children remember the basics of Biblical history, we can tell the stories by using familiar objects and tell the stories over and over. This is the purpose of "Learning The Basics of The Bible & Christianity" – to help people learn and remember more about the Bible to help them grow in their relationship with God and help them teach others about the Bible and the gospel.

LEARNING THE BASICS: How-To-Use Ideas

"Learning The Basics" is a great way to teach anyone an overview of the Old Testament and the gospel of Jesus. The presentation you use can be very flexible and varied to fit your audience. You can read to them the entire "Learning The Basics of The Bible & Christianity" **handout** or just the "Biblical History" section. You can abbreviate what has been written to accommodate your audience. You can also add what you know and even add scriptures to explain the stories. Just use it to help people learn and remember more about the Bible and Jesus.

To help your audience concentrate, understand and remember the important aspects of the Bible, use the "Learning the Basics" **PowerPoint presentation** or use the "**handout**" and "**pocket tool**" – all downloadable at www.BiblicalReliability.com (see "Presentations" tab). If using the pocket tool, have someone else point to each color, shape and number as you tell your story. Here are some ways to use this teaching tool:

- 1) To teach **small children** their basic colors, shapes & numbers and connect them to Bible stories and doctrine, cut up one of the colors, shapes & numbers "pocket tool" into 6 parts and use as flash cards.
- 2) To teach Bible stories and doctrine in **Sunday School Class**, either teach ,from the "**handout**," the entire story and all the symbols all in one session to older kids, or for younger kids you could teach one section per week and review each week what they have already learned before teaching the next section. Using the "**handout**" help them memorize what each color, shape & number represent so they can tell others.
- 3) As a **witnessing tool**, use only the sections needed to get your point across, such as: God (#1) created the universe and man – all of His creation was perfect & God had a perfect relationship with man. But man (#2) sinned (he disobeyed God) which separated man from God and corrupted God's perfect creation. All people have sinned and are separated from God and deserve death (#9) – physical & spiritual (everlasting separation from God) –the penalty for sin. Then use #6 & #7 to explain what Jesus has done for each of us, then #8 to discuss our heavenly kingdom and #9 & #10 to explain how to be saved. Then invite them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and teach them how to develop a personal relationship with God.
- 4) After giving your presentation, use the **PowerPoint presentation** or the "**pocket tool**" again and ask your audience to tell you **what they remember** about what each number, shape and color represent. Example: What do the #3 and the color Blue and the Rectangle remind you of from the story I just told you?