

WHAT WE BELIEVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I teach a biblical worldview to my children?

Your children are bombarded daily with competing messages. Every song, movie, book, TV show, blog, and game is full of ideas—ideas about God, people, truth, beauty, and right and wrong. Not all of these ideas are true. Many are deceptive and even destructive. A biblical worldview will help your children learn to discern the truth by distinguishing what God says in His Word from the lies and half-truths coming at them from books, music, TV, movies, the Internet, their peers, etc.

The What We Believe series is designed to help kids navigate a world of conflicting messages and ideas and discern the truth by using God’s Word, the Bible, as a perfect lens through which to view the world around them. As your children come to understand *what* they believe as Christians and *why* they believe it, they can begin to build every part of their lives on an unshakable foundation of truth, the immovable Rock that is God and His Word.

Can I really teach biblical worldview at home?

Teaching a biblical worldview is not nearly as difficult as it sounds. To help explain what a worldview is, the authors use the term “belief glasses.” Every person is trying to make sense of the world around us, even from an early age. To help us bring the world and its ideas into focus, each of us wears a pair of belief glasses. If the beliefs we hold are true, then the glasses we’re wearing are like clear prescription lenses that provide us with a true picture of life and its meaning.

However, if the beliefs we hold are *not* true, or only *partly* true, then the glasses we wear are more like colored lenses or even broken lenses. These kinds of belief glasses give us a false, distorted view of life and the world around us.

The What We Believe series makes it easy to equip your kids with belief glasses that will help them to clearly see the truth and the world as it really is.

What is covered in the What We Believe series?

The series includes four volumes. Volume one is called *Who Is God?* and focuses on the characteristics of God, His love, His provision, His creation, the destructiveness of sin, and God’s plan for our salvation. Volume two is *Who Am I?* and is all about what it means to be made in the image of Almighty God and how we are called to become more like Christ every day. Volume three is *Who Is My Neighbor?* and it focuses on how every believer is to follow Jesus’ example by serving others and loving God’s family, the church. The fourth and final volume is *What on Earth Can I Do?* and is about what your children can accomplish for God’s glory as good and faithful stewards of their time, talents, and possessions.

How long will it take for us to work through each book?

Anywhere from four to eight months. A detailed suggested lesson plan is provided in the companion notebooking journals. Lessons are formatted

to allow students to learn at their own pace. You can easily customize the amount of time you spend on each lesson, depending on your children’s ages and attention span. Most of the lessons can be covered in two- or three-week segments.

Can I use the books with more than one child at a time?

Yes. The What We Believe series is designed for use with ages 6 to 14. Engaging stories, activities, thoughtful notebooking assignments, and Bible interaction make this multi-grade curriculum fun and easy to use with the whole family. The series is written at a fifth- to sixth- grade reading level, so while older students can read and do the activities on their own, younger children will need an older sibling or parent to read along with them.

How should we use the notebooking journals?

Encourage your children to personalize and capture what they’re learning in a keepsake they can revisit as they grow in Christ. Each journal includes lesson plans, colorful graphics, imaginative writing and drawing prompts, crossword puzzles, word searches, activities, and full-color mini books. Children should make this book their very own by filling it with their words and illustrations. Each journal includes an “About the Author” page with space for your child to place his or her picture and write a brief autobiography. At the end of each journal are blank pages for “endorsements” where friends and family can write about what they’ve seen God doing in the child’s life during the course of study.

What is the age range for the junior notebooking journals?

The junior notebooking journals are designed to be used by ages 6–9 and students with limited writing skills. We recommend the original notebooking journals for ages 9 and up. The junior notebooking journals offer age-appropriate activities including fun drawing assignments, easier crossword puzzles, no-stress word searches, and fill-in-the-blank vocabulary exercises. Scripture copy work pages come with larger spaces and dotted guidelines for kids who are still developing their fine motor skills. We’ve also included some of the best pages from our What We Believe coloring books.

How can I know which notebooking journal is right for my kids?

The real key is where your children are in terms of their ability to express themselves in writing. The original notebooking journals can certainly help children develop this skill. But if a nine-year-old child is not yet comfortable writing out his thoughts in complete sentences and short paragraphs, the junior notebooking journal is probably the better choice.

Download and compare samples from both the notebooking journals and junior notebooking journals to decide which version is right for your kids. Check these samples out by visiting the Apologia store at www.Apologia.com.

Are the junior notebooking journals different enough so that if we do the series a second time, my children can use the regular notebooking journal and get something new out of the study?

Yes, this is a great idea! We've already heard from some moms who have finished the series and are starting it over. Their kids are now four years older, and they'll get something new out of the lessons if only because of the increased life experience they bring to the study. And graduating to the "older" notebooking journals will add a whole new level of life application!

Why are there What We Believe coloring books?

We offer a 64-page companion coloring book for each of the four volumes for younger family members and students who learn best while their hands are busy. Lovingly illustrated by award-winning artist Alice Ratterree, each drawing depicts a story or teaching from the textbook to reinforce important lessons. A free guide to using the coloring book is provided with your purchase of the main textbook.

Do these books require heavy preparation time to teach?

Not at all! Each volume in the What We Believe series is written directly to the student in a conversational tone designed to engage children and help them develop a personal relationship with God. Of course, we suggest you read the text for yourself in order to discuss it with your child, and a few activities in the book may require your participation, depending on your children's age. Otherwise, your preparation time should be minimal.

Do I need a teacher's manual to teach this course?

No. As with all Apologia curriculum, these textbooks are designed to stand on their own, without the need for additional teaching materials. However, for your convenience, free downloadable teacher helps for each and every lesson are included with your purchase. A password is provided in the introduction to each book. We believe you will find the What We Believe series easy to use and an important addition to your home school or co-op. However, should you have any questions during the course, contact us at biblicalworldview@apologia.com. We'll be happy to help!

What is included in the online teacher helps?

The free online teacher helps are downloadable files designed to enhance your teaching and, subsequently, your child's learning experience. Please keep in mind that every element of the teacher helps is optional. These pages are provided to help you, not to overwhelm you. The helps include lesson overviews, key themes, lesson objectives, suggested activities, child-directed discussion questions for each topic covered in the lesson, as well as a recommended reading list for deeper study of the themes, people, and places discussed in the text

Does this course include a Bible survey component?

No. A survey course works through one or more books of the Bible, often beginning with Genesis and studying the Scriptures in chronological or book order. Although the teaching in the What We Believe series requires the student to explore the Scriptures in detail, a Bible survey component is not included.

Can't a course in biblical worldview wait until high school?

Research by the Barna Group has shown that a person's lifelong behaviors and beliefs are largely developed during childhood and early adolescence. In the overwhelming majority of adults, their moral and spiritual foundations are already in place by age *nine*. It's during this early stage of life

that most of us develop our long-term perspectives on truth, integrity, and ethics. Thus, a child's spiritual identity is pretty well set by the age of 14.

David Kinnaman of the Barna Group says the reason so many young adults leave the church is in part because their experience of Christianity is shallow, and so their faith is easily shaken when exposed to the world outside the home. He says that one of the primary reasons that churches' ministry to children and teens so often fails to produce a lasting faith is because our kids are not being taught to *think* about what they believe.

In order to encourage our children to walk with the Lord for a lifetime, we must intentionally *disciple* them, and discipleship means helping them to think through what they believe and why. If our children's lifelong values, beliefs, and attitudes will largely be set in place by the time they're 14, then we must equip them *now* to stand firm in their faith when the inevitable winds of change and storms of life hit them during the teen years and into young adulthood.

If we disciple our children when they're young, when their worldviews are still being shaped, then we will set them on a rock that cannot easily be moved. The What We Believe series will not only help you provide your children with a clear foundation in the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, but it will also help them stand firm in the truth as revealed in Scripture.

Can my high school student earn credit for this course?

We do not recommend that you award high school credit for this series. For high school students, we suggest you check out the online worldview courses offered through Apologia Academy at www.apologiaacademy.com.

Can I use these books in a small group or classroom setting?

Yes. The What We Believe series have been successfully used in family-oriented small groups, homeschool co-op classes, intergenerational Sunday schools, and even adult discipleship classes.

What Bible translation does the curriculum use?

The What We Believe series does not intentionally promote the use of one Bible translation over another. Bible verses in each lesson are taken primarily from the NIV, or New International Version, although a number of translations are employed. For the sake of clarity, the authors have also made extensive use of the New Century Version (NCV) and the New Living Translation (NLT), as these versions use vocabulary more accessible to younger students. We recommend, however, that your student use your family's preferred translation for the purpose of memorizing Scripture.

What is the denominational perspective of the curriculum?

The authors of this series are committed to leading students into biblical truth, not to conform to a particular religious tradition. The entire What We Believe series is intentionally nondenominational in content. The authors of the curriculum come from two different denominational backgrounds, and they have purposely omitted from the course points of doctrinal difference that may divide and separate Christians in order to focus on the larger issues that historically define our faith. Whatever your family's denominational preference, you can easily expand on the books' lessons to cover what your church teaches about such topics as water baptism or spiritual gifts.

What is the "integrated learning" component?

Throughout each text you will find interesting articles that take an age-appropriate approach to topics related to the main text. These articles are de-

signed to help your children pursue the book's ideas and concepts across the fields of art, math, science, history and more. The beauty of this interdisciplinary approach is that it gives kids a broader understanding of the main subject while showing that a biblical worldview applies to all of life.

What is the difference between this course and "Building on the Rock"?

The What We Believe series is published in partnership with Summit Ministry and is based in part on Summit's Building on the Rock (BOTR) curriculum. However, several important elements distinguish the What We Believe series from the original:

The original BOTR curriculum was designed for use in Christian school classrooms, whereas the What We Believe series has been designed specifically for use by families and homeschoolers.

The BOTR curriculum is designed to be taught over a six-year period, whereas the What We Believe series can easily be completed in two to four years.

The BOTR curriculum is published for use in Christian schools and can be cost-prohibitive for use in the home. The What We Believe series was designed to be an affordable alternative for families and homeschoolers.

The BOTR curriculum is designed to teach biblical worldview for the first half of the school year, followed by a Bible survey component in the second semester. For the What We Believe series we have removed the Bible survey component in order to make the series more concise and affordable.

The BOTR curriculum is teacher-directed, whereas the What We Believe series is student-directed. The What We Believe books are written to the student in a conversational style to engage the student and personalize the teaching.

What is the House of Truth?

The House of Truth is a memory aid, a visual model constructed one step at a time throughout the What We Believe series. As new concepts are learned, the foundations, walls, and roof of the house are constructed, giving the child a concrete way of thinking about his or her life within the kingdom of God. In the first book, children complete the foundation and the first wall of the house. A new wall is added in the second, third, and fourth volumes of the series. The House of Truth can be used figuratively, drawn in the student's notebook, or built with items you have on hand, such as LEGO blocks.

What have you heard from parents about their experiences using the books with their children?

Parents love the What We Believe series! Here are just a few exciting comments from their e-mails and blogs:

"My daughter has worked through the first two books in the series, and she has moved to a new level in her personal walk with Jesus. I cannot imagine anything blessing me more as a homeschool mom than that."

"I can't even describe how much I love sitting down with my kids and reading through this material together. This book is truly a blessing."

"Watching what is happening within my 11-year-old's heart as we work through these books is a sight to behold. I have tremendous hope for his future as a devoted, compassionate man of God."

"My daughter quickly saw that no matter how young or old you are, we all matter and we all can make a difference for Jesus. I can already see the fire burning in her little heart getting stronger and stronger, and I am so excited to see what the Lord has in store for her life."

"There have been moments where the written word spoke to my children's hearts in a way that I would not have been able to."

"Truly, as I read these stories and affirmations of God's purpose for the lives of each person on the earth, including each of my precious children—and myself—it soaked into my soul a little bit more, too."