

INTERLOCKED

A Bible study integrating the Genesis-to-Revelation narrative, doctrine and apologetics for believers to live as thriving disciples of Christ.

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A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EDITION OF THE BIBLE FRAMEWORK

Interlocked: Information Sheet

Preface

Today, people claim that there are as many worldviews out there as there are people.

Some believe they are the products of chance, the result of billions of years of evolution. They are simply random blobs floating about without any meaning. There is no right, no wrong, no purpose to life.

Others believe that there are gods who formed the universe out of themselves and that people are made of this same god “ingredient”—that is they, too, are part of the same universe as the gods. This means they can level up and become gods or level down to animals based on how they live. However, they aren’t quite sure who decides whether they are good enough to level up or bad enough that they will be levelled down. There are no absolutes and no certainty in life.

Still others trust the God of the Bible, Yahweh, and His account of who He is, who they are, and the purpose for which He created them. They believe Yahweh is full of truth and rely on Him as the ultimate authority on what is right and wrong. They derive their moral standard as well as meaning and purpose in life from Him.

The way we understand how the world works, i.e., our worldview, affects how we view our life, our problems and what is happening around us. Our worldview either gives us meaning or it destroys meaning.

Churchgoers today are bombarded by the non-biblical worldview in mass media, schools, at the workplace and in content they peruse.

- “You have full control of your life. You can make yourself whole. You have what it takes inside you to be everything you want to be”.
- “We are all victims in this evil world. Evil will always be there. We just need to learn how to live with it.”
- “You have your truth and I have mine. There are many ways to get to the same place, heaven.”

Other churchgoers are ambushed and trapped by the accusations and challenges thrown against their worldview. For example:

- “Institutions like marriage and family are just outdated and arbitrary ideas. They are random and made up, so people should be able to change them to suit their needs.”
- “How can you worship such an evil God? Haven’t you read in the Old Testament that your God ordered genocide and intolerance and rejected religious harmony?”
- “If your God is a God of love, how can he... (fill in the blank).”

Are we able to respond with reasonable answers? How do we stand firm in the face of such challenges? Or do we often find that our understanding of our faith fails us and we too start to question our beliefs?

Can we as believers identify the biblical worldview and know when we are being exposed to non-biblical ones?

Too often, we find that as believers, our understanding of the Bible is piecemeal.

A Common Observation

1. Mike learnt in church that God is love. This is one piece of truth he believes in.



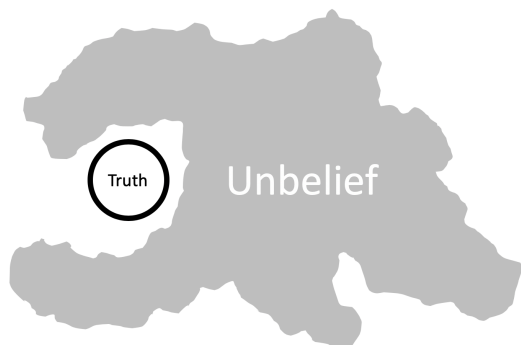
Here is his piece of truth.

2. However, Mike cannot really explain why he believes that God is love. He does not have concrete examples or evidence to help himself or anyone else understand the reason for his belief. The media and his friends start questioning and attacking his belief. They say things like:

- “If your God is a loving God, why is there such pain, suffering and evil in the world?”
- “If your God is love, why did he allow my mother to die of cancer?”
- “If you say your God is in control of the universe, then he must be evil. Look at the devastation caused by the earthquake! So many lives lost and hundreds of thousands of people displaced.”
- “How can you say your God is a God of love when Christians are full of hate for people who are not like them?”

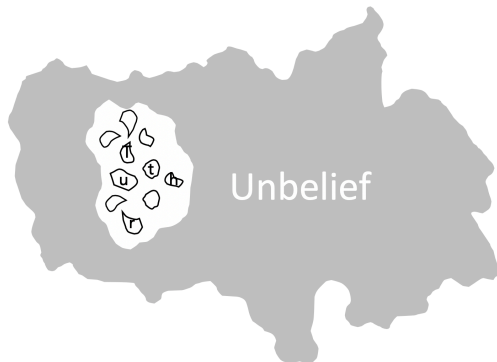


Mike's friends' unbelief is coming up against his one piece of truth.



On and on, Mike is faced with a barrage of attacks. Very soon, he is overwhelmed. He cannot answer any of his friends and he has no answer to anything he sees or reads in the media.

- In a very short time, Mike starts to believe his friends and the media.



The small piece of truth that he believed in is swallowed up by the wave of unbelief.

Not only is he unable to answer any of the attacks, **he now stops believing that one piece of truth.**

- This is just the first step in Mike questioning the Bible and questioning God without finding any answers. Mike was trying to understand God from the world’s perspective. This was the wrong approach. Ultimately, Mike left the church.

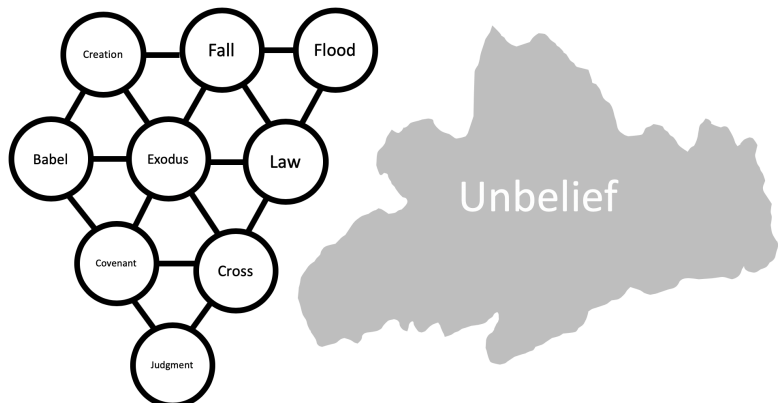
For many, when they encounter such situations, they find that they lack clarity, understanding and answers from the Bible. As a result, their faith falters.

Interlocked Network of Truth

This Bible study aims to build an interlocked network of truth in the minds of believers and churchgoers. Using Mike as an example again, we will see how he might have responded if he had this network of truth as his foundation.

- Mike is learning about God and the Bible in his small group. They are covering the main narrative from Genesis to Revelation. With each and every major biblical event, they learn about God’s history and truth from God’s own perspective. However, they also study the world’s perspective of these events and discuss the biblical response to the pagan worldview. Mike starts to build up evidence and understanding on what the statement “God is love” is anchored upon.

- God’s truths work together. As Mike studies the Bible further, he builds up a network of truth made up of interlocking Bible truths that stand together. Now, when the media and his friends start attacking isolated Bible verses or truths, Mike has a biblical framework and an understanding as to why he believes that God is love.

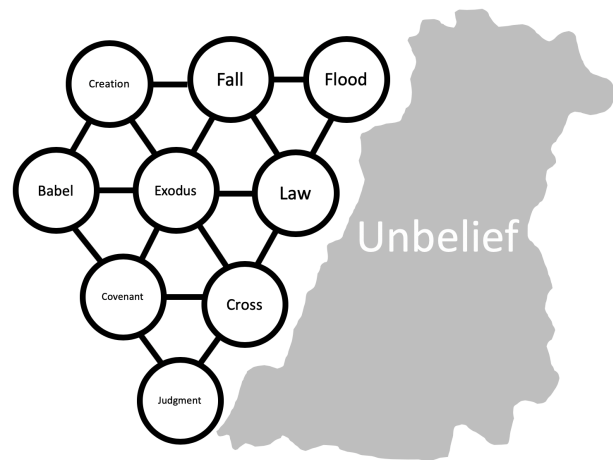


Importantly, Mike does not buy into the deceptions that are promoted by the media.

He continues to believe the one true God, the God of the Bible.

Mike uses the network of interlocking truths to untangle the deceptions being forced upon him by the world.

In this Bible study, when we learn Scripture, we do not want to have these pieces of truth as isolated events in our heads. We want to build a network of truth that would give us a solid appreciation of God and the world around us, so that we can guard ourselves against deception and unbelief.



The hope is that this will give us stability and assurance in our lives.

In addition, the network will give us the ability to share the gospel truth with our loved ones, friends and neighbours with gentleness and respect.

Objectives of the Study

This Bible study will take us through the big narrative of the Bible. It is an overarching account of the world's history from God's perspective. The study has the following objectives:

1. To show who God is through an enlarged vision of Him as revealed in Scripture.

God is the hero of the Bible and Scripture is His personal revelation about Himself and a record of His interactions with man. We will study His Word with a focus on His character. Through this, we will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of who the God of the Bible is.

2. Allow the Bible to interpret the world.

The biblical worldview is in direct conflict with the non-biblical worldview of the culture we live in. We want to learn how to let the Word of God interpret the world around us, rather than let the world around us interpret the Word of God.

3. Show the Bible's metanarrative.

- a. Learn the Bible's metanarrative from Genesis to Revelation, with a focus on the biblical perspective of life and how we all fit into God's plan.
- b. Get a good overview of the structure of the Bible, its chronology and how the different books fit together to form one narrative.
- c. See the strong links and deep interconnections between the Old and New Testaments.
- d. Learn what God has revealed to us in history about who He is, who we are and His plans for the world and us.

4. Build a framework for explaining and defending the faith.

Build a comprehensive biblical worldview by interlocking many biblical truths together to form a framework that enables us to understand the world from God’s point of view. This framework will be the tool to help us analyse and deconstruct the pervasive non-biblical ideologies of our culture.

5. Understand the gospel from a broader perspective.

We will learn God’s progressive revelation regarding His plan to save and restore both man and nature physically and spiritually. We will explore how God directs world history towards His ultimate goal and conclusion.

Lesson Format

Each lesson is about 120 minutes long and is built with three tracks that are found in every lesson.

1. Bible narrative of key events



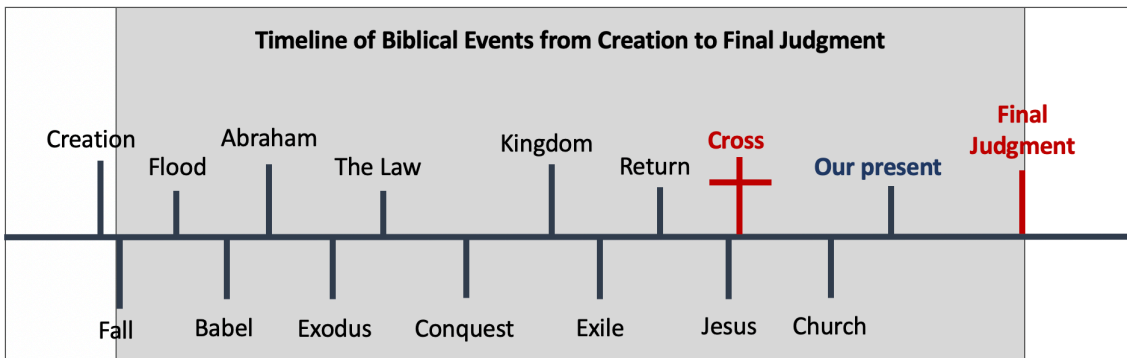
2. Truths revealed through the events



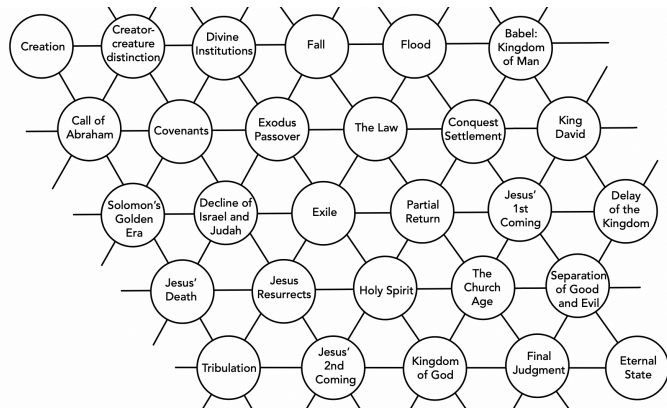
3. Contrast biblical and non-biblical worldviews



- 1. **Bible narrative of key events from Genesis to Revelation:** The lessons cover the major events in the Bible and tie them all together as a single narrative, showing God’s sovereignty and His plan for world history.



2. **Truths revealed through the events:** As we go through biblical history, we will study the truths from each of the major events. The truths will be interlocked together to build a comprehensive biblical framework to understand God's character and the world from His perspective.



3. **Contrast biblical and non-biblical worldviews:** Each lesson takes the biblical worldview and deliberately contrasts it with the non-biblical worldview. Each lesson examines one or more hard questions that believers face, particularly questions that often shipwreck a believer's faith. The discussion trains us on how to use the biblical framework of truth to respond so we are able to stay grounded in the faith and can give good responses to tough questions in a winsome and respectful way.



4. **Discussion Questions:** To help us process the content in the lessons, we will have discussion questions. These will help us grapple with and clarify our understanding of Scripture.
5. **“Faith in Action” Reviews:** Six lessons will be review sessions, where after completing a major Bible section, we will go back to discuss what God has revealed and how that builds upon our understanding of Him and of the world. Challenging questions will be discussed during these reviews to help participants process what has been taught and to help answer questions that the class may have. These “Faith in Action” exercises will also train us on how to use the interlocked biblical framework to analyse our faith, our lives and respond to questions and issues that the world challenges us with.

Note: The actual length of the lesson will vary depending on how much discussion and interaction the leader will allow and how interactive the class is. However, do not be afraid of long lessons. The advantage of longer lessons is that it often has the effect of growing the appetite of participants for the Bible and more in-depth serious Bible study.

Housekeeping Notes

There are a total of 56 lessons. (See pages 10–11 for the lesson list.) As we travel chronologically through the Bible, we will see each lesson building upon each other. The biblical truths will be joined together to form a holistic framework to help us interpret life from a biblical perspective. Participants will therefore benefit the most if they attend all the lessons.

However, each lesson is written so that there is immediate benefit. Each session is standalone and even if someone drops in and starts the class midway, a single lesson will be meaningful on its own. So if participants are unsure about being able to commit to all the lessons, know that even with sporadic attendance, they will benefit from single sessions. But the maximum benefit comes from attending all the sessions. There will be detailed notes for each lesson. So participants who do miss sessions will be able to keep up by reading through the lesson notes.

The series can be taught once a week for 56 weeks. Or it can be broken into six modules with breaks in between each module. It is up to the teachers and participants on how they want to conduct the study. See pages 10–11 for how the series can be divided into modules.

For Believers

These lessons are written for believers aged 16 and up. What this means is that a basic level of understanding about God and the Bible is assumed. The curriculum does go through the Scripture in a historical and chronological approach but it is not exhaustive in what it covers. Rather, the aim is to dig a little deeper past the familiar to draw out truths that when interlocked together will form a formidable framework. This framework becomes a tool to help us deconstruct the non-biblical worldview.

We will be using the words *pagan worldview* or *pagan mindset* a lot in these lessons. This simply refers to the non-biblical worldview. While there may be many ideas and concepts floating around in the world, their similarities are many and can be grouped together. Hence, the non-biblical worldviews are generally summed up with the term *pagan worldview*.

Note for Teachers

Teachers of this curriculum should use their own preferred style of teaching. The curriculum serves as the main content. As they are led by the Holy Spirit, teachers are encouraged to personalise the lessons by sharing their own illustrations, comments, as well as their own experiences in their walk with God. Nevertheless, here are some ideas of how the lessons may be conducted:

- a. (Easiest method) Teachers can print the lesson notes for each participant. The teacher reads the teaching commentary while the participants read the Bible verses. The teacher will comment and facilitate the discussions and the exercises.
- b. Teachers can print the lesson notes for each participant. The lesson printout acts as a guide and serves as the participants' take-home notes. The teacher can teach with their own words, using as much of the commentary as needed. The teacher will facilitate the discussions and exercises.

- c. Teachers can choose to use the lesson notes for themselves and teach the content in a more organic lecture style. This allows the teacher the most flexibility and choice of emphasis. The lesson notes become a teaching guide in this case. Participants will not be given the notes or participants will receive the lesson notes at the end of the lesson. This is entirely up to the teacher. The teacher can conduct the discussion in whatever format they feel works best for their group.

Using the Bible

The Bible is the focus of the lessons, so as much as time allows, we will engage directly with Scripture. Many verses are printed in the lesson notes for convenience. But we would like to be able to read straight from the Bible as much as possible.

Most of the time, the lessons ask for the whole verse or passage to be read out and then attention is drawn to a specific detail. This is deliberate as we want to see the verses in context and that there is no sense of cherry picking or proof texting in the lessons.

When quoting Scripture in the lesson notes, we use the Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise indicated. This translation uses easier-to-read English and is helpful for younger participants. Tyndale House Foundation has also granted us permission to quote the NLT in the lesson notes. We thank them for their permission. But teachers and participants should feel free to use their preferred translation when studying the lessons.

Course homework is Scripture reading. There will be pre-reading for each lesson. Participants will benefit most if they read the prescribed Bible passages before class. However, the lessons have been designed so that participants will benefit from the lesson even if they have not done the pre-reading.

Desired Outcome for Participants

- a. **Fall in love with God as the hero of the whole Bible and the whole world.**
The focus of the curriculum is on showing the omnipotence, sovereignty and glory of our loving God. This will be done by presenting history and truth from God's point of view, and showing wherever we can, God's ultimate motive and plan. Conversely, the men and women of the Bible will not be presented as heroes, but rather as true-to-life and fallible, saved by the grace and mercy of God.
- b. **Inspire, encourage and increase Bible reading through excitement for the Scriptures.**
A decreasing number of churchgoers spend time reading their Bibles regularly. Many have the perception that the Bible is dull or that they already know the stories. This curriculum attempts to intentionally pique participants' interest by teaching content in a way that would challenge them to see the Bible as God's exciting and unfolding history. (One participant in the first test group said, "You make me thirsty for the Bible". This is the exact sentiment that we hope this curriculum will generate.)

- c. **Heighten sensitivity to the difference between the biblical and pagan worldviews and increase faith and confidence that the Bible does speak to the issues of today's world.**

By raising the participants' awareness about the differences between the biblical and pagan worldviews, we hope that participants will not quickly accept the lies and half-truths that popular culture promotes. At the minimum, they will question and not easily accept what the pagan worldview suggests. However, the study's intent is to equip participants with enough biblical perspective that they have an idea of the Bible's answer to any particular issue.

- d. **Hope, joy and a confidence that God is in control.**

By showing the participants that world history is a continuous unfolding of God's plan, they will not lose hope that the world is spinning out of control but is in the capable hands of its Creator who knows where He is headed with history. This confidence will give hope and joy even in times of difficulty and confusion.

Questions

If you have any questions, please email us at amosnjen@gmail.com.

Amos and Jen Kwok

As parents, it is our constant quest to train our children with a strong understanding of God and the Bible. The question we often asked ourselves is, "What would they need to know to have a firm foundation for their faith?" God led us to different foundational biblical content and caused us to grow spiritually as individuals and as a family. Our passion for the next generation extends beyond our own children. We've spent many years being Sunday school teachers for children, youth, young adults and adults.

Our children are now older, and we hope to leave them with content that we have all benefitted from. Our desire is to leave them with a structured plan that they can share with their own children to train them up in the biblical worldview. This curriculum is part of the content we hope to leave with them. It was developed from the Bible Framework material of Charles Clough with his permission and guidance.

You are welcome to use it too. May God bless your journey with Him.

Index of Lessons

Introduction

0. The Overview (This is a complete 120-minute lesson that can be used to introduce the series to prospective participants.)

Module 1: The Beginning (8 lessons)

1. Origin of the Divine Institutions
2. Pagan View of Origins
3. Consequences of the Fall
4. Three Responses to the Pagan Worldview
5. The Global Flood
6. The New World Covenant
7. Fill the Earth
8. Faith in Action I: Biblical truth helps us interpret the world

Module 2: The Birth of Israel (12 lessons)

9. The Call of Abraham
10. Abraham—A Picture of Faith
11. Israel vs Egypt
12. The Passover
13. Mt Sinai—The Law
14. God's Perfect Law
15. Revelation and Rebellion at Sinai
16. The Period of the Conquest
17. Building Spiritual Life in the Israelites
18. Holy War Within Ourselves
19. Understanding Suffering
20. Faith in Action II: Using Scripture to get perspective on my questions

Module 3: The Kingdom of Israel (11 lessons)

21. Kings for Israel
22. King David
23. King Solomon
24. The Kingdom Divided
25. Decline of the Kingdom
26. Sent into Exile
27. Living as Believers in a Pagan Culture
28. Partial Return of Judah
29. The Jewish Expectation (Part 1)
30. The Jewish Expectation (Part 2)
31. Faith in Action III: Making sense of the situations in our lives

Module 4: The King Arrives (8 lessons)

- 32. Who do You say that I Am?
- 33. Birth of Christ
- 34. Life of Christ
- 35. Death of Christ
- 36. Who Did Christ Die For
- 37. The First Resurrection
- 38. Justification, Sanctification, Glorification (Part 1)
- 39. Justification, Sanctification, Glorification (Part 2)

Module 5: The Delay of the Kingdom (7 lessons)

- 40. The Delay of the Kingdom
- 41. The Arrival of the Church
- 42. The Holy Spirit Directs the Church
- 43. The Church Grows Out From Israel
- 44. The Maturing of the Church
- 45. God's Plan for Israel and the Church (Part 1)
- 46. God's Plan for Israel and the Church (Part 2)

Module 6: The Return of the Kingdom (9 lessons)

- 47. Overview of the End
- 48. The Tribulation of Israel Begins
- 49. The Trumpet Judgments
- 50. The Beasts & The Bowl Judgments
- 51. The Kingdom of Man Destroyed
- 52. The Kingdom of God
- 53. Faith in Action IV: Evaluating biblical statements
- 54. Faith in Action V: Evaluating the pagan worldview
- 55. Faith in Action VI: Standing strong in our faith

Total lessons: 56