

Leader's Guide

GRADUATES &  
**GAP**  
PROFESSIONALS

GOD'S WORD  
COVER TO COVER  
AN OVERVIEW OF  
THE BIBLE

**one**  
**accord**  
RESOURCES

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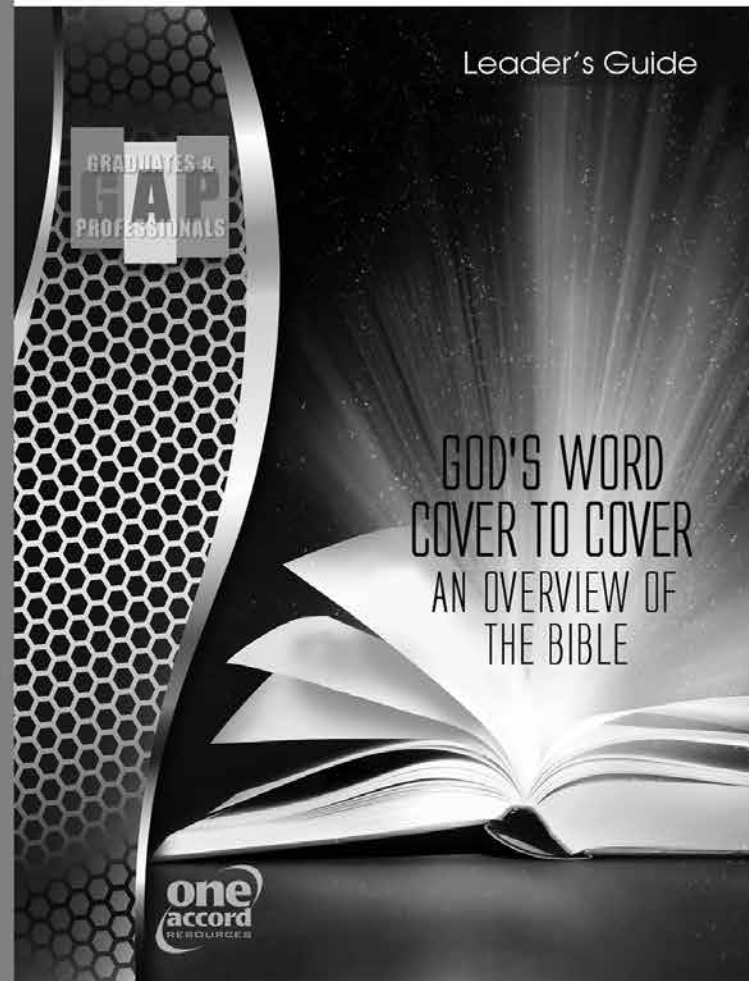
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Editors: Darren E. Schalk and Keith Marriner; Copy Editors: DeWayne Hamby and Marsha Robinson; Writers: Kristi Schalk, Duke Stone, and Elizabeth Witt; Graphics: Perry Horner.

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# How to Use Your **GAP LEADER'S GUIDE**

Like the rest of the One Accord curriculum,  
the *GAP Leader's Guide* is built with a  
four-step strategy in mind for life transformation:

## **LEARN the Word**

Every lesson begins with the foundation of Holy Scripture. You will be able to clearly communicate and build upon the written Word of God (*the logos*).



## **UNDERSTAND the Word**

You will help your class know what the Bible *says*, then help them know what it *means*. What's the central point of this lesson? What principle from Scripture is being shared? This is the *rhema* or revealed Word of God.



## **APPLY the Word**

God is not the "I Was." He is the great "I Am." Each of us needs to see how the timeless truth of the living Word *can apply* to our daily life. You will help your class see how the scriptural passage applies to real life so that the Word becomes relevant.



## **EXPERIENCE the Word**

You will move from relevance to ownership by helping your class *embrace* the truth of the Word in their own lives. It needs to become real and personal to them. This only happens as they *experience it* through the help of the Holy Spirit. This is the ultimate goal: God's Word, written on human hearts so that eternal change—transformation—occurs.



## **MINISTRY**

When this four-step process happens successfully, the result will be real ministry to and through your students. They will take what they learn in the classroom into their world, and lives will be changed!



makes teaching and learning an enjoyable experience by focusing on what really matters—people! It promotes the present-day activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of a young professional. Young adult believers from every background can be sensitive to the work and flow of the Holy Spirit as they impact the world around them.

## **GAP is**

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### **Easy to Use**

Every lesson begins with clear goals, a simple lesson overview, and a well-designed leader's guide.

### **Flexible**

The materials will fit any adult Sunday school class, Bible fellowship group, or small group Bible study.

### **Relational**

Lessons are designed with a clear focus on engaging others in learning and living out biblical truth.

### **Fun to Teach**

Teachers are not required to be biblical answer people, but rather to facilitate discussion and stimulate adults with all kinds of learning styles to dig into life and God's truth.

### **Life-Changing**

*GAP* skirts no issues as it deals with real life. It's more than just learning texts. It's about experiencing God's Word at the point of real needs.

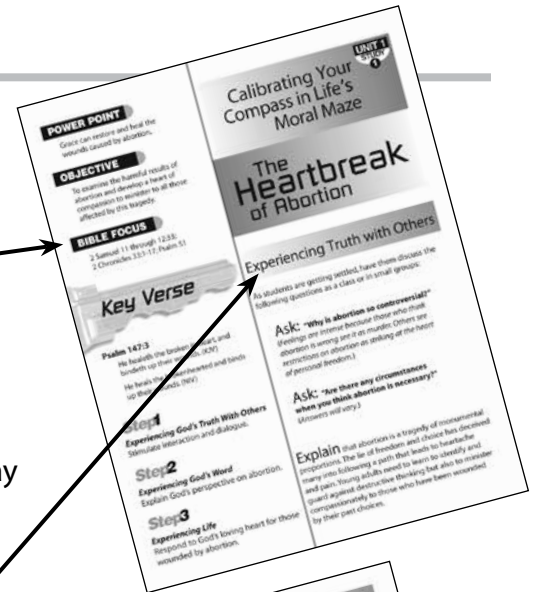


# Digging Into the GAP Leader's Guide



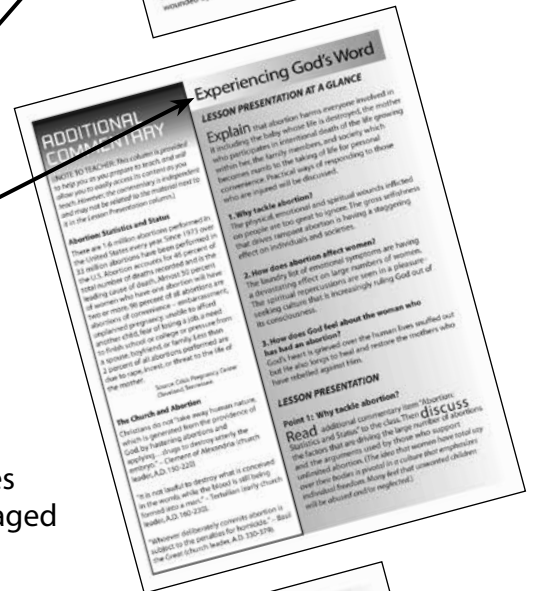
## Solid Biblical Foundation

Each lesson is rooted in God's Word. The Bible Focus, Key Verse, and Life Focus (the key thought you will communicate) ensure a Word-based and relevant experience. Stay focused with the three-step pathway through the lesson.



## Experiencing God's Truth With Others

Engaging activities/questions allow space for God's Spirit to build relationships between people. Truth is never divorced from loving relationships.



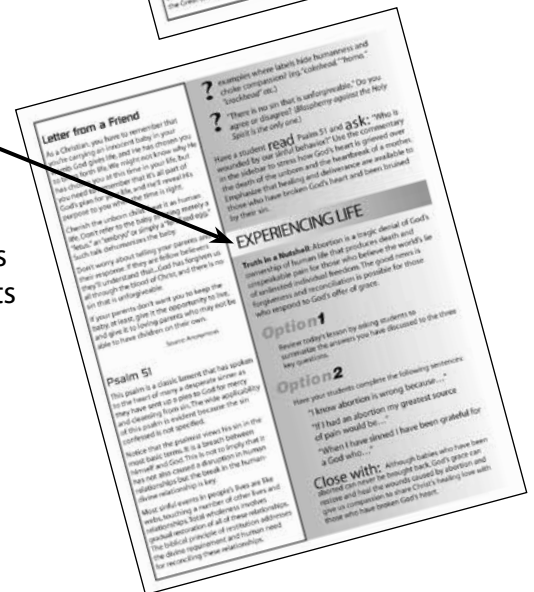
## Experiencing God's Word

The Lesson Presentation gives you a simple but powerful path for addressing contemporary topics from a biblical perspective. *Lesson Presentation at a Glance* gives you an overview of the lesson. Activities and questions will keep you and your students engaged from start to finish.



## Experiencing Life

We never leave you hanging with only theory. Each lesson is grounded in life application and points the way toward experiencing God-moments in the classroom and in the real world your students live in. You will always find at least two Life Option activities for applying lesson truths to life.



# Making GAP Work for You

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GAP is designed to work well in a traditional Sunday school class as well as in a small group Bible study or cell group/fellowship group format. Many of the activities assume a small group environment and can easily be adapted to fit a classroom or a living room.

## Your Role as Teacher

Whether they are sitting in someone's den, around tables in the fellowship hall, or in a classroom, adults love to interact and want to get personally involved with learning. Traditional Sunday school teachers sometimes think of themselves as Bible experts who must have all the answers. GAP's structure allows you to be more of a facilitator and discussion leader who provides a stimulating learning environment where everyone participates and learns together. *Experiencing God's Truth With Others* helps you fit relationship-building into each lesson through activities and questions that can be used during a fellowship time or at the beginning of the class. This gently guides the class in the direction of understanding that truth must impact our relationships with others as well as with God.

## Preparing to Teach

You will find studying your lesson easier because the Leader's Guide lays out clearly the learning path with an outline of the three-step lesson structure and an overview of the lesson right at the beginning. Then as you dig into the lesson, the scripted lesson plan guides you through the presentation with additional helps and resource material. The *Additional Commentary* will stimulate your thinking with creative ideas that will make your preparation exciting.

## Presenting the Lesson

The Lesson Presentation provides clear instructions on how to present the material and gives lots of ideas for getting your students involved and engaging their hearts, minds, emotions, and bodies in the study of God's Word. The two-column structure with the *Additional Commentary* next to the lesson plan keeps all the relevant material right in front of you as you teach. You can stimulate great interaction and yet have enough relevant biblical perspectives to stay focused on life-changing truth.

## Experiencing God in Class and Life

Pointed questions in the *GAP User's Guide* and the *Experiencing Life* options target transformation and encourage God-moments during and after the sessions. Suggestions on ways to experience God's Word in each session will provide wonderful opportunities for the Holy Spirit to make God's truth come alive. One of the *Experiencing Life* options tends to focus more on rational understanding and the other on heart application. Use one or both depending on your time and the learning styles of your students.

## LIFE FOCUS

God the Creator is Lord of all history.

## OBJECTIVE

To acknowledge that God is the Creator and the sovereign Lord of history, and gratefully submit to His good will for our lives.

## BIBLE FOCUS

Genesis 1:1–31; 3:1–24; 6:1 through 9:29;  
12:1–8; 46:1–7; 49:8–10

## Key Verse

### Revelation 4:11

*“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being” (NIV).*

*“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (KJV).*

## Step 1

### Experiencing Truth With Others

Allow discussion about God’s sovereign and complete role in Creation and history.

## Step 2

### Experiencing God’s Word

Help students understand that as part of God’s creation, we are each born with gifts and purpose.

## Step 3

### Experiencing Life

Encourage the students to acknowledge God as the Creator of all life and submit to His will and purpose for their lives.

## UNIT 1 STUDY

1

# Message of the Old Testament

# History Is God’s Story (Genesis)

## Reliving the Truth

**Discuss** the impact of the previous lesson on the students’ lives. Talk about how it may have affected their life choices and actions throughout the week.

## Experiencing Truth With Others

Today’s Life Focus speaks of God being Lord over all of history. Contrary to our Christian views, however, certain beliefs exist that do not include God as sovereign Lord and Creator of all life. As a class, **discuss** the main views of the following theories and how they oppose the Word of God.

- Big Bang Theory
- Atheism
- Buddhism
- Theory of Evolution

**Read** “Creation versus Science” from the Additional Commentary.

**Mention** that while erroneous beliefs exist, God remains the Creator of all. He spoke all creation into being, and He alone is the sovereign Lord. Without Him we would not exist, nor would the world in which we live.

# ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY

*Note to teacher:* This column is provided to help you as you prepare to teach and will allow you to access its content easily as you teach. However, the content is independent and may not be related to the material next to it in the Lesson Presentation column.

## Creation versus Science

The French Mathematician, Lecompte de Nouy, examined the laws of probability for a single molecule of high dissymmetry to be formed by the action of chance. De Nouy found that, on an average, the time needed to form one such molecule of our terrestrial globe would be about 10 to the 253 power, i.e. billions of years.

“But,” continued de Nouy ironically, “let us admit that no matter how small the chance it could happen, one molecule could be created by such astronomical odds of chance. However, one molecule is of no use. Hundreds of millions of identical ones are necessary. Thus we either admit the miracle or doubt the absolute truth of science.”

—Quoted in “Is Science Moving Toward Belief in God?”  
Paul A. Fisher, *The Wanderer*, November 7, 1985

## Ford at Mercy of Tinkerer

Automaker Henry Ford asked electrical genius Charlie Steinmetz to build the generators for his factory. One day the generators ground to a halt, and the repairmen couldn't find the problem. So Ford called Steinmetz, who tinkered with the machines for a few hours and then threw the switch. The generators whirred to life—but Ford got a bill for \$10,000 from Steinmetz. Flabbergasted, the rather tightfisted carmaker inquired why the bill was so high. Steinmetz's replied: “For tinkering with the generators, \$10. For knowing where to tinker, \$9,990.” Ford paid the bill.

—*Today in the Word*, MBI, April 1990, p. 27

# Experiencing God's Word

## LESSON PRESENTATION AT A GLANCE

- 1. God creates everything (Genesis 1:1–3, 24–31).**  
God spoke all life—humans, animals, plants, the universe—into existence and deserves our awe and reverence.
- 2. God gives new beginnings (Genesis 3:14, 15, 22–24; 6:5–8; 7:1, 17, 21; 8:1, 15, 16, 20–22).**  
God graciously provides new beginnings to individuals in order that we may have another opportunity to accomplish His will for our lives.
- 3. God chooses a nation (Genesis 12:1–8; 46:1–7; 49:8–10).**  
God chose Israel to be a nation of priests, ministers, and witnesses for Him. His desire was for them to tell others about Him and prepare them for the coming Messiah.

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Point 1: God creates everything.

**Read** Genesis 1:1–3, 24–31.

**Point out** that many individuals find the study of history to be intriguing. Throughout the school years, numerous history courses are offered that cover various time periods, places, and individuals. On TV, we can tune into the History Channel for round-the-clock coverage of historical facts. But what is most amazing about the study of history is the fact that God has been present during every second of it, thus He truly is the Lord of history. His existence has no beginning and no end. He always has been and always will be.

**Ask:** “Who are some famous inventors and their inventions?” (*various responses*)

**Explain** that while it's true that many individuals have made noteworthy inventions that have changed our world, these individuals still have their limitations because they are human. They have their flaws and weaknesses just like the rest of us. And while they may excel in certain areas, their knowledge in other areas is limited.



*(Additional Commentary continued)*

### **Terms of a Covenant**

In modern times we define a host of relations by contracts. These are usually for goods or services and for hard cash. The contract, formal or informal, helps to specify failure in these relationships. The Lord did not establish a contract with Israel or with the church. He created a covenant. There is a difference. Contracts are broken when one of the parties fails to keep his promise. If, let us say, a patient fails to keep an appointment with a doctor, the doctor is not obligated to call the house and inquire, "Where were you? Why didn't you show up for your appointment?" He simply goes on to his next patient and has his appointment secretary take note of the patient who failed to keep the appointment. The patient may find it harder the next time to see the doctor. He broke an informal contract. According to the Bible, however, the Lord asks: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (Isaiah 49:15). The Bible indicates the covenant is more like the ties of a parent to her child than it is a doctor's appointment. If a child fails to show up for dinner, the parent's obligation, unlike the doctor's, isn't canceled. The parent finds out where the child is and makes sure he's cared for. One member's failure does not destroy the relationship. A covenant puts no conditions on faithfulness. It is the unconditional commitment to love and serve.

—Bruce Shelley

**Read** "Ford at Mercy of Tinkerer" from the Additional Commentary.

**Ask:** "Besides God, who has the capability to create life?" (*No one.*)

**Mention** that while man's inventions and capabilities are certainly inspirational, it is ultimately because the talents they draw from are God-given. Therefore, we should ultimately give praise to the One who created all of life. He is the only one who has the amazing ability to create something out of nothing.

### **Point 2: God gives new beginnings.**

**Read** Genesis 3:14, 15, 22–24; 6:5–8; 7:1, 17, 21; 8:1, 15, 16, 20–22.

**Ask:** "Have you ever wished that you could have a second chance at something—an opportunity to go back and do something differently?" (*At some point, each of us has wished that this were possible.*)

**Note** that we serve a God of new beginnings. When it seems that we have truly messed up our lives, if we will turn to Him, He will forgive us and provide us with a fresh start. Of course, we don't literally get to relive every moment of our lives, and we may have to face certain consequences for our actions, but we can rest assured that God is graciously giving us another chance to fulfill His purpose in our lives. The Bible is filled with such examples of God providing new beginnings.

**Ask:** "How should we respond to God's offer of grace and the chance for a new beginning?" (*We should gratefully accept His offer and determine to follow Him and His will for us.*)

**Emphasize** that after we accept God's offer, our hearts, minds, and spirit are renewed, and we can enjoy victory, not defeat. This is why it is so important to not let the enemy convince us that we are worthless when we have gotten off-course, but instead we should run to God with an apologetic and contrite heart.

### **Point 3: God chooses a nation.**

**Read** Genesis 12:1–8; 46:1–7; 49:8–10.

**Ask:** "Why do you think God chose to enter into a covenant with the Israelites?" (*various responses*)

*(Additional Commentary continued)*

### **Sovereign God**

In the frigid waters around Greenland are countless icebergs, some little and some gigantic. If you'd observe them carefully, you'd notice that sometimes the small ice pieces move in one direction while their massive counterparts flow in another. The explanation is simple. Surface winds drive the little ones, whereas the huge masses of ice are carried along by deep ocean currents. When we face trials and tragedies, it's helpful to see our lives as being subject to two forces—surface winds and ocean currents. The winds represent everything changeable, unpredictable, and distressing. But operating simultaneously with these gusts and gales is another force that's even more powerful. It is the sure movement of God's wise and sovereign purposes, the deep flow of His unchanging love.

—www.sermonillustrations.com

**Note** that the scriptures don't specify the exact reason why God chose to have a covenant with the Israelites. This covenant initially began with Abraham and would also include his descendants—the nation of Israel—from which Jesus the Messiah would be born.

**Read** Deuteronomy 7:7–9.

**Read** "Terms of a Covenant" from the Additional Commentary.

**Ask:** "Does this mean that God loves the Israelite lineage more than anyone else?" (*No. In His Word, it is stated that God is no respecter of persons.*)

**Point out** that God is infinitely wise in all that He does. His ultimate desire for the nation of Israel was that they would be a nation who would point others toward God and the promised Messiah. When Jesus came, a New Covenant was established in which we now are referred to as the children of Abraham and entitled to all of God's promises. We should be thankful that God loves each and every one of us and acknowledge that Jesus died to save anyone who would believe in Him.

## **Experiencing Life**

**Truth in a Nutshell:** All of history focuses on God and finds its purpose and meaning in Him.

### **EXPERIENCING LIFE OPTIONS**

#### **Option 1**

**Ask:** "In what ways can we more readily acknowledge and reverence God as being Creator of all and worthy of our complete submission?"

#### **Option 2**

Submitting to God in every area of our lives can often seem difficult, but it is necessary if we are to live a victorious Christian life. **Ask** the students to bond together in prayer, reverently submitting themselves to the Lord.

**Conclude with:** "Sovereign God" from the User's Guide.