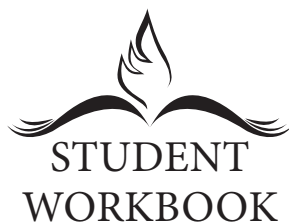


WINTER 2019–2020

# The Living Word

S E R I E S

## Enduring Faith



STUDENT  
WORKBOOK

# Student Workbook

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# The Better Plan

## ▶▶ FOCUS THOUGHT

Because Adam's plan failed to cover his sin, God instituted a better plan for our salvation.

## ▶▶ FOCUS VERSE

### Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

## ▶▶ LESSON TEXT

### Hebrews 1:1–8

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.

### Luke 1:30–33

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

## CULTURE CONNECTION

### Your Secret Is Safe with—oh, Wait!

In recent elections, James O’Keefe became a name Americans mentioned because of his work with Project Veritas—an undercover journalistic sting operation. He and his people plant cameras and microphones in places or on persons, unknown to their target. The undercover journalists get a politically significant person to open up about what the candidate really believes or to spill juicy details of what is going on behind the scenes. While O’Keefe’s efforts have turned some red with anger, others appear to be overjoyed with his revealing investigations.

The whole idea of a hidden camera capturing one’s deepest darkest secrets seems unsettling. Humans have secrets they do not want others knowing. As much as we are curious about and interested in the secrets of others, we double down security on our own closeted skeletons. Somehow in perfecting this lifestyle of hide-and-seek, humanity has overlooked the hidden camera from above.

On the flip side, knowing the secrets of others can become burdensome. According to a study of 237 participants, if one must keep a friend’s secret from other mutual friends with whom he or she has frequent contact, the levels of stress and emotional weight increase greatly (Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Ph.D., “Dangerous Confessions,” Psychology Today November 3, 2018). It seems the thing we seek could be our own undoing.

The only safe secret-keeper is the Lord. Those who turn from sin have their secrets safe with Him. However, those who continue to hide it will be exposed.

## LESSON OUTLINE

### I. ADAM SINNED AND NEEDED A SAVIOR (Day 1)

- A. Sin Brought Shame
- B. Sin Caused Adam and Eve to Hide from God (Day 2)
- C. We Have All Sinned and Are in Need of a Savior

### II. ADAM’S PLAN WAS TO COVER HIS OWN SIN

- A. Fig Leaves (Day 3)
- B. Skin of an Animal
- C. We Try to Cover Our Own Sin (Day 4)

### III. GOD HAD A BETTER PLAN

- A. The Offspring of Woman — the Messiah — Would Crush Satan’s Head
- B. God Became Flesh
- C. His Blood Has the Power to Cover Our Sin (Day 5)

## APPROACH

### Day 1

Eve was not yet created when God said to Adam, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat

of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16–17). So why did Eve say to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die”? (Genesis 3:2–3).

Where did “neither shall ye touch it” come from?

Apparently, Adam failed to accurately communicate God’s command to Eve. What she said may sound close enough, but we learn elsewhere that God’s words are not to be amended. Whether we add to them or subtract from them, they are no longer His words. (See Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18–19.)

Adding to God’s words does not strengthen them; it corrupts them. To do so gives the serpent a clue we really do not know what God said and sets us up for further deception; our own *Ye shall not surely die* (Genesis 3:4).

Another indication of Adam’s failure is that he was with Eve during this episode of temptation, did nothing to help her resist, and shared in her sin (Genesis 3:6). Adam placed the blame for his sin first on Eve, then on God Himself (Genesis 3:12). Paul read Genesis correctly: “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Paul wrote, “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (I Timothy 2:14). Eve was deceived. Those who are deceived are convinced they are doing the right thing. Because she was deceived, Eve fell into transgression. But Adam sinned purposefully, intentionally, and knowingly. He did not fall into it, and he was not deceived. He knew full well what he was doing was rebellion against God with dreadful consequences, but he did it anyway.

### ▶▶ ASK AND APPLY

- » *What is the significance of the fact that sin was introduced into the world by Adam, not Eve?*
- » *Why is it important for each of us to take responsibility for our own mistakes?*

### Day 2

In order to grasp the meaning of God’s warning to Adam, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17), it is necessary to explore the biblical meaning of death. Death involves some kind of separation. We can gain immediate insight from James 2:26: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” When our material part—the body—is separated from our immaterial part—the soul/spirit—we are dead. This does not mean we no longer exist. It means our material part is no longer animated. Similarly, we were “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1) before we experienced the new birth. This is the kind of death to which God referred in His warning to Adam.

God did not create people to die. He created them to live forever. That is why He placed the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9). When Adam and Eve ate instead from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they experienced the death of which God had warned: separation from fellowship with God. The reason for their newfound fear of God, which drove them to hide from Him, was that they were now dead in sin. They still existed, but in a spiritually lifeless state. There is no evidence that Adam or Eve repented, and there can be no spiritual

life where there is no repentance. Thus, they were expelled from the Garden with its life-giving tree (Genesis 3:22–24).

### ▶▶ ASK AND APPLY

- » *In what way is spiritual death different from physical death?*
- » *What are some things you can do today to enhance your spiritual life?*

#### **Day 3**

How quickly Adam and Eve transitioned from their shameless pre-Fall nakedness to their failed attempt to conceal their sin with fig leaves! (See Genesis 2:25; 3:7.) Why fig leaves? Perhaps the reason is that fig leaves are the largest in Canaan (John H. Walton, *Bible Background Commentary*). If so, maybe this gave Adam and Eve the quickest way to attempt to deal with their sin. A fig leaf can grow more than a foot wide ([www.kkcj.org/teaching/article/fig-leaves/P5](http://www.kkcj.org/teaching/article/fig-leaves/P5)). However, there is no quick, easy solution to the sin problem.

### ▶▶ ASK AND APPLY

- » *Why do you think Adam and Eve resorted to fig leaves to cover their nakedness?*
- » *What have you learned about the power of repentance and confession?*

#### **Day 4**

The first thing we should do following an episode of sin is often the last thing we actually do. First, we should confess our sin to God. Instead, we make doomed attempts to conceal our sin from God and others. In this, we have Adam and Eve for our models, followed by such copies as Cain, Achan, and a long list of biblical sinners. The warning Moses gave to Reuben and Gad is relevant to all: if we disobey God, we may be sure our sin will find us out (Numbers 32:23).

### ▶▶ ASK AND APPLY

- » *What kind of things do we do in an effort to hide our sins?*
- » *What can you do to make sure you are not trying to cover up any sin in your own life?*

#### **Day 5**

By Himself, Jesus purged our sins. He needed no help from us nor from angels. The ultimate purpose for the incarnation was “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). The Cross was God’s final answer to the sin problem, the means by which the barrier between God and man was removed (Hebrews 10:12, 14).

It has been called “the great exchange.” Paul succinctly describes the way God dealt with our sins through Christ in II Corinthians 5:21.

Any suggestion that something in addition to the blood of Jesus is required to deal with man’s sin is heresy of the worst sort. The atoning virtue of the blood of Jesus is limitless precisely because His death was of infinite value. This is so because in His death He was not just a man, but God manifest in the flesh. Had He been just a sinless man, His death could perhaps have atoned for one other person. But since He was truly God, His death was “the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (I John 2:2, NKJV).

After Jesus purged our sins, He “sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:3, NKJV). The term right hand in Scripture is often a metaphor for

power and authority. When the Bible speaks of “the right hand of God” (e.g., Acts 2:33), it refers to the ultimate power and authority. The point is He who suffered the humiliation of assuming solidarity with His creation now occupies the supreme position of exaltation (Philippians 2:5–9). In that position, He is due the homage of all creation (Philippians 2:10–11).

Concerning the phrase “the right hand of the Majesty on high,” F.F. Bruce comments,

*That no literal location is intended was as well understood by Christians in the apostolic age as it is by us: they knew that God has no physical right hand or material throne where the ascended Christ sits beside Him; to them the language denoted the exaltation and supremacy of Christ as it does to us.*

The statement that Jesus sat down would have been significant to the original readers of Hebrews, for they were acquainted with priests who never sat, for there was no end to the sacrifices they offered. (See Hebrews 10:11–12.)

### ▶▶ ASK AND APPLY

- » *How many comparisons can you draw between Adam’s failed plan to deal with sin and God’s successful plan?*
- » *What can you do this week to begin ridding yourself of things that may not be pleasing to the Lord?*



Parents: Discuss today’s lesson with your child at  
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