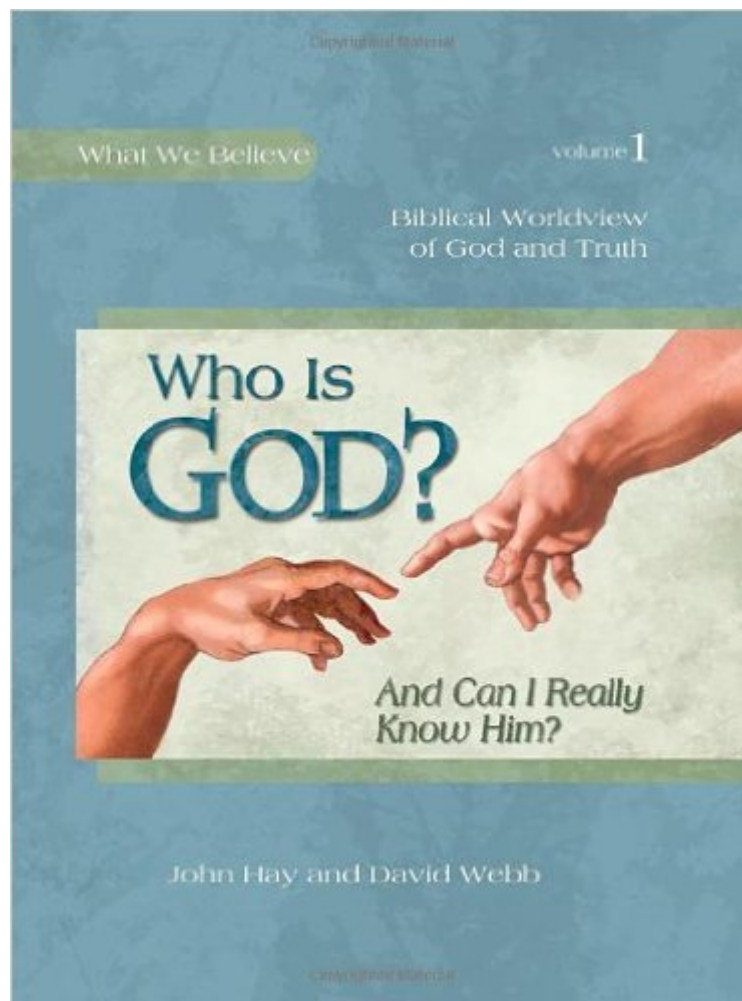


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# Who Is God? (And Can I Really Know Him?) -- Biblical Worldview Of God And Truth (What We Believe, Volume 1)



## Synopsis

Our 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. Some are deceptive and even destructive. The What We Believe series helps children learn to discern the truth by using God's Word as a lens through which to view the world around them -- to see everything the way God sees it. Easy to use for the whole family, this beautiful hardcover volume is the first book in a four-part study that introduces young people, ages 6-14, to the basic truths of the Christian faith. Through engaging stories, creative notebooking, and fun activities, they will come to know and trust our loving God while building an unshakable faith to last a lifetime. Who Is God? (And Can I Really Know Him?) is fantastic! A great resource for parents to use with their kids, this content really hits the bulls-eye. And the visuals are off the chart. This could be the Sistine Chapel of children's apologetics books! Carter Goolsby Pastor, Mechanicsville Christian Center Mechanicsville, Virginia A wonderful tool for families! Leanna Ellis Homeschooling mother and award-winning novelist An excellent resource that our family will be using to guide our worship times! Timothy Paul Jones, PhD Editor of The Journal of Family Ministry When your child is old enough to chew meat instead of just sipping milk, this is the book you want. Donita K. Paul Parent, educator, and author A tapestry of challenging questions, exciting stories, solid biblical teaching, and wise counsel. This series will bring adventure and fun back into learning for the whole family. Larry Libby Author of Someday Heaven and God Is with You Instruction in apologetics and worldview is sadly lacking among Christian youth, and that's probably why so many fall away from their faith after high school. This book is a 'moral flashlight' to illuminate the source of truth for young people everywhere. Get it and read it with your kids. I am. Chuck Holton Homeschooling father and best-selling author I absolutely LOVE this book! Apologia has successfully produced another awesome curriculum which exceeds our expectations, and for that, we in the homeschool community are grateful! Marissa Leinart Emmy-winning news anchor In my twenty-one years of working with youth and children's ministries, I have seen my share of resources and program materials. But rarely have I been as impressed as I am with Who Is God? (And Can I Really Know Him?). This is a vital resource, extremely well done, and one which I predict will become a standard text in many churches, homes, and schools. In our video-driven culture, many are saying that fewer and fewer people are reading and that it is especially hard to get kids into books. Yet my niece and nephew (both in elementary school) couldn't put this one down. I highly recommend this book and the entire What We Believe series. Alex McFarland President, Southern Evangelical Seminary A powerful inoculation of truth that will help protect our young people and make them better

ambassadors for Christ. Frank Turek Co-author of I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

## Book Information

Series: What We Believe (Book 1)

Textbook Binding: 256 pages

Publisher: Apologia Press; 1st edition (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1935495070

ISBN-13: 978-1935495079

Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.6 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #105,467 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Education > Home Schooling #22246 in Â Books > Religion & Spirituality #24819 in Â Books > Children's Books

## Customer Reviews

This book has been instrumental in helping me articulate and teach a biblical world view to my children. Who is God? (And Can I Really Know Him?) is aligned with Scripture and is a great companion to our daily reading of The Word. As a homeschooling mom, I am always looking for resources that draw my children closer to God and this book does exactly that. We have spent hours discussing the attributes of God and his character. Thank you John Hay and David Webb for writing a book that helps us build a foundation on Christ and leaves us longing for a more intimate relationship with our Creator. We are looking forward to the remaining three volumes in the What We Believe series.

I am a homeschool mom with two boys, ages 6 and 9. We found this book to be appropriate for their ages, but I could see where it could go into the early teens as well. The writing style was easy and friendly and kept my boys engaged. They WANTED to talk about the material and hash it over. A really good book that doesn't oversimplify but keeps things black-and-white. Lots of scripture to back up the points. I highly recommend.

The theme of this book is to examine the central, core essentials of the Christian faith. It is essentially a book of apologetics for children. I believe it is important to note that this book would be

best used to encourage and strengthen a child's faith. But, apologetics do not lead a child to faith in God--We cannot reason our way to faith in God. There must be a step of faith. As Ravi Zacharias has said, "God has put enough into this world to make faith in him a most reasonable stance, but He has left enough out to make it impossible to live by reason alone." From my perspective, the best audience for this book is families who are attending nondenominational churches who have children who are 10-13 years old. I would not recommend this book to: families who attend denominational churches or with younger children, unless you are able to read the book ahead of time and selectively read sections to your children. I think it is very difficult to write a book for such a wide age range, like 6-14, because 6 year olds do not understand what 14 year olds do. It is also often inappropriate to discuss topics that are appropriate for 14 year olds with 6 year olds. They are not able yet to understand such difficult concepts and ideas. It can be confusing and upsetting. I have several friends who attend nondenominational churches. I think they would like this book a lot. The topics covered in this book are the Truth and how we can know what's true (I did think this was a wonderful explanation), what God is like, who the trinity is, why there is sin in the world, why God created us, will God take care of us, and if Jesus is the only way to God. I think many kids have these questions and this book answers these questions better than others I've read. The book itself is a large textbook with great formatting and wonderful, real pictures that bring the stories to life. It will be much easier for children not to dismiss the stories as simply fictional because of the photographs. If you attend a denominational church, I wouldn't recommend this book. Though the authors strove to write this book in a way that would relate to all Christians, there are some key differences among what believers do believe--that is why there are denominations. When I read *Everything a Child Should Know About God* by Kenneth Taylor several years ago, I felt that it would be helpful for all believers. It did not go into many doctrines of the faith that are taught differently in different denominations. This book verges on going there because of the perspective that it is written from. The issues I am referring to are free will vs. predestination (this issue isn't talked about, but rather affects how much emphasis is put on one's will); how much emphasis is put on grace and how much is put on obedience and works; and what you believe about how someone comes to know God (free will and the sinner's prayer or by God's grace that worked in one's heart). I suppose all three of the things I just listed all come back to the ramifications of what one believes about free will and predestination. My husband's concerns with this book are specifically the perspective the authors have towards the world in their introduction and in how they teach children philosophy in the worldview sections. He works almost entirely with people who don't believe in God. They are smart, educated people. If a young college graduate were to enter his office and begin scoffing at what the

other workers did over the weekend, think that they are dumb for believing whatever they do, or mock what they believe, they would build up some significant walls. It would prevent them from loving their coworkers well. We are to love both our friends and our enemies, as Jesus calls us to. We do need to stand up to evil and proclaim the truth. But, it crucial to speak this truth in love. In the introduction, the idea is alluded to that if more people in our country believed a Christian worldview it would be more influential in swaying people through the media, entertainment, education, and business sector. My husband struggled with this belief because as he explained to me--our goal is also not to create heaven on earth--it is to proclaim the truth of the gospel and glorify god. My husband's feeling is that we do a disservice to our children and leave them illequipped to handle challenges to their faith when we portray other faiths and beliefs like evolution and completely ridiculous. His preference would be rather to simply give our children a strong grounding in their faith and leave the door open to discussion when they come across views and opinions that challenge what they believe. As they walk through these challenges to their faith, their faith will become their own and will be strengthened depending on how they and we, as their parents, respond. This has been a difficult book for me to review. I do not want to be divisive, but rather respectful about differing views. I hope that I have done that. If you attend a nondenominational church, this series may be a good fit for your homeschooling Bible curriculum. It is the first of four books, each addressing aspects of living life as a Christian. I think the idea behind the series is wonderful. It is the execution that my husband struggled with. This book may be one that has a lot of great stuff in it that you filter through before you present to your children. I would caution homeschoolers about introducing the worldview sections to their children before they are old enough to understand philosophy and before they believe in God. Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from Apologia Press.

As a homeschooling parent one of my highest goals for my children (after helping them come to a saving relationship with Christ) is to equip them with a biblical worldview. Most worldview materials are geared towards high school age students (and older), so I was very excited to learn of the release of a series of books from Apologia designed to foster a biblical worldview in children between the ages of 6 and 14. Produced in collaboration with Summit Ministries, the first volume *Who is God? And Can I Really Know Him?* teaches children the basics of what worldview is and why it is important before delving into teaching children about basic, foundational truths of doctrine. Likening the development of a worldview to the building of a house (a Summit Ministries model), authors John Hay and David Webb stress that before even building the house, it needs to be built

on a rock solid foundation - God. So, that's where this book starts out. Produced in Apologia's trademark textbook style, it is a sturdy, handsome hardcover with full color pictures and lovely artwork. Each lesson is broken into chunks that serve various purposes. There are teaching sections, enrichment sections that share interesting/somewhat related information, story sections that help with illustrations and memorable events, notebooking suggestions - this is a very rich program. Though there are only ten lessons included - each of them can easily be done over a two-week period. There is a lot of meat here. My only concern is that there is a little TOO much meat for the lower end of the recommended age range. Although there ARE coloring pages you can buy as a supplement to the course, younger children just aren't developmentally ready to do the sort of comparing and contrasting that this course calls for. My husband and I were working through this course with our children (our oldest is 8), but it was all going over their heads for the most part. WE really enjoyed it, but I think it is really best as a study if your oldest is 12 or so. The early logic stage, 12-14 would really benefit from this course, as well as older students without any worldview instruction. Our young children are more focused on the grammar stage, factual content that they can easily grasp and remember. Who, what, when, and how are their key learning concerns; when we ask them for more, they simply meltdown on us. Simple books of children's doctrine better serve younger children. Not only were my children blown out of the water by the content, but the notebooking questions were also very high - these are definitely better for students of at LEAST 10. After moving through a couple of lessons with overwhelmed children we decided to put the course aside for now. That being said, this is really a beautiful course. It is richly supported with additional free downloadables (there is a website address included inside of the book when you purchase it) and is filled with vitally important, God glorifying content. We are definitely holding onto our copy and will be coming back to it again once our children are ready - we are looking forward to it. If you have children between 10 and 14, I think you will find this a very profitable study for your family. I received a physical copy of this title in exchange for this review. All opinions are genuine and entirely my own.

We start the day with this study of "Who is God?." I am using it for my kids ages 7,9, 12. It is doing a good job of holding the interest of all three and each one is learning. This just what I was looking for in a Bible study. I cannot say enough good things about it. Be sure to look on the publisher's website. The book extras are excellent. The Bible section of our portfolio is more full than it has ever been.

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