

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... AT SCHOOL

**HEBREWS
JAMES
I, II PETER
REVELATION**

5TH GRADE
BIBLE CURRICULUM
UNIT 4



USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Investigating God's Word...At School is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the "big picture" of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

Introduction. Each "Day One" starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to "call" them to study.

Quiz Time. Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

W.O.W! The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

Historical Context. Each lesson, the Scripture text is placed in historical context by use of a timeline. It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

Bible Investigation. The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of discussion, questions, and application points. This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Scripture Memory. At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

Quiz Time. Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

Historical Context. As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God’s Word.

Bible Investigation. Again, this is the heart and soul of each day’s Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God’s Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

Worldview Builder. This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a “pillar” of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

Defend the Faith. A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

Scripture Memory. The day’s lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

AND FINALLY...

Teaching God’s Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

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LESSON 1 // HEBREWS 1:1-6:12

OVERVIEW

The letter to the Hebrews stands alone among all of the New Testament epistles in its style, majesty and focus. It is also the only letter with major uncertainty regarding its human author! Thankfully, as the inspired Word of God, we can be confident of its authority without knowing its exact authorship.

The writer of Hebrews begins with a series of arguments concerning the supremacy of Christ. Christ is superior to the angels. Christ is superior to the prophets. Christ is superior to Moses, Joshua and David. He is also the greatest of high priests. Only Jesus is the Son of God, and He alone lived a perfect life and died a perfect death to bring His people salvation.

Intermingled in this first section of the Book of Hebrews are various warnings against falling away, not entering God's eternal rest, and becoming rebellious and hard-hearted. The writer also repeatedly rebukes his recipient's immaturity, thereby exhorting them to move on to maturity in Christ. They are compared to the Israelites who stayed immature because of their lack of faith. We have been given the Word of God so that we can grow in our faith and be confident in our great salvation.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Hebrews 1-6 this week.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

The topic of maturity is ready-made for children. After all, what do we want more for our children than maturity! And, what is more frustrating than immaturity and all that flows from it? Yet, too often, we can conceptualize maturity in our young people in terms of outward obedience and respect to parents. True spiritual maturity is demonstrated by faith-filled obedience to the Word of God! The maturity that we should desire in our covenant children is that which the Holy Spirit develops in them as they learn and love and live out God's Word. It is a maturity that brings about renewed minds and discernment as well as obedience. Use these chapters in the Book of Hebrews to challenge your older students to grow up in the Lord, leaving behind their childish ways!

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 94:12-14
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

Great leaders of Israel
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

Maturity
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Hebrews 1-3
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Hebrews 5:13-14
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

Hebrews
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Hebrews 4-6
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Fear of God
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

Maturing in Christ
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Hebrews 5:13-14
3-5 mins.



INTRODUCTION

Start by reading Psalm 94:12-14.

¹² Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law, ¹³ to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked. ¹⁴ For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage;

Say: *We don't always look at discipline and teaching as blessings from the LORD—but we should! As the Psalmist says, God's people are never rejected, but granted relief from trouble. We are taught God's ways because we are loved by Him!*



QUIZ TIME

Now, let's move on to QUIZ TIME.

Today's questions: *Who was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? Who was the first high priest of Israel? Who led Israel into the Promised Land? Who was the first human king of Israel? Who was the next king of Israel, after Saul? Who was the next king of Israel after David?*

Answers:

1. Moses.
2. Aaron.
3. Joshua.
4. Saul.
5. David.
6. Solomon.

Say: *These are some of the greatest leaders of God's people. Every generation of Israelites would grow up learning about these great leaders. Yet we will learn in today's reading that they all pale in comparison to one person. Who do you think that is?*



W.O.W!

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **MATURITY**. Write it on the board. Can anyone give me a definition of this word? **Allow answers.**

Something that is **MATURE** has arrived at its final stage of development. A **MATURE** caterpillar is a butterfly. A **MATURE** tadpole is a what? [A frog.] So, what is a **MATURE** human child? [An adult human being!]

Physical MATURITY is attained as human beings age. Children grow to be teenagers and teenagers grow to be adults. **Spiritual MATURITY**, on the other hand, is not something that occurs simply by becoming an adult. **Spiritual MATURITY** is attained as a child of God grows up to become more like Christ.

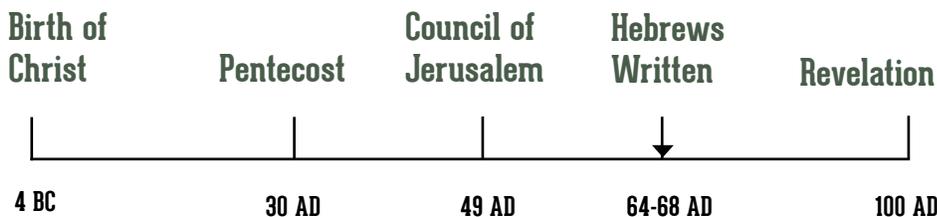
In our reading this week, we will learn about what it takes to become **MATURE** in our Christian faith. God's way is for all of His children to grow up into **MATURITY**. **Spiritual MATURITY** enables you to think, act and live like God teaches us in His Word. Watch for our Word of the Week!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Have your students open their Bibles to Hebrews 1.

Introduction: *We continue our study of New Testament letters with the Book of Hebrews. Hebrews is a very unique letter, different in style and tone than all of the other letters. Despite many different theories, the author of Hebrews is unknown. Some say Paul wrote it, others think it was Barnabas, and still others think it was written by Apollos. We just don't know!*

*Let's begin reading this great book. **Read Hebrews 1:1-4.***

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Discussion: *The writer to the Hebrews begins by telling us how God spoke to people in the past. How did He do it? [Through the prophets in various ways.] In these last days, how does God speak to His people? [In Jesus Christ, His Son.] Jesus Christ is the ultimate Word of God: He is the Gospel of God, and superior to all prophets—even the angels!*

Summary: *The rest of Hebrews 1 continues the message that Jesus is greater than all the angels. Angels are incredible beings, but Jesus is the Son of God, and the only one that can bring us salvation! God has set apart His Son to be the ruler of all the world.*

*Let's go to Chapter Two. **Read Hebrews 2:1-4.***

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Application: *What does the writer to the Hebrews warn us about now? [To pay close attention so that we will not drift away.] It is very easy for us to*



forget God's Word and even forget all that Jesus has done for us. If we forget, we will drift away! That leads us into big trouble, doesn't it?

*Let's drop down to verse 9. **Read verses 9-11.***

⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Discussion: *What great words about Jesus! Why must Jesus receive all the glory and honor? [Because he suffered death for His people.] Jesus is the only one who can bring salvation. He is the only one who could save His people because He suffered perfectly in order for us to be God's children. This is the gospel, boys and girls. There is not other way to heaven but Jesus!*

*Now, let's go to Chapter Three. **Read Hebrews 3:1-6.***

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Discussion: *Who does the writer compare Jesus to now? [Moses.] Moses was probably the greatest Old Testament prophet of God. Why is Jesus greater than Moses? [Jesus is the "builder of the house" and Moses was just the "house." Only Jesus can make us members of God's family!] The Hebrews needed to be reminded that Jesus is not just another great prophet—He is the Son of God who is greater than even Moses!*

*Let's go to verse 12. **Read verses 12-19.***

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may



be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” ¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Discussion: *Now, the writer to the Hebrews gives a short history lesson. Who led the Israelites out of Egypt? [Moses.] What did the Israelites do as they journeyed through the wilderness? [They hardened their hearts and rebelled against Moses—and God.] What was the consequence for their rebellion? [This generation could not enter the Promised Land.]*

Conclusion: *We’ll stop there for today. Always remember that unbelief keeps you out of the Kingdom of God!*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Read the Scripture Memory verse (Hebrews 5:13-14) together.

Hebrews 5:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Say: *A baby only drinks milk—but starts to eat solid food when he grows up. Our “solid food” is the Word of God. If we are trained by the Word of God, what will happen to us? [We will MATURE and will be able to distinguish between good and evil.] Let’s keep on growing up to MATURITY!*

Review the verse. Close in prayer.

DAY TWO



QUIZ TIME

Let's begin today with QUIZ TIME. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *What is our most recent Word of the Week? Who wrote the Book of Hebrews? In these last days, how does God speak to His people? Why is Jesus greater than Moses? According to the writer of Hebrews, why were a generation of Israelites left out of the Promised Land?*

Answers:

1. Maturity.
2. We don't know!
3. Through Jesus Christ, His Son.
4. Jesus is the "builder of the house" while Moses was just the "house."
5. Because of their unbelief.

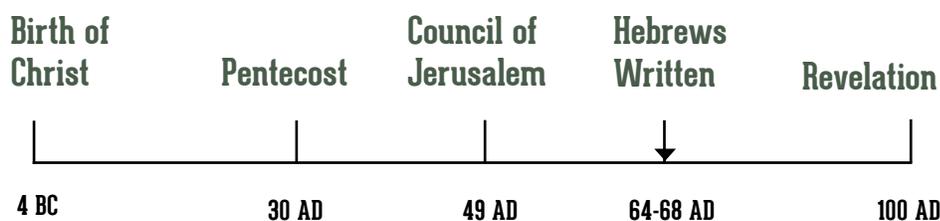
The Book of Hebrews is all about the supremacy of our Lord Jesus Christ!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Have your students turn in their Bibles to Hebrews 4.

Introduction: *We ended last time with a reminder of how the rebellious Israelites were left out of the land of Canaan. That Promised Land is a picture of Heaven. If our hearts turn away from God—if we do not hold onto God until the end—we too will miss out on Heaven. Only by the grace of God will we have hearts that are soft towards God!*

Now on to the next chapter. **Read Hebrews 4:1-2.**

¹ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

Discussion: *The Israelites had the gospel preached to them, just like we have. Why was it of no value to them? [They didn't put their faith in the coming Christ!] You also will only find "rest" in Heaven if you put your faith in Jesus Christ.*

Listen to more in verse 6. **Read verses 6-12.**

⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Application: *Our eternity in Heaven is compared to God resting on the seventh day and the temporary "rest" that the Israelites enjoyed in Canaan. How do we make "every effort to enter that rest?" [By obeying God through faith in Jesus.] And, for that, we need the Word of God to pierce our souls and change our hearts. Hebrews 4:12 is a wonderful verse about the power of the Word of God that we are to read and study every day!*

Let's read more. **Read verses 14-16.**

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the



heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Discussion: *What incredible verses these are! Christ is greater than the angels. Christ is greater than Moses and Joshua and David. He is even greater than Aaron since He is our perfect high priest. What does a priest do for His people? [He intercedes and prays for the people.] Christ, as fully God and fully man, is the only one who can sympathize with our weaknesses AND actually do something about it. He gives us the grace we need!*

Summary: *Most of Hebrews 5 shares more about how Jesus is our great high priest. God the Father gave His Son the glory of being a high priest who suffered perfectly for His people. We will read more about Jesus as our high priest next time. He is the only way to the Father!*

Now lets pick up in Hebrews 5:11. **Read Hebrews 5:11-14.**

¹¹ About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Discussion: *Did you hear our Word of the Week? What was wrong with these Hebrew Christians the writer was speaking to? [They were IMMATURE. They were like children.] These folks had been Christians long enough to be MATURE, but they were "slow to learn."*

Application: *It is my prayer that you all will grow to MATURITY in Christ. The one mark of MATURITY mentioned here is that the MATURE understand the difference between right and wrong and actually DO what is right! You will only become MATURE as you grow in grace and in God's Word!*

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Six. **Read Hebrews 6:1-3.**

¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying



on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.

Application: *There's our Word of the Week again. You will only grow in the LORD as you grow in knowledge and wisdom. That's why it is so important that you study ALL of Scripture over and over again, and not just the simple basics. That's why we study a hard book like the Book of Hebrews!*

*Let's finish with verses 11-12. **Read verses 11-12.***

¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Discussion: *Verses 4-10 are a discussion of how people who just hang around church and pretend to be Christians are in a very dangerous place. You cannot just have some of Jesus or a little bit of religion—you must accept Christ as Lord and Savior of all of your life. And, the only way to demonstrate that you are really one of Christ's followers is if you endure to the end. So the writer to the Hebrews repeatedly warns us about becoming lazy and falling asleep in our faith.*

Conclusion: *We will continue to study this amazing letter to the Hebrews next time. Think about how God is calling you onwards to MATURITY. Just as Jesus Himself grew in stature and grace before God, so you too (through faith in Christ) are to grow and become a MATURE Christian. Leave those immature things behind and grow up!*



WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Say: Now, it's time to use what we have learned in God's Word this week to build our Christian minds. God has given us minds to think rightly and to believe the TRUTH.

Draw the "Fear of God" pillar on the board. We will be building on our "Fear of God" pillar today. To fear God is to love Him, honor and worship Him, and obey Him. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom!

So, what things did we learn about the FEAR OF GOD in the first part of the Book of Hebrews? **Assist your students to think of the following truths (connect them to the pillar on the board):**

1. We should fear God because Christ is supreme!
2. Instead of being rebellious, we should fear God.
3. If we do not fear God, we will fall away into the worship of other things.
4. Maturity in Christ means we are worshiping God alone!

We can either remain in our pride and sin, or enjoy God's grace and serve the LORD!



DEFEND THE FAITH

Say: Now, it's time to build our "defenses" up. You and I must always be prepared to defend and protect our faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember what the apostle Peter said:

I Peter 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ ...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

Let's get more PREPARED to give answers about the hope we have in Jesus Christ! Let me ask you a question and see how you do...





Q: How do we mature in Christ?

*Christians talk a lot about growing and the need for MATURITY. It's very important that we grow to be more like Jesus. Actually, every Christian will become more like Christ if he or she is truly a follower of Jesus. So how would you explain this truth to a non-Christian? **Allow answers.***

Make sure the children have these elements in their answer:

A: We mature in Christ because the Holy Spirit is at work in us. As we see our sin, we see our need for Christ. As we learn God's Word, we learn more about God and what He requires of His people. As we grow in wisdom, we leave behind our foolish ways. Maturity is the goal of our faith!

Say: *So, being a Christian is more than just believing in Jesus. It is a process of growing up to be like Him. It's discipleship. When we are immature, we are not able to be used in mighty ways in God's Kingdom! So let's ask the LORD to continue to grow us up in His truth!*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Review the Scripture Memory verse (Hebrews 5:13-14) with the students.

Hebrews 5:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Use any method to review the memory work with the students.

Close in prayer.