

Defenders of Truth Curriculum—Strands and Substrands

1. There is only one true and real God.

- Our God created everything that is—the world, people, knowledge, truth.
- All of creation declares the existence of God.
- God is sinless and perfect.
- Our God is in authority over everything He created.
- God is all powerful.
- God is omniscient and omnipresent.
- God has always had a plan for us, which always includes a mutual friendship and deep relationship.
- All humans fall short of God's plan for us.
- When man went his own way (sin), God's love compelled Him to send His very best—His Son Jesus Christ—with a plan for restoring the relationship.
- No other god either created the world or had a son who gave his life to save the world.
- No other god delegates all authority to his son.
- No other god lives inside of humans.
- We can choose to have a relationship with God, but we have to do it His way (salvation through the Son).
- God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of all who have a relationship with God.
- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit exist as one, yet three.
- God is Holy, righteous, and just. Reverence, respect, awe, and humility are fitting responses.
- We can show our love to God by obedience to His Word.
- A relationship with God that is concurrent with our sinful nature means we will continue to struggle.
- When we sin, God forgives as we ask.
- God judges no one—He has delegated that to His Son.
- God will continue to shape our lives to become more like His Son.
- God did not have a beginning, and He will never die.
- God's attributes set Him apart from all others.
- God's promises set Him apart from all others.
- God's promises are not dependent upon our good works or following a creed. They are for all who surrender to Him, acknowledging that Jesus sacrificed His life and blood for us.

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2. Our God does not lie.

- Because God is sinless and perfect, He does not lie. Conversely, everything He says is truth.
- God keeps His promises.
- There is no other authority for truth than what God says.
- Because God is supreme, and because He speaks only truth, following any other plan is the opposite of truth, which results in rebellion, failure, and destruction.

3. The Bible is God's words to us.

- Because the Bible is God's words to us, and He does not lie, everything in the Bible is true.
- The Bible is the highest and final authority for truth.
- The Bible is inspired.
- The Bible contains God's plans for all of mankind through His endless love for us.
- The Bible gives us boundaries, expectations, freedoms, warnings, promises, and real-life examples to follow. It is like a GPS device providing direction.
- The books of the Bible were written over a time period of at least 1600 years by many people who did not know one another, yet everything is consistent.
- All of the events foretold in the past occurred just as God said.
- All of the present events foretold are unfolding according to God's words.
- All of the future events prophesied in the Bible will occur.
- People who have "eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand" are given insight by God to discern His word.

4. Satan and his angels make it their mission to deceive mankind from following the one true God.

- Satan was originally an angel created by God who became proud and arrogant and was cast out of heaven with his angel followers.
- Satan's thoughts, ways, and actions are the antithesis of God's.
- Satan is cunning and disguises himself as something attractive. His ways in the end lead only to death.

5. All people are sinners.

- What is sin?
- Sin causes separation from God. The ultimate separation is in hell.
- Mankind was created with free will.
- Despite our sin, God loved us from the beginning and will never stop.
- Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and brought sin to all mankind.

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- All mankind has a sinful nature. No amount of “goodness” can change that.

6. Our God has one Son, Jesus Christ the Savior.

- Because Jesus is God’s bloodline Son, He is also sinless, perfect like his Father, and without beginning or end.
- God used a mortal woman, a virgin, to bring Jesus into the world.
- While on earth, Jesus experienced the same struggles and temptations we face.
- Jesus Christ fulfilled God’s plan to restore our relationship with God through the giving of His own life as the payment for sin.
- Although Jesus died a mortal death and was buried, God resurrected Him. Jesus returned to the Father in heaven, having given His blood as the only payment for our sins.
- The blood of Jesus Christ is a covering for our sinful nature and a cleansing for our sins.
- God honored Jesus’ total obedience by declaring we must go through the Son to come to God.
- We receive Jesus as our only Savior through faith and repentance.
- Salvation is a free gift and does not depend on our good works.
- We are saved from eternal hell and saved to an eternal life in heaven with God, His Son, and all other past/resent/future believers.
- Just as God resurrected Jesus, He will also one day resurrect our bodies to be judged and rewarded according to our obedience.
- All true believers want to do the “will of the Father” in heaven.
- Water baptism, communion, and tithing are demonstrations of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

7. God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are distinct from each other, yet are one.

- The Holy Spirit lives inside the believer and is the guarantee of God’s promise of redemption.
- The Holy Spirit directs all honor back to Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to accomplish Christ’s mission.
- The Holy Spirit gives unique spiritual gifts to believers.

8. The believers’ foremost mission is to tell mankind the good news of forgiveness and to bring others into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Our lives should validate that we are followers of Jesus.
- Our mouths should speak the message of Christ’s love and sacrifice for man.
- Our prayers should be for others who don’t yet believe the message of Christ.
- Our focus in daily living should be telling the world that there is a Savior.
- Our responsibility to new believers is a commitment to mentor them and help them grow spiritually.
- We are commanded to love others in the same manner as Jesus Christ loves us.

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9. All believers make up the “church” of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus loves the church just like a bridegroom loves his bride.
- Someday, God wants to present to His Son, Jesus, a beautiful perfect bride—the church.
- At an appointed time known only to God, the “church” will be taken suddenly out of this present world (raptured) and our works will be judged.
- Once the church is taken from this world, the unbelievers will suffer years of devastating times (tribulation).

10. The Bible foretells important events that should create in us a sense of urgency about our mission.

- Ultimately, there will be a battle between God’s forces and Satan’s forces. Satan’s forces will be bound in hell for 1,000 years while peace reigns on the earth.
- Following the time of peace, Satan will be set free for a period.
- All mankind, living and deceased, will face a judgment event according to what they did with the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- God will ultimately create a new heaven and new earth.

11. Heaven is the future eternal residence of believers.

- Heaven is a literal place.
- The New Jerusalem is the capitol city of Heaven.
- Heaven is beyond description of beauty, has no light, and has no tears.

12. Hell is the future eternal location of those who reject Jesus Christ as the only way to God.

- Hell was originally created for the devil and his angels.
- Hell is a literal place.
- Hell is an eternal place of torment, beyond description of evil and pain.