

Build Kids' Bible Confidence
IN 10 MINUTES A DAY

CORE 52

**FAMILY
EDITION**

SNEAK
PEEK



SAMPLE
ONLY

UNCORRECTED
PROOF

WRITTEN BY Mark E. Moore
AND Megan Howerton

ILLUSTRATED BY Grace Habib





written by MARK E. MOORE and MEGAN HOWERTON

illustrated by GRACE HABIB



WATERBROOK

To Jordan Howerton:
The son-in-law I prayed for before Megan was born. Though
she wrote this book, you have lived it for my grandchildren.
—Mark

To Jackson, Duke, Lennon, and Dean:
Loving you has given me a deeper understanding about the
love of God. I pray you fall more in love with him every day.
—Megan



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ISBN 978-0-593-23629-1

EBOOK ISBN 978-0-593-23630-7

The Library of Congress catalog record is available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021032881>.

Printed in China

waterbrookmultnomah.com

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First Edition

Book design by Sonia Persad
Cover design by Ashley Tucker

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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS

PARENTS AND MENTORS,

We know that raising kids can be chaotic. I (Mark) raised a strong-willed child (Megan) who has now given me four world-class grandchildren. One day she was sitting with me in our pool and said, “Dad, I love what Core 52 is doing for adults, taking them through the mountaintop passages of the Bible in one year. I wish there was something like that for my kids.” My reply: “Write it!” She protested that she was unqualified. So I ticked off her résumé: college-trained elementary school teacher, mother of four, pastor’s wife, and daughter of a Bible college professor. Well, you hold in your hand the result. What Megan put together is incredible (which you expect me to say). But seriously, when she gave me the first few chapters, I was blown away. . . I said (aloud, I think), “This will actually work!”

With tears in my eyes, I began to imagine parents and mentors like you sitting in a classroom or around a dinner table, having life-altering conversations with your kids. I’m a teacher at heart. My job is to give you what you need to equip your children for the battlefield of life (feel free to “cheat” by grabbing a copy of *Core 52* or *Core 52 Student Edition* for your teens). The biblical principles of this book will empower your kids for spiritual success. If you invest ten to fifteen minutes a day, five days a week, for one year, your child will have a firm foundation in every major principle of the Bible. That’s our promise.

No one can do for your child what you can do as a mentor. Megan and I simply and humbly want to offer you this resource, which will support you in making a majestic difference in the spiritual growth of those on whom Jesus placed the highest priority.

KIDS,

Here is how you can help your parents make the most of this experience:

DAY 1 *Read the story to your parents.* It’s okay to let them read it if they want to.

DAY 2 *Memorize the verse.* You’re going to be better at this than your parents are, so you might want to help them find www.core52.org on their cell phones. There is a three-minute video for each verse to help them memorize it with you. (Secret: you can also find the videos on Vimeo in separate channels: Core52 Lesson and Core52 Memory.)

DAY 3 *Read the passage listed.* It’s related to the verse you memorized. To figure out how they’re related, you can talk through the questions provided. You need to pick only the one you’re most comfortable with. (Parents: The three levels here, and on Days 4 and 5, are intended to get more challenging. You may have several children at different stages of development.)

Level 1



Level 2



Level 3



DAY 4 *Read this passage too.* It will allow you to see your verse from a different angle.

DAY 5 *This is where it gets really good. We give you important questions to ask your parents and ones for them to ask you as well.* Don’t let them off the hook. They need to answer too. Have fun. Your parents are a great gift from God, and the time you spend with them doing Core 52 will be special for the rest of your lives.

Mark E. Moore, author of Core 52

Megan Howerton



WEEK 1



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

—GENESIS 1:1

LESSON TO LEARN

God created the heavens and the earth,
and he invites us to create with him.

DAY 1



Look outside. Everything you see is part of God's creation. The sun, the clouds, the grass, the bugs—all part of creation. The very first sentence in the Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth.

Have you ever seen a house being built? It's nowhere

near as big a job as creating the whole world, but it's still a big job! It takes a lot of people to make it happen. An architect designs the house. A builder builds the house. An engineer supplies light and water to the house. And then there's another role that most people don't think about: the homeowner. The homeowner decorates and takes care of the house. Creation works kind of the same way. God designed the world. Jesus made the world. The Spirit of God gives life to the people and animals. And we are the homeowners decorating and caring for the world.

God did a great job designing and building heaven and earth. But why did he do all that work? He created the world for the same reasons you create things. Think about all the ways you create. Maybe it's writing, painting, building Legos, or even finding new ways to fix your hair. Whatever it is that you're making, you're probably hoping that someone will enjoy it, compliment you,

or be proud of you. Psalm 102:18 says, "Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD." God created the world and everything in it so that all creation would praise him. And here's the cool part: creation didn't stop there. Creation never stops. God gave us the same desire to create and invites us to create along with him. God gave us the job of the homeowner. He wants us to continue to add creative touches to our world and take care of it. It's not complicated. Just create in the ways you enjoy. Write a song, invent a new dessert, paint a picture, or build with your hands. Then people can enjoy your creations just like we enjoy God's creation.

CHALLENGE

Create something (a song, a story, a treat, an art project—however you like to create), and share it with your family.

DAY 2

My job is to take care of the world and make the world better by creating with God.

MEMORY WORK

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

—GENESIS 1:1

DAY 3

READ GENESIS 1.



Imagine that you're watching God create the world. What does it look like? Sound like? Smell like?



What are some ways humans praise God? How do you think animals and plants praise him?



Why do you think God is compared to an architect, Jesus to a builder, and the Holy Spirit to an engineer?

DAY 4

READ GENESIS 2:1-22.



What did God provide that Adam and Eve needed? What has God provided for you?



How did Adam and Eve add to creation? How can you add to creation?



How do your parents provide for you like God provided for Adam and Eve?

DAY 5

MENTORING MOMENT



MENTOR “How does what you create bring praise to God?”

CHILD “How do you like to create? Were you always good at creating that way?”



MENTOR “How have you enjoyed someone else’s creation recently?”

CHILD “How do you handle yourself when someone doesn’t enjoy what you created?”



MENTOR “Are there things in creation that your friends might enjoy more than you do, such as sports, art, or music?”

CHILD “What’s the difference between appreciating someone’s creation and enjoying someone’s creation?”

CHALLENGE CHECK

How did the challenge go? What did you learn?

WEEK 2



God said, “Let us make human beings in our image.”

—GENESIS 1:26, NLT

LESSON TO LEARN

Of all the things God ever made,
you are his favorite!

DAY 1



You've probably heard the saying "Save the best for last." We do this all the time. The best fireworks come at the end of the night. Dessert is at the end of a meal. Performers end a show with their most impressive act. That's exactly what God did when he created us. He saved the best for last. We are his favorite part of creation. In fact, God decided to create something in us that he didn't create in any other part of creation. He made humans in his own image. God put *his* qualities in us, things he didn't give to any plant or animal in all of creation.

God reveals himself to us through what he has made. We see the greatness of God when we look at the stars in the sky. We feel how big God is when we climb a mountain. We sense how powerful God is in the middle of a storm. But how can we experience God's patience, goodness, and love? These are qualities that we can't see—but we experience them through other people. Mom and Dad can demonstrate God's patience. A friend can show us God's goodness and love. And you can show others what God is like when you treat people like he does.

Another way we are like God is that we are creators. Everyone likes to make things. That's because God put his nature in us. We create things because he is creative. Humans are always making things and finding new ways to create. God gave us all different talents. You have talents that your friends probably

don't have. You may even have talents that your parents don't have. God made you with special gifts. Some people create with their hands. Some create with words. Some create with pictures or music or cooking. This is God's creation at its finest. We were all created in God's image to be creators, but that doesn't mean that we create in the same ways. We are all special. And we all need the gifts others offer to make our world a special place.

CHALLENGE

Create something this week that would improve someone's day (cookies, a dance, a picture, a story . . .).

DAY 2

I am God's favorite part of creation. He put traits in me that are just like his traits, and I can use those to bring him glory.

MEMORY WORK

God said, "Let us make human beings in our image."

—GENESIS 1:26, NLT

DAY 3

READ EPHESIANS 1:1-14.



What's one of your strengths—something you like about yourself? Do you think God shares this trait? How?



What's a strength that someone else has that you don't have?



What's one of God's characteristics that you need to strengthen in yourself?

DAY 4

READ EPHESIANS 1:15-23.



Why do you think God loves the strength you identified yesterday? How can you use it to bring him glory?



Why is it important for different people to have different strengths? What would happen if we all had the same personality traits?



Since God blessed us all differently, why is it important to continue to strengthen our weaknesses?



DAY 5

MENTORING MOMENT



MENTOR “Do you know anyone else with the same gift? Do you use your gifts the same way?”

CHILD “How are you using your unique gifts?”



MENTOR “How do you think God will use your gifts when you’re an adult?”

CHILD “How have your gifts grown as you have grown up?”



MENTOR “How do you feel about the gifts God has given you?”

CHILD “Have you ever wished God had given you different strengths? How did you still find value in the strengths he did give you?”

CHALLENGE CHECK

How did the challenge go?
What did you learn?

WEEK 3



When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

—GENESIS 3:6, NIV

LESSON TO LEARN

God puts parents, teachers, and other adults in our lives to protect us, not to ruin our fun.

DAY 1



Can you imagine living in the world right after God created it? You could have snuggled with a lion, surfed on a shark, and enjoyed a perfect world. Adam and Eve got to enjoy this ideal place. He just asked them to obey one command: “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden” (Genesis 3:3, NIV). Then one day Eve was tempted to eat fruit from this tree. She saw how beautiful it was. She imagined how delicious it was. And she thought it would make her wise. So she took a bite and gave some to Adam to eat too.

God wasn’t concerned about the missing fruit. He was concerned about Adam’s and Eve’s hearts. That day something in their hearts changed forever. This one act of disobedience opened their eyes to see all the sin that they were capable of.

It’s easy for us to read this story and see that God wanted only what was best for Adam and Eve. But when it’s *our* story and temptation, it’s not always as easy to see the clear choice. God wants to guide you to make good choices. Of course, we can always ask him to help, but he has also given us human helpers. And some of our greatest helpers are our parents. A toddler doesn’t understand why her dad won’t let her stick her finger in an electrical outlet. The toddler thinks it looks like fun, but the dad knows how dangerous it really is. The dad is only trying to do what’s best for his child, but the baby thinks her fun has been ruined.

Now, think of a time when you thought your mom and dad were trying to ruin your fun. Maybe they wouldn’t let you go to a friend’s house. Maybe they stopped a wrestling match right when it was about to get really good. Parents aren’t trying to ruin your fun. They are trying to keep you safe from dangers that you aren’t aware of yet.

CHALLENGE

If you have been upset with someone who is only trying to protect you, ask for that person’s forgiveness.

DAY 2

I make mistakes. But God has given me older and wiser people to help guide me.

MEMORY WORK

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

—GENESIS 3:6, NIV

DAY 3

READ GENESIS 3:1-10.



Can you remember a time when your mom and dad were trying to keep you safe but you thought your way was better?



After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, how did they become more like God?



Who or what in your life is most likely to tempt you to go against God’s way?

DAY 4

READ GENESIS 4:1-16.



If Adam and Eve hadn’t sinned, do you think we would still be living in the Garden of Eden?



How did Adam and Eve’s choice to eat the fruit in the garden affect more lives than their own?



How do your choices affect other people’s lives?

DAY 5

MENTORING MOMENT



MENTOR “How do rules protect you?”

CHILD “Who has God given you to help you make wise decisions?”



MENTOR “How do boundaries and rules bring freedom?”

CHILD “Have you ever been saved from danger or pain by someone who was older and wiser than you?”



MENTOR “How do your actions reveal what’s inside your heart?”

CHILD “Do you care more about my actions or about my heart (motivation)?”

CHALLENGE CHECK

How did the challenge go? What did you learn?



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