

Basic Theology Series

Week 1: Revelation – General Revelation

Big Idea: God makes Himself known to everyone through creation and conscience.

Opening Question (Whole Group Icebreaker)

Ask:

“How do you know something exists if you can’t see it?”

Let them respond:

Wind (you see leaves move)

Gravity (you see things fall)

Love (you see actions)

Electricity (you see lights turn on)

Transition:

“In the same way, God has made Himself known—even to people who have never opened a Bible.”

Pray briefly.

Part 1 – What Is Revelation? (5–12 Minutes – Lecture)

Define Revelation

Write on board:

Revelation = God making Himself known.

Explain:

God does not hide from His creation. He reveals Himself.

There are two main categories:

General Revelation – God reveals Himself to everyone.

Special Revelation – God reveals Himself in specific ways (Scripture, Christ).

Today's focus: General Revelation

Define General Revelation

*General Revelation =
God revealing Himself to all people, at all times, in all places.*

Key Text #1 – Psalm 19:1–4

*1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
3 They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.*

Read aloud.

Emphasize:

“The heavens declare”
“Day to day pours out speech”
“There is no speech... yet their voice goes out”

Teaching Point:

Creation is constantly preaching.

Key Text #2 – Romans 1:18–20

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Read aloud.

Emphasize:

God's invisible attributes
His eternal power
His divine nature
“Clearly perceived”

Teaching Point:

People are “without excuse” because God has shown enough of Himself in creation.

Whole Group Discussion (12–18 Minutes)

Ask:

What do we learn about God just by looking at creation?

Power?

Intelligence?

Order?

Beauty?

Creativity?

Why do you think God chose to reveal Himself this way?

Part 2 – The Two Ways God Reveals Himself Generally (18–25 Minutes – Lecture)

Explain that Scripture shows two main ways:

1. Creation (External Witness)

Examples:

The vastness of space

The complexity of DNA

The order of seasons

Beauty of nature

Teaching Point for Kids:

When you see a painting, you know there is a painter.

When you see creation, you know there is a Creator.

2. Conscience (Internal Witness)

Key Text – Romans 2:14–15

14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

Explain:

Even people who do not have the Bible:

*Know lying is wrong
Know murder is wrong
Feel guilt
Desire justice*

That moral awareness points to a Moral Lawgiver.

Simple explanation for children:

“Your heart knows right and wrong because God made it that way.”

Family Discussion Time #1 (25–30 Minutes)

Each family answers:

What is one thing in creation that makes you think about God?
How does your conscience help you know right from wrong?
Parents: Ask your children:
When do you feel guilty?
Why do you think that happens?

Encourage parents to explain in simple language:
“God made us to know Him.”

Part 3 – What General Revelation Can and Cannot Do (30–38 Minutes – Lecture + Discussion)

What General Revelation CAN Do

It shows:

*God exists
God is powerful
God is wise
God is moral*

It makes people accountable.

What General Revelation CANNOT Do

It cannot:

*Tell us Jesus' name
Tell us about the cross*

*Tell us how to be saved
Explain the gospel*

Key Point:

*General Revelation is enough to condemn,
but not enough to save.*

Whole Group Question

Ask:

If creation shows God exists, why do we still need the Bible?

We need the gospel.

We need specific truth.

We need Christ revealed.

Part 4 – The Problem of Suppression (38–42 Minutes – Short Lecture)

Return to Romans 1.

The problem is not lack of evidence.

The problem is sinful suppression.

Romans 1:18 says people “suppress the truth.”

Simple explanation for children:

It’s like covering your eyes because you don’t want to see the light.

This is why:

Some deny God

Some worship creation instead of Creator

Some make idols

But the evidence is still there.

Final Family Application (42–45 Minutes)

Families discuss:

How should knowing about General Revelation change the way we:

Look at nature?

Talk to unbelievers?

Worship God?

Parents ask children:

Next time you see something beautiful outside, what should you remember?

Encourage families this week:

Go outside and point out something that shows God's power.
Talk about how that points beyond itself.
Read Psalm 19 together at home.