

# The World is Flat?

By George Halitzka

for use as

STEP 1 **Lesson 1****Focus:**

Jesus is the answer  
to our doubts.

**Lesson 1****Bible Basis:**

Luke 7:18-23

**Lesson 1****Memory Verse:**

Believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father. —John 10:38b

**Students will learn that hearing reliable testimony can help us overcome doubts.**

**Materials:**

Internet access

**Don't fly too high. Don't drive too far. And whatever you do, don't sail too many miles from home. If you do, you might run right off the side of Planet Earth.**

“How is it possible to run off the side of a planet?” you might ask.

**Come on . . . isn't it obvious? It's because the earth is flat!**

**Okay, just about everybody knows the world is a sphere. But there are actually a few people in the world who think we inhabit a flat planet. In fact, they held a Flat Earth Convention in North Carolina a while back.**

**BBC News sent a camera crew to the conference to learn about the people who believe our planet is shaped like a frisbee instead of a globe.**

Show your students the following video [2:52].

Why do people still think the earth is flat? – BBC News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3vcSab13Sk>

➤ **Suppose you met a flat-earth believer. What evidence could you present to convince them that the earth is round?** (Accept all reasonable answers, but try to keep the discussion from getting too silly.)

**Let's pretend for a minute that *you're* the one who doubts the world is round. One of the best ways to overcome your doubt would be to do some research. What evidence is there for the belief you're questioning? For example, are pictures of our planet taken from space? Yes—and they offer strong proof that we live on a globe, not a frisbee. Has anyone ever started out in an airplane in one city and flown completely around the globe only to end up in that same city? Yes, that happened for the first time back in 1924.**

If time permits and your students are interested, let them check out the following websites:  
28 iconic photos of the Earth from space that will make you feel puny and insignificant  
<https://www.businessinsider.com/best-photos-earth-moon-from-deep-space-2017-3>

First Flight around the World  
<https://pioneersofflight.si.edu/content/first-flight-around-world>

**Of course, pictures can be faked. Are there any people who've seen this round planet with their own eyes? Sure, we call them "astronauts." Talking to an astronaut, or watching an interview with one, may be even better proof that the world is round.**

Share the following interview with an astronaut [1:11].  
FLAT EARTH DEBUNKED – NASA Astronaut Terry Virts  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI1YJLfWSgY>

**People doubt many things—in fact, having doubts is part of being human. Some folks question everything from whether men really landed on the moon to whether God is real.**

➤ **What are some doubts that you have? They don't need to be about space; they can be about anything.** (Allow your students to voice doubts about various subjects—including God and faith—without comment. This is a good time to evaluate where your students stand spiritually. You may want to voice a doubt of your own just to get things rolling. Saying something like "Sometimes I doubt God is listening when I pray" can help students understand that your classroom is a safe place to share.)

**Today, we're going to talk about some questions that a great man of faith had about Jesus. Let's see what Jesus did to help him overcome those doubts.**

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 1 / March 3, 2019

# The World is Flat?

for use as  
**STEP 4** 

**Lesson 1**  
**Focus:**

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to our doubts.

**Lesson 1**  
**Bible Basis:**

Luke 7:18-23

**Lesson 1**  
**Memory Verse:**

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**Materials:**

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and marker
- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

**The best way to address our doubts is to bring them to Jesus. That's what helped John the Baptist reinforce his faith. He heard what Jesus was doing in the world, then realized that Jesus Himself was the answer to his doubts.**

Jesus is still the answer to our doubts today! Sometimes, we may feel guilty admitting to the Lord that we have questions. But it's okay: He's God, so He can take it! As we wrap up today's lesson, let's take a few minutes to bring our doubts to Jesus. Hand out index cards and pens/pencils and give your students an opportunity to write down some of the doubts that come to mind.

➤ **Would anyone be willing to share a doubt they have about faith?** (Allow your students to share freely without judgment. This is not a time to “solve” their doubts, but to acknowledge them and bring them to Jesus. If your students hesitate to share, begin by mentioning a faith question that's bothered you, either now or in the past.)

Take notes as your students share. If time permits, take a moment to pray for each student individually. If time is short, say one prayer for all of the students, but remember to mention each of their individual questions. Turn over all of your students' questions to Jesus. Ask Him to give each student the faith they need to keep believing.

**Doubt is a normal part of faith. All of us have questions sometimes, even great believers like John the Baptist! The good news is that Jesus never condemned people who brought Him honest questions. Instead, He helped them rebuild their faith.**

**Prayer is the starting point. Remember, when John brought his doubts to Jesus, Jesus pointed him to *evidence* that helped restore John's faith.**

**Today, there are lots of ways to find evidence that address your doubts. Those resources include websites like GotQuestions.org and GQKidz.org. The sites have *over half a million* answers to questions that people have asked about God and Christianity!** Write both of those web addresses on your whiteboard and ask your students to copy them on their index card.

If time permits, use your computer or media device to check out the children's version of the website now. As a sample, type in "Does God exist?" in the search field. You won't have time to explore many now, but you can show your students how they can click on and read many different articles that deal with that topic.

Got Questions? KIDZ  
<https://www.gqkidz.org/>

**It's important to point out that spending a few minutes on a website won't suddenly overcome your doubts completely. But as you learn more about God and Christianity, your faith will get stronger!**

Challenge your students to take at least one of the doubts they listed on their index card and visit the Got Questions? KIDZ website to research the answer. If they don't feel they have enough material there, they can try the adult Got Questions? website, too. Encourage them not to be afraid to ask questions of you, their parents, or other trusted Christian mentors if they don't understand content on the website or if it sparks more questions. Urge them to return with their index cards next week to share about their research experience.

Close in prayer.

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