



Sample — *TruthQuest History: Ancient Rome*

Enjoy this sample! How does it work? *Easily! Naturally!* Just as you discuss life with your kids as an innate part of parenting, simply gather on the couch and together read aloud the commentary which begins each lesson. It won't ask kids to “passively” accept a worldview “download;” rather, the commentary's subtle hints at biblical principles will have them “actively” hunting for truth—little by little, lesson by lesson. By the end of each guide, the lightbulb will be full-on! The kids *will* absorb innumerable brain-facts; but more importantly, they'll develop spiritual eyes to seek God's powerful truths at work in history. This will show convincing proof that He is, and always has been, real *and* right! They will no longer think (as we were taught) of “history” as merely human names and dates (utterly devoid of culture-healing power), but will instead relish the engaging, eternal, worthwhile, inspiring, life-changing, unforgettable heart-story of God and mankind!

After the commentary has been read and discussed, each child is ready to dig into the historical event/personage being studied by enjoying a great book for their age level (from our lists here, or whatever resources are at your library). Thanks to your “priming” time in the commentary, they can probe almost any book and find surpassing lessons. Alternatively, you may wish to read aloud a single book for all to enjoy. Too, Dad can launch a great historical-fiction read-aloud at evening time—the older book gems are especially thrilling adventures—for everyone's enjoyment *and* his participation in the kids' learning/thinking/believing. (*Starred books were in-print at time of writing, but the older the book, the better, usually.)

Some lessons include a (strategically-placed) *ThinkWrite* exercise, deepening their spiritual insights through writing. Most lessons have them simply talk, read, and think...for these require time, peace, and relationship. Because “out of the heart the mouth speaks,” you'll hear their learning bubble up in conversation, play, etc. Hands-on activity resources are cited at many junctures. Feel free to use them, or not, as desired. You may also enjoy the companion notebooks/lapbooks/timelines created for *TruthQuest History* by AJTL, but all are optional. Walking and talking together, reading God's word: this is how Jesus taught the disciples the most important truths of all times, and enabled them to turn the world upside down. That is good enough for us! He created families as the place for teaching the young, and He authored the ultimate Book. So, family discussions and riveting reading are the heart of the matter!

13. Julius Caesar

So, Julius Caesar, who created so much of the chaos you just read about, convinced everyone he was the man to overcome that same chaos! Hitler, who fervently idealized ancient Rome, used this ploy to his cruel advantage, and so have other leaders. This only adds to Julius Caesar's impact on history, for Caesar not only moved Rome from a republic to an empire, but he reached a level of control and influence that has tantalized power-

hungry leaders ever since! Don't believe me? Well, think about this! Caesar's very name has come to stand for power. You see, later, the Russians would call their supreme monarch *czar*, their form of *Caesar*; likewise, the German monarch was the *kaiser*, their form of *Caesar*! Do you get it? Do you see why you must understand Caesar if you're to understand Rome?!

You must, then, do some hard thinking. Did civil war end after his rule? Did he solve Rome's problems? Did his efforts earn him a peaceful life? If not, why does the world esteem him so? (Do *ThinkWrite 8* while investigating Caesar.)

And while you're studying the real issues in Julius Caesar's life, think about this: God says, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth." Why does God insist that all people be treated decently? You already know! It's because all people are created in His image and have value (*Big Belief 2*). Now, if a person doesn't believe this truth of God's, they often believe the total opposite—that *might makes right*. In other words, if you're strong enough to do what you want, then you've got the right to. That's why people have enslaved, abused, and belittled others throughout history. These people believe that *nice guys finish last*, but God says nice guys will receive what the tough guys have been chasing—they'll inherit the earth! The gentle don't have to fight for it; God ultimately gives it to them as an inheritance!

Ask most adults about Julius Caesar and you'll probably find they only remember the date of his death. But you need to take into your adulthood the *reason* for his death, and what it teaches us about government and freedom and truth! Okay, let's dig in deeper now....

13a Life of Julius Caesar

*Greenleaf's *Famous Men of Rome*, Ch. XXI

Gr. 2-7

**Story of the World: Vol 1*, by Susan Wise Bauer, Ch. 34-35

Gr. 3-6

Some families enjoy this book's scope, and ask us to cite it; others concerned about worldview; so, parental decision.

**Story of the Romans*, by H.A. Guerber, Ch. LXV

Gr. 4-8

ThinkWrite 8: "Let's bring it home!"

Take all that you've researched—the consequences of bad government, the importance of higher laws, God's instructions to rulers—and let's bring it home. If you're an American, how does America measure up? If you're an Australian or Canadian, etc., how does your nation measure up?

You can benefit our world by understanding how Julius Caesar shifted Rome from a republic to an empire (dictatorship), for that's quite a feat. Could it happen in your nation? How solid is *your* republic (or commonwealth)? Are there any forces moving your nation toward tyranny? Are modern Americans (Canadians, etc.) like the Romans of Julius Caesar's day? Do many hope the government will take care of them? Do many seek only entertainment? Do many ignore the responsibility for moral decisions, leaving it to those in power to decide big issues? What are your nation's *Big 2 Beliefs*, and what does that say about your own nation's future?

<i>Book of the Ancient Romans</i> , by Mills, Ch. XIII (if not already read)	Gr. 6-12
<i>Roman Republic</i> , by Asimov, pp. 210-222	Gr. 7-12

* <i>Child's History of the World</i> , by V.M. Hillyer, Ch. 33	Gr. 1-4
* <i>Birthdays of Freedom: Vol. 1</i> , by Genevieve Foster, pp. 43-44	Gr. 2-6
<i>Julius Caesar</i> , by Rupert Matthews (Great Lives)	Gr. 3-7
<i>Julius Caesar</i> , by John Gunther (Landmark)	Gr. 3-9
<i>Great Leaders of Greece and Rome</i> , by Leonard Cottrell, Ch. 8	Gr. 4-8
* <i>Julius Caesar</i> , by Richard Platt (DK)	Gr. 4-8
<i>World's Great Stories</i> , by Louis Untermeyer, pp. 131-133	Gr. 4-8
<i>Plutarch: Ten Famous Lives</i> , edited by Charles Robinson, Ch. 8 Robinson has abridged the reports of Plutarch, a famed Roman historian.	Gr. 6-12
* <i>Lives of Famous Romans</i> , by Olivia Coolidge, Ch. 2 You may find an original edition of this very helpful book at your library, and it is also being reprinted now. It will be cited throughout this guide.	Gr. 7-12
* <i>Ancient Rome: How it Affects You Today</i> , by Richard Maybury Have you finished this little book yet? If not, keep at it. It has a great deal to say about Julius Caesar.	Gr. 8-12
<i>Julius Caesar</i> , by Manuel Komroff (Messner)	Gr. 8-12
<i>The Military Life of Julius Caesar: Imperator</i> , by Trevor N. Dupuy	Gr. 8-12
* <i>Plutarch's Lives</i> , by Plutarch, chapter on Caesar This classic is published under many names and formats, so I can't specify a numerical chapter. And if you'd like, you can go deeper by reading Plutarch's comparisons of key Romans and Greeks.	Gr. 10-12
<i>Julius Caesar</i> , by William Shakespeare Wanting to tackle some Shakespeare? You can try this play, an abridged adaptation of it, or even enjoy the film wherein James Mason plays Brutus.	Various

Fiction/Historical Fiction

<i>We Were There with Caesar's Legions</i> , by Robert Webb (We Were There) Fictional kids have adventures with the real Caesar. Since this book is for younger children, it only glorifies Caesar. Feel free to have your kids enjoy the story; just make sure they also have a fuller picture of him.	Gr. 3-8
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**Detectives in Togas* and **Mystery of the Roman Ransom*, both by H. Winterfeld Gr. 3-10
Fun mystery stories set at the time of Julius Caesar. Boys are especially fond of the humor in these books!

Gift of the Golden Cup and *Theft of the Golden Ring*, both by Isabelle Lawrence Gr. 5-12
Fun mystery stories set at the time of Julius Caesar. Rare books, but great finds!

13b Caesar's Conquest of Gaul (France)

**Story of the Middle Ages*, by Christine Miller and H.A. Guerber, Ch. Xa, XI, XIIa Gr. 4-8

**Caesar's Gallic War*, edited by Olivia Coolidge (from Caesar's own journal) Gr. 5-12
You may find this very helpful book at your library. It is being reprinted.

13c Caesar's conquest of Britain

**An Island Story*, by H.E. Marshall, Ch. II Gr. 3-8
This book is available online and is possibly being reprinted.

**Story of the Middle Ages*, by Christine Miller and H.A. Guerber, Ch. IX, Xb Gr. 4-8

The Story of Britain, by R.J. Unstead, pp. 5-12 Gr. 5-12
This is a nice narrative history of England. Alas, it is out of print, but if you can find it, enjoy it! Any history of Britain would do, however.

Fiction/Historical Fiction

The Beast of Lor, by Clyde Robert Bulla Gr. 2-6
Don't miss this! A British boy is stunned by his first sight of an elephant, when Julius Caesar uses them to invade Britain.

13d Caesar's Wife, Cleopatra of Egypt

Be wary of biographies that are feministic, and be warned that Cleopatra was not a saint!

**Cleopatra*, by Diane Stanley Gr. 3-8
Beautiful picture-biography with mosaic-style illustrations.

**Cleopatra: The Queen of Kings*, by Fiona Macdonald (DK) Gr. 4-9

**Queen Cleopatra*, by Tom Streissguth Gr. 4-9

Cleopatra of Egypt, by Leonora Hornblow (Landmark) Gr. 4-12

**Cleopatra: Goddess of Egypt, Enemy of Rome*, by Polly Schoyer Brooks Gr. 6-12

Egypt's Queen Cleopatra, by Iris Noble (Messner)

Gr. 7-12

**Cleopatra*, by Robert Green (First Books)

Gr. 8-12

Fiction/Historical Fiction

**Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile*, by Kristiana Gregory (Royal Diaries)

Gr. 4-9

This is a fictionalized diary based on Cleopatra's real life; contains modern attitudes.

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