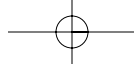




# Discussion Guide

Turkey: Episodes 1-3



*Drive-Thru History Discussion Guide, Turkey: Episodes 1-3*

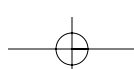
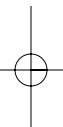
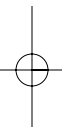
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Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

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## How to Use the DVD

The *Drive-Thru History* series is a fast, fun way to learn the facts about how our civilization came to be. You'll discover how Christianity and other worldviews have shaped cultures and countries—and your life. Here are some ways to watch Dave Stotts's goofy globe-trotting—and get the most from it.

- *By yourself.* View the DVD. Then ponder the questions in this guide.
- *As a family activity.* Watch with your middle-school kids and older, one episode at a time. Choose the questions you think will best engage your family, and discuss them together.
- *With a youth group.* Most middle-school and high-school students, as well as college students, are introduced to historical figures and events in their classes—but aren't getting the whole story. Show the DVD when they get together, following up with questions from this guide.
- *As a homeschool project.* Supplement your curriculum by viewing the DVD and adapting the questions to fit the ages of your children. The presentation is recommended for students in sixth grade and above.
- *With a group of adults.* Let the DVD and study guide stimulate discussion in your small group, class, or neighborhood gathering.

Ready to hit the accelerator? It's time for *Drive-Thru History*!



# EPISODE ONE

## FunFacts

- ◉ Turkey's not just a great dish to eat during the holiday season; did you know that the origin of Santa Claus is actually Bishop Nicholas of Turkey?
- ◉ Does it seem like Dave Stotts may have had just a little too much caffeine during this trip? It could have been a result of trying the Turkish coffee. Drinking coffee is a big part of Turkish culture. Istanbul even housed the world's first coffee shop.
- ◉ Ever wondered where Noah's Ark landed? On Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey!
- ◉ Turkish delight, also called *rahat lokum* in Turkey, dates back 500 years. It's a jellied candy sometimes flavored with rosewater and covered with powdered sugar.

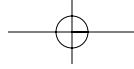
## To Think and Talk About

1. Modern-day Izmir was once called:
  - a. Turkey
  - b. Babylon
  - c. Susa
  - d. Smyrna
  
2. King Darius built the Royal Road for what reason(s)?
  - a. Expansion
  - b. Communication
  - c. The royal family liked to jog
  - d. Escape route for the king
  - e. A, b, and d
  - f. Both a and b
  
3. Under what Persian king were the Jews sent back to Jerusalem and allowed to rebuild the temple?
  - a. Cyrus
  - b. Alexander the Great
  - c. Darius
  - d. King Tutankhamen

Can you imagine living in captivity for years, and then finally being allowed to return home? What would that have felt like? Do you think some of the Jews may have wanted to stay where they were? Why or why not?

4. In five words or less describe a modern-day *agora*.

What two qualities made the city of Smyrna's location so ideal? Can you think of what makes a good location in your own country?



5. Put the structure of the Apostle John's letters in order:

- |         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| 1. ____ | a. Greeting    |
| 2. ____ | b. Exhortation |
| 3. ____ | c. Criticism   |
| 4. ____ | d. Description |
| 5. ____ | e. Warning     |
| 6. ____ | f. Promise     |
| 7. ____ | g. Praise      |

6. True or false: Polycarp, a martyr in A.D. 70, was killed by being burned at the stake.

What's one reason why the Roman Empire subjected the followers of Judaism and Christianity to persecution?

Polycarp was martyred for refusing to state, "Caesar is Lord." What would you have done in his place? In some countries, Christians are still persecuted for what they believe. How could you honor their sacrifices? (Share your own faith, pray for Christians living in other countries, etc.)

7. Tiro, slave of Cicero, went down in history as the inventor of:

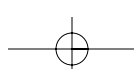
- a. Calligraphy
- b. Verbatim shorthand
- c. Hieroglyphics
- d. The typewriter

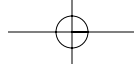
8. How did King Croesus leave his mark on the world?

Cyrus offered a reward to any soldier who could find a way to get to the top of the mountain where King Croesus and his army had retreated. In 15 words or less describe how the way to the top was discovered.

Which of these verses do you think best encourages us to keep trying when something seems impossible?

- a. "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'" (Matthew 19:26).



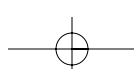


- b. "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).
- c. "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).
- d. "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes" (Mark 9:23).

9. Which book of the Bible, written by the Apostle John, contains messages to seven different churches?
- a. Genesis
  - b. Acts
  - c. The Gospel of John
  - d. Revelation

What do you think Dave Stotts meant by saying that the church at Sardis' message was "inoffensive Christianity"?

10. What statement best captures what you will take away from this DVD?
- a. The fact that 2,500 years ago the Persians could make the Royal Road, which was over 1,600 miles long, is pretty amazing!
  - b. It seems like ancient Smyrna was a pretty rough place for Jews and Christians; I'm thankful for the religious freedom in so many countries today.
  - c. "Where there's a will, there's a way!" I want to be like the Persian soldier who was smart enough to find the way to the top of the mountain and help Cyrus defeat Croesus.
  - d. It's easy to become too comfortable in our faith, like the church at Sardis. Christ's promise in John 16 encourages me to remain faithful even when it's not easy.
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_





# EPISODE TWO

## FunFacts

- ◉ What might you do on a Friday night in Turkey? Watch camel wrestling? It's not as widespread as it once was, but you can still catch a camel wrestling match in the Aegean region.
- ◉ "Sweet tooth" takes on new meaning in Turkey. An old Turkish saying goes like this: "Eat sweetly and speak sweetly!"
- ◉ Benjamin Franklin was partial to turkeys. He was in favor of making the turkey America's national symbol, instead of the bald eagle!
- ◉ Do you think of Turkey as a very modern country that believes in women's rights? Would it surprise you to know that Turkey elected its first female prime minister in 1993?

## To Think and Talk About

1. What industries made Lycus Valley a land of great resources?
  - a. Farming and landscaping
  - b. Recreation and tourism
  - c. Textiles and wool
  - d. Shopping malls and bowling alleys
  - e. Both b and c
  
2. Imagine you're vacationing in Lycus Valley. What would you most like to do?
  - a. Relax in the hot mineral springs
  - b. Ride a camel
  - c. Have a Turkish massage
  - d. Visit ancient ruins
  
3. What famous Roman building was constructed with travertine?
  - a. Trevi Fountain
  - b. Arch of Titus
  - c. Colisseum
  - d. Pantheon
  
4. Why would Paul's message that Christ descended into the lowermost parts of the earth have resonated with the people of Hieropolis?

For what reason would people visit the Plutonium in Hieropolis?

  - a. To send things to the underworld
  - b. To breathe the healing vapors
  - c. To take turns jumping over the seemingly bottomless hole
  - d. To hear prophecies from the pagan priest
  
5. The Romans controlled Hieropolis from 133 B.C. to A.D. 495. What do you think it would be like to live in a country that was ruled by "outsiders"? How do you think the Turks felt about the Romans?

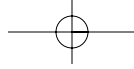
How did the Romans build their columns?

- a. Super glue
  - b. By drilling holes through each piece and fastening them together with iron stakes secured in lead
  - c. By stacking heavy cement sections on top of each other and hoping they stayed put
  - d. Molding blocks together with travertine
6. The three "classical styles" of columns of the ancient world were Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. See if you can match each style to its description.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ___ Doric      | a. Complex; the capital on top has the shape of a scroll on all four corners |
| ___ Ionic      | b. Simple; vertical cylinder that's slightly wider at the bottom             |
| ___ Corinthian | c. The capital on top consists of rows of acanthus leaves                    |

True or false: The concept of "the more weight, the stronger the arch" revolutionized architecture.

7. Western Turkey is:
- a. Beset by hurricanes
  - b. Plagued by tornadoes
  - c. Prone to flooding
  - d. Earthquake country
8. Laodicea was a boomtown for several reasons: location, wealth, prosperity, and even a profitable medical school that developed eye and ear ointment! Can you think of a few reasons why the city was referred to as "poor, naked, and blind" in the book of Revelation?



Why would these words have been a slap in the face to the church at Laodicea: “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16)?

What connection did Laodicea have to lukewarm water?

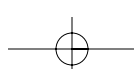
9. The Bible teaches us that God shows no favoritism between people groups (Colossians 3:11). Can you name ways that the idea “all men are created equal” has affected the world?

Can you think of some dangers of not accepting this belief?

In 10 words or less, can you explain what the apostle Paul did for Onesimus, a runaway slave?

10. Which of the following responses is closest to your own after watching this DVD?

- a. Seeing Dave Stotts without his shirt on was pretty scary.
- b. It’s interesting that a successful city like Laodicea could still miss what was most important.
- c. I’m not sure about those painful Turkish massages.
- d. It’s cool to see how the Bible has influenced our thinking on equality even today.
- e. Other \_\_\_\_\_





# EPISODE THREE

## FunFacts

- ◉ You may have been speaking Turkish without knowing it! If you've ever said words like *yogurt*, *shish kebab*, *coffee*, or *pita*, you were speaking Turkish! Each of those words is of Turkish origin.
- ◉ Olive oil has many uses in Turkey. Oil wrestling is one of the most popular sports in Turkey. The wrestlers cover themselves with olive oil.
- ◉ Do you like hazelnuts? It might surprise you to know that over 70 percent of the world's supply of hazelnuts comes from Turkey!
- ◉ Did you know that in the sixteenth century a Turkish woman could divorce her husband if he failed to provide her with her daily quota of coffee?

## To Think and Talk About

1. Which of these facts describes Ephesus?
  - a. One of the most visited historical sites in Turkey
  - b. At one time contained one of the seven wonders of the world
  - c. Largest and most important city in Asia Minor during the New Testament era
  - d. A and b
  - e. All of the above
2. Entertainment was a huge part of life in Ephesus. The amphitheater was the place to go. Name at least three types of entertainment one might have seen there.

In 10 words or less, describe the differences between a *frigidarium* and a *tepidarium*. Where would these facilities have been found?

- a. Gymnasium
  - b. Amphitheater
  - c. Agora
  - d. Library
3. What Roman concept is not only considered one of the major accomplishments of human civilization but also helped prevent widespread outbreaks of disease?
    - a. Antibacterial hand gel
    - b. Public restrooms, including sewage systems and plumbing
    - c. Physical exercise (gymnasium)
    - d. Both a and c
  4. The width of ancient Roman cart tracks possibly inspired the width of what other kind of tracks?
    - a. Race tracks
    - b. Running tracks
    - c. Railroad tracks
    - d. Moose tracks

5. Four female statues representing Wisdom, Knowledge, Intelligence, and Destiny are on the facade of what building?

- a. University of Texas
- b. Ephesus amphitheater
- c. Library of Celsus
- d. Temple of Artemis

6. True or false: The ancient Greeks put a high priority on knowledge and information for the public.

Imagine living in a society where critical thinking and questioning were frowned upon. The philosopher Socrates was killed for that kind of thing. What do you think it would be like to live in a place where you couldn't freely practice what you believed without fear of the consequences? Do you think it would be very different from where you live today? Why or why not?

The library in Ephesus was a place where people could study and learn new ideas. Where can people go to do those things today?

7. Match each writing material to the correct definition:

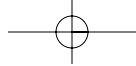
*(Hint: only one answer per space)*

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| ___ Papyrus   | a. animal skins          |
| ___ Parchment | b. dried layers of reeds |
|               | c. stone tablet          |
|               | d. chalkboard            |

8. What act of nature pushed the city of Ephesus farther away from the harbor?

What Jewish man arrived in Ephesus in A.D. 53 and stirred up controversy by preaching his beliefs?

- a. Apostle John
- b. Apostle Paul
- c. Timothy
- d. Christopher Columbus



What if you lived in a town where most of the citizens worshiped a god you didn't believe in? How would you feel? Do you think you'd be quick to tell others about the God you believed in? Why or why not?

9. What was Artemis the goddess of?
- Storks
  - Knowledge
  - Fertility
  - Destiny

What would you find if you went to see the temple of Artemis today?

How do you think the people who worshiped Artemis would feel if they saw what it has become today? Why? In many countries today, Christians are still actively involved in their faith. Why do you think Christianity has lasted so long?

10. Which of the following most impressed you about this episode?
- The Romans developed so much of what we use today—even malls!
  - It helped me appreciate pioneers of thought, like Socrates, who were willing to die for the right to question traditional beliefs.
  - Some things never change! People in ancient Turkey liked violent entertainment like gladiators and wild animal fights; a lot of people go for violent movies and video games today. Maybe we haven't made as much progress as we thought.
  - It's amazing that Paul wasn't afraid to go to a city that worshiped idols like the goddess Artemis, and preach Christianity. I'd like to have faith like that!

