



## The ABCs of God

### Scope & Sequence

*The ABCs of God* is a study for children on the greatness and worth of God. It uses the alphabet as a framework for learning the attributes of God at an age-appropriate level. (Note that attributes are purposely not taught in alphabetical order.) Through the use of a teaching aid called *The Blessing Box*, students will discover a new attribute of God each week and will be challenged to consider how they should respond to an amazing God who is worthy of their praise.

#### Lesson 1: “Q” = Questions Have Answers

Various Passages

##### Who is God? What is God like? How should I act toward God?

- ▶ Students are introduced to this study by discussing three main questions: Who is God? What is God like? How should I act toward God? These main questions provide a framework to help children respond to the truths that are taught throughout the rest of the curriculum.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b

#### Lesson 2: “I” = Incomprehensible

The Life of Job (Job 38-41)

##### God is more than we can fully understand.

- ▶ Students will learn that “Incomprehensible” tells us that God is more than we can fully understand. We can know some things about God’s character, but we can never fully know Him. However, God has given us enough understanding of who He is to respond in faith.

Memory Verse: Romans 11:34

#### Lesson 3: “Y” = YHWH

The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

##### God desires to make His name known.

- ▶ When learning about someone, it is important that to learn his name. But *YHWH* is not just a name of God, it is His personal name and it tells us about who He is. This lesson teaches students that God desires to make His name known and that His name shows his greatness and worth.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8a; Psalm 9:10a

#### Lesson 4: “E” = Eternal

Various Passages

##### God has no beginning or end.

- ▶ Some attributes of God are hard to understand because they are attributes that belong to God alone. This lesson is designed to emphasize the uniqueness of God by highlighting that God has no beginning or end. He is totally self-existing. The concept of the everlasting life of the human soul is briefly introduced in the application section of this lesson, but is further developed later in the curriculum.

Memory Verse: Psalm 90:2

#### Lesson 5: “C” = Creator

Creation (Genesis 1)

##### God made all things.

- ▶ After learning that God is eternal in Lesson 4, students can better understand that everything else has their source and beginning in this eternal God. In this lesson, students will learn that

God made all things, and this will serve as a launching point for the next several lessons where they will see how God uses His creative work to teach us about His other attributes.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:24b

### Lesson 6: “G” = Glorious

Moses and the Glory of God (Exodus 33)

#### God shows His greatness and worth.

- ▶ The creation that students studied in Lesson 5 testifies to the greatness and worth of God. Creation is one of the ways that God shows He is glorious. God’s glory is no small matter, and in this lesson children will begin to understand why God’s glory is so important to God and should be of great importance to them as well.

Memory Verses: Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20a

### Lesson 7: “W” = Wise

The Life of Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-45)

#### God causes everything to work out perfectly.

- ▶ Lesson 7 helps students understand how God causes diverse pieces of His creation to fit together perfectly. In His wisdom, He brings them together to accomplish all His purposes and to glorify His name.

Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24a

### Lesson 8: “A” = Almighty

The 10 Plagues (Exodus 7-11)

#### God is all-powerful.

- ▶ Having learned that God wisely works all things together for His glory in Lesson 7, children explore that God is able to accomplish all of these things because nothing is too hard for God. He is all-powerful. Students see God’s great power in the wisdom of creation and then will study the 10 plagues to explore how God uses His power to make His name known.

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:18b-19a

### Lesson 9: “S” = Sovereign

Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 13-14)

#### God has the right, the wisdom and the power to do all that He pleases.

- ▶ After studying how God wisely accomplishes things by His almighty power, students will explore that this wise, all-powerful God has the right to do whatever pleases Him. They will learn that God uses His sovereignty to display His worth and glory. God’s sovereignty is not something to be rebelled against, but rather a truth to be embraced and upon which students can place their hope in God.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 46:10b; Isaiah 46:11b

### Lesson 10: “P” = Provider

Various Passages

#### God meets the needs of His creation.

- ▶ In this lesson, students will discover that because God created all things, He cares for all things. They will learn that God alone can and does provide for His creation. This care is a display of His greatness and worth—His glory. The aim of this lesson is to help children understand that in His provision, God is showing His love and care for His creatures, and in so doing, He displays His glory.

Memory Verses: Acts 17:25b

**Lesson 11: “S” = Self-Sufficient**

God Defeats the Armies of Moab and Ammon (2 Chronicles 20)

**God doesn’t need anything.**

- ▶ After seeing that only God can supply all of creations’ needs since He alone brought all things into being, Lesson 11 leads students to ask the question, “What does God need?” The answer is absolutely nothing! God is fully complete in Himself, and because He doesn’t need anything He is free to do all that He pleases.

Memory Verses: Acts 17:25

**Lesson 12: “U” = Understanding**

Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)

**God keeps in mind that we are weak.**

- ▶ This lesson is not about “understanding” as intellectual comprehension but in the sense of a feeling of sympathy toward another. What will God do with His sinful, disobedient people? Does an all-sufficient God need His people? In Lesson 12, students will see that God feels compassion for His children. He knows that we are weak and needy. God understands our predicament, and He is there to act as a compassionate father.

Memory Verses: Psalm 103:13-14

**Lesson 13: “A” = Attentive**

Various Passages

**God is constantly watching and acting in the world.**

- ▶ In this lesson, the aim is for children to understand that God pays attention to and listens to those who hope in Him. He acts in response to the prayers of His children in the context of His sovereignty to accomplish all that He pleases. Students will explore several instances in which God’s people cried out to Him and He answered in predictable, expected ways (Jonah 2, Exodus 2, Exodus 17, Psalm 18 and 1 Kings 18) as well as an instance in which He acted in an unexpected way (Jeremiah 52). This lesson concludes that God does what is right for His people to accomplish His purposes, not necessarily what is requested by His children.

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:15

**Lesson 14: “F” = Faithful**

Various Passages

**God always does what He says He will do.**

- ▶ Lesson 14 reveals Jesus as God’s answer to His people’s sin problem. Through that discovery students see the unfailing faithfulness of God. This lesson focuses on God’s faithfulness to His plan and to His promise throughout the Old Testament and leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Memory Verse: Joshua 23:14

**Lesson 15: “T” = Trinity**

Various Passages

**God is three persons in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

- ▶ Though the Trinity it is a difficult subject, it is an important one for children to learn because all of God’s attributes must be understood in the context of His “three-in-oneness.” In order to keep this doctrine simple enough for younger elementary children it will focus on the following statements: 1) There is only one God; 2) The one God is three distinct persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; 3) Each person is fully God; and 4) There is only one God. Because Jesus was revealed in the previous lesson, and because He is the easiest person of the Trinity for children to relate to, His relationship to the Father and His deity will be used to explain the three-in-oneness of the one true God.

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4

**Lesson 16: "L" = Love**

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

**Love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself.**

- ▶ God is love. Too often, we consider God's love outside the totality of God's nature and therefore our understanding of God becomes dangerously skewed. This lesson begins to sow in children's hearts the seed of truth that God loves Himself most of all, and that biblical love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself, spilling out graciously on unworthy people.

Memory Verses: John 15:9a, 11

**Lesson 17: "O" = Omnipresent**

The Passover (Exodus 11-12)

**God is everywhere all the time.**

- ▶ This lesson contains three main points to teach children that God is able to be everywhere all the time. Students will learn that 1) God is not limited by space; 2) God is fully present everywhere all the time; and 3) God may choose to act in different ways in different places.

Memory Verses: Jeremiah 23:24

**Lesson 18: "R" = Refuge**

Various Passages

**God is a place of safety and shelter for His people.**

- ▶ This lesson begins by focusing on physical protection since it is what children know concretely. However, the term "refuge" means a place where the soul can be protected and safe. Matthew 10:28 makes it clear that we should fear most for our soul because of the anger of a holy God. Therefore, this lesson gradually focuses on God as a Refuge for our souls and the one place we should turn for shelter.

Memory Verses: Proverbs 18:10

**Lesson 19: "U" = Unchanging**

Israel's Kings after David (1 Kings 10-22)

**God never changes.**

- ▶ God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8). All of who He is and what He is like, in all of His greatness and worth, will not diminish or change. This is a hard concept for us to understand. Children perceive change as something that is good and desired. They want to get bigger, stronger, and smarter. This lesson teaches children the great truth that God's perfections, purposes, and promises will never change. All of the great things they are learning about God will forever be true!

Memory Verse: Malachi 3:6a

**Lesson 20: "O" = Omniscient**

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

**God knows everything.**

- ▶ Not only does God know everything, but He has always known everything, including everything that was, is, and will be. Most children are familiar with the idea that God knows everything. This lesson develops this concept further by giving concrete examples of how much God really knows, including the fact that God fully knows what is for us the most incomprehensible thing of all—Himself.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:13

**Lesson 21: “G” = Good**

Various Passages

**Everything God is and does is good.**

- ▶ “Good” is so much a part of our everyday vocabulary that we probably have become numb to its true meaning. What does it really mean when we say something is good, or bad? Mark 10:18 says “No one is good, except God alone.” Only God, all of who He is and all of what He does, meets with God’s approval. Therefore, all of our experiences and actions must be examined in the context of true goodness: God Himself.

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:9

**Lesson 22: “N” = Never-Tiring**

The Life of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 8-31)

**God never gets tired or weary.**

- ▶ People simply run out of stamina: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Even children, who seem to have boundless energy, eventually become tired and weary. What keeps us going? What gives rest to a weary soul? Lesson 22 explores that our source of rest is the One who never grows tired or weary—the great God who sustains the universe. Children will also see that God never gets bored with being God.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:28b

**Lesson 23: “J” = Jealous**

The Ark of the Covenant and Dagon (1 Samuel 5)

**God will not share His greatness and worth (glory).**

- ▶ The word “jealous” usually carries a negative connotation. This lesson shows children that there is a positive sense in which jealousy can be used, particularly in the way that God is jealous for His greatness and worth, and the praise that only He deserves. He will not share this praise with anything or anyone else. God deserves to occupy first place in all things and will settle for nothing less.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:8

**Lesson 24: “R” = Righteous**

The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)

**Everything God thinks, says, and does is right.**

- ▶ God is right in everything He thinks, says, and does. How can this righteous God, who values what is most valuable (Himself) love an unrighteous people? Lesson 24 begins a seven-lesson series that answers this question. God is committed to His glory and His love for His sinful people. This lesson lays the foundation for future lessons in which children will study redemption and the work of Christ on the cross.

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 32:4

**Lesson 25: “W” = Wrath**

Jesus in the Temple (John 2)

**God is very angry at sin.**

Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)

- ▶ If we are going to teach children the whole counsel of God, we must teach them about His wrath. Any vision of God presented without this attribute would be incomplete. People don’t like to think that God could ever be angry at their sin and so angry, in fact, that He would pour out His judgment on those who would scorn His glory. But it is in the truth of God’s wrath (which we all deserve) that the wonder of the Gospel exists. It is only when we see God’s anger toward sin that we can understand and love the news of God’s saving grace. This lesson is designed to help students see that God’s wrath is a display of His glory.

Memory Verses: Romans 1:18a; Nahum 1:6b

**Lesson 26: “P” = Patient**

The Flood (Genesis 6-7)

**God is slow to anger and slow to punish.**

- ▶ The previous lesson emphasized God’s fierce anger and hatred of sin—His wrath. We all deserve God’s wrath. So why doesn’t God destroy all of us? It is God’s good pleasure to be slow to anger and slow to punish sin so that His sovereign grace may be displayed. How good for us that God is a patient God!

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:9

**Lesson 27: “M” = Merciful**

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

**God is kind to undeserving sinners.**

- ▶ Although grace and mercy are usually assigned two distinct meanings, for this lesson they are combined in one single attribute of God. This lesson focuses on the truth that God is kind and forgiving to people who deserve His wrath. Since we are all unrighteous, God is not under any obligation to award His favor to us. Using the parable of The Prodigal Son, this lesson aims to show children the amazing kindness that God pours out on His children who have sinned by valuing other things more than His glory.

Memory Verses: Psalm 103:10a; Psalm 145:8

**Lesson 28: “Z” = Zealous**

The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21)

**God does everything with determination and strength for His name’s sake.**

- ▶ Webster’s Dictionary defines “zeal” as “eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of something.” This definition, together with the understanding of jealousy seen in Lesson 23, provides a picture of God in ardent pursuit of the glory of His name. Amazingly, in that pursuit, we see God eagerly pursuing to save an unrighteous people. In this lesson and the next, students will explore how God accomplished His ultimate goal—upholding and loving His glory, in the act of loving and saving an unrighteous people.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:13

**Lesson 29: “D” = Deliverer**

Various Passages

**God saves His people from His wrath.**

- ▶ Jesus delivers us from the curse of sin and from the wrath of God. This lesson is designed to explain redemption. Rather than focus directly on the story of Good Friday, this lesson focuses on the theology of Good Friday—the resolution of God’s ultimate love for His glory, and His love for His unrighteous people.

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15a

**Lesson 30: “V” = Victorious**

The Resurrection (Matthew 27-28)

**God always wins—even over Satan, sin, and death.**

- ▶ God is almighty and sovereign. He will always accomplish all that He sets out to do. No one can defeat His plans. God is a victorious warrior who defeats all His enemies. We don’t always see an image of Jesus as that great warrior, but Jesus won the battle that all others had failed to win. He was victorious over the power of Satan, sin, and death. Although at first it didn’t appear that He had won, His resurrection was proof that the penalty for sin had been satisfied. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, God’s people are made right with God.

Memory Verse: Zephaniah 3:17a

**Lesson 31: “K” = King**

Israel Asks for a King (1 Samuel 8)

**God rules over everyone.**

- ▶ Israel wanted a king to visibly represent them to other nations. Like Israel, we often turn to human solutions, and they disappoint us. This lesson shows that when we set our hearts on lesser things we fail to grasp the following: 1) God was, is, and will always be the great King above all earthly kings; 2) He has a kingdom not (yet) seen with fleshly eyes; and 3) He alone is a King who is righteous, just, and works for the good of His people. Believers eagerly anticipate the day when the whole earth will see Jesus return to earth as the majestic King of Kings!

Memory Verse: Psalm 47:7-8

**Lesson 32: “H” = Holy**

Isaiah Experiences the Presence of God (Isaiah 6)

**God is like no one else—He is completely perfect and separate from sin.**

- ▶ Until now, the curriculum has studied attributes of God, or words that describe who God is and what He is like. When these attributes are put together they create a picture that displays His glory. God’s holiness is the essence of His divine nature. No analogy or illustration can ever come close to describing the holiness of God—it is beyond comprehension. This lesson offers just a peek at the incomprehensible holiness of God.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:25

**Lesson 33: “W” = Worthy**

The Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13)

**God deserves all love, obedience, honor, praise, and glory.**

The Call of the Disciples (Matthew 4, Luke 5)

- ▶ Society places value on many things, and our hearts are often pulled to value those things that our culture teaches are valuable and worthy. But the truth from the Word contrasts dramatically with those things. God’s Word shows us the one thing that is most valuable and most worthy of praise and honor: God. This lesson demonstrates to students that when we experience the greatness and worth of God, all the treasures of the world grow dim.

Memory Verse: Revelation 4:11

**Lesson 34: “X” = eXalted**

The Tower at Babel (Genesis 11)

**God ranks far above everything else—He is the Most High.**

- ▶ When referring to God, the word “exalted” means “to be high” or “to raise up,” to be seen and honored as “above all.” God lifts up His name and fame in order to be seen by all the peoples of the earth. There is no one “higher up” than the one true God. In contrast is the human quest for self-exaltation. People have a great hunger to be famous and well-known. Thousands of years ago the people of Shinar attempted to make a name for themselves, but the Most High God will alone be exalted over all the earth.

Memory Verse: Psalm 97:9

**Lesson 35: “H” = Happy**

Various Passages

**God delights in being God.**

- ▶ It makes perfect sense that an all-powerful, all-sufficient, perfect God should be happy and delight in all that He is and does. In His overflowing happiness He delights in making for Himself a people to be satisfied in that happiness. He doesn’t love or do good out of begrudging duty, but out of the joyful freedom He has in being the King of kings and the Lord of lords. God’s happiness becomes the foundation for our own happiness.

Memory Verse: Psalm 115:3

**Lesson 36: “B” = Bountiful**

Jesus Feeds the 4,000 (Mark 8)

**God is more than enough to satisfy all our desires.**

The Woman at the Well (John 4)

- ▶ Bountiful describes the infinite God who is able to meet all of our deepest desires. He is an overflowing spring of life that never runs dry. He will always be more than enough to meet all the desires of His people. There is never any reason to turn to anything less satisfying. God is more than enough!

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:20-21a

**Lesson 37: Seeking God**

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18)

**Seeking God involves experiencing a desperate need for God.**

- ▶ Now that the students “know their ABCs,” what should they do? It is not enough to simply know about God. Many people who know about God, even the truth about God, are on their way to hell. The Pharisees would have made perfect church people, but they did not love and treasure God. Why? Because they considered themselves righteous by their own merit. The Holy Spirit alone can cause a person to comprehend the significance of their own sinfulness, but this lesson hopes to make students eager for what the Holy Spirit may reveal to them.

Memory Verses: Psalm 42:1-2; Jeremiah 29:13

**Lesson 38: Loving God**

Various Passages

**Experiencing God is more precious than anything else in life.**

- ▶ What is The Greatest Commandment? What is the fulfillment of the law? “*Love the LORD your God with all your heart.*” The inward mark of the true believer is that he loves God with all his heart. But what does that mean? The call to love God is a call to love Him most. It is not a forced act of the will, but the heartfelt emotion that God is more precious than anything else. This lesson shows that this love can only come about when God puts a new heart within us.

Memory Verse: Psalm 73:25

**Lesson 39: Trusting God**

The Faith of Abraham (Genesis 12-22; Hebrews 11)

**Trusting God means experiencing God as reliable in all His promises and commands.**

- ▶ God has promised that everyone He calls will earnestly seek Him and find Him. Trusting God is faith in God. Saving faith comes from the Lord when He gives us 1) a mind to know God; 2) a heart to treasure God; and 3) the will to put all our confidence in God. We have confidence to believe all of His promises and obey all of His commands, knowing in the end there is a great reward. This lesson also teaches that faith without the evidence of obedience is not true faith. Similarly, obedience without faith in God is not true obedience.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6

**Lesson 40: Enjoying God**

Various Passages

**Enjoying God means experiencing the great and lasting joy that comes from loving and trusting God.**

- ▶ There seems no more appropriate place to end this study than at the center of all things—God’s glory. The very purpose for which God created us was to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. Throughout this study students will have discovered the truth that God’s purpose in all things is to glorify Himself and that He delights in His glory above all things. To be called to enjoy the happiness of God forever is truly an inexpressible joy. It is the great reward of the life of faith, the prize toward which we press on.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:8