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

The answers to these questions are of utmost importance in the life of faith for children and adults alike. The modern Church has often overlooked the significance of presenting children with the great and glorious view of God that He has revealed in His Word. We tend to give children a watered-down theology of God—one that characterizes Him as soft, cuddly, and nice. But our children do not need another teddy bear. Although they may not yet have the vocabulary to express it, children possess hungry, desperate souls that are sinking in sin and longing for happiness. A simplistic, warm, and fuzzy image of God will not satisfy their soul-hunger.

The ABCs of God presents children with the bountiful feast of all that God is in His greatness, His worth, and His Word. There is no way we can overemphasize to our children God’s greatness or worth. He will always be infinitely greater and worthier than we can ever communicate.

Toward this end, The ABCs of God uses the framework of the alphabet to teach children the attributes and character of God. The lessons help children answer the questions of “Who is God?” and “What is He like?” as they work from Almighty (God is all-powerful) to Zealous (God does everything with determination and strength for His name’s sake). In light of who God is, children learn how they should act toward God:

Desperately seek God,
Passionately love Him,
Unceasingly trust Him,
And forever enjoy Him!

Understanding and embracing an infinitely glorious God may seem like a lofty goal for young children. It is! But we must faithfully direct children to the feast of God’s greatness and worth. God Himself, through His Holy Spirit, will move in the children’s hearts so they will:

Taste and see that the LORD is good!
Psalm 34:8
Our Mission

Children Desiring God exists to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things so that the next generation may know and cherish Jesus Christ as the only One who saves and satisfies the desires of the heart.

We want millions in every generation to set their hope in God. To that end, we aim to fuel spiritual desire by producing God-centered, Bible-saturated, Christ-exalting resources, and by equipping parents and churches to work in partnership to instruct the mind, engage the heart, and nurture the faith of the next generation.

Our Distinctions

- **God-Centeredness**
  The most important question we can ask of Scripture is, “What does this say about our great God?”

- **Depth**
  We want to fill students with truth that will make them steadfast, immovable, and always abounding. Thus, the Bible must be taught in depth with accuracy, yet in an age-appropriate and interesting manner.

- **Application**
  Teaching falls short if it simply feeds words through students’ minds. Truth must be understood and applied. Concrete illustrations and interaction with Scripture help students connect the known to the unknown.

- **Theology**
  The truth that our all-powerful, all-loving, Triune God sovereignly orchestrates all things to serve His glory and His good purpose is central to the teaching of each curriculum.

- **Partnership with Parents**
  Because parents, not churches, have the primary responsibility before God for the spiritual nurture of their children, the curricula are structured to help churches “walk alongside” parents, enabling and equipping them in this God-given role.

**Lesson 8—Piece 10 of 10**

**Almighty!**

“Almighty” means: God is all-powerful.

See the seeds of the ten plagues on the ten bricks. Set the seeds down as far apart as possible so that each seed makes an island in the darkness. Take care not to move the bricks. Ask God to make His name known through the plagues.

Make three piles of several heavy objects (from the “Other Visuals” section).

- **One pile** to represent the darkness of Egypt.
- **A second pile** to represent the plagues.
- **A third pile** to represent the plagues being lifted.

You may create a scroll of the plagues for God to unfold.

Talk About It

• What do you see? (see “The Ten Plagues”)
• What did God do? (see “The Ten Plagues”)
• What did God do in the plagues? (see “The Ten Plagues”)
• Why does God do this? (see “The Ten Plagues”)

Memorize

Isaiah 42:8a; Psalm 9:10a

When learning about someone, it is important that to learn his name. But 

YHWH is not just

understand. We can know some things about God’s character, but we can never fully know

Depth

God-Centeredness

depth with accuracy, yet in an age-appropriate and interesting manner.

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God desires to make His name known. 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 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
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
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 it is God who is worthy of their praise.

Memory Verse: Various Passages

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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
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
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 something 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
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.

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Memory Verse: Various Passages

The ABCs of God Scope & Sequence © 2011 Children Desiring God

Sunday School Curricula

A Study for Children on the Greatness and Worth of God
Target Grade: 1st Grade Range: 1st–3rd Lessons: 40
Translations: NIV Author: Jill Nelson

Usage Tips:
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Color Resource Packet
Workbook Sample 1
Workbook Sample 2

Student Workbook
Resource Sample 1
Resource Sample 2

What You Need to Start
Available Resources
Lesson Sample 1
Lesson Sample 2

Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition
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The ABCs of God Scope & Sequence
Sunday School Curriculum

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### The ABCs of God

**Introduction**
Sunday School Curricula

**Scope & Sequence**
The Scope & Sequence provides an overview of the curriculum, including lesson titles, main Scripture passages, key themes, a short description of each lesson, and memory verse, if applicable. Short and expanded versions of the Scope & Sequence are also available as PDF downloads at [childrendesiringGod.org](http://childrendesiringGod.org).

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#### The ABCs of God Scope & Sequence © 2011 Children Desiring God

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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**

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**

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**

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 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**

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**

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

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**Translations:** NIV  
**Author:** Jill Nelson  
**Target Grade:** 1st  
**Grade Range:** 1st–3rd  
**Lessons:** 40

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**The Blessing Box**

**The ABCs of God**

**1st**  
**40**

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**What You Need to Start**

**Available Resources**  
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**Lesson Sample 2**

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**Student Workbook**

**Workbook Sample 1**  
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**Parent Resource Pages**

**Resource Sample 1**  
**Resource Sample 2**

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**Intended Use: Sunday School**

**Target Grade:** 1st  
**Grade Range:** 1st–3rd  
**Lessons:** 40

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**The ABCs of God Scope & Sequence © 2011 Children Desiring God**
Lesson 11: “S” = Self-Sufficient

God doesn’t need anything.

- After seeing that only God can supply all of creation’s 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

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

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

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

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
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**Lesson 16: “L” = Love**

**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” = Omni-present**

**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**

**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**

**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 Verses:** Malachi 3:6a

**Lesson 20: “O” = Omniscent**

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**God is very angry at sin.**

- 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
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
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
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
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
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
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The ABC's of God

A Study for Children on the Greatness and Worth of God

Target Grade: 1st
Grade Range: 1st–3rd
Lessons: 40
Translations: NIV
Author: Jill Nelson

Lesson 31: “K” = King

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 fleshy 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

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

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

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

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 such 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

The ABC's of God Scope & Sequence © 2011 Children Desiring God
Lesson 36: “B” = Bountiful
God is more than enough to satisfy all our desires.

- 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
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
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

- 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

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
What You Need to Start

The *ABCs of God* was written to be taught to younger elementary students over 40 weeks in a Sunday school setting. The two main components of class time are the lesson—20-30 minutes, and the application time—15-30 minutes. Directions for adapting the curriculum to different time frames or settings, such as a school or home, are included.

The main teacher or team leader for the class should begin with a Teacher’s Kit and a Student Workbook for each student attending the class.

Teacher’s Kit

**ORDER ONE PER CLASSROOM**

This kit contains the basic tools you need to start teaching this curriculum.

Each kit contains:

A. **Teacher’s Notebook**

B. **Student Workbook**
   1 - Spiral-bound student workbook

C. **Verse Card Packet**
   1 - Pocket size verse card packet for Scripture memory work. Cards are printed on heavy cardstock and bound with a metal ring.

D. **Visuals CD**
   1 - CD containing printable PDFs of visual resources and Parent Resources Pages. (Printed copies of the visual resources may also be ordered in color or black and white, if desired.)

Student Workbooks

**ORDER ONE PER STUDENT**

(AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS)

Recommended for every student to use in class and during the application time. The workbooks are used for emphasizing key themes and Scripture, reviewing past lessons, and helping children apply truths learned to their life. The workbook is available printed on heavy cardstock with a spiral binding, or as a downloadable PDF you can print at your convenience.
Additional Resources

Depending on the size and structure of your children’s ministry program, as well as the teaching styles of the ministry team, you may need additional resources in order to accommodate co-teachers and small group leaders, or to better equip your students to memorize Scripture. The resources listed below are recommended based on these and other variable factors.

Leader’s Edition
ORDER ONE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TEACHER OR SMALL GROUP LEADER (AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS)
A. The Leader’s Edition is designed to equip small group leaders and co-leaders with their own copy of the curriculum to study and pray through as they prepare to minister to the children under their care. It includes the curriculum introduction, lesson content, and appendix. Leader’s Editions are available printed with a spiral binding, or as an electronic download.

Resource Packet
ORDER ONE IF YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED VISUALS (AVAILABLE IN COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE)
B. A full set (108 pages) of visuals are professionally printed on cardstock (in either color or black and white). The visuals are also available as PDF files on the Visual Resources CD in the Teachers Kit, if you prefer to print them yourself.

Verse Card pack
ORDER ONE PER STUDENT OR FAMILY
C. Verse cards provide a handy tool for children to use to memorize the verses that correspond to the truths they are learning each week. Cards are printed on heavy cardstock and bound with a metal ring.
Lesson 8
“\textbf{A}” is for Almighty

KEY THEME: God is all-powerful.

KEY VERSE: O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, great are Your purposes and mighty are Your deeds. \textit{Jeremiah} 32:18b-19a

\textbf{INTRODUCTION:} Jeremiah 10:12 tells us “God made the earth by His power; He founded the world by His wisdom.” In perfect wisdom God plans everything to accomplish His purposes and through His infinite power He makes it happen. God alone is almighty; nothing is too hard for God and no one can contend with Him. God will do whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3) and commands our reverence in response.

We will begin this lesson by referring to Lesson 7, and then show how God’s great power accomplished His perfect wisdom in creation. We will also continue the story of Israel and see how God used His great power to spread His name and fame over the whole earth.

\textbf{IN THE BLESSING BOX}

1. Strong sack or container that a child can hold, like a pillow case.
2. Several heavy objects to place in the sack. (A child should not be able to lift the sack when it is full.)

\textbf{OTHER VISUALS}

1. Ten bricks* with pictures of the ten plagues on them (pictures in Resource Pack).
   - 1) River of blood
   - 2) Frogs
   - 3) Insects
   - 4) Flies
   - 5) Diseased cattle
   - 6) Human skin disease
   - 7) Hail
   - 8) Grasshoppers
   - 9) Darkness (Use piece of black paper)
   - 10) Death of firstborn sons

2. Paper Pharaoh (Resource Pack). Roll paper into a cylinder and tape it so Pharaoh will stand up.

3. Scrolls from Lesson 7.


*Or other heavy, stackable objects like canned goods

The ABC’s of God

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Teacher’s Notebook/Leader’s Edition

This sample shows how the lessons are structured and what a teacher will use to prepare and teach the material. Teachers should read through all the lessons (or the Scope & Sequence) before teaching the first lesson. This helps the teacher understand how the lessons build on one another week-by-week.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Lessons are included in the Teacher’s Kit and in the Leader’s Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

In each lesson, the main visuals are hidden in the Blessing Box (a large bankers box covered in shiny wrapping paper). The box conveys the idea that everything about God is a wonderful gift. The visuals in the box are used in a concrete illustration to introduce the lesson theme. The lesson turns from a familiar concept to presenting something new about God as it introduces the key word.

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**Lesson Presentation**

Ask if anyone would like to come up to the front of the room and do a very hard job. Stress that you need someone very strong. Choose a child to come up and take the sack out of the Blessing Box. Have the child hold the sack open and place the heavy objects in the sack one by one.

**Comment as you load the sack:** Is it getting too heavy yet? Are you getting tired of holding it? When he/she can’t hold it any more, comment: You’re quite strong. You could hold most of these things, but not all of them. You have a limit to how much you can hold.

Choose one or two other children and see if they can lift the sack. Finally, choose an adult to pick it up. Point out that an adult is strong enough now, but would the adult be strong enough if we kept adding heavy things like rocks or bricks? Emphasize that adults have limited strength and power too, even Olympic weight lifters. Sometimes, when something is too heavy to lift, we use machines to help us (like elevators). But machines have limited power, too.

**Ask:** Do you think a machine could lift up a mountain or pick up all the water in the ocean? Those are tiny things compared to the sun, moon, and stars. Who holds them up?

Refer to the nature puzzle from Lesson 7. Remind the children that God created the world through His great wisdom. Then ask how God was able to make all of His plans happen. How does God make huge stars like the sun and hold them in their correct places? Why don’t they fall down? (Show what happens to the sack when you let go of it.)

**Display and Read** Isaiah 40:25-26.

* Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Emphasize that it is God’s mighty strength and power that hold the stars in place, even though they weigh millions of pounds. Nothing is too hard for God (Jeremiah 32:17). God has no limit to His power. He is all-powerful. He is ALMIGHTY. God created the world in His wisdom, and made it happen through His almighty power.

Look at the Joseph puzzle from Lesson 7 and ask the children if they think God uses His great power to bring about His plans. Did God use His power to make sure that Joseph became an important ruler in Egypt? Tell them they are going to hear another Bible story about God displaying His almighty power.

**Story - The Plagues** Exodus 7:14 – Exodus 11

Summarize the story and tell it in your own words.

**Emphasize the Following Points.**

- Review God’s promise to make Israel a great nation.
- Recall that the people of Israel were now living in Egypt. The new king of Egypt did not know Joseph (take out the paper Pharaoh and set it on the table), and he was worried that Israel would become too great. He made the Israelites become slaves and even ordered their newborn sons to be killed. Had God made Israel a great nation yet?
- God heard the distress of His people and chose Moses to tell Pharaoh, “Let My people go.”
- Introduce the promise of the first plague (Exodus 7:17-18). Take out brick #1 and place it on the table next to Pharaoh. (Stack bricks with force to convey a sense of great power.)

**The ABC’s of God**
The ABCs of God

A Study for Children on the Greatness and Worth of God

Target Grade: 1st | Grade Range: 1st–3rd | Lessons: 40
Translations: NIV | Author: Jill Nelson

Lesson 5: "C" = Creator  Creation (Genesis 1)
Lesson 3: "Y" = YHWH  The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
Lesson 2: "I" = Incomprehensible  The Life of Job (Job 38-41)

The Bible story expands the key theme in a Scriptural context. Main points are highlighted in the lessons. Teachers can either read the story directly from their Bibles, or present longer stories with different visuals, such as the 10 plague bricks.

The key word, verse, and theme are reviewed at the end of the lesson.
APPLICATION

Have the children find the letter “A” for Almighty in their workbooks.

Ask them what it means that God is Almighty [Nothing is too hard for Him; no one can make Him do something He doesn’t choose to do, etc.] Is anyone besides God almighty?

What word did we learn today that makes God all-powerful? [Almighty] What is God showing us when we see Him act in His wisdom and power? [His glory.] Conclusion: God is almighty. When God displays His power, He displays His glory. God’s power shows His greatness and worth.

Because God is almighty how should we act toward Him? READ II Kings 17:36 (NASB).

But the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power . . . Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow down . . .

What attitude do we have when we fear God? [A healthy reverence and respect for Him, feeling His overwhelming greatness and strength.] What attitude do we have when we bow down to God? [We have a sense of being humble. We are small and weak in comparison to Him.]

Because God is almighty what is He able to do for His people? (Psalm 28:7 — help us; Hebrews 7:25 — save us; I Corinthians 6:14 — raise us; Romans 8:38-39 — keep us.)

Often, we feel powerless. For example, if you do something you know is wrong, like taking a cookie without permission, you might tell your mother, “I just couldn’t help myself.” Where can we find the strength and power to resist doing wrong? READ Psalm 121:1-2 AND I Corinthians 10:13.

READ AND DISCUSS Psalm 8:1. Whose name and fame are greater than anything or anyone else?

Note: Save one brick (or can) for the next lesson.

The ABC’s of God
Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

Visuals include signs, diagrams, and pictures that are used to teach part of the lesson. The majority of visuals are included in the Visuals CD and resource packets, but teachers will need to assemble some visuals and supply some common household items for some lessons.
Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher’s Kit.

Since visuals are re-used from year to year, it is important to organize them neatly and label them clearly. Laminating flat visuals can increase durability. Misplaced or worn visuals can be replaced by printing them from the Visuals CD, which is included in the Teacher’s Kit. Some visuals are used during the application time for a workbook activity. Instructions are provided when copies are needed for an activity.
O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, great are Your purposes and mighty are Your deeds.

Jeremiah 32:18b-19a

Draw one of the ten plagues inside each of these "bricks".
**Student Workbook**

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.

The right-hand page lists the key word and theme, along with a letter for the children to decorate. The letters can be colored or decorated with supplies such as stickers, glitter, and shiny wrapping paper.

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**Almighty**

“A Mighty” means: God is all-powerful.

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Translation: NIV  
Author: Jill Nelson

**God-centered resources for training the next generation**

[link to childrendesiringGod.org]
The ABC's of God

An Introduction for Parents

Curriculum Overview

Children are full of questions. They have a God-given curiosity to find out the “How?” and “Why?” of everything around them. As adults, it is our responsibility to direct them to the most important questions of all: Who is God? What is He like? How should I act toward God? These are the questions your child will be asking each week as we study The ABC’s of God.

As with any question, where we discover the answer is of utmost importance. God has revealed Himself in all He has made (Romans 1:20) and through His WORD: written in human form as Jesus; recorded in human language in the Bible; going out and bringing forth the fruit of saving faith (Romans 10:17). He is the Alpha and Omega (the “A” through “Z”), the beginning and the end, the completion of all things: “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.” (Romans 11:36)

For that reason, every lesson in The ABC’s of God is based on the Bible. Encourage your child to bring a Bible to class each week. Not only will we use it to look up answers to our questions about God, children will work through the year on important Bible study skills like using the Bible’s Table of Contents to find a book, and learning to use chapter and verse references.

Resources for Parents

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Under God, parents are the most important teachers in a child’s life. For that reason, we’ve prepared a Parents’ Resource Page for each lesson in The ABC’s of God. These Resource Pages will be sent home with your child each week and contain the following information:

LESSON TITLE AND NUMBER appear above a box at the top of each page. Rather than start with a lesson on the letter “A,” the curriculum is arranged to logically unfold God’s character. For example, the fifth lesson is “C” is for Creator”, followed by “G” is for Glorious”, acknowledging first God’s creation of all things, and secondly, His purpose: to magnify the greatness and worth of His name. By the end of the curriculum, children will have studied at least one attribute of God for every letter of the alphabet.
**KEY THEME:** The key theme is the definition of the key word used in the lesson. This definition is not intended to capture every theological nuance of the word as it is used in the Bible. Rather, it is a simple definition easily learned by children, a foundation concept in a vocabulary about God that they will build upon for the rest of their lives.

**KEY VERSE:** This is a key Bible verse used in the lesson and is also the memory verse for the week. Because most children's Bibles use the New International Version, verses are listed here in the NIV translation unless otherwise noted. Your child may memorize these verses in another translation if you prefer. The ABC’s of God Verse Cards, a complete set of verse cards bound on a loose-leaf ring, is also available for use at home. Check with your child’s teacher or department leader for details.

**LESSON SUMMARY:** This is a summary of the main themes of the lesson. Some lesson themes may be new to parents. For example, many of us learned as children that God created people because He was lonely and wanted someone to love. That God's foremost purpose in creation and everything else He does is to glorify Himself is quite different and new for some. For a biblical exposition of these themes on an adult level, we recommend Dr. John Piper's book, *The Pleasures of God* (Multnomah Press, 1991).

### Who is God? What is He like?

Based on the lesson, the questions in this section are designed to be conversation starters about the lesson, both as review and to give children an opportunity to ask questions they may have. The questions are similar from week to week for two reasons. First, this allows parents to interact with their children while doing something else like driving home from church. Second, the repetition helps children learn to listen for and identify the most important ideas, rather than simply the most memorable illustrations!

#### How should I act toward God?

“How can I respond to God?” is one of the most significant questions anyone can ask. The application ideas in this section are ways parents can help children reflect on each lesson and begin to put into practice the truths they have learned. They are designed to be engaging early in the curriculum as children develop a habit of reflecting on the material and become more challenging as the year progresses. Simple games based on the curriculum are also included. God-centered games not only help children hide truths about God in their hearts, they are also a way to respond to God: by enjoying Him!

Although geared toward early-elementary aged children, this curriculum is deliberately not grade-specific. If an application idea seems too easy or too difficult for your child, feel free to adapt it. Challenge your children to look to God's Word for answers to their questions and support and encourage them as they discover the riches it contains!

**Workbook:** Rather than the more typical craft or activity sheet, your child will be working on a workbook each week in class that he or she will bring home at the end of the year. The workbook is intended to be an enduring reminder of the greatness and worth of God that you and your child may use for many years. The workbook will stay in the classroom until the last lesson of The ABC’s of God.
The ABC’s of God

“A” IS FOR ALMIGHTY

Key Theme God is all-powerful.

Key Verse “O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are Your deeds.” JEREMIAH 32:18b-19a

Lesson Summary In perfect wisdom God plans everything to accomplish His purposes and through His infinite power He makes it happen! That God alone is almighty means that nothing is too hard for Him; no one can stand or succeed against Him; He will do whatever He pleases and commands our reverence in response.

WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS HE LIKE?

• What was in the Blessing Box today? What does it tell us about God?
• What does it mean that God is almighty?
• Is anything too hard for God?
• How did God show Himself to be almighty in today’s Bible story?

HOW SHOULD I ACT TOWARD GOD?


Play “I Spy God Almighty” This week as you read Bible stories and see and hear of things happening in the world around you, be on the lookout for all the things God accomplishes in His mighty power. When you see something say, "I spy God Almighty!" and tell somebody about what you see. Seeing God and sharing Him with others is a way of praising Him!

Talk About It Have you ever felt like you just can't help yourself? That you don't have the strength to resist doing something wrong? Look up and read Psalm 121:1-2 together. Based on what you read, what can you do differently next time? Why?

The ABC’s of God 8-Take Home
LESSON 16

“L” IS FOR LOVE

KEY THEME: Love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself.

KEY VERSE: As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you . . . I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

JOHN 15:9a,11

INTRODUCTION

God is love. Maybe more than any other statement, this one has been used to identify God’s essence. But if we consider God’s love outside the totality of God’s nature, our understanding of God will be dangerously skewed. Often the nature of God’s love is characterized using the 13th chapter of Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, neglecting the fact that it was written as a model for believers, not as theology about God. So what does God mean when He says that He is love? John Piper defines God’s love in a sense that many in the modern church need to examine:

Biblical love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself, spilling out on unworthy people to draw them into the greatest experience in the world, namely, knowing, tasting, enjoying, praising, being swept up into the glory of God.


God’s love is the delight and happiness He has in His own greatness and worth, which becomes the fountain of our joy. This definition sounds unusual to many today because it places God, not people, uppermost in God’s affections. But it is not a new at all. Almost 100 years ago, Pastor Alexander Maclaren, commenting on Ezekiel 36, said the same thing:

“I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine holy name’s sake . . . (Ezekiel 36:22) The foundation of all God’s love to us sinful men lies not in us, nor in anything about us, not in anything external to God Himself. He, and He alone, is the cause and reason, the motive and the end, of His own love to our world. . . the love of God—a love that has no motive but Himself . . . by its very nature must be pouring out the flood of its own joyous fullness forever and ever. Alexander Maclaren, Sermons Preached at Manchester, (New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1902), p.29-30.

It would be a mistake to make this lesson into a simplistic man-centered story. It will be a challenge to take this definition with its depth of meaning and teach it to children. But we can begin to sow in children’s hearts the seed of truth that God loves Himself most of all. That truth is the source of our joy.

IN THE BLESSING BOX

1. A jar of blowing bubbles and wand for blowing.

OTHER VISUALS

1. Mirror from Lesson #15.
2. Scroll with John 15:9a,11
Optional: Props for telling the story of Zacchaeus.

The ABC’s of God

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LEMON PRESENTATION

Take the jar of bubbles out of the Blessing Box. Joyfully exclaim over discovering a jar of bubbles and excitedly begin to blow them. Initially, blow the bubbles away from the children to tantalize them. Enjoy the bubbles, becoming more and more excited. Slowly move toward the children, continuing to blow bubbles so that they begin to float within the children's reach. (Keep your focus on the bubbles, not the children.) Encourage the children to enjoy the bubbles. Have them pop or catch them.

APPLICATION: I really enjoy blowing bubbles. It is so much fun. The more I blow, the more bubbles come out until there are so many bubbles they just overflow. Even though you didn't have any bubbles to blow you were able to enjoy the bubbles that I made. I shared with you the happiness I had in blowing the bubbles. But as soon as I stopped blowing, the bubbles stopped and the fun they gave stopped, too.

Explain that as much as you enjoy blowing bubbles, after a while you might get tired or bored or run out of bubble mix. Then the enjoyment and happiness they provided would be over.

APPLICATION: Wouldn't it be great if there was something that would always be able to give us joy and happiness? Joy that would never, ever run out? Joy that was overflowing all the time? Do you think there is anyone or anything that could do that for us? Can a friend always do that? Can your parents? No, they get tired or bored or unhappy. But can God do it? Can God always give us joy? How does He do it? Do you think He sits up in heaven enjoying blowing bubbles? Do you see giant bubbles overflowing out of heaven? No. So what could God be doing all the time? Could He be doing something exciting and enjoying it so much that His joy would just overflow and spill out for us to enjoy?

Have the children give some responses. Direct them to think of what God would always enjoy or have the most fun doing. Some children will think of something in nature, but most often, they will think of people. But are people always wonderful? Do people always make God happy? (We are sinners.) Have people always existed?

APPLICATION: When you enjoy, delight in, and treasure something, we say that you love it. There is something that God loves most of all. Something He has loved all of the time, before the world, or animals, or people were created. Can you guess what God enjoys and loves most?

Take out the mirror from last week's lesson. Ask the children if they remember why we used the mirror. What did we say that God would see if He were to look in a mirror at Himself? He would see Jesus. Has Jesus always been with God? Yes, Jesus is eternal. God has always loved and enjoyed Jesus (John 17:24). He is always wonderful, great and perfect. He is God. God enjoys Himself most of all. Because God enjoys Himself so much and never gets tired of enjoying Himself, His joy keeps coming and coming. It overflows and He shares His joy with people. That is LOVE. Love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself that He shares with us, so that we can enjoy God, too.

APPLICATION: As you blow more bubbles. Let's pretend that this wand is God looking at and enjoying Himself. Pretend that the bubbles are the joy and happiness that comes from God loving Himself most of all. What would happen if God stopped enjoying Himself most of all? (Stop blowing the bubbles and look at the children.) The joy would stop. There would be no joy or happiness for God or anybody else. But that never happens because God always loves and enjoys Himself most of all. So God is always overflowing with joy that never

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The ABC's of God

ORDERING TIPS:

- Lessons are included in the Teacher's Kit and in the Leader's Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

Many lessons start with a short review to tie previous lessons together as they build on one another to convey a larger theme.

The ABC's of God

A Study for Children on the Greatness and Worth of God

Sunday School Curricula

Target Grade: 1st
Grade Range: 1st–3rd
Lessons: 40
Translations: NIV
Author: Jill Nelson

Sunday School Curriculum
The ABCs of God Scope & Sequence © 2011 Children Desiring God

God made all things. Who is God? What is God like? How should I act toward God?

Lesson 1: “Q” = Questions Have Answers

Various Passages

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

Lesson 2: “I” = Incomprehensible

The Life of Job (Job 38-41)

Students will learn that “Incomprehensible” tells us that God is more than we can fully

Lesson 3: “E” = Eternal

Various Passages

Memory Verse: Romans 11:34

Lesson 4: “E” = Eternal

The concept of the everlasting life of

God alone. This lesson is designed to emphasize the uniqueness of God by highlighting that

Lesson 5: “G” = God is All-Powerful

Various Passages

Memory Verses: Genesis 1:1-31; Exodus 1-14

The concept of the almighty power of God is expressed. This lesson is designed to emphasize that

Lesson 6: “O” = God is omniscient

Various Passages

Memory Verses: Psalm 139:1-6; John 11:25

God is all-knowing. This lesson is designed to emphasize that

Lesson 7: “M” = God is Omnipresent

Various Passages

Memory Verses: Isaiah 40:28, 41:10; Psalm 139:1-6

God is everywhere. This lesson is designed to emphasize that

Lesson 8: “A” = Almighty

Various Passages

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:4

Almighty!“ and tell somebody about what you see. Seeing God and sharing Him with

Lesson 9: “L” = Greatness

Various Passages

Memory Verses: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 11:21-30

God has no beginning or end. He is totally self-existing. The concept of the everlasting life of

Lesson 10: “F” = Final

Various Passages

Memory Verse: Romans 11:34

This lesson is designed to emphasize the uniqueness of God by highlighting that

Many lessons start with a short review to tie previous lessons together as they build on one another to convey a larger theme.
The ABC's of God

Lesson 4: "D" = Greatness

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:** Romans 11:34

*The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, He is treasured possession.*

**EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:**

- Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He was unpopular and disliked because most tax collectors at that time were dishonest and took extra money from people. Also, Zacchaeus was short and probably not a strong man.
- There was a crowd gathered around Jesus. In that crowd there were probably smarter, stronger, or nicer people than Zacchaeus.
- Out of the crowd, Jesus chose to share His love with Zacchaeus.
- Zacchaeus gladly welcomed Jesus and his life was changed. He was filled with joy.

**ASK:** Did Jesus share His love with Zacchaeus because Zacchaeus deserved it? No, he was a sinner. Why did Jesus choose to love him? Because Jesus decided to share His love with Zacchaeus. When Jesus did that, Zacchaeus was filled with joy. God is happy to share the joy He has in Himself with simple, undeserving sinners. That is LOVE.

**PRESENT THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:**

Comment: If you fall down and cut your knee, your mom might give you a bandage. Will that make you happy? But would a kiss and a hug and your mom’s comforting voice make you happier? That is loving. When you are sick, if your mom or dad give you some medicine and then leave you alone, would you be happy? Would you be happier if they stayed with you and read to you or played a game with you? That is loving.

**DISPLAY, READ, AND EXPLAIN:** John 15:9a,11.

*As the Father has loved Me so I have loved you . . . I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.*

The ABC’s of God
APPLICATION

★ Have the children find the letter “L” for Love in their workbooks.

★ Review the definition of God’s love, the overflow of joy that God has in Himself, by referring back to the bubble example.

★ Ask the children: How do you know when someone loves you? How does that person act toward you? Your parents love you. How do they act toward you? Do they forgive you? Do they take care of you when you are sick? Do they show you kindness? Do they provide you with good things? Do they discipline you? (Give other examples.)

★ How do you think God acts toward the people He loves? How did He act toward Zaccheus?

READ SOME OF THE FOLLOWING PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE TO SEE SOME OF THE WAYS GOD OVERFLOWS IN LOVE TOWARD HIS PEOPLE.

- Psalm 103:3 . . . forgives sins and heals you.
- Psalm 103:4 . . . saves you from troubles and shows you kindness.
- Psalm 103:5 . . . satisfies your desires and provides you with good things.
- Zephaniah 3:17 . . . He will delight in you . . . rejoice over you.
- Hosea 14:4 . . . heal your waywardness, love you freely.
- Ephesians 1:4-5 . . . adopts you and makes you His child.
- Romans 5:8 . . . died for you.

Conclusion: God’s love completes our joy.

★ As much as our parents love and show us their love, God’s love to His people is greater and better. God’s love is:

- Psalm 63:3 . . . better than life.
- Psalm 103:17 . . . everlasting.
- Psalm 103:11 . . . higher than the heavens.
- Isaiah 54:10 . . . unshakable (won’t change).

Conclusion: God’s love completes our joy.

★ In Isaiah 49:16, God says this about the people He loves: See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hand. Ask the children if they know what it means to engrave something. Once something is engraved, the mark is permanent. When God loves you, He keeps you always in His thoughts. He will never forget about you. Isaiah 40:11 says that God tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. When God loves you, He will hold you close to His own heart.

★ Does God love people because they are good, smart, strong, or special? (Use the example of Jacob and Esau in Romans 9:10-14.)

★ Whom does God love? Read Psalm 147:11.

The L ORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

Conclusion: God loves people who put their hope (confidence) in Him.
Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher’s Kit.

Colorful letter cards are provided for the teacher to use during multiple lessons. These can also be used to prompt review or as a classroom decoration.
Student Workbook

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.
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**The ABCs of God**

**Scope & Sequence**

God desires to make His name known.

God is more than we can fully understand.

Lesson 3: "Y" = YHWH  The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

Lesson 4: "E" = Eternal  Various Passages

Lesson 5: "C" = Creator  Creation (Genesis 1)

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 90:2

**Translations:** NIV  
**Author:** Jill Nelson

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**Lesson Summary**

- WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS HE LIKE?

- Is anything too hard for God? 

- Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are Your commands.

- "This week as you read Bible stories and see and hear of things happening in the world around you, be on the lookout for all the things God accomplishes in His mighty power. When you see something say, "I spy God doing this!""

- Based on what you read, what can you do differently next time? Why?

- Have the strength to resist doing something wrong? Look up and read Psalm 121:1-2.

- "Love" is: The overflow of joy that God has in Himself.

- "Love" tells us that God is all-loving, all-merciful, and good. He loves us so much that He is willing to forgive us and rescue us from sin.

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“L” IS FOR LOVE

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

Key Verse
“As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you . . . I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”  JOHN 15:9a, 11

Lesson Summary
God’s love is the delight and happiness He has in His own greatness and worth. God loves Himself most of all and that is the source of our joy. If God did not share with us the joy He has in Himself, we would never be truly happy. God’s love and our joy will never run out because God’s delight in Himself is inexhaustible!

WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS HE LIKE?

• What was in the Blessing Box today? What does it tell us about God?
• What does it mean that God is love?
• Whom does God love best of all?
• Why does God share His love for Himself with us? [Because He wants to show us His greatness and worth --not because we deserve it.]

HOW SHOULD I ACT TOWARD GOD?

Memorize John 15:9a and 11.

Look up the following verses that talk about God’s love and complete the sentence, “God’s love is _______.” from each verse: Psalm 63:3; Psalm 103:11; Psalm 103:17; Isaiah 54:10. How would you describe God’s love in your own words? Praise God by telling Him about it and thanking Him for it.

Share what God is like! With an adult’s permission, use blowing bubbles to explain to someone how God’s love to us is an overflow of the love He has for Himself.

The ABC’s of God

16-Take Home