

Christian Preschool Ministry Curriculum

**INTRODUCTION and
TRAINING BOOK**

Stepping Stones



A two year curriculum for children aged 3-5 years

Welcome!

This is a two year preschool curriculum written for a Baptist church. The writer is a qualified Christian school teacher and the publisher has had many years of Children's Ministry experience as well as a theological degree. The curriculum has been updated and edited several times from feedback from users of the curriculum, making it a communal project for the benefit of New Zealand children.

Many church leaders have requested a preschool curriculum written in New Zealand and we therefore offer this package to our new Zealand churches with full permission from the original church.

This curriculum package is FREE and therefore not for sale. The curriculum is available in digital format for you to adapt to your local context.

The curriculum is published through "Connecting the Dots" Creative Programming and can only be used for your local context. Files come in digital format through dropbox. Please refer people to Elke Keeling on elke.keeling@ihug.co.nz if they wish to obtain this curriculum for themselves.

Each session contains:

- ◇ Teaching scripts and a variety of Response activities
- ◇ Take Home sheets
- ◇ A Godly Play story option as appropriate

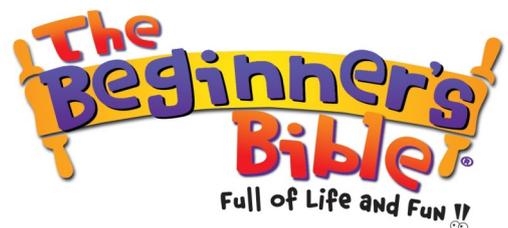
Music is of your own choice



We hope it will provide a resource for churches to better teach their pre-schoolers about Jesus and the wonderful God Story from the Bible.

Sources:

- ◇ Throughout this curriculum we have referred to stories in the Beginner's Bible for follow up at home and during the sessions.
- ◇ Clipart from "www.phillipmartin.info"
- ◇ Big Books from www.lambsongs.co.nz



Blessings



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Connecting the Dots Creative Programming

Introduction to Children's Spirituality

Children's Spirituality

Based on research by Dr Rebecca Nye

Aspects of Children's Spirituality to help you pay attention to God working in and through children.

1. Everyday

Children have the capacity to experience their spirituality in the midst of the everyday, it is not exclusively about the extraordinary. Spirituality is fundamental and entirely natural to childhood. It is not something adults need to 'pour in', but something we can enable to shine out.

2. Integrated

Children experience spirituality as a part of all that they do and all that they are. Their spirituality is not compartmentalised, it is connected to how they understand themselves.

3. Erratic

Children have the ability to leap from profound abstract thought to normal, every day topics within one conversation or from day to day

4. Verbal and non-verbal

Children are multi-lingual (language of home, school, video games, television, interests, etc.) and they express their spirituality in a variety of ways. Individual children often have a 'signature' or specific way of entering or considering spirituality. Very young children especially will not have the ability to verbalize their experience or to experience verbally. There is great potency in the non-verbal. Children may be able to re-educate adults about the importance of the non-verbal.

5. Depth, Surprise, Challenge

A genuine feature of children's spirituality is that it is rich, prophetic, and deep. Adults, who have been taught that children are concrete, literal thinkers and can't handle abstractions, may be challenged by the idea that children can have spiritual depth and make insightful connections about their spiritual lives.

6. Endangered

Children long for and rarely have a safe place to share their experiences. Often when they do share their experiences they are belittled, laughed at or not believed. Over time children begin to hide or ignore their spirituality.

Further Reading:

Privett, Peter and Richards A., *Through the Eyes of a Child*, Church House Publishing, 2009

Hay, David and Nye Rebecca, *The Spirit of the Child*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers 2006

Nye, Rebecca, *Children's Spirituality: What It Is and Why It Matters*, Church House Publishing 2009

Keeling, Elke, *With Young Children on the Spiritual Journey*, A mini Research Paper written as partial fulfilment of Master Studies at Carey Baptist College 2015. (Contact Elke keeling to receive a digital copy)

Suggested Preschool Session outline

Time in minutes (approx.)	Activities	Resources needed
30	Time in main church service with church community Or separate programme—free play	Children included in worship Activities set out. Volunteers help children interact with each other and activities
5	Tidy up time	Clean up song and settle at tables
10	Toilet break Washing hands Prayer Morning tea	Biscuits and water handed to the children (check for allergies) Volunteers help children wash hands after toilet break
15	Bible Story on mat Prayer Song	Children are invited to the mat for story time. Story props:
20	Response activities—various activities for different learning styles and temperaments	Volunteers help children create craft and guide them with activities Supplies needed : Put completed craft with take home sheets at door
10	Story review on mat Song and or prayer	Move back to mat for story review Props : Take-home sheet and craft to take home—give to parents when pick up

Two year teaching themes

This is a summary of the lessons created for the curriculum cycle of 2 years.

This serves as a GUIDELINE when planning how the curriculum will look for a new year : the number of lessons available in the term will change from year to year as well as the order in which the themes are presented.

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2
T1	MY FRIEND JESUS	T1	WALKING WITH JESUS
1	Jesus had a family, just like me	1	Introducing Jesus
2	Jesus loves all children	2	Jesus grew, just like me
3	Jesus miracle : stops the storm	3	Jesus miracle – blind man can see
4	Jesus miracle : fish in the net	4	Jesus miracle – walks on water
5	Zacchaeus	5	Feeding the 5 000
6	Man through the roof	6	The 10 lepers
7	Washing the disciples feet	7	Palm Sunday
8	Friends are friends at all times	8	Easter Story
9	I can talk to Jesus ; I can say sorry	9	I can tell others about Jesus
10	I can talk to Jesus : I can ask for help	10	Jesus ascends to heaven
11	(Easter lesson)	11	(The Good Samaritan)
T2	CREATION	T2	CREATION
1	God made everything (in 6 days)	1	Introducing creation
2	Special day 7	2	Day 1 : God made light
3	God made Adam and Eve	3	Day 2 : God made sky
4	God made me	4	Day 3 : God made land, plants and trees
5	Adam and Eve's choice	5	Day 4 : God made sun, moon and stars
6	God made me to choose	6	Day 5 : God made fish and birds
7	God is with me all the time	7	Day 6 : God made animals
		8	Day 7 : God made man – God made me!!
		9	Day 7 : Creation review

Two year teaching themes continued

The lessons follow the rhythms of the church year beginning with the life of Jesus up to Easter, then looking at Creation and the People in the Bible and ending with our lives and Christmas in the 4th term. NOTE: Each theme is presented in an individual package.

See the following pages for more detail about Biblical principles taught and Bible references for each theme.

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2
T3	PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE	T3	PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE
1	Noah	1	Moses – in the basket
2	Joseph	2	Moses – crossing the Red Sea
3	Jonah	3	Boy King Josiah
4	Joshua	4	Elijah (flour and oil)
5	Elisha	5	David and Goliath
6	Samuel : God wants to talk to me	6	Daniel in the lion's den
7	I can talk to God any time	7	Daniel's 3 friends (furnace)
8	I can pray for others	8	Overview : God is with me
T4	THANK YOU GOD	T4	THANK YOU GOD
1	God knows my name	1	God knows me from head to toe
2	God gives me what I need	2	God gives me all I need
3	God made me special	3	God is always with me
4	God loves me all the time	4	I can praise God
5	Thank you God for my family	5	Thank you God for my special family
6	Thank you God for family that helps me	6	Thank you God for family that helps me
7	Christmas 1	7	Christmas 1
8	Christmas 2	8	Christmas 2
9	Christmas 3	9	Christmas 3

YEAR 1 - Theme - MY FRIEND JESUS

Biblical Truths for Walking with Jesus :

- ◇ Jesus taught people about God
- ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people.
- ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him
- ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him



No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	Jesus had a family, just like me BIBLE: Luke 1 and 2 BB pages 271-302	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus grew just like me – He learned and had friends ◇ God planned a special family for me ◇ My family loves me – God wants us all to love each other
2	Jesus loves all children BIBLE: Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17; BB 409-412	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me – He loves all people ◇ God (Jesus) loves me and is with me
3	Jesus miracle : stops the storm BIBLE: Matthew 8:23-27 BB 334-339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ I can tell others about Jesus ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey him
4	Jesus miracle : fish in the net BIBLE: John 21:1-14 BB pages 462-465	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ I can tell others about Jesus ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey him
5	Jesus and Zaccheus BIBLE: Luke 19:1-10 BB pages 413-417	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God made people – alike and different ◇ I can help others around me ◇ I can choose – I can make the right and wrong choices ◇ I grow like Jesus – I can try to be like Jesus
6	Jesus miracle—heals a lame man BIBLE: Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26 BB pages 328-333	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ I can help others around me ◇ God wants us to work together ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me—He loves all people
7	Jesus washing disciples feet BIBLE: John 13:3-30 BB pages 437-439	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me—He loves all people ◇ I can help others around me ◇ I grow like Jesus did—I can try to be like Jesus
8	Jesus is our friend at all times BIBLE: Matthew 28: 16-20; BB pages 466-467	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me—He loves all people ◇ God made people : different and alike ◇ I grow like Jesus did—I can try to be like Jesus
9	I can talk to Jesus : I can say sorry. BIBLE: Luke 19:1-10 BB pages 413-417	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God / Jesus wants me to talk to Him—to pray ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey ◇ Jesus love me. He loves all people
10	I can talk to Jesus : I can ask for help BIBLE: Luke 17:11-19 BB pages 405-408	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God/Jesus wants me to talk to Him ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me ◇ God can do things people cannot do

YEAR 2 - Theme - WALKING WITH JESUS

Biblical Truths for Walking with Jesus :

- ◇ Jesus taught people about God
- ◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do
- ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people.
- ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him

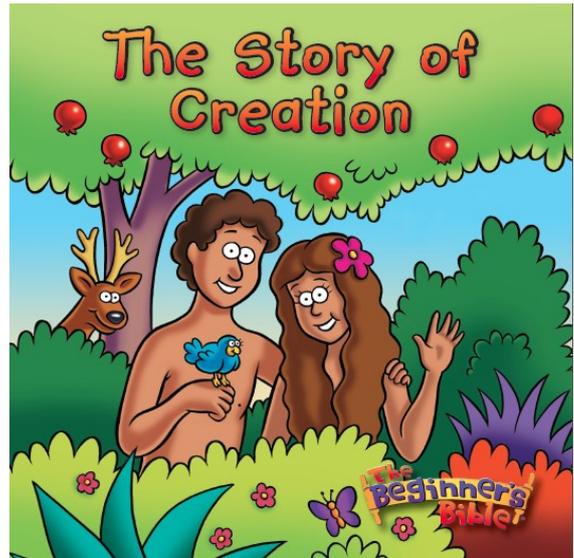


No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	Introducing Jesus (Bible: Gospel of Matthew)	◇ Jesus loves me. Jesus loves all people.
2	Jesus grew up, just like me (Luke 2: 1-52)	◇ Jesus grew just like me – He learned and had friends ◇ God planned a special family for me ◇ Jesus taught people about God ◇ Jesus loves and helps me. He loves all people.
3	Jesus miracle : blind man (John 9)	◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people. ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him.
4	Jesus miracle : walks on water (Matthew 14: 22-36)	◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people. ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him.
5	Friends share : feeding of the 5 000. (Matthew 14: 13-21)	◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ Jesus taught people about God ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him.
6	Friends help : the 10 lepers (Luke 17: 11-19)	◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people. ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him. ◇ God wants me to talk to Him (thank)
7	Palm Sunday (Matthew 21: 1-11)	◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ Jesus loves me. He loves all people ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him
8	Easter Story (Matthew 26 -28)	◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ Jesus loves me. He loves all people ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him
9	I can tell others about Jesus (Acts 2:42-47)	◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people. ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him. ◇ I can tell others about Jesus ◇ I can help others around me
10	Jesus ascends to Heaven (Acts 1: 6-11; Matthew 28)	◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him

YEAR 1 - Theme - Creation

Biblical Truths for Creation :

- ◇ God created the earth and everything in it
- ◇ God is special, there is no one like Him!!!
- ◇ I can feel a sense of wonder at God's creation
- ◇ I can thank God for His creation

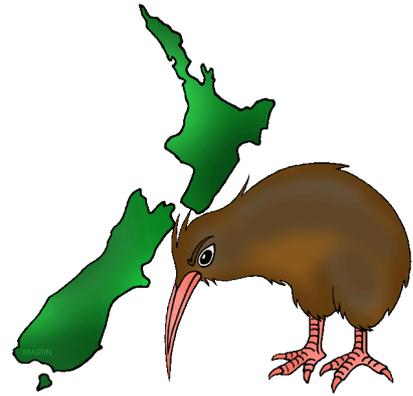


No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	God made everything (in 6 days) (Genesis 1)	◇ God can do things people cannot do
2	The special day 7 (Genesis 2:2)	◇ I can love God – I can talk to Him ◇ We learn about God at church and learn about His love
3	God made Adam and Eve (Genesis 1 + 2)	◇ God cares about everyone – all people are important to God
4	God made me (Genesis 1 + 2)	◇ God made me – He made everything ◇ I am special because God made me ◇ God made people – alike and different ◇ God cares about everyone – all people are important to God
5	Adam and Eve's choice (Genesis 3)	◇ God wants us to love and obey Him ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices
6	God made me to choose (Genesis 2 + 3)	◇ God wants us to love and obey Him ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices ◇ I can say 'no' to what I know is wrong ◇ The Bible helps me to know the right things to do
7	God is with me all the time (Joshua 1:9)	◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ God will always love me ◇ God takes care of me

YEAR 2 - Theme - Creation

Biblical Truths for Creation :

- ◇ God created the earth and everything in it
- ◇ God is special, there is no one like Him!!!
- ◇ I can feel a sense of wonder at God's creation
- ◇ I can thank God for His creation



No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	Introduction to Creation BIBLE: Genesis 1 and 2 Beginners Bible pages 7-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God created the earth and everything in it ◇ God is special, there is no one like Him!!! ◇ God can do things people cannot do. ◇ I can feel a sense of wonder at God's creation ◇ I can thank God for His creation
2	Day 1 : God made light BIBLE: Genesis 1:1-5 BB pages 7,8	
3	Day 2 : God made sky and water BIBLE: Genesis 1:6-8 BB page 9	
4	Day 3 : God made land, sea and plants BIBLE: Genesis 1: 9-13 BB page 10	
5	Day 4 : God made sun, moon and stars BIBLE: Genesis 1: 14-19 BB page 11	
6	Day 5 : God made birds and fish BIBLE: Genesis 1: 20-23 BB page 12	
7	Day 6 : God made animals BIBLE: Genesis 1: 24-31 BB page 13	
8	Day 6 :God made people. God made me! BIBLE: Genesis 1: 24-31 BB page 13	
9	Creation overview : Day 7. Godly Play Creation Story BIBLE: Genesis 1 BB pages 7-17	

YEAR 1 - Theme - PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

Biblical Truths for People in the Bible Unit :

- ◇ God made people – all different to each other
- ◇ God can do things people cannot do
- ◇ The Bible helps me know the right thing to do
- ◇ God wants us to love and obey Him



No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	Noah BIBLE: genesis 6-9 Beginners Bible page 26-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can choose – I can make the right and wrong choices.
2	Joseph BIBLE: Genesis 37 Beginners Bible page 71-91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ God takes care of me – He takes care of all ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices ◇ What God says is true
3	Jonah BIBLE: Jonah Beginners Bible pages 257-264	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices
4	Joshua BIBLE: Numbers 13, Joshua 2 Beginners Bible pages 124-135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices ◇ God does what He says He will do ◇ God wants us to work together – people have different jobs
5	Elisha BIBLE: 1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-13; 2 Kings 4:1-17 Beginners Bible pages 216-229	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God takes care of me – He cares for all ◇ I can help others around me ◇ I can ask God to help others
6	Samuel : God wants to talk to me BIBLE: 1 Samuel 3 Beginners Bible pages 160-163	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can love God – I can talk to Him ◇ God wants me to talk to Him
7	I can talk to God anytime BIBLE: Matthew 69-13; Luke 11:1-4 Beginners Bible page 323	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God wants me to talk to Him ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can talk to God anywhere, anytime
8	I can pray for others BIBLE: Acts 2:42-47 Beginners Bible page 480-483	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God wants me to talk to Him ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can ask God to help others

YEAR 2 - Theme - PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

Biblical Truths for People in the Bible Unit :

- ◇ God made people – all different to each other
- ◇ God can do things people cannot do
- ◇ The Bible helps me know the right thing to do
- ◇ God wants us to love and obey Him



No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	Moses – birth Bible: Exodus 1-2:10 BB pages 92-97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ God takes care of me – He takes care of all
2	Moses – the Red Sea Bible: Exodus 14 BB pages 111-115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ God takes care of me – He takes care of all ◇ God can do things people cannot do ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices
3	Boy King Josiah 2 Kings 22:1-23:3 BB pages 235-239	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices ◇ God wants me to love and obey Him
4	Elijah (widow : flour and water) Bible: 1 Kings 17:1-24 BB pages 222-225	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God takes care of me – He takes care of all ◇ I can ask God to help others. ◇ God can do things people cannot do
5	David and Goliath Bible: 1 Samuel 17:1-51 BB pages 173-180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God takes care of me – He cares for all ◇
6	Daniel and the Lion's Den Bible: Daniel 6 BB pages 251-256	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ I can love God – I can talk to Him ◇ God wants me to talk to Him ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices. ◇ God wants us to love and obey Him
7	Daniel's 3 friends (furnace) Bible: Daniel 3 BB pages 247-250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ God takes care of me – He takes care of all ◇ I can choose – I can make right and wrong choices. ◇ God wants us to love and obey Him
8	People of the Bible overview : God is with me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇ God takes care of me – He takes care of all ◇ God can do things people cannot do ◇ God wants us to love and obey Him

YEAR 1 - Theme - THANK YOU GOD

Biblical Truths for Thank You God :

- ◇ Jesus taught people about God
- ◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do
- ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people.
- ◇ Jesus wants people to love and obey Him



No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	God knows my name! (Psalm 139) Thoughts to make your heart sing page 108-111	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God made me special ◇ God loves me and is with me
2	Thank you God – you give me what I need Bible: Matthew 5,6 BB pages 318-321 Jesus Storybook Bible pages 228-235	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God provides for His creation ◇ God wants us to care for the things He made
3	Thank you God, for making me special (Psalm 139) TTMYHS page 109	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God made me special ◇ God made people : alike and different
4	God loves me all the time Psalm 139:17-18 TTMYHS page 141	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God will always love me ◇ God loves me and is with me ◇
5	Thank you God for my family Genesis 37-50 BB pages 71-91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God planned a special family for me ◇ God takes care of my family
6	Thank you God for family that helps me Genesis 37-50 BB pages 71-91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God planned a special family for me ◇ My family helps me. I can help my family in many ways
7	Christmas (1) Luke 1 and 2 BB pages 266-294	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born
8	Christmas (2) Luke 1 and 2 BB pages 266-294	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ God can do things people cannot do ◇ I can tell others about Jesus
9	Christmas (3) Luke 1 and 2 BB pages 266-294	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ I can tell others about Jesus

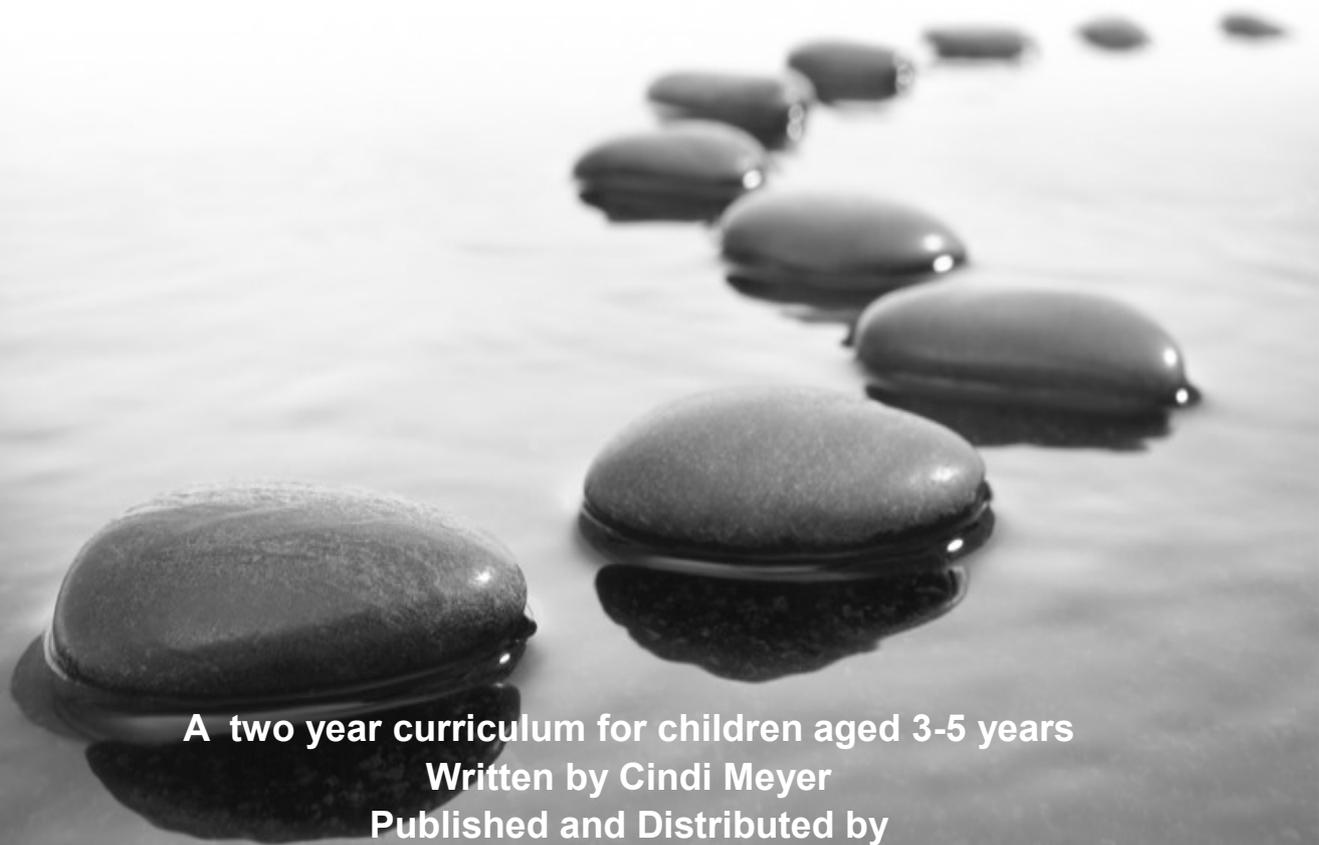
YEAR 2 - Theme - THANK YOU GOD, Christmas



Biblical Truths for Thank You God :

- ◇ Jesus taught people about God
- ◇ Jesus helped people and did things people cannot do
- ◇ Jesus loves me and helps me. He loves all people.

No.	Lesson	Biblical Truths (lesson specific)
1	Thank you – God knows me from head to toe Bible: Matthew 5:1-12; Beginners Bible pgs 318-321	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God made me special ◇ God made people : alike and different ◇ God loves me and is with me
2	Thank you God – you give me everything I need Bible: Exodus 16; Beginners Bible pgs 116-119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God provides for His creation ◇ God takes care of me – He cares for all ◇ God wants us to care for the things He made
3	Thank you God, you are always with me Bible: Psalm 23; Beginners Bible pgs 190-193	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God provides for His creation ◇ God takes care of me—He cares for all ◇ I can thank God!
4	Thank you God for my special family Bible: Ruth 1-4 Beginner's Bible pgs 152-155	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God planned a special family for me ◇ My family loves me – God wants us to all to love each other. ◇ God wants me to listen to my parents ◇ God takes care of my family
5	Thank you God for family that helps Bible: Ruth 1-4 Beginner's Bible pgs 152-155	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God planned a special family for me ◇ My family helps me. ◇ I can help my family in many ways
6	Thank you God, I can praise you !!! Bible: Acts 2: 42-47 Beginners Bible pgs 480-483	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ God is special – there is no one like Him ◇ I can talk to God – I can love Him ◇ I can thank God – I can sing and praise Him
7	Christmas (1) Bible: Luke 1—2; Beginners Bible pages 266-281	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born
8	Christmas (2) Bible: Luke 1—2; Beginners Bible pages 266-281	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ God can do things people cannot do ◇ I can tell others about Jesus
9	Christmas (3) Bible: Luke 1—2; Beginners Bible pages 266-290	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jesus was sent to earth by God ◇ I can tell others about Jesus



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