



## **A Giant kids Ministry Curriculum**

By Laura A Ottaviano

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# INTRODUCTION

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of the ABC's of GOD is to present to children ages 4-10 the Grammar of God, the basic foundational facts of God's nature and His dealings with man. Even more basic than doctrine, these facts define a right concept of God: God is the Creator, God is good, God is fair, God is powerful, God cares about us, etc. Every subject that can be learned has a basic foundation of facts that must be learned before higher concepts can be understood. Before learning to read, one must learn the ABC's; before learning Algebra, one must learn the numbers, addition and subtraction. To learn to cook, you must first learn about measurements, food qualities, and tools. These basic facts are called the Grammar of a subject. (Hence the term "Grammar School.") These facts, often presented much earlier than a young child can understand the fuller concept, provide "pegs" or "hooks" on a wall of learning.

## ESSENTIALS

Each lesson in the series includes three essential ideas: the main point, the memory verse and the heart of God. These truths should be repeated throughout the lesson and interwoven in the discussion of the other lesson elements. Be particularly mindful to share the heart of God with the children in every element of the lesson. This represents what God really wants them to know about Him and the way He feels toward them.

## METHOD

The ABC's of GOD presents the Grammar of God through basic Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation. Although the Bible stories are the primary focus of each lesson, the lesson also contains other elements to reinforce the main point and reach all types of learners. These should be adapted for the age group being taught, allowing for 1 minute per year of the average age of the children so you do not exceed the attention span of the children. Each new element refreshes their attention, but any one element should not go longer than their attention span.

## REVIEW

The best review tool each week are the ABC review blocks. These can be made using any size square box. Each block should contain a letter associated with a main point. For example, for Lesson 1 "God created everything" you could use a "C." Add colorful pictures of the Bible story or objects that will be used to teach the lesson. These blocks can be used to introduce and review the lessons along with their main points. If you prefer, you can use printed or creative cardstock or laminated letter pages instead of blocks. Either way, make your review materials sturdy enough to withstand use as manipulatives throughout the 13 weeks.

Each week, have the children repeat each main point starting at lesson one and reviewing all

previous lessons. Review time will take longer each week, but the reinforcement is an important aspect of transferring the Grammar facts to the children. Children can take turns holding the blocks, stacking them or even playing a quick up front game where you scramble the blocks and ask the kids to put them in the proper order. Time them to see who can do it the fastest! (Since the lessons build along the history timeline of the Bible, this order is also important to learn.)

Each lesson contains a suggested order of lesson elements on the Overview page. Every teacher is welcome to “boss the books” by the leading of the Holy Spirit. He alone knows what would be best for your students. Finally, if children are young, these lessons can be either broken in half

and taught across two weeks or repeated for two weeks if needed for the children to remember.



## LESSON ELEMENTS



The introduction and review portion of the lesson establishes where you are going for the day. For all lessons besides lesson 1, this is your chance to review previous lessons and allow the children to see the scope of the story of God. Introduce the Main Point and lead the the kids in saying it

out loud with you. Go over the Memory Verse. Choose a fun way to help them sow the word into their memories. This section helps you tell them “What you are going to tell them,” a powerful step in prepping their hearts to hear the truth that follows. Also, present God’s perspective through the Heart of God at this time. What does God think about the story we will be learning? And how does that make a difference in how we can apply the main point?

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These classic Bible stories tie the Grammar facts to well-known Bible heroes. Moses learns that God

wants to guide us as he witnesses God carefully laying out the law to the Israelites. David understands that God wants partnership with His people as he experiences God's amazing power to overcome an enemy. Daniel discovers that no one can stop God's plan for your life even if they throw you in with man-eating lions. Use of costumes and drama, interviews with characters and fun props make the Bible stories come to life.



Each lesson includes a puppet skit with a lively character named Peek Abu. Peek is a heavenly being

who has been "in on" all the Bible stories (well, almost) and can tell the children a little more about what happened. This loveable character gives the children another angle from which to view the traditional Bible stories, but his bumbling ways leave enough room for the teacher and the children to have to fill in the blanks. Peek Abu skits are a favorite with the kids and provide a great way to get them learning by teaching.



Illustrated sermons use colorful illustrations and materials children are familiar with to help magnify the heart of God. When children "see"

the point made by the use of these examples they are much more likely to understand and remember it.



Small Group Craft activities combine the main point with a creative outlet, helping children busy themselves

around the main point. They are also a great take home item to help remember the lesson. While Bible story time, puppets and lessons elements can be taught to a large group, crafts can be used in stations or to break into small groups by age.

# CURRICLUM OVERVIEW

## 13 WEEKS

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- Lesson 1 ..... “C” - God **Created** Everything *Creation Story*
- Lesson 2 ..... “E” - God Has an **Enemy** *Fall of Man*
- Lesson 3 ..... “R” - God **Rescues** Those Who Seek Him *Noah & the Flood*
- Lesson 4 ..... “F” - God Wants a **Family** *Abraham & God’s Covenant*
- Lesson 5 ..... “G” - God Will **Guide** Us *Moses & the Law*
- Lesson 6 ..... “W” - God Wants to **Work** with Us *David Conquers Goliath*
- Lesson 7 ..... “P” - God Has a **Plan** for Us *Daniel Survives the Lions*
- Lesson 8 ..... “M” - God is **Merciful** to All *Jonah Preaches to Nineveh*
- Lesson 9 ..... “L” - God **Loves** Us *Jesus is Sent as God’s Gift*
- Lesson 10 ..... “V” - God is **Victorious** *Jesus is Raised from the Grave*
- Lesson 11 ..... “T” - God Wants Us to **Tell** Others about His Love *Peter & John Spread the News*
- Lesson 12 ..... “O” - God Helps Us **Overcome** Trouble *Paul & Silas and the Praise Jailbreak*
- Lesson 13 ..... “H” - God Has a **Home** for Us in Heaven *John’s Revelation of Heaven*