



OVERVIEW

God gives children a profound sense of wonder about the world and how it works. They are discovering that words are all around them—in books, at the supermarket, and in their homes. They play with language, which is an important step in learning to read. They are beginning to use larger number sets and to understand longer and shorter periods of time. They are ready to expand their world beyond their immediate surroundings. God's Big WORLD exposes early readers to a range of new information, building their personal library of facts and concepts.

EACH SECTION INCLUDES:

- Three stories
- Teaching tips
- Easy-reading words and sentences
- Photo slide show
- Skill-building fun puzzles and activities

RECOMMENDED PACING:

- God's Big WORLD is organized into sets of eight weekly lessons that detach from the magazine as separate four-page lessons.
- Each lesson includes three short stories plus a skill-building activity.
- The stories have an easy-reading component for the student to practice reading, as well as a background teaching tip.

EXAMPLE LESSONS:

Lesson #1: *It Takes More Than a Stamp.* Do your children know how the U.S. Postal Service works? Show them this video (<https://unctv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/596fdec9-36aa-4f7b-818e-d8701259ac0e/post-office-field-trip/>). It takes you to a local Post Office. If you want a broader picture of the postal service, watch this video (<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/united-states-postal-service-systems-at-work>). Let the kids design their own stamps. Or have them draw a picture to thank a mail carrier for his/her hard work.

Pray: Thank God for the many people who work for the USPS. Their service reminds us of Jesus. "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." (Mark 10:45)

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Lesson #2: Fascinating Bees. Is your family interested in learning about beekeeping? The American Bee Federation (<https://www.abfnet.org/page/16>) sponsors educational programs about bees and beekeeping. Your county farm service agency also might have programs to help you get started. Many internet sites encourage family beekeeping as well. Look at <https://www.hobbyfarms.com/4-tips-for-beekeeping-with-children/> or <https://www.organicbackyardbeekeeper.com/beekeeping-for-kids-educational-beneficial-hobby-for-any-age/> for ideas.

Pray: Honeybee numbers are falling in North America. Ask God to help people understand how to protect these bees. Proverbs 16:4 tells us, “Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.”

Lesson #3: Pipe Organs Explained. Our young children loved to visit Grandma’s house for many reasons. And one of them was her electric organ. They were fascinated by the pedals, double keyboard, the stops, and the sounds that came from the instrument. Different kinds of organs and their parts are explained at [https://kids.kiddle.co/Organ_\(music\)](https://kids.kiddle.co/Organ_(music)). Do you have a church or churches in your area that still use a pipe organ for worship—and concerts? See if you can schedule a visit/tour. Heidi Bender (<https://e1b94p4yit.onrocket.site/7-ways-to-find-pipe-organ-concert/>) offers suggestions of ways you could find a pipe organ concert in your area.

Pray: Ask God to help you worship Him in song, no matter what instrument is being played. Psalm 69:30 says, “I will praise the name of God with a song.”

Lesson #4: Get Out the Board Games. In 2014, Anderson Andral set out to teach young people in his part of Haiti the country’s traditional games. He fitted a camper with jacks, marbles, checkers, and Haitian board games such as kay (like mancala). Once a month he ventured out to a different city to entice children used to looking at screens by themselves to sit at board games and play and converse with others. Have you shared with your kids some games that you liked to play as a child? Do they know how to jump rope or play hopscotch? Mr. Adral says, “Today, very few people remember the games we liked so much in the countryside.”

Pray: for the families who live where the earthquake and hurricane hit in Haiti. Rebuilding a home and replanting crops takes a long time. Ask for many believers to give help to those people. May the believers remind those hurting that, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

Lesson #5: Tree House Poetry. Find a copy of Shel Silverstein’s two-verse “Tree House” poem. Read it aloud together. Read the poem “Magic Treehouse” by Wayne Edwards too (<http://www.familypoet.com/magic-treehouse/>). Would your children like to have a tree house? What would it look like? Could they write a poem about it? Look at suggestions for doing so at <https://poetry.arizona.edu/education/curriculum/design-tree-house>. If you need encouragement about how to teach poetry to your children, read this: <https://treehouseschoolhouse.com/blogs/blog/poetry-in-your-homeschool>. We sing poetry every Sunday when we sing hymns. And there is much poetry in the Bible. It is Hebrew poetry, so it doesn’t look or sound like the poems we read. But Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations all are poetry. Look at the way Ecclesiastes 1 is written. Read the chapter aloud together.

Lesson #6: *Make Your Own Raisins.* If winter is mild where you live, you might have at least three days in a row of warm sunshine, which is what you will need for this experiment from <http://www.planet-science.com/categories/under-11s/our-world/2012/05/make-your-own-raisins.aspx>. You will need fresh red seedless grapes, a baking tray, something to cover the grapes, and the Sun. Gently wash and dry the grapes. Spread them on the baking tray so none are touching. Cover them with a kitchen towel or pillowcase (to keep bugs away). Be sure the cover cannot blow away. Leave the tray outdoors in a spot that gets full sunlight for at least three days. (Take it in at night if it is damp.) Psalm 113:3 says, “From the rising of the Sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!”

Lesson #7: *Count Your Backyard Birds.* For 25 years, ordinary folks have been asked to spend as few as 15 minutes in their backyards counting all the birds they see there. The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21. Visit <https://www.birdcount.org/participate/> to learn what to do. Bird populations shift and change. Each checklist submitted during this time helps researchers learn more about bird populations. Your family may not want to participate in this large-scale count. But it could be a fun family activity to really notice the birds that visit or fly above your backyard. “Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26)

Pray: Thank God for His faithful love for individuals.

Lesson #8: *Ways To Teach Kids about Money.* Did you ever think to use a clear glass jar as your child’s “piggy bank”? Ramsey Solutions (<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/relationships/how-to-teach-kids-about-money>) suggests that a clear container helps children see their money growing. “Yesterday, they had a dollar bill and five dimes. Today, they have a dollar bill, five dimes, and a quarter!” Make a big deal about it as you praise God for His provision. This site also includes 14 other ideas for teaching your children of all ages about money. Among these are to stress giving and teaching them contentment. Hebrews 13:5 reminds us, “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Pray: Thank God for all that we have and ask Him to cultivate hearts of gratitude and trust.

**In addition to the print magazine,
use the God’s Big WORLD website at:**

GodsBigWorld.wng.org