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: Family Stargazing. As we were returning home from church one Minnesota winter’s night, we parents marveled aloud at all the stars we could see. Our four-year-old asked quizzically, “What are stars?” We were flabbergasted. She was our third child. Had we never pointed the stars out to her? Her star education quickly commenced! Whatever the ages of your kids, stargazing is a fun family activity—even in winter. And it is a wonderful way to experience the immensity of God’s creation. Here are several sites to help you get started: https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/astronomy/a-kids-guide-to-stargazing; https://wanderlust.com/journal/how-to-start-stargazing-with-your-kids/; and https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/stargazing-for-kids/. Memorize Psalm 147:4 together: “He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.”
Lesson #2: Sleep Is Important. Parents know how important sleep is. But do your kids? Do they know that children ages three to 10 need 10-12 hours of sleep each night? Sleep allows their brains to learn, imprint memories, solve problems, and use their imaginations. Sleep also helps their bodies grow, heal from injuries, and fight sickness. You might want to discover new things about sleep with your children at this site: http://www.sleepforkids.org/index.html. It explains sleep cycles and dreaming too. “It is vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives sleep to His beloved.” (Psalm 127:2)

Lesson #3: Paper Airplane or Helicopter. For a short biography of the Wright Brothers, go to https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/wright-brothers. Then let your kids try their hands at making their own aircraft. Several ideas can be found here: https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/lessonplans/flight.html. “Like birds hovering, so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 31:5)

Lesson #4: Fishy Sculptures. Art teacher Cassie Stephens has fun ideas for sculpting activities (from paper to clay) for kids. First graders completed these fish sculptures: https://cassiestephens.blogspot.com/2015/05/in-art-room-first-grade-slab-fish-and.html. Her kindergarten through fourth grade students all completed these with paper: https://cassiestephens.blogspot.com/2018/08/in-art-room-getting-to-know-you-paper.html. You also might like her list of sculpture projects: https://cassiestephens.blogspot.com/2019/04/my-favorite-sculpture-projects-for.html. We are creative because our God created us in His own image. What a privilege! Read Genesis 1 with your kids.

Lesson #5: Take Me to the Symphony. Many towns and cities across the United States have their own symphony orchestras. These orchestras are eager to have children come to concerts. They even work with educators by supplying them with orchestra guides and playlists. Look at these two to see what they offer: https://www.dallassymphony.org/community-education/dso-kids/teacher-parent-resources/lesson-plans/ and https://www.sandiegosymphony.org/static/media/uploads/Education/YPC/1819ypc02_learningguide_youngpersonsguide.pdf. If you plan to take your children to an orchestra performance, reach out to the office of your symphony to see if it provides similar resources. “David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.” (1 Chronicles 15:16)
Lesson #6: Betty Crocker Helps Out. My husband and I grew up in the same state, but in towns over 200 miles apart. If we reminisce about “the old days,” we are surprised to learn that our mothers often served us the exact same dishes. Most were from Betty Crocker. If you have any older Betty Crocker cookbooks (maybe handed down from your mother or grandmothers), let your children look through them. Are there recipes you still use, such as “Cheesy Sausage and Egg Bake” or “Honey Bun Cake”? Try this site: https://www.bettycrocker.com/menus-holidays-parties/mhplibrary/seasonal-ideas/the-most-popular-recipe-in-your-state to see some favorites. “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’” (John 6:35)

Lesson #7: Games Kids in Egypt Might Play. Children around the world have much in common. Kids in Egypt play Hide and Seek, Tug-of-War, and dodgeball, just as your children do. Plan an outdoor game day with your family. Teach the kids some of the games you used to play. Try jumping rope or playing with hula hoops. Red Light-Green Light, Simon Says, or Captain May I? are a little less active for playing indoors. “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.” (Psalm 128:2)

Lesson #8: Monarch Butterflies. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has a resource guide, Teaching about the Magnificent Monarchs, that has curriculum guides and classroom lessons for all grade levels at https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/4715/1630/6270/MonarchResourceGuide1217.pdf. One lesson plan is designed for preschool children to third graders. It is called “Live Monarchs in the Classroom” and may be found at http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/institute/lesson-clearinghouse/558-Butterfly-Science.html. It includes nine science activities. It was written for “Earth’s Birthday Project” and includes links to purchasing some items. But the “Butterfly Science” lesson plan is free. You and your children will be able to marvel and praise the most magnificent God who made this unique creature. Read 1 Corinthians 5:17.

In addition to the print magazine, use the God’s Big WORLD website at: GodsBigWorld.wng.org