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: Balance Games. Having good balance is necessary for children to take part in sports and other physical activities. And we never really outgrow our need to have good balance. Let your kids have fun playing games that have been around for a long time: Twister, the crab walk, bowling, hopscotch, and Freeze are just a few. Have them walk on a garden hose laid out in your yard. Or suspend a ladder horizontally in the backyard and have the children walk across it. You might even want to join in the fun!

Lesson #2: Map Skills. Teacher Janelle Cox offers some ways to help your children learn map skills (https://www.thoughtco.com/first-grade-map-skills-unit-plan-2081798). She suggests
beginning with examples of real maps and explaining a compass rose. Other lessons include how to use different features of maps and how the students can make their own. Maps help us find our way. Remind your children not to fear. God knows when they sit down and when they rise up. He searches out their paths. Read Psalm 139:1-4.

Lesson #3: Census Taking. The U.S. government has many resources for helping you to teach your young students about this year's decennial census. Browse through https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/k-12/creating-taking-survey.html to get some ideas.

Lesson #4: Stargazing. Perhaps you already are beginning to think about summer break and things you can do as a family. Maybe the Tycho Brahe story will encourage you to try stargazing. You might have to travel a ways to escape bright lights if you live in a city. Even if you simply retreat to your backyard, you’ll need to make some preparations (pillows and blankets or reclining lawn chairs, insect repellent, snacks, and sweaters for cooler temps after dark). Sean Walker at https://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-resources/stargazing-family-style also suggests having red flashlights (cover the white light portion with a piece of red cellophane and secure with a rubber band). An evening spent this way under the stars will help your children (and you) realize the immensity of God’s creation. “His understanding is beyond measure.” (Psalm 147:5)

Lesson #5: Family Photos and Stories. It’s fun to look at family photos and talk about what is pictured. Have your children seen a grandparent’s old photos? These pictures can provide good opportunities for your children to learn more about the lives of the older members of your family. Or ask an older member of your church with whom you are friendly to share some photos and memories with your children. These two sites might be helpful if you want to get serious about researching your family history: (https://familylocket.com/family-history-for-children-and-teens) and (https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/getting-started). “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God, and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)

Lesson #7: Locust Plague. The eighth plague God sent upon the Egyptians was locusts (see Exodus 10:1-20). Here’s a short rhyme we used to help our children remember all ten plagues in order. Blood and frogs and gnats and flies; Death to the cattle And boils on the hides. Hail and locusts Followed by night. Death to the firstborn Showed God’s might.

Lesson #8: Volcano! We try not to make stories like the one on the Taal volcano frightening for children. Building their own volcano will give your children an idea about how heat and pressure work to make volcanoes erupt. Here’s one how-to: (https://sciencebob.com/make-your-own-volcano). “The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.” (Exodus 19:18)

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