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:

Section #1: Look and Listen. Most birds make some kind of noise. But songbirds utter pleasing sounds—whistles, chirps, or melodies. You can hear them almost any time of the day and in nearly every season. Take advantage of warm summer days to sit with your children and listen to those songs. Sally Roth (https://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/bird-species/songbirds/top-songbirds-america) categorizes American songbirds. Many might live in your area. Sarah Mullet (https://www.letsplaykidsmusic.com/birdsong-listening-game) has a game you can play to help you and your kids remember the songs you hear. And learn together this hymn by Maria Straub: “God sees the little sparrow fall, it meets His tender view; if God so loves the little birds, I know He loves me too . . . .”
Section #2: Stormy Galilee. Read Mark 4:35-41 with your children. Talk about why the disciples were so afraid. Give them each a cork bottle stopper (“boat”) that has been scored so that they can fit a triangle-shaped piece of card stock into the slits. These will serve as sails. Fill a dishpan, sink, tub, or wading pool with enough water for the corks to float. Let the children sail their boats. (Let them make the water stormy too.) Then ask them to try to sink their boats. What happens? The disciples did not know they were in a boat that would not sink. Remind the children that Jesus always has the power over the winds and the waves.

Section #3: Sourdough Science. Bread—perhaps much like today’s sourdough—had been a staple in the diet of nearly every culture in the world before Louis Pasteur first identified yeast under his microscope. People all over the world bake sourdough, and you and your children can too, if you haven’t already. Get a recipe, make the starter, and learn the science behind this bread at https://zerowastechef.com/2015/10/08/kitchen-science-for-kids-sourdough-starter-lesson-plan. And remember that Jesus said, “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall not thirst.” (John 6:35)


Section #5: Window Art. Mom, would you let the kids do this on a rainy day? Provide newspapers or other protection for the floor under a window. Provide poster paint and brushes as if the kids will be doing an art project on paper. Instead, allow them to paint designs or scenes directly onto a window! The artwork will wash off easily when you want to see the outdoors again.

Section #6: Read Aloud. Teacher and reading tutor Peggy Kaye says this about reading aloud to your children: “Reading aloud to your child is probably the best single thing you can do to turn your child into a good reader,” and “Don’t stop reading aloud just because your child can read on his own.” There are many resources to provide you with ideas for good reading material for your family. Honey for a Child’s Heart by Gladys Hunt is an oldie but a goodie. Mrs. Hunt says this: “The instruction to train up a child in the way he should go encompasses so much more than teaching him the facts of the gospel. It is to train the child’s character . . . to
provide largeness of thought . . . an adequate view of God and His world . . . We have books and The Book at our disposal to use wisely for God’s glory.”

Section #7: Hurricanes and Hula-Hoops. To give your kids a very basic idea of what a hurricane/ cyclone is like, give each child a hula-hoop. Explain that each of them is a thunderstorm that’s formed above warm ocean water. Have the children stand inside their hoops. Each lifts the hoop as they slowly spin around. Then ask them to move all together in a larger circle, spinning as they do. (Have them leave a space in the middle to be the “eye” of the hurricane.) Use this activity to review your family plan for when severe weather strikes. Deuteronomy 31:6 tells us, “Do not fear . . . for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you alone or forsake you.”

Section #8: Magnetic Robots. Here’s an idea (https://fun-a-day.com/magnetic-robot-art-with-tin-cans) for the younger members of the family. But the older kids might have fun helping out or creating their own as well. Have fun and enjoy the rest of your summer!

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