

## 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
- Videos—each story read aloud and visually enhanced
- 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.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EXAMPLE LESSONS:

**Lesson #1:** *Hands-on Mars Activities.* Homeschooling mom Stef Layton offers some suggestions to extend learning about Mars: Have the kids sculpt the red planet from clay. Let them add the polar ice caps and the largest volcano in our solar system, Olympus Mons. Make your favorite granola bars recipe. But have the kids roll the ingredients into balls. Discuss the core of Mars—red-hot iron. Or freeze some small toys inside ice cubes. Discuss the planet's cold temperatures while they chisel the toys out of the ice.

**Lesson #2:** *A Waiting Game.* Time spent in the airport waiting for a flight can be the most difficult part of your trip. Here's a game the children will enjoy whether you are in the classroom or waiting for your plane—the more players the merrier. A good imagination is all that is needed. Pretend that you are traveling alone and are seated on the plane. The first person turns to the one next to her and introduces herself. Then she asks the other person a silly question, such as, "Do you have a pet billy goat at home?" The one asked must make up an answer on the spot. It will then be his turn to ask the next person a question. Go around the room, allowing each child to ask and answer several questions before you announce that the plane is landing.

**Lesson #3:** *Twig Weaving.* All you need for this activity are straight dry twigs and some yarn. Use autumn colors if you like. Position three twigs into a star shape and bind them together in the center with yarn. Now the children can weave their yarn around the star. Go over the first twig, wrap the yard around it, loop the yarn back over the top and along to the next twig. Change yarn colors by cutting one color and knotting it to the new color. Knots can be hidden on the reverse side of the star. You also could attach a piece of yarn to one of the twigs for hanging the star.

**Lesson #4:** *The First Thanksgiving.* The Puritans, who were the first English people to settle in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, did not observe many of the religious holidays of the Church of England. But a special celebration took place in the fall of 1621. The Indian chief Massasoit and a large number of his men came to visit their new allies in Plymouth. This is what Edward Winslow, one governor of Plymouth Colony, later wrote: "Our harvest being gotten in . . . many of the Indians amongst us . . . whom for three days we entertained and feasted; and they went out and killed five deer which they brought to the Plantation." "Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good". (Psalm 100:4-5)

**Lesson #5:** *Ten-Minute Writing.* No doubt you have children who love to write and those for whom writing is misery. This activity, suggested by Peggy Kaye, can be used for all writers. Children will feel better about writing only when they actually write. So get some nice notebooks and pencils and decide that all of you, yes, you too (kids need to see messy first drafts from adults to become more relaxed writers themselves), will write for exactly ten minutes. Start with some fun lists, like "three ways to make your mom laugh" or "eight ways to pack for a trip to the moon." Then come up with a list of interesting topics: "The Day I Was Invisible," "My Perfect Birthday," or "My Advice to My Older (or Younger) Brother (or Sister)." Set the timer and write, erase, and scribble away.

**Lesson #6:** *Play a Korean Game.* Besides eating dumplings, Korean families enjoy playing a game called "Yut Nori." Many play on New Year's Day when all of the relatives come together. People are divided into teams, usually two, but often more, if there are many people. And then the oldest grandmother is chosen to be the judge. A board of rectangular shape, four five-inch-long sticks made of wood, and small tokens are the only equipment. The upside of each stick is rounded and the downside is flat. Each team tosses the sticks in turn. Scoring depends on how many sticks land flat side up, with one point for each. But a team gets five points if all four sticks land rounded side up. This is hard to do. Walmart and other online stores sell this game, if you would like to try it.

**Lesson #7:** *Pray for Indonesia.* More than half of all the people in the world live in just five countries: China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Indonesia. And many of these people have yet to hear the gospel. Over half of all the Muslim people in the world live in Indonesia. So besides all the help the people in Sulawesi need to recover from the strong earthquake, they also need to hear about Jesus. You and your children might not be able to offer physical help to these people, but you can PRAY for them and for those who have gone to their rescue. "Who is on the Lord's side?" begins Frances R. Havergal's hymn. "Who will be His helpers? Who for Him will go?"

**Lesson #8:** *Christmas Cards.* Sir Henry Cole was a man with many friends back in 1843 England. He was getting stacks of letters from them, and it was impolite not to answer mail. So Sir Cole asked his friend, artist J.C. Horsley, to paint a picture of a family celebrating Christmas around a table. Sir Cole had one thousand copies of the painting printed on stiff cardboard sheets the size of a postcard. Each one was printed with "TO \_\_\_\_\_." He could send one greeting to every person to whom he owed a reply. This was the first Christmas card. Consider allowing your children to design their family cards this Christmas. What would be the best message to include in each? Luke 2:10-11? "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

In addition to the print magazine, use the God's Big WORLD website at [godsbigworld.wng.org](http://godsbigworld.wng.org). The video versions of the stories are especially useful for visual and auditory learners and for helpful repetition.