



The ABCs of God

Overview for Parents

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Under God, parents are the most important teachers in a child's life. God has given parents the following command for teaching their children:



*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.
6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
7 You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way,
and when you lie down, and when you rise.
8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

—Deuteronomy 6:4-9

For this reason, we have prepared a Growing in Faith Together page for every lesson in this curriculum. These pages are to assist you in nurturing the faith of your child.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The ABCs of God was written to present children with the beauty and awesome grandeur of the incomparable greatness and worth of God. Toward this end, this curriculum uses the framework of the alphabet to teach children key attributes of God and other words that define His character. These are deep doctrinal truths that answer the most important questions for each of us, namely:

Who is God?
What is God like?
How should I act toward God?

Furthermore, there is a strategic design and flow to the study that slowly and carefully leads to a clear presentation of the Gospel. In doing so, the children will better see and understand the essence, means, and goal of salvation within the larger context of God's character.

How are the Growing in Faith Together pages used?

Each Growing in Faith Together page will include the following information to help you initiate meaningful discussions with your child:

LESSON TITLE

The lesson titles reflect the key attribute or theme of the lesson. The attributes encompass the alphabet from A to Z, but they are not introduced in alphabetical order. Rather, they reflect a thematic order and, in many cases, they build on previous attributes and themes.

MAIN IDEAS

These are the key concepts that are taught in the lesson. Each reflects a simple definition of the attribute or theme that was introduced. Discuss these with your child and help him or her to memorize each definition.

MEMORY VERSE

Every lesson has one or two memory verses. These verses have been chosen to be both child-friendly and to give your child a strong, Bible-based foundation for understanding who God is and what He is like. All verses are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) of Scripture. We cannot overemphasize the significance of memorized Scripture in the walk of faith.

SCRIPTURE

The Scripture references listed in this section are used in the lesson to reveal the Main Ideas. If possible, read these Bible stories and texts at home, and ask your child questions about the truths revealed in these texts. This will serve to reinforce the biblical truths taught. Challenge your child to embrace and grow in faith.

LESSON SUMMARY

This section is meant to not only give you an overview of the main theological themes that were taught in the lesson, but also to inspire and build up your own faith.

PRAYER POINTS

This section offers a few suggestions of how you might pray for your child as you seek to instruct his or her mind and heart in light of the character of God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Heart application is a vital part of each lesson. We do not want to just teach toward the goal of intellectual understanding, but also toward the goal of spiritual understanding so that God—who He is and what He is like—is fully embraced and treasured in the heart. Although teachers and parents cannot create saving faith in a child (this is the work of the Holy Spirit), we can challenge and encourage a child to rightly respond to biblical truth in his or her own life. To assist you in this endeavor, we have included several possible discussion starters to use with your child. Hopefully, these will lead to further spiritual conversation between you and your child.

ACTION STEP

Action Steps are simple activities to help your child understand that he or she must act in response to the Word, not just passively listen to it.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Because Bible memory is so important, all the memory verses are included with an activity at the end of the page. Help your child memorize these verses and discuss what they mean as he or she completes the activity. Pray with your child about his or her response to the Word of God.



Scope and Sequence

Lesson 1: Questions

The most important questions are: Who is God? What is God like? How should I act toward God?
The Bible gives us the true answers to the most important questions.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b

Lesson 2: Incomprehensible

God is more than we can fully understand.

Memory Verse: Job 37:5

Lesson 3: YHWH (Yahweh)

Yahweh is God's personal name. God desires to make His name known.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8a; Psalm 9:10a

Lesson 4: Eternal

God has no beginning or end.

Memory Verse: Psalm 90:2

Lesson 5: Creator

God made everything.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:24b

Lesson 6: Glorious

God shows His greatness and worth.

Memory Verses: Psalm 19:1; Psalm 72:19a

Lesson 7: Wise

God causes everything to work out perfectly.

Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24a

Lesson 8: Almighty

God is all-powerful.

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:17

Lesson 9: Sovereign

God has the right and wisdom and power to do all He pleases.

Memory Verse: Psalm 115:3

Lesson 10: Provider

God meets the needs of His creation.

Memory Verse: Acts 17:25b

Lesson 11: Self-Sufficient

God does not need anything.

Memory Verse: Acts 17:25

Lesson 12: Understanding

God remembers that we are weak.

Memory Verses: Psalm 103:13-14

Lesson 13: Attentive

God constantly sees, hears, and acts in the world.

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:15

Lesson 14: Faithful

God always does what He says he will do.

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Lesson 15: Trinity

God is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19

Lesson 16: Happy

God delights in being God.

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:15b

Lesson 17: Love

God gives of Himself for the joy of others.

Memory Verse: John 3:16

Lesson 18: Omnipresent

God is everywhere all the time.

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 23:24

Lesson 19: Refuge

God is a place of safety for His people.

Memory Verses: Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 46:1

Lesson 20: Unchanging

God never changes.

Memory Verses: Malachi 3:6a; Hebrews 13:8

Lesson 21: Omniscient

God knows everything.

Memory Verse: 1 John 3:20b

Lesson 22: Good

God is good in all He is and does.

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:9

Lesson 23: Jealous

God will not share His glory, or the honor and praise He deserves.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8; Exodus 34:14

Lesson 24: Righteous

Everything that God thinks, says, and does is right.

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:137

Lesson 25: Wrathful

God is very angry at sin, and is right to punish sinners.

Memory Verse: Romans 1:18a

Lesson 26: Patient

God is slow to anger and slow to punish.

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:9

Lesson 27: Merciful

God is kind to undeserving sinners.

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:8

Lesson 28: Zealous

God acts with His whole heart.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:13

Lesson 29: Deliverer

God saves His sinful people from the punishment they deserve.

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15a

Lesson 30: Victorious

God always wins, even over Satan, sin, and death.

Memory Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:11a

Lesson 31: King

God rules over everyone.

Memory Verses: Psalm 47:7a, 8

Lesson 32: eXalted

God ranks far above everything else. He is the Most High.

Memory Verse: Psalm 97:9

Lesson 33: Holy

God is like nothing else. He is perfect and is separate from sin.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:25

Lesson 34: Worthy

God is most valuable and deserves our greatest love, obedience, and worship.

Memory Verse: Philippians 3:8a

Lesson 35: Bountiful

God is more than enough to satisfy all our desires.

Memory Verse: Psalm 13:6

Lesson 36: Never-Tiring

God never gets tired and never sleeps.

Memory Verses: Isaiah 40:28b; Psalm 121:3b

Lesson 37: Seeking God

Seeking God means experiencing a desperate need for God's forgiveness and calling out to Jesus to save you.

Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:13; Romans 10:13

Lesson 38: Loving God

Loving God is knowing, feeling, and treating God as your greatest treasure.

Memory Verse: Psalm 73:25

Lesson 39: Trusting and Obeying God

Trusting and obeying God means following and obeying God because you know Him to be trustworthy.

Memory Verse: John 10:27

Lesson 40: Enjoying God

Those who trust in Jesus can experience the great and lasting joy of being God's children and enjoying Him forever.

Memory Verse: Psalm 16:11