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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

for and on behalf of LifeThought, LLC

for and on behalf of Your Institution

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# SCRIPTURE ADVENTURES

## *Teachers' Guide*

Helping children develop a love for God's Word is one of the best gifts that you can give them. A solid knowledge of gospel principles, an interest in the stories of the Bible, and a testimony of Jesus Christ are irreplaceable.



*Scripture Adventures* curriculum is designed to help children discover the heroes in the Bible and to help them see what God wants them to learn from the stories of those heroes.

*Scripture Adventures* systematically introduces children to the Old and New Testament using selections from the actual text of the Bible, character spotlights, beautiful Bible artwork, and thoughtful response questions. Learning is reinforced with puzzles, drawings, hands-on projects, copy work, and presentations that kids can give in the classroom or at home. Memory verses included in each unit will help children commit important principles to memory.

### **IMPORTANCE OF READING THE BIBLE**

When children read truth, they feel the Spirit of God. Truth brings with it enlightenment of mind and a love of God. This in turn aids their ability to learn. Consider this verse:

*"It is the Spirit that quickeneth."* —John 6:63

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* —Psalm 119:105

The spirit of God that children feel while reading and studying these lessons, backed up by solid educational principles on which these lessons are built, will ensure that their comprehension and reading skills will grow. Their ability to learn to read and understand is enhanced by the nature of the material they are reading.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the *Scripture Adventures* program is twofold. The first is an increased familiarity with the stories of the *Bible* and a greater ability to approach reading it alone. Children will have a positive experience with the scriptures.

The second objective is educational. As children work through this program they will be practicing skills that will help them in a variety of academic ways:

- ◆ increased reading fluency
- ◆ improved comprehension
- ◆ better penmanship
- ◆ improved concentration
- ◆ ability to express ideas through illustration
- ◆ enhanced memory skills through memorization
- ◆ better spelling skills

## **WHAT IS IN EACH UNIT?**

### **1. Read and Respond:**

In each lesson, selected text from the *Bible* is included along with an introduction and explanation of the text. Historical background is given as needed and clarification of important principles is made. In many lessons thoughtful response questions ask children to think about what they read, look for specific information from the text, or apply what they learned to today's world. In a classroom setting, these questions may be done orally as a group. Discussion is encouraged.

The purpose of these types of questions is to give the children a chance to really think about the story and begin to form opinions about the characters and their decisions.

### **2. Review and Reinforce:**

Some lessons ask children to draw a picture of a scene from the story, unscramble words they have read about, or match important characters with their actions from the story. There are puzzles and

riddles too. Timelines help children link Biblical events to history. Some lessons also ask children to produce creative writing, such as poetry or “newspaper” spotlights. These types of activities solidify Bible knowledge and give the child a chance to practice writing and spelling skills.

### **3. Memorize:**

One of the most exciting components of the *Scripture Adventures* program is the Memory Verses. Throughout each unit, children are introduced to key verses from the stories they read. They are asked to memorize the verse. In doing so, children improve their memory skills. More importantly however, they gain a great appreciation and understanding of the concepts in the verse. As they commit God’s Word to memory, they are also putting it in their hearts.

Help for memorizing and practicing the Memory Verses is given in the form of copy work pages and review games and exercises throughout the course. Memorizing these short passages (whether or not they remember the scripture reference perfectly!) will give children great confidence in their budding Bible knowledge. As they hear these scriptures again in Sunday School and church, they will feel pride in recognizing and understanding the passages.

### **4. Hands-on Projects:**

Throughout the *Scripture Adventures* curriculum, there are hands-on projects. These projects can be adapted for classroom use, or used as follow-up at home. If there projects you want children to do at home, simply print the appropriate pages for parents. All the necessary instructions are included!

### **TIPS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

Making your Bible study time successful is important. The *Scripture Adventures* curriculum makes it easy for you. Each lesson pulls out important verses from the Bible for you to focus on. All the necessary background information for the story you are studying is also given in the lesson text.

Depending on the age and attentiveness of your students, as well as the resources of your organization (i.e., access to a photocopier), you may choose to use the *Scripture Adventures* lesson pages as an outline for you to follow for your presentation rather than a “workbook” that each child would need a copy of. Either way, you can maximize learning by using some of the following ideas.

### **☑ Student Involvement is a Key to Success**

Getting your students *actively involved* in your lesson is critical. You can do this in many ways. Ask for volunteers to read aloud to the class. Have students follow along in their own Bibles as you read key verses. Read a few verses and have your students guess what story you will study for the day. Have kids make paper bag “puppets” to act out the story they learn. Sing songs together that reinforce lesson material (such as “This little light of mine...” when you study Matthew 5). Have students draw pictures to illustrate main events. Impromptu skits and dialogues put together by your students in small groups can really help them visualize and internalize a story as well. The important thing is that the children participate, not just listen to the teacher talk. Studies show that changing activities every 5-7 minutes helps keep kids focused. In addition, you are licensed to photocopy the *Scripture Adventures* curriculum pages so that you can use them as a resource to supplement your class discussions.

### **☑ Bible Story Presentation and Memorized Scripture Showcase**

When children have completed the *Scripture Adventures* program, they will be familiar with many beautiful stories from the *Bible*. Depending on their age, they will remember the details of the stories to varying degrees, but they will undoubtedly have favorites. Plan a special presentation time with your students as the star speakers. Let them show off their newfound gospel knowledge by presenting their version of a favorite Bible story, complete with a Memory Verse that they have memorized. They can use visual aids that they have drawn, act out the story with help from other children, or stand up and tell the story from the point of view of one of the characters. Letting them showcase their knowledge in this way reinforces learning and can get them excited about their classes! Some groups have found that inviting parents to

this “showcase” provides an opportunity for students to really show off their accomplishments and see the value of what they have done.

### ☑GET THE MOST OUT OF MEMORY WORK

Memorizing Bible verses is the beginning step to getting God’s Word into the heart and mind of a child. That’s why it’s an important part of the *Scripture Adventures* curriculum. If you are working with younger children, don’t expect too much right away, but encourage the repetition of each Memory Verse. Beginning class by having the class review the last few scriptures they have learned together is a great way to follow up and show your students that the Memory Verses are important. As your students grow in confidence, try assigning someone to open each class period by reciting a favorite Memory Verse. A trick to help children begin to memorize a verse is to write it on the chalkboard and read it aloud together several times. Then ask for a volunteer to come up and erase a word or two. Have the class read the verse aloud again. Continue erasing a few words at a time until most of the words are erased. Celebrate the accomplishment of having “memorized” a verse! Practice that same verse at the end of the class to reinforce what you’ve learned.

Give parents the Memory Verse List and Memory Verse Chart. Have them review the verses at home with their child after you teach them in class. This kind of parent involvement can help make your program more successful and encourage parental stewardship for a child’s walk with God.

