



Welcome to *God's Little Explorers Preschool Curriculum!* I'm so excited to be sharing this journey with you. If you would like to know more about God's Little Explorers, please [read this blog post](#). You can also find a [listing of resources to use with God's Little Explorers on this page](#).

Each week, I will be sharing the lesson plans I'm using with my youngest daughter (*and my five-year-old, too...once we started, she didn't want to be left out*). We'll be exploring one letter (in no particular order), various math concepts, thematic projects (like cooking, crafts, and science), and one Bible story per week.

The curriculum is written to be four days each week. I recommend using the fifth day for a field trip and/or service project each week to enhance the theme and your child's learning.

I've written the lessons to be approximately 30-45 minutes if you complete the top three sections (Bible, Theme, and ABC & 123). The Life Skills section adds a little more time depending how thorough you are in teaching the various skills. The Other Ideas section, Book Bag, and Learning Bags are just extra ideas I share in case you want to switch-out a project, extend the learning, or don't like an activity I have included in the main lesson. Ideas that work for my children won't necessarily work for yours, so feel free to change and adapt the curriculum to fit your child's needs and your own!

This is a work-in-progress, so feel free to email me with your ideas and suggestions. You can contact me at [motherhoodonadime@gmail.com](mailto:motherhoodonadime@gmail.com). Please feel free to share this program with friends by sending them to [the landing page for God's Little Explorers](#). Please remember, this material is copyrighted, so you may not redistribute or sell these plans. Thanks for your help!

Blessings!

*Stacie Nelson*

"...John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."  
—Matthew 3:1-2

Bible

Theme  
"d" is for Desert

ABC & 123  
Letter: d  
Number: 9

Life

Book  
Bag

# Day 1

## Bible Exploration:

Read about Jesus as a child and as he grows up.  
Read about John the Baptist.

Sing "Hallelu, Hallelu" from Wee Sing.

## Theme Adventure:

Check-out and read several books from the library about the desert.

Make a simple desert habitat by putting sand in the bottom of a small plastic tub. Add a few desert animals or other elements and allow for exploration.

Try a simple science experiment by setting in the sand in a warm area for a while. How does the sand feel? Move the box to a cold area for a while. How does the sand feel? Compare.

**ABC Exploration:** Teach the sound *ddd*. Make a *d* with your fingers and say "d -d -d -desert."

Make a "d" Pencil Topper.

**123 Exploration:** Show your child the number 9. Go on an "exploration" with binoculars and find the number 9 in and outside your house.

**Self Help:** This week we are moving our self-help skills and chores to the bathroom! Yikes!

The first skill is very important during this time of year (and anytime, really). Teach your child to wash his hands correctly. Sing a short song like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or "Happy Birthday" to be sure they wash long enough.

*Desert Giant: The World of the Saguaro*

Try this [cactus craft](#).

*Is a Camel a Mammal?*

Make a [handprint camel](#).

# Day 2

## Bible Exploration:

Reread the story of John the Baptist. Today focus on the word REPENT. What does it mean to repent? Make this visual by having your child stand and do a 180 degree turn.

Sing "Hallelu, Hallelu" from Wee Sing.

## Theme Adventure:

Make a torn-paper desert scene. Tear various colors of construction paper or tissue paper and glue onto a sheet of construction paper to make a sunrise or sunset scene. Cut out the cactus pattern included in the download (*I just cut off the spikes when I we made these*), trace it on black paper, and cut it out. Glue the cactus on top of the multi-colored background.

## Math Exploration:

Make several cacti out of playdough. Give your child a number and ask them to poke that many small pieces of broken spaghetti or pipe cleaners for spines.

## ABC Adventures:

Guide your child to form letters in the tub of sand from yesterday's theme adventure or reuse the [rainbow letter writing box](#) from earlier in the year.

**Chore:** Model for your child how to hang up a towel and let them practice. This can be a difficult chore for some preschoolers. You can make it easier by having a stepstool available if your towel rack is a little higher.

# Day 3

## Bible Exploration:

Review the story of John the Baptist. Talk about how he wandered in the desert. Discuss his appearance and what he ate.

Make a simple snack of locust and honey by using biscuit or cookie dough to form a "locust". Then, drizzle with honey.

You can also make peanut butter playdough by combining 1/2 cup peanut butter, 1/4 cup honey, 4-6 oz powdered milk or corn meal and form it into a locust shape. Add some honey and eat!

## Theme Adventure:

Talk about how a desert is hot during the day and cold at night. Pile various clothes (shorts, tees, long-sleeve shirts, jeans, coat, swimming suit, etc.) in a laundry basket.

Have your child sort them according to what they should wear when it's hot and what they should wear when it's cold.

## ABC Exploration:

Draw nine lowercase d's in the alphabet notebook. Have your child use a highlighter to trace them. Ask them to count the number of d's, too.

## Math Exploration:

Number Posters: Write a number 9 on a sheet of paper. Make nine fingerprint cacti and add spines with a pen or crayon.

## Manners:

Teach your child your family's preferences for toilet-flushing. (I know some families conserve water while others have a different preference). Also, discuss what is acceptable flushing practice at a public place or a friend's house. :)

# Day 4

## Bible Exploration:

Read the story of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus. Talk about how the Spirit of God descended "like a dove".

Make a [handprint dove card](#).

## Theme Adventure:

Try your hand at sand art. Make patterns or pictures on construction paper with thick lines of glue. Sprinkle sand on the paper and allow to dry. You can color the sand with food coloring ([you can search for directions](#) on "how to color sand") or purchase colored sand from a craft store.

There are also different kinds of sand art kits available.

## ABC & Math Exploration:

Cut out strips of sandpaper and glue to the printable letter d. You can also have your child cover the d with (lots of) glue and sprinkle it with sand if you are brave!

Review the sound and gesture for letter "d". Add a rectangle of sandpaper or decorate a desert scene on a small sheet of paper (*and write a **d** on it*) and add it to the "[Treasure Map](#)".

You may also want to try this [sticky note letter review](#).

## Service:

Send the dove card you made to someone who is ill or shut-in.

You could also purchase a bag of Dove candy bars and give the card and candy to someone who volunteers in your community, church, etc.

# Other Ideas

Read *God's New People Are Called: Part 15* (from [The Big Picture Bible Story Book](#)).

Visit a garden store and observe the various types of cacti.

Find information about the studies below on the [Resource Page for God's Little Explorers](#):

- Hymn: How Firm a Foundation
- Composer Study: Vivaldi
- Artist Study: Jackson Pollock

## My Ideas:

# Learning Bags

**Cactus Clip:** Clip the corresponding number of small clothespins onto the cactus. Idea adapted from [Two Teaching Mommies](#).

**Sandpaper Letter Practice:** Cut apart small pieces of yarn. Store with sandpaper in a plastic baggie and allow your child to make letters, numbers or designs.

See how to use the bags on the [Busy Bag Resource page](#) and find more [Learning Bag activities on the Busy Bag page](#).









