

Little Hearts For His Glory

*An Early Learning Program for
Ages 5-7*

Written by Carrie Austin, M.Ed.

Editor:

Julie Grosz, M.Ed.

Cover Designer:

Merlin DeBoer

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1004 Westview Drive
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

Website: www.heartofdakota.com
Phone (605) 428-4068

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Introduction

Complete Plans

Little Hearts for His Glory features 34 units with complete daily plans. These plans are designed to provide a fun, balanced approach to learning. Little preparation is required, and all of the skill areas are covered. Each day of plans is divided into the following 2 parts: “Learning Through History” and “Learning the Basics”.

Learning the Basics

The “Learning the Basics” part of the program focuses on language arts and math. It includes choices for handwriting and phonics, activities for fine motor skills, storytime, language, and math exploration.

Learning Through History

The “Learning Through History” part of the program gives a broad overview of history from creation through present day, and emphasizes God’s plan throughout history. Bible stories are integrated with history stories about individuals. The following areas are linked with the daily stories: Bible memory work, devotional topics, science discovery, art projects, dramatic play, thinking games, rhymes, gross motor skills, and music.

Easy to Use

Each unit contains 5 days of instruction. Simple daily plans are divided into 9 boxes, which can be spaced throughout the day as time allows.

Quick Activities

Little Hearts for His Glory was written with the busy homeschool teacher in mind. It provides a way to do great activities without all of the usual planning and preparation. Quick and easy activities require little or no preparation and use materials you’re likely to have on hand.

Fun Ideas

Engaging daily lessons take approximately 90 minutes. They are filled with ideas that get kids moving, exploring, and playing in a meaningful way.

Flexible

Lesson plans are written to allow you to customize the program to suit your child’s needs. A choice of resources is provided. Resources noted in the plans with a ‘star’ are considered necessary. Resources noted in the plans with a ‘checkmark’ provide a text or music connection to the activity.

Resources

All of the ‘star’ and ‘checkmark’ resources noted in *Little Hearts for His Glory* are available from Heart of Dakota Publishing. Order resources online at www.heartofdakota.com, by mail using the printable online order form, or by telephone at (605) 428-4068. Resources are also available from many homeschool distributors. Resource titles are listed on the next page.

‘Star’ Resources (considered necessary)

- ★ *History for Little Pilgrims* (Christian Liberty Press, 1998)
- ★ *History Stories for Children* (Christian Liberty Press, 2007)
- ★ *Do It Carefully* and *Finding the Answers* Workbooks (Rod & Staff, 1990)
or *Going On Eagerly* (Rod & Staff, 2008) and *Just Thinking and Choosing* (Rod & Staff, 2013)
- ★ *Thornton Burgess Animal Stories Books:*
 - The Adventures of Reddy Fox* (Dover, 1991)
 - The Adventures of Peter Cottontail* (Dover, 1991)
 - The Adventures of Danny Meadow Mouse* (Dover, 1993)
 - The Adventures of Grandfather Frog* (Dover, 1992)
 - The Adventures of Chatterer The Red Squirrel* (Dover, 1992)
 - The Adventures of Buster Bear* (Dover, 1993)
 - The Adventures of Jerry Muskrat* (Dover, 1993)
- ★ *Peter Rabbit and Other Favorite Tales* by Beatrix Potter (Dover, 1994)

‘Star’ Resource Choices (considered necessary choices)

- ★ Choose one of the following Bible options to use with this program:
 1. *Family-Time Bible in Pictures* by Kenneth N. Taylor (Tyndale House, 2007)
(Note: This Bible was previously published under the titles *Family-Time Bible in Pictures* and *Ken Taylor’s Favorite Bible Stories*.)
 2. *101 Favorite Stories from the Bible* by Ura Miller (Christian Aid Ministries, 2006)
 3. Your own Bible
- ★ Choose one of the following handwriting options to use with this program:
 1. *Italic Handwriting Book ‘A’* by Getty & Dubay (Education Press, 1994)
 2. *Italic Handwriting Book ‘B’* by Getty & Dubay (Education Press, 1994)
 3. *A Reason for Handwriting ‘K’* (Concerned Communications, 2001)
 4. *A Reason for Handwriting ‘A’* (Concerned Communications, 2001)
 5. Your own handwriting program
- ★ Choose one of the following phonics options to use with this program:
 1. *The Reading Lesson* by Michael Levin and Charan Langton (Muntcastle Company, 2002)
 2. *Reading Made Easy* by Valerie Bendt (Bendt Family Ministries, 2004)
 3. *Sound Bytes Reading* by Kathy Foster (Great Achievements Press, 2010)
 4. Your own phonics program

‘Checkmark’ Resources (provide text and music connections)

- ✓ *Devotions for the Children’s Hour* by Kenneth N. Taylor (Moody, 1982)
- ✓ *The World God Made* by Edward Shewan (Christian Liberty Press, 2000)
- ✓ *Essential Math Kindergarten A & B, U.S. Edition* (Singapore Math, 2008)
- ✓ *Hide ‘Em In Your Heart Vol. I* by Steve Green (Sparrow, 2003)

“Learning Through History” Components

Reading About History

The “Learning Through History” part of each unit has a theme centered around stories from history. The themes are organized in chronological order from creation through present day. God’s plan is emphasized throughout the themes. Bible stories and other history stories are read aloud each day using the following resources: *The Family-Time Bible* by Kenneth N. Taylor or your own Bible, *History for Little Pilgrims*, and *History Stories for Children* by Christian Liberty Press. These stories provide the focus for this part of the plans. The areas listed on this page are all linked to the daily stories. Optional literature supplements for history are noted in the Appendix.

Rhymes in Motion

A new rhyme is introduced each unit. Each rhyme emphasizes one or more gross motor skills, and also reinforces the history theme.

Bible Study

A new memory verse is introduced each unit. Each memory verse has a practical meaning for young students, and also reinforces God’s plan throughout history. A variety of daily memory activities helps students enjoy memorizing these important verses.

Devotional Activity

One or more days in each unit lists a text connection from *Devotions for the Children’s Hour* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Each devotion is linked to the history theme, and also emphasizes basic Biblical lessons in an understandable way. A related story, corresponding Scripture, questions, prayer, and a hymn to sing are part of each devotion.

Corresponding Music

Musical selections from *Hide ‘Em in Your Heart Volume 1* by Steve Green correspond with the Bible memory verses in the program. The original songs recite the Bible verses using a variety of musical styles.

Art Activity

One day in each unit includes an art activity that reinforces the historical theme. These activities help students practice some of the basic skills needed to express themselves and create freely.

Science Discovery

Two days in each unit include simple, discovery activities that are linked to the history readings. Hands-on exploration in the areas of life science, physical science, and earth science help children make connections to the world around them. *The World God Made* by Christian Liberty Press is referenced as a science text connection for the lessons. Supplemental text connections for *Our Father’s World* and *God’s Wonderful Works* by Christian Liberty Press are also noted in the Appendix for grades 1 and 2.

Thinking Games

One day in each unit includes a thinking game that is linked to the history story. Each game-like activity requires thinking skills along with active movements to perform.

Dramatic Play

One day in each unit includes dramatic play that reinforces the history story. Dramatizations based on the stories encourage creativity, using play to learn skills.

“Learning The Basics” Components

Fine Motor Skills

Three days in each unit include an assigned workbook page from your choice of either *Do It Carefully* and *Finding the Answers* by Rod & Staff, or *Going On Eagerly* and *Just Thinking and Choosing* by Rod & Staff. These pages emphasize thinking skills and following directions in order to cut, color, and paste. Each activity helps develop small-muscle strength and coordination in fun and creative ways.

Handwriting

Two days in each unit include assigned handwriting pages. You have a choice of *Italic Handwriting Book ‘A’* or *Book ‘B’*, *A Reason for Handwriting Book ‘K’* or *Book ‘A’*, or your own handwriting program.

Phonics

A phonics instruction reminder is listed in the plans daily. This schedule is suggested once your child shows an interest in learning to read. For phonics instruction, I recommend either *Reading Made Easy* by Valerie Bendt, or *The Reading Lesson* by Michael Levin and Charan Langton. Both of these programs are easy-to-use, include short planned lessons with interesting stories, and are economical. Both programs utilize one book that includes a teacher’s guide and a student book all in one.

Since I believe phonics instruction is a very personal decision for each family, I specifically designed *Little Hearts for His Glory* to work with any phonics program that you choose.

Storytime

Short daily storytime sessions are included in the “Learning the Basics” part of the plans. Since the “Learning Through History” section of the plans incorporates nonfiction reading, seven books of fictional stories written by Thornton Burgess make up the bulk of the storytime lessons. *Peter Rabbit and Other Favorite Tales* by Beatrix Potter completes the read-aloud assignments.

Each book is ideal for reading aloud because it centers on one main character and the many different problems the character encounters. Children will get to know the characters on a deeper level and will eagerly anticipate what might happen next. Each unit includes the following language activities in coordination with the read-aloud assignments:

- *Day 1: basic comprehension discussion questions
- *Day 2: retelling the story in a variety of ways
- *Day 3: critical thinking questions including some vocabulary discussion
- *Day 4: early writing practice emphasizing names and simple words
- *Day 5: moral connection questions with personal application

Math Exploration

Daily math lessons are included in the “Learning the Basics” part of the plans. These activities use concrete objects and hands-on experiences to introduce mathematical concepts through guided play. The workbooks *Essential Math Kindergarten A & B* by Singapore Math provide a text connection for each math lesson.

A brief scope and sequence of the math concepts is listed by unit below (Number ‘1’ corresponds to unit 1, number ‘2’ corresponds to unit 2, etc.):

- 1 – match objects by attributes such as size, color, shape, and pattern
- 2 – identify similarities and differences among pictures, patterns, numbers, and lines; sort items by a variety of attributes
- 3 – count and write numbers ‘1’ – ‘5’
- 4 – construct graphs to count and tally items; count sets
- 5 – count and write numbers ‘1’ – ‘10’
- 6 – understand the concept of the empty set and write ‘0’
- 7 – understand that numbers have order, even if some numbers are missing
- 8 – count from ‘1’ – ‘10’, and from ‘10’ to ‘1’, count sets with one less than the previous set
- 9 – recognize shapes and sort by given characteristics, count solid shapes’ faces and corners
- 10 – identify, describe, duplicate, and extend patterns with two or more alternating colors
- 11 – measure and compare the length of objects using nonstandard units of measurement
- 12 – measure lengths of objects in feet and handspans, compare and match sizes of objects
- 13 – compare and match sizes of objects, estimate and compare the weights of various items
- 14 – compare the capacity of various containers, count and create equal sets
- 15 – compare sets to determine which one has more and which one has less
- 16 – count items and identify ‘one more’ or ‘one less’, and ‘greater than’ or ‘less than’
- 17 – add or take away a given number, recognize and write number words from ‘one’ to ‘ten’
- 18 – practice grouping and counting by tens
- 19 – count from ‘1’ – ‘20’, find ‘one more’, write number words from ‘eleven’ to ‘twenty’
- 20 – separate one set into two sets to build number bonds, add to solve problems
- 21 – combine two sets and write a corresponding addition sentence
- 22 – show different number combinations, compare sets, count on to add
- 23 – count on to add using a number line, write addition sentences horizontally and vertically, add three numbers to make ‘20’ or less
- 24 – subtraction: act out stories, cross out, write equations horizontally and vertically
- 25 – subtraction: whole minus a part, separate 1 group into 2 groups, count back
- 26 – write a family of addition and subtraction equations, show subtraction stories
- 27 – act out addition and subtraction stories, count by tens up to ‘100’
- 28 – count and write numbers ‘1’ – ‘40’, recognize place value for tens and ones
- 29 – order: events by sequence, objects by size and number, ordinal numbers 1st to 10th
- 30 – time: daytime, nighttime, morning, afternoon, evening, to the hour and half-hour
- 31 – measuring time: days, weeks, months, seasons
- 32 – count from ‘1’ to ‘100’, count by fives to ‘100’, count by twos to ‘20’
- 33 – understand even/odd numbers, identify left/right, identify equal parts of a whole
- 34 – identify, sort, and count pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters; find coin combinations

Note: If you have already covered the concepts listed above, follow the alternate math schedule in the Appendix using *Singapore Primary Math 1A & 1B* instead.