



Little Hearts for His Glory
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This is a comprehensive curriculum plan that can be used to teach children ages 5 through 7. It is divided into 34 units, each of which will take one week to complete. The primary “tool” you work from is one large book that lays out daily lesson plans for history, Bible, story time, science, phonics, math, art, dramatic play, music, thinking skills, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills. It really covers everything!

Some learning activities are written out in this manual. However, most direct you in the use of other resources. For example, history readings come from the Christian Liberty Press books *History for Little Pilgrims* and *History Stories for Children* as well as a Bible storybook. Bible study centers around *Devotions for the Children’s Hour* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Science activities are assigned from the appropriate level of CLP science books. Hands-on math activities are given in the manual then assignments are made from Singapore math books at the appropriate level. Phonics is taught from *Reading Made Easy*, *The Reading Lesson*, or another phonics program of your choice.

Each “subject” area is presented in a box with nine boxes per daily lesson plan. This makes it very easy to see what needs to be done for each area. Lessons begin with “history” each day. Daily assignments for history tell you which pages to read in the history book and/or Bible storybook (or your own Bible) and the key idea upon which to focus. That key idea is also incorporated in Bible, art, thinking skills, science, or other lessons for that day, but not in all subjects each day. This means that the curriculum has

unit study elements where some lessons are built around themes but not enough so to really describe it as unit study.

Author Carrie Austin says that completing all nine activities should take about 90 minutes a day. Although the assumption is that you will complete the nine subject areas each day, you will find that skipping a subject now and then won't cause lasting harm. Other resources that you need are *Favorite Thornton Burgess Animal Stories* set (6 books), *Favorite Uncle Wiggly Bedtime Stories*, *Peter Rabbit and Other Favorite Tales*, *Do It Carefully* and *Finding the Answers* workbooks (Rod and Staff) OR *Thinking Skills: Grade 1* (McGraw-Hill), either *Italic Handwriting* (Book A or Book B) or *A Reason for Handwriting* (Book K or Book A), *The World God Made* OR *Our Father's World* OR *God's Wonderful Works* (CLP science texts), and *Hide 'Em in Your Heart* Vol. 1. Minimal instruction is given for phonics. Suggestions are made for the number of pages/lessons per day to complete in the two suggested resources.

Math assignments are very specific with alternative page assignments at the back of the book for the different levels of Singapore math books that you might be using. Likewise, specific pages (and tracks in the case of the CD) are assigned in each day's lesson plans for the other required resources.

Appendices include a list of optional literature supplements for each of the 34 units and a "Rhymes in Motion" section with rhyming songs that incorporate large muscle movements.

The history book readings and themes give the study a decidedly Protestant slant with focus on Luther, Calvin, and Jonathan Edwards, but, overall, children learn a great deal of Bible history and U.S. history with brief introductions to a few other people and events.

I like the way Carrie Austin has combined elements of unit study, living books, and textbooks in a format that makes it very easy for the parent/teacher to know exactly what to do each day. Art and math lessons might take a little preparation time, but other than that, lesson prep time is very minimal. The variety of learning methods should appeal to children of various learning styles. And you still have the freedom to use your own phonics program—a big issue for some parents since phonics is one of the most important subjects in these early years.

You can purchase the main lesson plan book by itself as well as most of the recommended resources directly from Heart of Dakota Publishing. Or you might want to purchase the Economy Package that includes the guide, the two CLP history books, Rod and Staff workbooks, and eight storybooks. In addition to the Economy Package, you might want to get the Basic Package that includes *Devotions for the Children's Hour*, *The World God Made*, *Singapore Mathematics* workbooks, and *Hide 'Em in Your Heart* CD.