

# The ABCs of God

## *A Study for Children on the Greatness and Worth of God*



REVISED

The ABCs of God is a study for children on the greatness and worth of God. It uses the alphabet as a framework for learning the attributes of God and other terms that describe His character, at an age-appropriate level. (Note that attributes are purposely not taught in alphabetical order.) Through the use of a teaching aid called “The Blessing Box,” students will discover a new attribute of God each week and will be challenged to consider how they should respond to an amazing God who is worthy of their greatest love, honor, trust, and obedience.

### Lesson 1: Questions

*Memory Verse: Isaiah 46:9b*

**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.**

Students are introduced to this study by discussing the three main questions listed above and why these are the most important questions for each of us. These questions also provide a framework to help children understand the necessity and importance of God’s Word in discovering the truth of who He is, what He is like, and how we are to respond to Him. This framework will be incorporated throughout the study.

### Lesson 2: Incomprehensible

*Memory Verse: Job 37:5*

**God is more than we can fully understand.**

In this lesson, the students will learn that although we can truly know something about God’s character, we can never fully know Him. Yes, He reveals all essential truths so that we might come to truly know, love, and trust in Him, but we cannot comprehend the full depths of His infinite greatness. In looking at the life of Job, we will help the children see this important truth and point out that a right response to Him is humble and awe-filled worship.

### Lesson 3: YHWH (Yahweh)

*Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8a and Psalm 9:10a*

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

This lesson explains the importance of God revealing His personal name, “YHWH” (often pronounced Yahweh). God wants people to know Him as a specific and unique Person, not just one of the common “gods” proclaimed among other nations and peoples. Furthermore, in revealing His personal name, God binds the greatness and worth of His character with that specific name, and not simply with the generic title “God”—Yahweh is the one true, eternal God. And though Yahweh is more than we can fully understand, He makes Himself known so that we may embrace Yahweh as our God, Ruler, Friend, Savior, and Treasure. In this way, He draws His people into an intimate and loving relationship with Himself.

**Lesson 4: Eternal***Memory Verse: Psalm 90:2***God has no beginning or end.**

God alone is eternal and totally self-existing. It simply boggles the mind, as there is no way to liken it to anything in our own experience. In and of itself, this attribute of God should cause us to fall down and worship Him! He is the same God who created the world thousands of years ago. He is the same God who called out to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the same God who acts today. Because He is eternal, He can be depended on to keep every promise for all eternity! Because “eternal” is an abstract concept for children to understand, the lesson first introduced the concept of age and how it is determined, and then used this as a means to contrast all other things with the agelessness of God.

**Lesson 5: Creator***Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:24b***God made everything.**

After learning that God is eternal in Lesson 4, students can better understand that everything else has its source and beginning in this eternal God. This lesson uses a very simple and concrete illustration of a baked treat to indicate the obvious: All creation points to a powerful and eternal Creator. Creation exists to demonstrate the attributes of God: God is powerful; God is wonderful; God is awesome; God is great; God is the one true God! And, as His creatures, we exist to embrace and treasure all that He is!

**Lesson 6: Glorious***Memory Verses: Psalm 19:1 and Psalm 72:19a***God shows His greatness and worth.**

One way to understand God’s glory that is particularly helpful for children is to observe His creation. It is God’s own show and tell of His “invisible attributes...his eternal power and divine nature” (Romans 1:20). Creation is one way God shows He is glorious. In this lesson, God’s glory was likened to a “show and tell” jewelry box, filled with beautiful, sparkling, valuable jewels—the jewels representing God’s divine attributes, which He reveals through His creation and by all of His deeds.

**Lesson 7: Wise***Memory Verse: Psalm 104:24a***God causes everything to work out perfectly.**

Lesson 7 helps students understand how God’s wisdom can be likened to a master puzzle maker, creating and fitting together diverse pieces in order to reveal His perfect plan in creation. But His wisdom does not end there. As He does in creation, God displays His perfect wisdom in all of history and in each person’s life. In this lesson, through the familiar story of Joseph, the children are encouraged to recognize and understand this wonderful attribute of God.

**Lesson 8: Almighty***Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:17***God is all-powerful.**

In this lesson, the children will see God’s almighty power demonstrated in creating and sustaining the world. God is also all-powerful in His rule over all things, even the human will. Therefore, He is able to accomplish all of His purposes. No one can contend against the Almighty. To demonstrate this from Scripture, the lesson presents the events of God sending the 10 plagues on Egypt and asserting His will over Pharaoh.

**Lesson 9: Sovereign***Memory Verse: Psalm 115:3***God has the right and wisdom and power to do all He pleases.**

After studying how the Creator wisely accomplishes things by His almighty power, children will explore why it is right that God does all that He pleases. By continuing the story of God delivering His people from slavery in Egypt they will learn that, ultimately, God uses His sovereignty to display His greatness and worth. Furthermore, God’s sovereignty is not something to be rebelled against, but rather a truth to be embraced, giving God’s people a source of great confidence.

**Lesson 10: Provider***Memory Verse: Acts 17:25b***God meets the needs of His creation.**

In this lesson, we help the children understand that God alone ultimately meets all of our needs—whether material, emotional, or spiritual. We first focus on material provision, since it is most concrete in the minds of children, and then expand this to help them see that our needs go far beyond food, clothing, shelter, and family. Life is about needing God Himself and His provision of a Savior, Jesus.

**Lesson 11: Self-Sufficient***Memory Verse: Acts 17:25***God does not need anything.**

In the previous lesson, the children learned that we need many things in order to exist. Ultimately, it is God who provides for these needs. This lesson will go deeper into the meaning of Acts 17:25 by emphasizing the first portion of the verse, “nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything,” in order to emphasize God’s self-sufficiency. The children will observe the following examples: God created all things by Himself; God did not create people because He was lonely and needed our love; and God doesn’t need others to fulfill His purposes.

**Lesson 12: Understanding***Memory Verses: Psalm 103:13-14***God remembers that we are weak.**

In this lesson, we will emphasize the reality of human weakness and the compassionate nature of God. The children will review the story of Adam and Eve and their sin against God and how we, as their descendents, are born with a sin nature. Then we carefully explore the meaning of Psalm 103:13-14 to see that yes, God is angered by sin, but anger is not all He feels. God likens Himself to a compassionate father. He knows that no matter how hard we might try, we cannot perfectly obey Him. He remembers that we are like dust. This is wonderful news for His children!

**Lesson 13: Attentive***Memory Verse: Psalm 34:15***God constantly sees, hears, and acts in the world.**

In this lesson, the children will see God’s attentiveness being shown as He interacts with His world and especially with those who trust in Him. To demonstrate the latter, we will review the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The prophets of Baal could not be heard by their false god. But when Elijah called out to the one true God, Yahweh, God heard and acted. He is an attentive God who watches over us, hears His people’s prayers, intercedes and acts on our behalf, all in the context of His wise and sovereign rule.

**Lesson 14: Faithful***Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:24***God always does what He says He will do.**

In this lesson, the children will be led to see the amazing testimony of God’s faithfulness to all His promises: sending a flood and saving Noah and his family, giving Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age, delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt, the defeat at Jericho so Israel might enter the land...every promised fulfilled. But one promise, given before all these, had remained unfulfilled—the promise of a Savior for God’s sinful and often faithless people. The end of the lesson culminates in recalling the birth of the long-awaited Savior—Jesus.

**Lesson 15: Trinity***Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 6:4 and Matthew 28:19***God is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

This lesson will use several key Scripture texts to, as clearly and simply as possible, present the students with these key truths about the Trinity: there is only one true God; there are three persons in the one true God; and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each fully God.

**Lesson 16: Happy***Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:15b***God delights in being God.**

In this lesson, the children will review some of God's attributes to see why God would delight in all that He is and does. He is the happiest being in the universe! They will also learn that God has chosen to share the overflow of His own happiness with His creation, especially with His chosen people. We end the lesson by emphasizing that God wants us to be happy, too. And He is happy to show us that He alone can make us truly happy forever!

**Lesson 17: Love***Memory Verse: John 3:16***God gives of Himself for the joy of others.**

In this lesson, we will use the simple illustration of the teacher blowing bubbles for the class to enjoy to help the children comprehend the essence and true meaning of God's love. Then the students will be given biblical examples in which God demonstrates His love: His beautiful creation, care of the world, provision for our needs, befriending sinners, and most importantly through giving us Jesus. For it is through Jesus alone, freely giving up His life on the cross, that we are able experience God's joyous fullness forever and ever.

**Lesson 18: Omnipresent***Memory Verse: Jeremiah 23:24***God is everywhere all the time.**

In this lesson, we will use portions of Psalm 139 and the story of Jonah to help the children understand the meaning and implications of God's omnipresence. He is not a God that resides in a certain location. He is always there no matter where we are. Nor must He bounce back and forth across the world trying to care for the various needs of His people. His abiding presence is available in all places at all times. It is also true that no one can hide from His presence and sovereign authority. And this should cause all to tremble. For no sin is truly secret, no matter how well hidden from the world or others.

**Lesson 19: Refuge***Memory Verses: Proverbs 18:10 and Psalm 46:1***God is a place of safety for His people.**

In this lesson, we focus on the life of David to see how this great warrior and king needed to depend on safety and protection from his enemies that was beyond his limited abilities—he ran to God. Most of all, David needed a refuge from God's righteous anger because of his sinful heart. In this, too, there is only one place to run for safety—to God! By recalling some of David's words from the Psalms, we will show that, time and time again, he ran to God as his perfect refuge. The lesson will use a tower visual to explain the meaning of Proverbs 18:10.

**Lesson 20: Unchanging***Memory Verses: Malachi 3:6a; Hebrews 13:8***God never changes.**

In this lesson, we will point out the changes we experience during the natural aging process. We will then contrast this to God's unchanging nature; unlike everything else in creation, God does not change. He cannot change and become better because He is already perfect—He is the best. He cannot change and become weaker or worn. He will always remain perfect—He will always be the best. We will also use the tower visual from the previous lesson to emphasize that because God is unchanging, His people can depend on Him both now and always.

**Lesson 21: Omniscient***Memory Verse: 1 John 3:20b***God knows everything.**

This lesson develops the truth of God's omniscience by giving the children concrete examples of what God knows. The contents of 10 bags will be revealed, one by one, and supporting biblical texts will be read and explained leading to the conclusion that God knows everything. The lesson ends with the personal implications of this truth.

**Lesson 22: Good***Memory Verse: Psalm 145:9***God is good in all He is and does.**

In this lesson, we will teach the true meaning of goodness and why God is the final measure of what is truly good and worthy of approval. We then use the story of God's providence in the life of the Corrie ten Boom family as they experienced war, prison, sickness, and hunger to illustrate the goodness of God, even in the most difficult circumstances.

**Lesson 23: Jealous***Memory Verses: Isaiah 42:8 and Exodus 34:14***God will not share His glory, or the honor and praise He deserves.**

To help the children grasp this important concept, we begin this lesson by having a contest in which the teacher steals the first place prize from the rightful winner. After the children express rightful indignation, we will present the story of the Ark of the Covenant in the temple of the idol Dagon. God would not share first place with an idol. It will never be okay for us to treat other things or people as if they are better or greater than God. Finally, because God is jealous, He will protect and guard all who worship and praise Him—His people.

**Lesson 24: Righteous***Memory Verse: Psalm 119:137***Everything that God thinks, says, and does is right.**

In this lesson, we give the children an example of something it would be wrong to value—a pail of garbage, and then lead them to examples of things it would be right to value with increasing affection, ending with God Himself. Grounding God's righteousness in His valuing what is truly most valuable—His own greatness and worth—gives a sort of measurable starting point from which to understand that God's righteousness is right, along with everything He does and all of His rules and commands. We then present the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness to demonstrate His perfect righteousness, always obeying His Father, even when tempted by Satan.

**Lesson 25: Wrathful***Memory Verse: Romans 1:18a***God is very angry at sin, and is right to punish sinners.**

In this lesson, we present the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple and God's judgment on Sodom to show children a glimpse of God's anger at sin, and why His anger is always right. We also bring this to a very personal level—we are all sinners and deserve the rightful wrath of God. This is why we desperately need Jesus.

**Lesson 26: Patient***Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:9***God is slow to anger and slow to punish.**

In this lesson, we recount the story of God sending a worldwide flood during the time of Noah. In this event, we see the wrath of God being poured out on sinners—emphasizing the theme of the previous lesson. But we also see the amazing patience of God as He waited 100 years before sending the flood, giving sinners more than enough time to repent. We each have experienced this kind of patience, too. God is right to be angry at us and would be right to punish us in His wrath. But He is also very patient with us. He is slow to anger and slow to punish because He wants us to turn and trust in Him.

**Lesson 27: Merciful***Memory Verse: Psalm 145:8***God is kind to undeserving sinners.**

In this lesson, we examine the parable of the lost son to help the children understand that, though we all deserve God's wrath because of our sin, God is merciful to sinners who come to Him with hearts that are truly sorry. Furthermore, we stress that God's mercy is a gift—you can't earn it or do enough good things to outweigh the bad things you have done. Finally, we point out that all people experience a measure of God's mercy. None of us deserves any good thing from God, yet He is kind to undeserving sinners. And the greatest mercy we need from God is forgiveness for our sin.

**Lesson 28: Zealous***Memory Verse: Isaiah 42:13***God acts with His whole heart.**

In this lesson, we help the children to see and understand God's zeal by looking at Jesus' passionate and intense pursuit of sinners. His zeal to save us took Him down a road of selfless humility and unimaginable pain and suffering. When King Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He did not ride in to assume His place in the palace. Instead, He went to the cross. But even beyond His zeal for saving us is God's zeal for His glory—it is ultimate. In this lesson and the next, we will be explaining, as simply as possible, how God accomplished this ultimate goal through the act of loving and saving an unrighteous people.

**Lesson 29: Deliverer***Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15a***God saves His sinful people from the punishment they deserve.**

This lesson clearly, and as simply as possible, illustrates what Jesus' death on the cross accomplished for sinners who will put their trust in Him. We use a pile of trash to represent sin and a large, clean, empty trash bag to represent Jesus taking the sin of His people upon Himself. We then demonstrate God pouring out His righteous anger at sin by punishing His own Son to death. On a larger level, and one that is more difficult to grasp, this lesson also points to God's ultimate love for His glory in saving unrighteous people like us.

**Lesson 30: Victorious***Memory Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:11a***God always wins, even over Satan, sin, and death.**

In this lesson, we vividly describe the biblical account of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, and then explain the significance of His victory over Satan, sin, and death. Finally, we make the point that God is always victorious over all powers, people, circumstances, etc. He always has the final say.

**Lesson 31: King***Memory Verses: Psalm 47:7a, 8***God rules over everyone.**

In this lesson, we recount the folly of Israel demanding a human king like all the other nations, rejecting the one true King. We then look at the reality of King Jesus' reign and His return when He will come "in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne" (Matthew 25:31). For the Christian, King Jesus' rule is a daily reality. Our lives should reflect that our highest allegiance belongs to Him, and that we joyfully submit to His authority.

**Lesson 32: eXalted***Memory Verse: Psalm 97:9***God ranks far above everything else. He is the Most High.**

In this lesson, we will review the biblical account of the people of Shinar in building the tower of Babel. They wanted to draw attention to themselves so that they could be seen as great. But God stopped them in their quest of self-exaltation. He alone is exalted and should be seen and worshipped as such.

**Lesson 33: Holy***Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:25***God is like nothing else. He is perfect and is separate from sin.**

In this lesson, we will examine Isaiah's encounter with the holy God in order to understand and feel some of the weight of God's holiness. We will then point out some of the implications of God's holiness for our lives: Because God is holy, we should treat Him and His Word with great respect and honor. He deserves our worship. We should tremble before Him and have a healthy kind of fear of Him. Because God is holy, He will not tolerate our sin. We must have our sin forgiven through trusting in Jesus in order to be accepted by a holy God.

**Lesson 34: Worthy***Memory Verse: Philippians 3:8a***God is most valuable and deserves our greatest love, obedience, and worship.**

In this lesson, we will look at the parable of the pearl of great price to help children understand the surpassing worth of Jesus. We will then recount the responses of Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Levi when Jesus called them to be His disciples.

**Lesson 35: Bountiful***Memory Verse: Psalm 13:6***God is more than enough to satisfy all our desires.**

In this lesson, we will read the accounts of Jesus feeding crowds of 4,000 and then 5,000 people. Jesus did not simply provide them with just enough food, but more than enough—an abundance, evidenced by leftover food. More importantly, Jesus is more than enough to satisfy every spiritual need. The lesson will conclude by explaining Jesus' words describing "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). Just like a spring of water keeps flowing and flowing, Jesus is more than enough to make His people happy forever by giving them eternal life.

**Lesson 36: Never-Tiring***Memory Verses: Isaiah 40:28b and Psalm 121:3b***God never gets tired and never sleeps.**

In this lesson, we use the daily human experience of getting tired and needing sleep and contrast this with how different God is! He has boundless energy—never sleeping, not even for a 20-minute power nap. He never tires of sustaining the entire universe from all eternity, into all eternity. Furthermore, He never wearies of working out His good and perfect purposes. And, most precious of all for God's people, He will never grow tired of loving us, nor of being merciful toward us.

**Lesson 37: Seeking God***Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:13 and Romans 10:13***Seeking God means experiencing a desperate need for God's forgiveness and calling out to Jesus to save you.**

In this lesson, we will review the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector as they went to pray. The Pharisee did not recognize his own sin, so he was not desperate for help. He did not seek God's forgiveness. The tax collector, on the other hand, was desperate for help. He hated his sin and wanted to repent—to turn away from sin and turn to God. That is the attitude and demeanor of someone who is truly seeking Jesus.

**Lesson 38: Loving God***Memory Verse: Psalm 73:25***Loving God is knowing, feeling, and treating God as your greatest treasure.**

In this lesson, we will help the children understand the above statement by first talking about the natural affection they have toward parents, family, and friends, and then pointing them toward the necessity, significance, and fruit of loving God most of all.

**Lesson 39: Trusting and Obeying God***Memory Verse: John 10:27***Trusting and obeying God means following and obeying God because you know Him to be trustworthy.**

In this lesson, we first use the example of God's command to Abraham to leave his country and home to see how true faith in God evidences itself in obedience to God. We then look at Jesus' words, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27), to understand the importance of daily trust and obedience in the Christian life.

**Lesson 40: Enjoying God***Memory Verse: Psalm 16:11***Those who trust in Jesus can experience the great and lasting joy of being God's children and enjoying Him forever.**

In this lesson, we introduce children to tangible ways Christians can enjoy God right now: delighting in Him through reading His Word, going to Him in prayer, rejoicing in Him as we see His works and deeds, and drawing nearer to Him in times of suffering. But the greatest joy awaits God's people in the future—the promise of heaven! The most special and happiest thing about heaven is that Jesus will be there to live with His children forever.

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