

Little Hands to Heaven

A Preschool Program for Ages 2-5

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Introduction

Educational

Little Hands to Heaven is a complete preschool program that includes letter recognition and formation, letter sounds with corresponding motions, beginning math skills, Bible activities, devotional topics, art projects, dramatic play, active exploration, fingerplays, and music.

Bible-based

Little Hands to Heaven is a collection of 33 units based on stories from the Bible. Each unit has a theme centered around Bible characters. The activities in each unit coordinate with the daily Bible stories.

Easy to Use

Each unit contains 5 days of instruction. Simple daily plans have the work already done for you. Quick and easy activities require little or no preparation and use only materials you're likely to have on hand. There is no literature to gather. Simply use your Bible or purchase one of the listed Bible storybooks, and you are set for the whole program.

Fun Activities

Engaging daily lessons take approximately 30 minutes or less. They are filled with ideas that get kids moving, exploring, and playing in a meaningful way.

Flexible

Activities are not seasonal or holiday related, which allows you to make the program fit your schedule. Lesson plans are written so you can use the program with students of multiple ages at the same time. A choice of resources is provided for the Bible stories and devotions, so you have the option of selecting what best suits your needs.

Resources

Choose one of the following Bibles to use with this program:
A Child's First Bible by Kenneth N. Taylor (Tyndale House, 2000),
The New Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes by Kenneth N. Taylor (Moody, 2002),
or your own personal Bible.

Choose one of the following devotionals to use with this program:
Playtime Devotions by Christine Harder Tangvald (Standard Publishing, 2002)
or *Small Talks about God* by Kenneth N. Taylor (Moody, 1998).

Musical selections from Focus on the Family's *The Singing Bible* (Tyndale House, 2000) correspond with each unit and are included in the daily plans.

Program Components

Bible Story

Each unit has a theme centered around Bible characters. The themes are organized in chronological order from creation through Paul's missionary journeys. Bible stories related to the theme are read aloud each day. These stories provide the focus for the day's plans. The daily activities are linked to the Bible stories.

Fingerplay

A new fingerplay is introduced each unit. Each fingerplay emphasizes one letter and its sound, while also reinforcing the Biblical theme. Every 5th unit is a letter review unit.

Letter Activity

Daily letter activities emphasize the same letter and letter sound as the fingerplay. Each unit includes each of the following letter activities:

- * letter flashcards with corresponding sounds and motions
- * letter art which increases awareness of the letter shapes
- * letter action with whole body movement to trace masking tape letters
- * letter slide which provides tactile activities for each letter
- * letter hide and seek with practice in finding a letter in context and in matching uppercase and lowercase letters

Bible Activity

A variety of daily Bible activities teach skills such as number and color recognition, counting, cutting, gluing, coloring, listening skills, directional words, dramatization, and life application.

Corresponding Music

Musical selections from Focus on the Family's *The Singing Bible* correspond with each unit. The original songs retell the Bible stories using a variety of musical styles.

Art Activity

One day in each unit includes an art activity that reinforces the Biblical theme. In order to encourage self-expression, the creative activities focus on the artistic process rather than the product.

Active Exploration

One day in each unit includes active exploration based on the Biblical theme. Hands on, concrete experiences help children make connections to the world around them.

Devotional Activity

One day in each unit includes a devotional activity that supports the Biblical theme. A related story or fingerplay, corresponding Scripture verse, and a prayer are part of each devotion.

Dramatic Play

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

Math Activity

One day in each unit includes a math activity. These activities gently introduce mathematical concepts through guided play. The activities reinforce the Biblical theme. 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 - patterns and colors
- 2 - patterns and counting
- 3 - sequencing letters and numbers (names and phone numbers)
- 4 - general measurement: comparing distances
- 5 - money: coin recognition
- 6 - counting steps
- 7 - comparing: few/many, once/more than once, tall/short
- 8 - ordinal numbers: first, second, third
- 9 - counting to 10: one to one correspondance
- 10 - patterns, shapes, counting
- 11 - general weight measurement: light/heavy
- 12 - auditory patterns
- 13 - comparing sizes: smallest/largest
- 14 - general length measurement: ordering longest to shortest
- 15 - matching and ordering by size: smallest to largest
- 16 - sorting and classifying
- 17 - counting, early addition/subtraction, zero
- 18 - counting, spatial terms, inside/outside
- 19 - duplicating patterns, spatial terms: away from
- 20 - counting and making sets
- 21 - tracing or copying designs and finding shapes
- 22 - counting: one to one correspondance
- 23 - comparing numbers: more than/less than/equal to
- 24 - counting and addition combinations that equal 5
- 25 - general measurement: area
- 26 - nonstandard measurement: "feet"
- 27 - sorting, counting, and graphing sets
- 28 - money: coin recognition, value, counting
- 29 - general time: yesterday, today, tomorrow
- 30 - number sense: more than 1 and counting forward/backward
- 31 - counting forward/backward and early addition
- 32 - general fractions: whole vs. part
- 33 - sorting and classifying: color, size, and shape