

Little Hearts For His Glory

*An Early Learning Program for
Ages 5-7*

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Heart of Dakota Publishing
www.heartofdakota.com

Special Thanks to:

- Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for giving us the vision to train up our children in the Lord. May He be glorified through this work.
- My parents, Ken and Marlene Mellema, for their faithful example of living for Christ and their steadfast commitment to family that has lasted a lifetime.
- Julie Grosz for her countless hours of editing, quiet perseverance to get the job done, unfailing support and love, and willingness to pilot this program with her own children.
- Cindy Madden for her constant prayers and loving support and her willingness to pilot this program with her own children.
- Mike Austin for his unwavering support and love, positive attitude, and consistent willingness to do whatever is needed. Without him, there would be no *Little Hearts For His Glory*.
- Shaw Austin, my son, and Rachel Madden, my niece, for posing for the cover of this book. They truly show the awe that little hearts have for God's glory.

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Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN 0-9747695-5-X

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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 *Thinking Skills: Grade 1* (McGraw-Hill, 1998)
- ★ *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* by Kenneth N. Taylor (Tyndale House, 1992)
(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 (2000)
 2. *Reading Made Easy* by Valerie Bendt (2001)
 3. 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)
- ✓ *Earlybird Kindergarten Mathematics 2A & 2B, U.S. Edition* by Winnie Tan
(Times Media, 2000)
- ✓ *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 *Thinking Skills: Grade 1* by McGraw-Hill. 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 *Earlybird Kindergarten Mathematics 2A & 2B* by Winnie Tan 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 - counting and writing numbers ‘1’ - ‘5’
- 2 - counting and writing numbers ‘1’ - ‘5’, introduction of ‘6’ - ‘10’
- 3 - counting and writing numbers ‘6’ - ‘10’
- 4 - counting sets with one more, same number, or one less
- 5 - comparing sets: greater than, less than, one to one
- 6 - comparing numbers, identifying characteristics of basic shapes
- 7 - sorting by attributes, finding common attributes, and patterns
- 8 - patterns, sizes: big, medium, small
- 9 - ordering by height, measuring and comparing lengths
- 10 - nonstandard measurement: estimating, measuring length & width
- 11 - comparing nonstandard measurements, estimating weights
- 12 - capacity: filling, emptying; graphing, one to one correspondance
- 13 - oral counting forward and backward, number words
- 14 - counting, matching, tracing number words and numbers ‘0’ - ‘10’
- 15 - ordinal numbers, number words, introduction of ones and tens
- 16 - counting and reading numbers up to ‘20’, groups of ones and tens
- 17 - counting and writing numbers ‘11’ - ‘20’, number words ‘11’ - ‘20’
- 18 - fractions: ‘one-half’, ‘one-quarter’
- 19 - left/right directionality, adding ‘1’ - ‘10’ by counting on a number line
- 20 - combining two sets together to add
- 21 - combinations that make ‘6’ - ‘9’
- 22 - combinations that make ‘10’, number sentences, separating sets
- 23 - comparing sets, subtracting: counting back, taking away
- 24 - subtraction: crossing out, stories, separating one group into two
- 25 - separating one set into two, horizontal and vertical subtraction
- 26 - missing numbers, picture stories, comparing numbers
- 27 - addition and subtraction stories, introduction to the clock
- 28 - time: day/night, hour hand/minute hand, hour/half hour
- 29 - time: half past the hour, days of the week
- 30 - days of the week, introduction to seasons/months
- 31 - counting by ‘10’s to ‘100’, sets of tens and ones
- 32 - counting by ‘fives’ and ‘tens’, counting to ‘100’
- 33 - identifying coins and values: penny, nickel, dime; counting money
- 34 - introduction to quarters, solid shapes: cylinder, cube, rectangular solid

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.