

5-2012

Generations: A Family Ministry Curriculum

Bethany Abbott

Olivet Nazarene University, babbott@olivet.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/honr_proj



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Abbott, Bethany, "Generations: A Family Ministry Curriculum" (2012). *Honors Program Projects*. 18.
https://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/honr_proj/18

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors Program at Digital Commons @ Olivet. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Program Projects by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Olivet. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@olivet.edu.

GENERATIONS: A FAMILY MINISTRY CURRICULM

By

Bethany Abbott

Honors Capstone Project

Submitted to the Faculty of

Olivet Nazarene University

for partial fulfillment of the requirements for

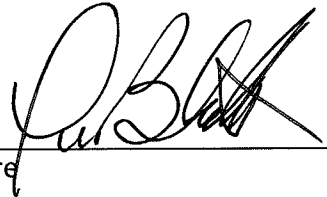
GRADUATION WITH UNIVERSITY HONORS

March, 2012

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

in

Children's Ministry

LEON BLANDHETTE, ED.D.  3/6/12
Capstone Project Advisor (printed) Signature Date

Sue E. Williams  4/12/12
Honors Council Chair (printed) Signature Date

Sara Spruce  4-16-12
Honors Council Member (printed) Signature Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A big thanks to all those who made this project possible!

Dr. Leon Blanchette—my professor and advisor

Dr. Sue Williams and the Honors Council

Foundations of Children's Ministry Spring 2012—for listening,
asking good questions and all your encouragement and suggestions

All those at Monee Free Methodist Church—for allowing me to
learn, teach, create, explore and practice

My parents—for their example of God's love

My dear friends—for putting up with all my talk of “kids and stuff”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	iii
Abstract.....	v
Introduction.....	1
Review of Literature.....	2
Description of Performance.....	5
Reflection.....	8
Bibliography.....	10
Appendix A: Curriculum Elements.....	11
Curriculum Philosophy.....	12
Curriculum Theology.....	15
Curriculum Scope and Sequence.....	16
Curriculum Example #1.....	21
Take-Me-Home Example #1.....	24
Curriculum Example #2.....	26
Take-Me-Home Example #2.....	29
Web Site Design.....	31
“Parent Party” Outline.....	46
Appendix B: Formal Evaluations.....	49
“Expert” Formal Evaluations.....	50
Student Formal Evaluation.....	56

ABSTRACT

This Honors Capstone Project created the opportunity to create a children's church curriculum influenced by the ideas of family ministry. The paper includes an introduction to the writer's vision and goals, a review of literature focused on what family ministry is and why it is important, a description of the curriculum project, and the creator's reflection on the project. The first appendix of the paper includes the curriculum elements (philosophy, theology, a two-year curriculum scope and sequence, two examples of Sunday morning curriculum and take-home materials, as well as a curriculum website design and parent event outline). An additional appendix also includes evaluations of the curriculum elements as well as the first presentation of these elements.

Keywords: Family Ministry, Children's Church, Curriculum, Meta-narrative

INTRODUCTION

I began this two-year project with the goal of creating a children's church curriculum influenced by my passion for family ministry. I wanted it to be interactive, impacting, and creative for both kids and their parents. I didn't quite know what I was getting into, but I'll discuss more of that in my reflection.

In the following pages you will first learn what family ministry is all about—what it is and why it is important for ministry to children. This is important as we consider what a curriculum would look like that both provides material for teaching and learning at church, but also partnering with and equipping parents for leading their children at home. It is by no means complete, but my review of literature will provide a basic understanding of the ideal hope for ministry.

"Generations" curriculum was designed from my experiences of using curriculum, my own teaching and other ministry experiences with kids, and my vision of what my own ministry will one day look like. It's really only a beginning.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ministry to children is a passion that God has placed on my heart. Our kids are not only the Church of tomorrow but make up a large part of the Church today. Leading researcher George Barna reminds readers in his book *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* that it “is during these crucial eight years [that is age 5-12] that lifelong habits, values, beliefs, and attitudes are formed.”¹ If we are to impact and transform the lives of children we must be diligent to identify how we can best create life-changing environments for our children to thrive. With this goal in mind, it is crucial for both the church and parents to come together to minister to the next generation. Reggie Joiner, author of *Think Orange*, defines “family ministry” as “an effort to synchronize church leaders and parents around a master plan to build faith and character in their sons and daughters.” Joiner further goes on to say that “a family ministry should develop the process that drives how both the church and the home combine their efforts to influence the next generation.”² In creating a ministry to children and their families it is important, then, to ask where we are, what parents need, and what the role of the church is in response.

In the past few years, more and more ministries are recognizing a missing link in their ministry to children – parents. Mark Holmen reports that “the Church has created a drop-off mentality that has enabled parents to abdicate their faith-nurturing responsibility.”³ In other words, in its mission to create fun and formational

---

¹ George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* (Ventura: Regal, 2003), 18.

² Reggie Joiner, *Think Orange* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009), 83.

³ Mark Holmen, *Building Faith at Home* (Ventura: Regal, 2007), 12.

programming the Church has neglected to keep parents involved and minister to each child's home environment. As a result, as Holmen goes on to explain, "While everyone's intentions were good, what churches failed to realize is that many parents saw these programs as an opportunity to pass on the faith-nurturing responsibilities to the Church."⁴ Although parents have the greatest influence on their children, Christian or otherwise, the Church has been guilty of neglecting this pivotal parental role. Joiner reports that "only one out of five [parents] say that they have ever been contacted by their church to discuss their responsibility to influence their children's spirituality."⁵

Parents have not only a great responsibility but also a great opportunity to share God's grace with their children. Throughout his book, Joiner references the 3,000/40 principle to illustrate just how great a parent's impact is. He describes the average church only having 40 hours in a given year to influence a life whereas the average parent has 3,000 hours per year to influence a life.⁶ With this given time Joiner believes parents' main role is "to love and demonstrate God's character through an unconditional relationship."⁷ With this role also comes the responsibility of becoming a spiritual leader for their children. Joiner defines spiritual leadership as "assuming the primary responsibility to help kids advance in their spiritual growth."⁸

As the Church, then, what can we do to support parents and their spiritual leadership at home? Family ministry leaders across the country are calling for churches to focus on two big jobs: to encourage and equip. We should be encouraging parents to

---

⁴ Ibid., 22.

⁵ Joiner, 89.

⁶ Ibid., 85.

⁷ Ibid., 44.

⁸ Ibid., 91.

“not give up,” to “take advantage of the time they have with their kids,” and to “use their [own] lives as the best examples of their faith for their children.”⁹ We are to reassure parents and instill in them a “strong sense” that we “believe in their potential.”¹⁰ Equipping parents to be spiritual leaders means equipping “couples with the skills and tools to build healthy marriages that last” as well as training “parents how to raise Christian children in a healthy home environment.”¹¹

When we recognize, as ministry leaders, that parents are the primary spiritual leaders and that it is our job to come alongside them, instead of trying to take over their jobs, together we will have a greater impact on the children we serve. As Barna describes, “The beauty of this process is that when it is working well you cannot tell who is really leading – the church or the parents.”¹² I want my ministry to be effective. Even more than teaching creative lessons on Sunday, I want to work with parents to help create lasting impressions on their children. I want to encourage and equip parents to bring up kids who know nothing apart from God’s love.

When these two efforts can come together, their impact will be greater than what they could do alone. It is a kind of synergism. Barna calls it a “two-fisted punch.”¹³ Joiner calls it “thinking orange.” I can only imagine what God will do!

---

⁹ Tracy Carpenter, “Building Faith @ Home,” *Children’s Ministry Magazine* Jan/Feb 2010, 104.

¹⁰ Joiner, 47.

¹¹ William Batson, “The Argument for Family-Centered Ministry,” *Children’s Ministry Magazine* Nov/Dec 2009, 58.

¹² Barna, 99.

¹³ Ibid.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

“Generations” is a curriculum created for a Sunday morning Children’s Church model of ministry, but more than that it is influenced by the ideas of family ministry to encourage and partner with parents for learning faith at home. The title— “Generations”—comes from Psalms 78:4: “we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” God’s love, mercy, and grace are for all generations; it is our job as teachers, parents, and other leaders to share with the next generation God’s story and our part in it. The focus of this curriculum is to resource leaders for ministry on Sunday morning through creative and interactive lesson ideas as well as ideas for encouraging, equipping, and resourcing parents for leading their children. (The curriculum’s philosophy and theology descriptions, which can be found in Appendix A, further explain these concepts.)

“Generations” is designed to tell God’s story of the Bible, Genesis to Revelation, over a two-year period for elementary aged students. Although not every story can be told, each Sunday a new story is explored, in chronological order with a few exceptions, as a piece of the bigger meta-narrative of the Bible. The curriculum was designed around the church calendar so that specific stories could fall on important dates such as Easter and Christmas: The Old Testament is the focus of the first year, ending with the birth of Christ at Christmas, then moving into the New Testament for the second year. God’s covenant, his faithfulness and other characteristics, the stories of His people, as well as the truth of His word for us are explored through these stories. The curriculum is broken down into themes—each theme includes a focus Bible verse. These themes

group similar stories together and describe various aspects of God and the stories of His people. (The curriculum's two-year scope and sequence can be found in Appendix A.)

Each Sunday, "Generations" explores a new piece of God's greater story. The curriculum provides both structure and creativity to suggest ideas for the ministry leader to teach their students. This curriculum is not designed for last minute preparation or the absolute structure of "say this" and "do this." Instead, the curriculum is designed for the ministry leader to create Sunday morning lessons which will work best with the children of his or her ministry. Various ideas provide flexibility for various group sizes as well as sizes of space and available resources. Suggestions are also given for working with students who may have a variety of learning styles. Focus is given each lesson to that day's story, the theme Bible verse, as well as prayer. (Two examples of Sunday morning curriculum can be found in Appendix A.)

Sunday morning is not the only focus of "Generations" curriculum, however. With each Sunday morning lesson comes a "Take-Me-Home" paper which includes activities for children as well as family activity ideas for parents based on the morning's theme or story and theme Bible verse. These weekly papers, as well as many other ideas and resources, are available to parents on the curriculum's website. This website provides easy access for parents to explore the curriculum calendar, family activities provided by the curriculum, as well as additional links to other online resources. (Two examples of Sunday morning "take-me-home" papers and the "Generations" curriculum's website design can be found in Appendix A.)

In addition to “take-me-home” papers and the website, “Generations” curriculum also provides materials for parent gatherings. These “Parent Parties” provide face-to-face opportunities to cast vision, equip and encourage parents for leading their children at home. Partnering with parents is foundational to successful ministry with their children. These “Parent Party” events provide an opportunity for parents to realize their own role in the lives of their children, connect with the curriculum, and collect ideas and resources for family activities, family prayer, and family discussions. (An example of a “Parent Party” outline can be found in Appendix A.)

REFLECTION

“Generations” curriculum began as a project for myself but evolved into a greater vision. Creating a curriculum has certainly been practical, as I knew it would be, but has also brought unexpected challenges and blessings. Writing curriculum to hand over to someone else, which includes the attempt to cast vision and explain ideas simply through words on a paper, is much more involved and challenging than I could have predicted. This opportunity, however, has convinced me of the advantage of taking the time to fully develop my ideas, not only to share but also to have for myself in the long term.

Looking back at my original proposal, I realized that I ended up doing much more than I had originally intended. Much of my curriculum took shape as it was being created. I had only intended to design a quarter long plan but created a full two-year scope. This two-year plan, however, has been the most useful element and most important part of the curriculum’s design. It was also the piece of my curriculum which was one of the most fun to create. Just through creating this two-year scope and sequence I experienced the value of creating vision and strategy in ministry. Having an overarching plan truly brings each piece together and also provides a vision of what we’re moving toward Sunday-to-Sunday.

Overall this has been an invaluable experience. Not only have I had the opportunity to begin using pieces of my curriculum, experimenting with it and learning what it could be, but also in sharing my ideas and vision for it have been so blessed. I have already had interest from other children’s pastors and leaders for using it in their

own ministries. I do not know what God will do with it in the future, but I do know that turning these pages over to the Honors council does not signal the end of this project, both in my own ministry and the ministry of others. I would love to fully complete this two-year sequence and possibly create an accompanying curriculum for younger ages. Although I could never sit behind a desk and write curriculum for the rest of my life, I now know the benefit and blessing of both taking the next step in formally writing curriculum for myself as well as, potentially, writing it to hand over to others for ministry. I must admit that this idea scares me, a lot, but God always has a way of surprising me.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Batson, William. "The Argument for Family-Centered Ministry," *Children's Ministry Magazine* Nov/Dec 2009.

Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. Ventura: Regal, 2003.

Carpenter, Tracy. "Building Faith @ Home," *Children's Ministry Magazine* Jan/Feb 2010.

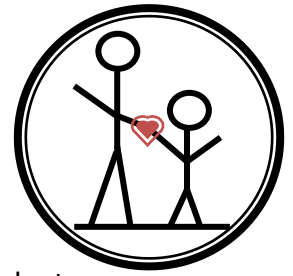
Holmen, Mark. *Building Faith at Home*. Ventura: Regal, 2007.

Joiner, Reggie. *Think Orange*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009.

APPENDIX A

Curriculum Elements

PHILOSOPHY



The Basics

This 2-year weekly curriculum is designed for elementary-aged students (kindergarten through 6th grade). More than just weekly lesson plans for teachers on Sunday mornings, this curriculum has been designed with the foundational understanding of the power of the church and home coming together for a greater influence on their children. The fundamental heartbeat of this curriculum, then, is the relationship between the ministry of the church and parents; it is the synergy of both interactive, creative, and Biblically-based lessons for children of all learning styles on Sunday mornings and intentionally created opportunities and available materials for encouraging and equipping parents for leading their children at home.

Our curriculum is designed to teach through the Bible in two years. Every verse from Scripture cannot be touched upon but rather it is our hope that over two years children can begin to see a BIG PICTURE view of the story of the Bible. Throughout these two years, together we can follow the story of God's people and His covenant with them. Every week we will learn something new about who God is and the story of His Son Jesus. This story is a story for us. As we learn through the stories of the Bible we will learn about a God who loves us, has a plan for us, and wants to save us from our sin.

Sunday Morning Learning

We want Children's Church time to be an interactive time of learning, creativity, growing and, of course, fun. We understand that each child learns differently so

throughout each theme different lessons contain activities for learners of all kinds. In other words, throughout each theme there will be specific opportunities for visual learners and auditory learners, as well as activities for children who learn better by speaking or doing. We also understand that every church which may use this curriculum will have access to different resources and materials, as well as host varying numbers of children, volunteers, lengths of time, and sizes of space. For this reason, each week of curriculum provides a number of different activities from which a teacher may choose to use for the smoothest and best learning experience.

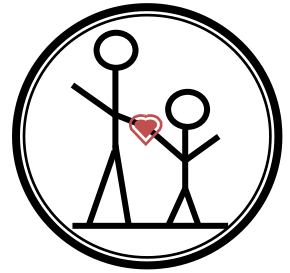
In addition to entering the stories of the Bible and learning what they mean for each of our own lives, great emphasis is put each Sunday morning on using the Bible and knowing Scripture as well as the importance and power of prayer. With additional support from activities at home, this time of instruction is about equipping children to understand the importance of, and how to use, the Bible and pray on their own.

For the Parents

In order to cultivate a relationship with parents, our curriculum is accompanied by basic materials for six large “Parent Party” events throughout the 2-year curriculum. These events serve to **inform** parents of upcoming themes, **review** curriculum goals, **equip** parents with materials for learning Scripture and Biblical truths at home, as well as **provide** ideas, examples, and materials for family time activities. Above all, these events are intentionally created to bring parents together for support and encouragement.

In addition to these “Parent Party” events each week of curriculum includes a take home page containing additional activities in response to the week’s lesson for each child and their family. All of this material, as well as even more additional resources, are available online on our curriculum’s website (*Generationscurriculum.com*). We understand the reality and activity of family life and that it may be impossible for every parent to make it to every “Parent Party” event and for every take-home paper to be received and read, so our website provides easy-to-access information as well as additional links to even more resources. One of our goals is to equip parents for leading their children at home and it is our hope that these online resources will be well used.

THEOLOGY



We believe it is possible for children to be in a **relationship with Christ**. As with any other follower of Christ, this relationship will grow and change over time and experience. Because we believe this we want our curriculum and the resources we provide for parents to always point to God, His love for each of us even in our sin, and the opportunity of forgiveness and grace He gives. Throughout our curriculum we have intentional activities to work toward a better understanding of what a relationship with Christ looks like as well as invitation to accept His grace and enter into a relationship with Him. Our theology is based in a [Wesleyan-Holiness](#) understanding of faith.

We believe in a **foundation of Scripture** for the Christian life. We believe Scripture is the Word of God and that God continues to speak to us through it. Because we believe this, we want Scripture to be woven throughout each Sunday morning. We also want to equip both parents and children to use the Bible at home or on their own. We also believe the memorization of Scripture is important and seek to provide activities (both on Sunday morning and at home) to aid in understanding and memory.

We believe that **prayer** is powerful and effective. We believe that prayer is an essential part of a relationship with Christ. We want prayer to be a central element on Sunday morning as well as to provide resources for practice at home. It is our hope that prayer would also become a central part of every family and each individual's life.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Sundays (2012)	Theme	Story in the BIG story	Scripture	Bible verse
Jan. 1	Beginnings	Creation	Genesis 1:1 - 2:3; Psalms 33:1-10	Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”
Jan. 8		The Story of Adam and Eve	Genesis 2:15-3:24	
Jan. 15		The Story of Noah	Genesis 6 – 9	
Jan. 22		The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9	
Jan. 29	God's Covenant	God's Call and Promise to Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9; 15	Genesis 12:1-2 “The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”
Feb. 5		The Birth of Ishmael and Isaac	Genesis 16, 21:1-21	
Feb. 12		Abraham and Isaac	Genesis 22:1-19	
Feb. 19		Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:24-34; 27:1-40	
Feb. 26		Leah and Rachel	Genesis 29 - 30:24	
Mar. 4	God is in control	The Story of Joseph	Genesis 37, 39-41	Psalm 118:6 “The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”
Mar. 11		Joseph and his brothers	Genesis 42 - 46:7	
Mar. 18		The Life of Moses: Growing Up	Exodus 2	
Mar. 25		The Life of Moses: The burning bush	Exodus 3 – 4:17	
Apr. 1 Palm Sunday		The Life of Moses: Speaking to Pharaoh and the plagues	Exodus 5 - 10	
Apr. 8 Easter	God provides	The Life of Moses: Passover	Exodus 11 – 12:42	Deuteronomy 7:9 “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand
Apr. 15		The Life of Moses: Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:17 – 14	

Scope and sequence, pp 17-20

Withheld by author

CURRICULUM EXAMPLE #1

	CREATION Week 1 January 1, 2012
Beginnings	Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:3; Psalm 33:6-9 Memory Verse: Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Welcome *Welcome to the beginning! This is an exciting day. On this day we begin a journey through the Bible, from Genesis 1 through Revelation, exploring who God is and what He has for us. As we begin this 2-year adventure, let us truly start at the beginning—when God created everything from nothing. God is MIGHTY. God is our CREATOR. There is NO ONE like OUR GOD. God is... <i>(Supplies: large posterboard, markers)</i> Invest in a large posterboard. At the very center write the phrase “God is...” Over these weeks of stories, challenge your students to think of things we learn about God from His word throughout each Sunday session. (Some characteristics they might learn about God from today’s lesson are listed above.) Keep the poster in a central place to remind you and your students of God’s greatness. You may come back to this poster again and again, not only when we learn about the Bible, but also as you worship, pray and learn together. “The heavens declare...” <i>(Supplies: Bible, opt. Bible Verse Poster)</i> You may choose to begin today’s lesson talking about the most beautiful sunrise, sunset, or other sky each student as ever seen. Introduce our theme Bible verse (Psalm 19:1) and discuss what the verse means for us. (Have students find the verse in their Bibles and mark it for easy access throughout the month.) The verse says that “the skies proclaim the work of his hands;” You may use this verse to introduce the morning’s theme of God creating everything (including the sky) from nothing.
*Author note: The words of this curriculum are meant for the study and preparation of the Children’s Church leader. The words written here are not necessarily meant to be read aloud to students but rather to guide, inspire, and outline the shape of each Sunday morning session. Generations Beginnings: Week 1 CREATION 1	

Lesson Activities**

Create a Mural

(Supplies: Bibles, A large available wall space covered in butcher paper or something similar, art and craft supplies—the more and more various supplies there are the more creative we can be!)

In this activity students will create a large mural to display God's creation. This project demands a lot of space, time, and supplies, but you will have project worth showing off for the month.

Large group: Split up into smaller groups and give each group a piece of the creation narrative in Genesis 1. Each group will then have the task of illustrating that specific piece of the creation story on your group mural. (For example, the group assigned Genesis 1:14-19 will have the task of adding the sun, moon and stars to the mural whereas the group assigned Genesis 1:20-23 will have the task of adding sea creatures and birds). Note that some groups will have to work together, like the group making water and the group making sea creatures.)

Small Group: Work together through the Creation narrative of Genesis 1 and create the mural together. Be sure to take turns both reading and creating.

Tell the Story

(Supplies: Bibles, Pictures or Media)

Read through the story of Creation with your students. Collect pictures (whether physical or ones to project digitally) and show them as you read. As you explore God's creation, talk with your students about what they've seen, heard, touched and tasted. Ask questions about their favorite animals or what they've learned in school about the world around them.

Play a Game

This may also be used as a review activity.

(Supplies: marker board or paper with appropriate writing utensils)

Either create a list of various elements (light, man, the ocean, turtle) of creation before or create a list with the help of your students. As students volunteer, randomly assign or have them randomly choose one of these items. Allow them to choose whether to draw or act out their item to get the group to guess correctly what they chose. (You may want to set a time limit.)

**Author note: Listed here are number of possible activities for exploring God's creating everything from nothing. You may choose one or more possibilities from which to guide your students based on what supplies are available to you, what you have found works best with your kids, and other factors.

Other Activities

Timeline Activity

(Supplies: large roll of paper, markers and/or other art supplies)

As we begin there are a number of activities which will begin here and reappear throughout the following two years. One of these is a timeline. As we add to our timeline each week, or with each theme, we have the opportunity to see the story of the Bible before us. (This will also be a very helpful way to review where we have been each week.) Use (or make) a large roll of paper to begin your timeline. You may choose to open your timeline each week or put it up on a wall/around the room. Keep the timeline simple.

God
made

or

God created
everything

Ask for volunteers to decorate the timeline with pictures of creation.

Prayer***

Have each child think of something that God created that they want to thank him for. Take turns praying—praising God for His creation. Finish the prayer thanking God for your students, your time together, and give to him the next months of your time together as your study His word and the story He has for us which began with His creating EVERYTHING from NOTHING.

Take Me Home

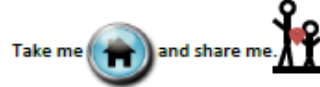
Don't forget to send a "Take Me Home" paper with each child. Explain that each paper has more activities for everyone to do at home, both individually and as a family. Challenge your students to work on memorizing Psalm 19:1.

Note: Using the Bible

As you using the Bible during this month's theme, make sure to point out that all our stories are found in the book of Genesis—the very first book of the Bible. Genesis means beginning in Greek.

***Author note: Don't forget! Make praying together a priority!

TAKE-ME-HOME EXAMPLE #1



CREATION

KID'S ACTIVITY PAGE

Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 33:6-9

January 1, 2012

Do you remember our memory verse?

The _____ declare the _____ of _____; the
_____ proclaim the _____ of his _____.

Psalm 19:1

God created...

Draw a picture of your favorite
flower.

God created...

Draw a picture of yourself.

God created...

Draw a picture of your favorite animal.

Find these words:

BEGINNING   LIGHT
DARKNESS   SKY
WATER   LAND
MORNING   DAY
NIGHT   PLANTS
BIRDS   FISH
ANIMALS   MAN
IMAGE   GOOD
REST   DUST
ADAM   EVE



A	W	B	M	A	N	N	C	B	E	D
D	A	Y	E	F	G	I	H	I	V	I
J	T	K	O	L	M	G	M	R	E	S
N	E	L	O	P	O	H	Q	D	R	K
S	R	I	T	U	R	T	V	S	W	Y
B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	A	B
X	Y	H	Z	L	I	F	I	S	H	P
A	C	T	D	A	N	E	G	F	I	L
D	H	K	L	N	G	G	O	O	D	A
A	M	P	E	D	R	E	S	T	D	N
M	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	U	T
C	D	I	M	A	G	E	L	R	S	S
A	N	I	M	A	L	S	E	S	T	U



CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 33:6-9



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

January 1, 2012

GO EXPLORING!



Take some time to enjoy God's creation this month together as family. Ask children to point out things that God has made. Talk as a family about how creative God is, How mighty and amazing! (Young children might enjoy celebrating each thing with a big THANK YOU, GOD!) It may be a bit too cold for a nature walk but your family might enjoy going on a drive together through a park or looking through some nature books. January might also be a great time to get out of the house and go to an Aquarium or Science or Nature Museum to discover some of God's creativity. ENJOY your time together!

Oh, the Memories!

Not only did God create our world around us but He has also created you and me. As a family go through your child(ren)'s baby pictures and other memory books. Not only is this a great time to remind your child that God made them, they are unique, and God loves them but also to encourage them with how special they are to you. Maybe you could also share funny memories about them as a baby. Perhaps if your child is adopted you could also share memories of your excitement of receiving them into your family. ENJOY sharing the memories!



Bible Verse Activity

Our theme verse as we talk about Beginnings is Psalm 19:1 (The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands). What a wonderful verse to put on a window to remind us of God's glory every time we look outside and up at the sky! Print out this month's verse and tape it to your child's bedroom window, kitchen window or even in the car. Feeling creative? Maybe you could decorate your print-out or, even more, buy glass-safe markers to put right on the window! ☺ ENJOY worshipping together!

CURRICULUM EXAMPLE #2

	Jesus, the Miracle Worker JESUS CALMS THE STORM Week 3 February 17, 2013
	Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27 Memory Verse: Luke 9:43 “And they were all amazed at the greatness of God” <u>This Week</u> *This week we will continue talking about the miracles of Jesus. First we learned about Jesus’ first miracle, turning water into wine, and last week his healing of Jairus’ daughter. Jesus had great power, over elements, disease, and, as we learn this week, “even the winds and waves obeyed him.” Through Jesus and his miracles, many people saw the power of God (Luke 9:43). This week, we not only continue to learn another remarkable story of Jesus and His time on earth, but we learn of God’s mighty power, even during the scary times. God is POWERFUL. He is IN CONTROL. <u>Review Activity</u> Take time at the beginning of your session together to review the life of Jesus. Jesus was fully human, like us, but He was also fully God. Use your “Life of Jesus” timeline to point out that our story today happened during Jesus’ ministry. Review the miracles we have talked about the last couple of weeks (Turning water into wine, John 2:1-11, and the healing of Jairus’ daughter, Luke 8:40-56). <u>Intro Activity</u> This week’s story is about a storm. Ask a few students to share a story about a time they were afraid because of a bad storm. <u>Verse Activity</u> <i>(Supplies: Bible, optional Bible Verse Poster)</i> By week three, many of your students may already have the verse down, but not everyone. Review Luke 9:43 together. (Idea for Review: “And they were all ____.” Show with your face what the next word is. “And they were all amazed by the greatness of ____.” Who?). What other possible “amazing” thing could God do to show His greatness?
*Author note: The words of this curriculum are meant for the study and preparation of the Children’s Church leader. The words written here are not necessarily meant to be read aloud to students but rather to guide, inspire, and outline the shape of each Sunday morning session. Generations Jesus, the Miracle Worker: Week 3 Jesus Calms the Storm 1	

Lesson Activities**

Using the Bible

Make sure to remind your students that the stories of Jesus are found in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). These four books tell the "good news" of our Savior's life and death.

Act it Out

(Supplies: Bibles, volunteer actors, floor space, tape)

Ask for volunteer actors. You will need one student to be Jesus and a handful of disciples. If you have a large group and plenty of space you may also have your students create a boat by holding hands or laying down in an outline. (If not, use tape to mark out a boat shape on the floor.) Invite non-actors to follow along with you in Matthew 8:23-27 as you narrate the story and let your student-actors follow your lead. After you've gone through the story, challenge them act it out again without your narration, or have another non-acting student narrate for you without reading.

Tell Me the Story

(Supplies: Bibles)

Dramatically read today's story from Matthew 8:23-27 and have your students create storm sound effects for you.

Order of Events

(Supplies: Bible, paper, markers/crayons)

Assign each student, or group of students (depending on the size of your large group), to an event in the story and have them illustrate it. Use these illustrations as a review of the story. (Make copies for next week and review by having a small group challenge to put the events in order.)

- Jesus and his disciples get into a boat. (8:23)
- A huge storm comes up over the lake. (8:24)
- The disciples found Jesus sleeping. (8:24)
- The disciples wake up Jesus saying "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" (8:25)
- Jesus asks the disciples, "You of little faith, why are so afraid?" (8:26)
- Jesus rebukes the wind and waves. (8:26)
- The lake is made completely calm. (8:26)
- The disciples are amazed. They ask, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" (8:27)

**Author note: Listed here are number of possible activities for exploring God's creating everything from nothing. You may choose one or more possibilities from which to guide your students based on what supplies are available to you, what you have found works best with your kids, and other factors.

Other Activities

Feeling Artsy?

(Supplies: thick paper, a wide tub of water, crayons, and blue markers)

This is a neat project. On a sheet of thick paper have each child use crayons to draw Jesus and his disciples in the boat. Also using crayon write a message such as, "Jesus calms the storm" or "Why are you so afraid?" Also, make sure to use crayon, rather than marker, for the child's name. After their picture is complete, have each child use blue marker to put thick dots all over the page. When you dip the paper in water and pull it out, top first, the marker will bleed and become like rain drops. Make sure you let these pages dry before they go home.

Prayer***

God is in control and is mightier than even the "winds and waves" of our story, but those kinds of storms aren't the only ones that scare us. Take time to let your students share the "storms" in their lives or the lives of others around them. You may choose to do this in a large group setting or by breaking into small groups. Take time to encourage each other that we can trust our Mighty God, even when we don't understand the "storms" of life around us.

Take Me Home

Don't forget to send a "Take Me Home" paper with each child. Explain that each paper has more activities for everyone to do at home, both individually and as a family. Challenge your students to work on memorizing Luke 9:43.

***Author note: Don't forget! Make praying together a priority!

Take me and share me.

Matthew 8:23-27

February 17, 2013

	Jesus gets up and tells the waves, "Quiet! Be still!"
	Jesus tells his disciples they should go to the other side of the water
	The wind dies down and the sea is calm
	Jesus and the disciples leave the crowd behind and get in a boat
	Jesus asks his disciples "Why are you so afraid?"
	A big storm comes up and nearly floods the boat
	The disciples wake Jesus who has fallen asleep afraid they will drown
	The disciples are shocked and ask each other, "Who is this?"



Before

Be still!

After

"

J V J   . n o P   . o . o   J < <

J ^ J F O J   J .   . n o

r . o j l v o d d   y c   r y "

Luke 9:43

Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

February 17, 2013

Afraid?

Are your kids afraid of storms? Next time the wind rattles the windows and lightning strikes nearby, remind your kids of this story in Matthew 8. This story reminds us that our God is BIGGER than any storm! The disciples are amazed and ask each other, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!" (Matthew 8:27). We serve a POWERFUL God! Jesus may not calm every thunderstorm or tornado as quickly as we would like Him to, but He is in charge! Pray for protection and safety as a family. Pray together and ask God to calm your hearts and give you peace, even during the scary times.



Quiet! Be still!

After reviewing the story of Jesus calming the storm in Matthew 8, act out the miracle together. Have your kids pretend that they are the storm—rushing wind, pounding thunder, flashing lightning, crashing waves—but as soon Jesus' words, "Quiet! Be still!," are spoken, what happens? (The wind, thunder, lightning and waves are completely calm. Wow!) This is especially a great activity for your little ones to get involved with.



Bible Verse Activity

"And they were all amazed at the greatness of God" (Luke 9:43)

Our theme as we explore a few of Jesus' many miracles reminds that God is great. Sometime around the dinner table or in the car this week, take turns telling each other why you think God is so GREAT! His glory is endless. He is our Creator and Sustainer. He is our Savior and loves us even when fail Him. He has always been and always will be. I am sure you'll have no problem coming up things. God is good! Enjoy worshipping a GREAT God together!

WEB SITE DESIGN





Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

Home

About

Calendar

For Parents

Quick Links

Our Philosophy

Our Theology

Sunday Morning Calendar

Printable Materials

Family Activities

Other Resource Links

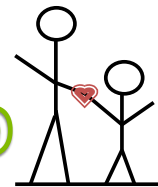
Click on this tab to learn more about us!

You'll find:

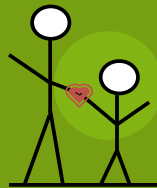
- Our Philosophy
- Our Theology



"we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done"
Psalm 78:4



Welcome to Generationscurriculum.com!



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their
children at home

Home

About

Calendar

For Parents

Quick Links

Our
Philosophy

Our Theology

Sunday
Morning
Calendar

Printable
Materials

Family
Activities

Other
Resource
Links

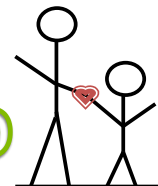


Click on this tab to see our
Sunday Children's Church
calendar for the next few
months!

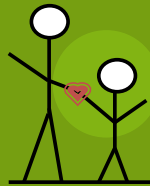
You'll find:

- Themes
- Story
- Scripture
- Theme Bible Verse

*"we will tell the next
generation the
praiseworthy deeds of the
Lord, his power, and the
wonders he has done"
Psalm 78:4*



Welcome to Generationscurriculum.com!



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

Home

About

Calendar

For Parents

Quick Links

Our Philosophy

Our Theology

Sunday Morning Calendar

Printable Materials

Family Activities

Other Resource Links



This tab offers lots of resources for families participating in Generations curriculum

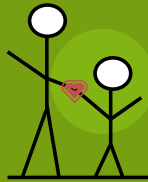
You'll find:

- Printable materials (from Parent Party events or Sunday Take-Homes)
- Additional Family Activity ideas
- Additional Resource Links

tell the next generation the many deeds of the power, and the he has done" m 78:4



Well
Generationscurriculum.com!



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

Home

About

Calendar

For Parents

Quick Links

Our Philosophy

Our Theology

Sunday Morning Calendar

Printable Materials

Family Activities

Other Resource Links

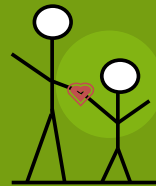


These Quick Links allow for direct access to resources and material

"we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done"
Psalm 78:4



Welcome to Generationscurriculum.com!



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

[Home](#)[About](#)[Calendar](#)[For Parents](#)[For Kids](#)

Quick Links

[Our Philosophy](#)[Our Theology](#)[Sunday Morning Calendar](#)[Printable Materials](#)[Family Activities](#)[Other Resource Links](#)

Our Philosophy

The Basics

This two-year weekly curriculum is designed for elementary-aged students (kindergarten through 6th grade). More than just weekly lesson plans for teachers on Sunday mornings, this curriculum has been designed with the foundational understanding of the power of the church and home coming together for a greater influence on their children. The fundamental heartbeat of this curriculum, then, is the relationship between the ministry of the church and parents... [Read More](#)

Sunday Morning Learning

We want Children's Church time to be an interactive time of learning, creativity, growing and, of course, fun. We understand that each child learns differently so throughout each theme different lessons contain activities for learners of all kinds. In other words, throughout each theme there will be specific opportunities... [Read More](#)



For the Parents

In order to cultivate a relationship with parents, our curriculum is accompanied by basic materials for six large “Parent Party” events throughout the 2-year curriculum. These events serve to **inform** parents of upcoming themes, **review** curriculum goals, **equip** parents with materials for learning Scripture and Biblical truths at home, as well as **provide** ideas, examples, and materials for family time activities... [Read More](#)

Our Theology

We believe it is possible for children to be in a **relationship with Christ**. As with any other follower of Christ, this relationship will grow and change over time and experience. Because we believe this we want our curriculum and the resources we provide for parents to always point to God, His love for each of us even in our sin, and the opportunity of forgiveness ... [Read More](#)

We believe in a **foundation of Scripture** for the Christian life. We believe Scripture is the Word of God and that God continues to speak to us through it. Because we believe this, we want Scripture to be woven throughout each Sunday morning. We also want to equip both parents and children to use the Bible at home or on their own. We also believe the... [Read More](#)

We believe that **prayer** is powerful and effective. We believe that prayer is an essential part of a relationship with Christ. We want prayer to be a central element on Sunday morning as well as to provide resources... [Read More](#)



Generations_{curriculum.com}

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Calendar](#)

[For Parents](#)

Quick Links

[Our Philosophy](#)

[Our Theology](#)

[Sunday Morning Calendar](#)

[Printable Materials](#)

[Family Activities](#)

[Other Resource Links](#)

Sundays (2012)	Theme	Story in the BIG story	Scripture	Bible verse
Jan. 1	Beginnings	Creation	Genesis 1:1 - 2:3; Psalms 33:1-10	Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”
Jan. 8		The Story of Adam and Eve	Genesis 2:15-3:24	
Jan. 15		The Story of Noah	Genesis 6 – 9	
Jan. 22		The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9	
Jan. 29	God's Covenant	God's Call and Promise to Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9; 15	Genesis 12:1-2 “The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”
Feb. 5		The Birth of Ishmael and Isaac	Genesis 16, 21:1-21	
Feb. 12		Abraham and Isaac	Genesis 22:1-19	
Feb. 19		Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:24-34; 27:1-40	
Feb. 26		Leah and Rachel	Genesis 29 - 30:24	

	Mar. 4	God is in Control	The Story of Joseph	Genesis 37, 39 – 41	Psalm 118:6 “The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”
	Mar. 11		Joseph and his brothers	Genesis 42 - 46:7	
	Mar. 18		The Life of Moses: growing up	Exodus 2	
	Mar. 25		The Life of Moses: the burning bush	Exodus 3 - 4:17	
	Apr. 1 Palm Sunday		The Life of Moses: speaking to Pharaoh/Plagues	Exodus 5 – 10	
	Apr. 8 Easter	God Provides	The Life of Moses: Passover	Exodus 11-12:42	Deuteronomy 7:9 “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”
	Apr. 15		The Life of Moses: Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:17 – 14	
	Apr. 22		The Life of Moses: Manna and Quail	Exodus 16	
	Apr. 29		The Life of Moses: Water from the Rock	Exodus 17:1-7	
	May 6	Loving God	The Life of Moses: The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19 - 20:21	Deuteronomy 6:5 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
	May 13		The Life of Moses: The Golden Calf	Exodus 32 - 33:6	
	May 20		REVIEW	REVIEW	
	May 27		The Shema	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Calendar](#)

[For Parents](#)

Quick Links

[Our Philosophy](#)

[Our Theology](#)

[Sunday Morning Calendar](#)

[Printable Materials](#)

[Family Activities](#)

[Other Resource Links](#)

Printable Materials (PDFs)

Parent Party #1

Jan. 1   Jan. 8
Jan. 15   Jan. 22
Jan. 29

Feb. 5   Feb. 12
Feb. 19   Feb. 26

Mar. 4   Mar. 11
Mar. 18   Mar. 25

Apr. 1   Apr. 8
Apr. 15   Apr. 22
Apr. 29

[Click here for complete list](#)

Family Activities

Go Exploring! Take some time to enjoy God's creation this month together as a family. Ask children to point... [Read More](#)

Oh, the Memories! Not only did God create our world around us but He has also created you and me. As a family... [Read More](#)

Family Movie Night Together with your family watch a movie such as Disney's *Earth*, Paramount's *Arctic Tale*, or Warner Independent Pictures' *March of...* [Read More](#)

[Click here for complete list](#)

Other Resources

<http://dg4kids.com/> This is an excellent website for parents. It provides various "family adventures" surrounding attributes of God as well as many other resources.

[Click here for complete list](#)



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

Home

About

Calendar

For Parents

Quick Links

Our Philosophy

Our Theology

Sunday Morning Calendar

Printable Materials

Family Activities

Other Resource Links

January 1, 2012 – Take It Home

CREATION
Genesis 1:1-2:8, Psalm 33:6-9
January 1, 2012

Do you remember our memory verse?

The _____ declare the _____ of the _____
proclaim the _____ of his _____
Psalm 135:1

God created: _____
Draw a picture of your favorite flower.

God created: _____
Draw a picture of yourself.

God created: _____
Draw a picture of your favorite animal.

Find these words:

BEGINNING	LIGHT	A	W	B	M	A	N	N	C	B	E	D
DARKNESS	SKY	D	A	Y	E	F	G	I	H	I	V	I
WATER	LAND	J	T	K	O	L	M	S	M	R	E	S
MORNING	DAY	N	E	L	O	P	O	W	Q	D	R	K
NIGHT	PLANTS	S	R	I	T	U	R	T	V	S	W	Y
BIRDS	FISH	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	A	B
ANIMALS	MAN	X	Y	H	Z	L	I	P	I	S	H	P
IMAGE	WOOD	A	C	T	D	A	N	E	G	F	I	L
REST	DUST	D	H	K	L	N	G	G	O	O	D	A
ADAM	EVE	A	M	P	E	D	R	E	S	T	D	N
		M	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	U	T
		C	D	I	M	A	G	E	L	R	S	S
		A	N	I	M	A	L	S	E	S	T	U

CREATION
Genesis 1:1-2:8, Psalm 33:6-9
January 1, 2012

GO EXPLORING!

Take some time to enjoy God's creation this month together as family. Ask children to point out things that God has made. Talk as a family about how creative God is. How might and amazing! (Young children might enjoy colorizing each thing with a big THANK YOU, GOD!) It may be a bit too cold for a nature walk, but your family might enjoy going on a drive together through a park or looking through some nature books. January might also be a great time to get out of the house and go to an Aquarium or Science or Nature Museum to discover some of God's creativity. STUDY your time together!

Oh, the Memories!

Not only did God create our world around us but He has also created you and me. As a family go through your guggu's baby pictures and other memory books. Not only is this a great time to remind your child that God made them, they are unique, and God loves them but also to encourage them with how special they are to you. Maybe you could also share funny moments about them as a baby. Perhaps if your child is adopted you could also share moments of your excitement of receiving them into your family. STUDY sharing the memories!

Bible Verse Activity

Our theme verse as we talk about beginnings is Psalm 135:1 (The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands). What a wonderful verse to put on a window to remind us of God's glory every time we look outside and up at the sky! Print out this month's verse and tape it to your child's bedroom window, kitchen window or even in the car. Posing creative? Maybe you could decorate your pinboard on your mantel, buy glass-safe markers, to put right on the window! © STUDY worshipping together!



OPEN AS PDF to print



Generations_{curriculum.com}

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Calendar](#)

[For Parents](#)

Quick Links

[Our Philosophy](#)

[Our Theology](#)

[Sunday Morning Calendar](#)

[Printable Materials](#)

[Family Activities](#)

[Other Resource Links](#)

January 1, 2012 – Take It Home

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 33:6-9

Do you remember our memory verse?

The _____ declare the _____ of _____ the _____

proclaim the _____ of his _____

Psalm 33:6

So created... _____

Draw a picture of your favorite flower.

So created... _____

Draw a picture of yourself.

So created... _____

Draw a picture of your _____

Find these words:

BEGINNING	LIGHT
DARKNESS	SKY
WATER	LAND
MORNING	DAY
NIGHT	PLANTS
BIRDS	FISH
ANIMALS	MAN
IMAGE	WOOD
REST	DUST
ADAM	EVE

A	W	B	M	A	N	N	C	B	E
D	A	Y	E	P	G	I	H	I	V
J	T	K	O	L	M	G	M	R	E
N	E	L	O	P	O	H	Q	D	R
S	R	I	T	U	R	T	V	S	W
B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	A
X	Y	H	Z	L	I	F	I	S	H
A	C	T	D	A	N	E	G	F	I
D	H	K	L	N	G	O	O	D	A
A	M	P	E	D	R	E	S	T	D
M	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	U
C	D	I	M	A	G	E	L	R	S
A	N	I	M	A	L	S	E	S	T

This side of the "Take-It-Home" Page offers activities as review from Sundays lesson. (Theme, story, Bible verse, etc)

These activities are suitable for various Elementary-aged students.

OPEN AS PDF to print



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

Home

About

Calendar

For Parents

Quick Links

Our Philosophy

Our Theology

Sunday Morning Calendar

Printable Materials

Family Activities

Other Resource Links

January 1, 2012 – Take It Home

This side of the “Take-It-Hope” Page offers family activities for learning and growing at home.

Each page suggests two activities based on the week’s theme or lesson as well as one Bible verse activity.

These activities may surround a hands-on activity, a family time idea or a discussion question.

Take It Home

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:3, Psalm 124:6-9

GO EXPLORING!

Take some time to enjoy God's creation this month together as family. Ask children to point out things that God has made. Talk as a family about how creative God is. How might and amazing! Young children might enjoy colorizing each thing with a Big THANK YOU, GOD! It may be a bit too cold for a nature walk but your family might enjoy going on a drive together through a park or looking through some nature books. January might also be a great time to get out of the house and go to an Aquarium or Science or Nature Museum to discover some of God's creativity. ENJOY your time together!

On the Memories!

Not only did God create our world around us but He has also created you and me. As a family go through your child's baby pictures and other memory books. Not only is this a great time to remind your child that God made them, they are unique, and don't forget them but also to encourage them with how much He loves them. Maybe you could also share funny stories about them as a baby. Perhaps if your child is adopted also share memories of your excitement of receiving a new family. ENJOY sharing the memories!

Verse Activity

For those verse as we talk about beginnings in Psalm 124 (The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands). Write a wonderful verse to put on a window to remind us of God's glory every time we look outside and up at the sky! Print out this month's verse and tape it to your child's bedroom window, kitchen window or even in the car. Posting creative? Maybe you could decorate your printout or even make, buy glass-ware markers to put right on the window! ENJOY worshipping together!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

January 1, 2012

PDF to print



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

[Home](#)[About](#)[Calendar](#)[For Parents](#)

Quick Links

[Our Philosophy](#)[Our Theology](#)[Sunday Morning Calendar](#)[Printable Materials](#)[Family Activities](#)[Other Resource Links](#)

Key Word Search:

Family Activities

Beginnings (Theme 1)

Go Exploring! Take some time to enjoy God's creation this month together as a family. Ask children to point out things that God has made. Talk as a family about... [Read More](#)

Oh, the Memories! Not only did God create our world around us but He has also created you and me. As a family go through your child(ren)'s baby pictures... [Read More](#)

Family Movie Night Together with your family watch a movie such as Disney's *Nature's Earth*, Paramount's *Arctic Tale*, or Warner Independent Pictures' *March of...* [Read More](#)

Fingerprints Use a stamp pad to collect fingerprints from everyone in your family. Together look for similarities and differences between them. Talk about... [Read More](#)

Bible Verse Activity #1 – Psalm 19:1 Our theme verse as we talk about Beginnings is Psalm 19:1. What a wonderful verse to put on a window to remind us of God's glory every time we look outside and up at the sky! Print out this month's verse... [Read More](#)

Tempting Adam and Eve were tempted to eat the fruit when the snake questioned what God had told them. Talk to your kids about temptations they face... [Read More](#)



Generationscurriculum.com

Resourcing parents for leading their children at home

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Calendar](#)
[For Parents](#)

Quick Links

- Our Philosophy
- Our Theology
- Sunday Morning Calendar
- Printable Materials
- Family Activities
- Other Resource Links

Other Resources

<http://dg4kids.com/> This is an excellent website for parents. It provides various "family adventures" surrounding attributes of God as well as many other resources.

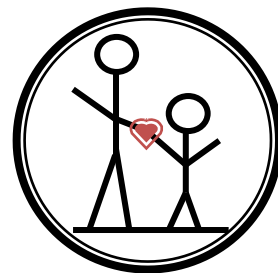
<http://www.lakepointe.org/Build/StartHere.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> "HomePointe exists to help you become intentional about building a [God-honoring home](#) one step at a time."

<http://familyfun.go.com/> This website is home to Disney's Family Fun magazine. The magazine provides craft ideas, recipe ideas, and other activities specifically for family fun.

<http://www.familieswithpurpose.com> This website was created by parents for parents as an organization "passionate about all things family. We provide practical advice, empowering strategies, helpful tools, and loads of family fun ideas."

Generations “Parent Party” Outline

a resource for ministry leaders



At Home Object Lesson example

Open up your time together with an easy object lesson your families can do at home from upcoming curriculum themes. Make it creative and fun. This opening serves both to encourage parents that they can create moments of both fun and faith learning at home and to point out resources available to them from the Generations curriculum.

Prayer

Just as prayer is central each Sunday morning, take time to pray at the beginning of today’s session for your parents. Pray that together we could lead our kids, both at home and at church, toward God’s love and leading.

Parent Break-Out Discussion Groups: How’s home?

- “Successful” family moments
- Frustrations/Help!

Break down your crowd into smaller groups to discuss how things have been going—this could be random, by child ages, or pre-determined before your meeting. One of the motives for this event is to provide support and encouragement for parents. It is our hope that by providing time and space for parents to share both their successes and failures/frustrations we could create community. You may choose to leave this time open

for free discussion or provide more structured discussion questions. Also, be careful to create an atmosphere where no person is left out among discussion groups.

You may choose to have some of your parents share with the group some of their success stories. Perhaps invite more “experienced” parents to share their stories as to mentor others.

Review Goals for Curriculum

Remind parents of the goals of this two year journey. Our vision is one of learning together of God’s plans of redemption through learning the stories of the Bible, from beginning to end. Each of us has the opportunity to be part of God’s story.

This may be a short reminder or an opportunity for you to share your own vision with parents. Encourage and inspire your parents to continue the race—in spite of the joys and struggles they’ve just shared with each other.

Introduce Upcoming Themes

Take time to brief your parents on upcoming themes for the next few months. Focus on breaking down themes, what stories will and will not be taught on Sunday morning, as well as upcoming special events.

Ideas and Suggestions

As you break down upcoming themes provide parents with suggestions of activities that can be done at home in congruence with those happening on Sunday morning. Provide not only ideas but instructions and helpful questions. Many ideas are provided through this curriculum that can be made available for parents to take home.

Parent Break-Out Discussion Groups: How can we learn at home together?

After your formal time of discussion, break down into your parent groups to discuss other ideas parents may have for the upcoming themes. Have parents talk what they feel is the most important to both learn and teach over the next few months.

Prayer

In small groups have parents pray for their kids and for each other OR you may choose to have everyone come back together pray as a large group. This may also be a good opportunity to do a curriculum prayer activity together.

Dessert

It's not really a party unless there's food. Whether you have a pot-luck or bring in a special treat for your parents, take time to fellowship together and enjoy the party.

APPENDIX B

Formal Evaluations

Generations Curriculum

Bethany Abbott

Formal "Expert" Evaluation (1)

Please indicate your opinion for each category: 1 indicating *least (unclear, inappropriate, etc)* and 5 meaning *most (very clear, very appropriate, etc)*. Any comments will be very helpful, especially on the back of this page.

Clarity of purpose: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: Bethany was very thorough with her presentation

User-friendliness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: The curriculum is very easy to follow and leaves just enough openness for the leader to fill in own ideas or not.

Theological Soundness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: knowing timeline of complete curriculum, it is very complete.

Age Appropriateness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: very versatile for multi age groups

Contributing to Family Learning: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: loved the take home pages and the online support features!

Presentation:1   2   3   4   5

Comments: Bethany did a very nice job with the presentation and her power point of the website...can't wait to see it up and going(Website)!!

Overall evaluation:1   2   3   4   5

Comments: Bethany was very clear in her presentation of the curriculum and answered questions clearly. Her scope of not only reaching the children but also the families and those who spiritually support those children was/is great. Well done Bethany!

Curriculum Strengths: The fact that it does run a specific timeline that is tangible to the children and families....it gives the kids a little of something to look forward in the next week.

Curriculum Issues/Things to be improved: Not really an improvement but possibly an added bonus...music ....for those children's churches that run the whole worship service. Also possibly a few "extra actives" for extra time

(Thank you!)

Generations Curriculum

Bethany Abbott

Formal “Expert” Evaluation (2)

Please indicate your opinion for each category: 1 indicating *least (unclear, inappropriate, etc)* and 5 meaning *most (very clear, very appropriate, etc)*. Any comments will be very helpful, especially on the back of this page.

Clarity of purpose: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

User-friendliness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: It has been designed by Bethany for her use. It has potential for a broader audience.

Theological Soundness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: Sound

Age Appropriateness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: A flexible curriculum

Contributing to Family Learning: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: This aspect impresses me the most and is one of the great strengths of this approach—relationship with parents.

Presentation:

1   2   3   4   5

Comments: Presented with obvious passion. Watch the frequent use of “um” while presenting.

(see reverse)

Overall evaluation:

1   2   3   4   5

Comments: One of the finest undergraduate presentations I have witnessed.

Curriculum Strengths: I especially appreciate the intentional relationship with parents. The curriculum empowers parents to become the primary spiritual and educational leaders they are designed to be. That is a critical and vital element.

Curriculum Issues/Things to be improved: This project has been designed by Bethany for Bethany. I do see, however, the strong possibility of this having a wider audience. If that is a preferred direction it will need field testing and the input of others.

I see the hand of God in the life of Bethany and I expect her—with all of her spiritual giftedness—to have truly significant kingdom influence in the life of children and families in the future.

(Thank you!)

Generations Curriculum

Bethany Abbott

Formal “Expert” Evaluation (3)

Please indicate your opinion for each category: 1 indicating *least (unclear, inappropriate, etc)* and 5 meaning *most (very clear, very appropriate, etc)*. Any comments will be very helpful, especially on the back of this page.

Clarity of purpose: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

User-friendliness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: I like the multiple components (website, hand-out, resources, etc).

Theological Soundness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: Excellent

Age Appropriateness: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: Curriculum can be used with a variety of ages.

Contributing to Family Learning: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: Gives parents options while also providing clear directions.

Presentation:

1   2   3   4   5

Comments: The only negative critique of the presentation was the repeated use of “um” in your language.

(see reverse)

Overall evaluation:

1   2   3   4   5

Comments: Well done. I’m not sure I have seen such a developed project from an undergrad student.

Curriculum Strengths: Meets the needs of parents and children while theologically sound.

Curriculum Issues/Things to be improved: Not aware of any.

(Thank you!)

**The following evaluation is a collection of average scores and written comments from 16 Foundations of Children's Ministry students.

Generations Curriculum

Bethany Abbott

Student Evaluation

Please indicate your opinion for each category: 1 indicating *least (unclear, inappropriate, etc)* and 5 meaning *most (very clear, very appropriate, etc)*.

Any comments will be very helpful, especially on the back of this page.

Clarity of purpose: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.6**

Comments:

- "You make it very clear that you want there to be a partnership, not a transfer of authority."
- "a little jumpy..."
- "I love the focus on involving parents and helping equip them to lead their children spiritually."

User-friendliness: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.875**

Comments:

- "Love online access! Very easy to use."
- "Nice. Simple language. The website shown looks very simple and clear."
- "I would like more ways to get the families to see the importance."
- "I really like the website idea."
- "Love the website! Makes things very easily accessed."
- "Multiple resources for the parents to get involved."
- "Love the online idea!"
- "It isn't "scary" like a lot of curriculums. I feel like this would be very easy and effective for me to apply to my ministry."
- "Online resources are super user friendly."

- “I like the website/online access! I like the calendar set.”

Theological Soundness: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.733**

Comments:

- “Good emphasis on each area.”
- “Children can have a relationship with God and that view guides the ministry in so many ways. Power of prayer, yes!”
- “This is a very interesting and needed aspect. I think when parents see this it will help them in supportiveness.”

Age Appropriateness: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.343**

Comments:

- “Like the activity pages for all age groups. Very good for such a big age group.”
- “I think the handouts are great for the younger spectrum like pre-school thru 3rd grade but for the older kids I would modify the handout so they can be challenged as well.”
- “Sometimes it might be hard to include/explain to all the ages, but that can be easily fixed.”
- “For the younger kids, yes, but the 5/6 graders might get bored.”
- “Good idea to have activities involved for all ages, but could backfire...”
- “I think it is a great idea to try and minister to all age groups, I’m just not sure if it is 100% possible.”
- “Give more examples of the different lessons based on ages, as far as the work sheets.”

Contributing to Family Learning: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.933**

Comments:

- “Great resources for family.”
- “Handouts and foundational beliefs made it clear that you want a partnership with parents in ministry.”
- “I think that this is a great way to show parents that their role in their child’s faith is huge!”
- “I loved all of the family resources and the take home suggestions.”
- “Great!”
- “Great that there’s ways they can get parents involved.”
- “I loved the parent suggestions for activities on the take home sheet.”

- “Having a variety of family activities is great to get the family to simply spend time together. Great!”
- “Works well if you get parents involved.”

Presentation: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.563**

Comments:

- “You say “um” a lot.”
- “A lot of great ideas.”
- “You did an excellent job!” 😊
- “I was very into this presentation. It really intrigued me.”
- “Lovely.”
- “Very clear and straightforward.”
- “While presenting, I noticed you do say “um” quite often. I feel this kind of breaks your flow; however, you did a good job at presenting.”
- “Dependent on powerpoint and notes a little too much.”
- “I really enjoyed this, good job.”
- “Very good! Loved the website. Be careful about not saying “um” to much though!” 😊
- “You seemed kind of nervous and because of that did not make much eye-contact and said “um” a lot. Be confident, you are presenting great material.” 😊

Overall evaluation: 1 2 3 4 5 **avg=4.7**

Comments:

- “Amazing job! I can tell you spent a lot of time and put a lot of effort into this.”
- “In my completely unprofessional opinion you have done an excellent job of focusing the ministry on the partnership of parents and the church with the parent parties.”
- “I really like this, very organized and informative.”
- “You seemed very passionate about a family-centered curriculum. I really appreciated this presentation and how much work you put into it! Great job!”
- “Well done.”
- “Good presentation, a little jumpy in thought, some randomness...”
- “I love how it is more of a guideline for teaching than a systematic rule of teaching.”

- “Bethany shows a true passion for ministry and it shows in every aspect of her presentation. A lot of work has been put into it and it shows.”
- “I loved the curriculum. I really could see myself using this in the future.”
- “No more “uhms”! Be confident, you know your stuff so you don’t need the “uhms.” Introduce why you’re here, the significance of your title “generations,” don’t assume your audience knows anything you are addressing. Have your papers organized philosophy, then timeline (the timeline is @ the back now and was hard to find). Just practice more curriculum is great but you have to be able to present it.”

Curriculum Strengths:

- “I love the fact that you are attempting to go in Biblical Order which is important. Love the fact all resources are online.”
- “The calendar is wonderful! This is great even for parents to do at home if the church isn’t.”
- “I love the emphasis on prayer and teaching the Bible as a narrative. Everything is beautifully organized. I love the parent party idea. The focus on community is wonderful and I think your ideas for activities/mentors for those parents are incredible!”
- “I really like that it tells the meta-narrative as a whole and in order. It really makes a difference. I also like how involved the parents need to be.”
- “Gets parents involved, which is super important; promotes teamwork; keeps parents informed; makes parents feel like they can do something; involves visitors; step-by-step but still open to change; well thought out”
- “The take-home page and suggestions are great resources for parents to use. I loved the creativity in the lesson which will keep children engaged.”
- “Great job of making it a curriculum for the entire family. I love that you cover the overarching theme of Scripture in every area.”
- “Emphasis on the importance that the stories are coming from the Bible; organization/calendar is very helpful. I like the parent resources online/activities. I think the parents’ involvement is crucial to a Christ-like development in a child.”
- “Great for families; emphasis on Bible and not just stories; a lot of room for teaching creativity.”
- “This is so great, I absolutely loved it! I love the family and parent involvement in the curriculum. Awesome.”
- “Online site, idea of parents being able to search for stuff, love extra resources, love involving parents into the lesson; good idea maybe to include child activities online to provide a way for them to be involved and a safe website for them to learn more about God...”

- “I love the idea of having it online because in this day and age that makes it so much more accessible and helps get the parents more involved in the child’s learning. Every aspect of the curriculum has been covered and thoroughly thought of which really helps to visually understand. Very well organized. I love this curriculum idea and would use it in my church because of how much the parents can get involved.”
- “You can definitely tell that Bethany has a passion and love for kids! Somebody should give her an award, like a kids and stuff award!”
- “Very organized; love how much it involves the parents.”
- “You have great idea! I think this will be a great curriculum and I think you will do great. The website is very handy and green. I like the one Bible verse theme. I love all the family aspects of it. I like how you emphasized the Bible is one story....God’s story...not just a whole bunch. I also really liked that the story was told in order. I liked that you did a framework for the pastor, not telling them what to do. The hands on stuff makes things become more tangible.”
- “I really like all of the ways that your curriculum involves parents. I think the parent party is a great idea and the family activities will be super helpful! I also really like the resources you have available. The variety will help parents and ministry leaders a lot!”

Curriculum Issues/Things to be improved:

- “My main question is what makes the take home papers different than others? How do you plan to encourage your parents to want to be involved? Maybe you can make little refrigerator magnets with your website on it so parents don’t lose the papers or accidentally throw out a flyer. This way parents are constantly reminded!”
- “I worry that the parents won’t understand how involved they need to be.”
- “Maybe more activity for kids; may get repetitive over the years; where is the worship?”
- “How do you teach in a way that relates to all the ages in a group?”
- “One thing I would say is to provide what I call “fudge” days. In other words, the Holy Spirit may move in a way we are not expecting...and you may not get done what you want to get done on that particular day (which in a way is covered with your review days...but I would anticipate more days like that).”
- “Maybe just more examples of how the work sheets or lessons could differ a bit within the age groups since it is a large age group.”
- “Maybe the take home sheets could be a little more colorful to make the kids a little more excited about taking them home and to capture their attention.”

- “While I really like the idea of going through the whole Bible, I feel like a lot of the material in the lessons is encouraging memorization of Biblical facts. This is good to some extent. Possibly consider adding more activities that deal with why the stories can impact the students’ lives. (Because I think you already have some great ones!)”
- “Should make sure parents are involved before they hit your age group or it is really hard to get parents to start to be involved; might not work with lots of kids in various ages; should focus more on getting parents involved initially, before curriculum starts.”