



Raising Up SON-beams For Him!™

Parent/ Teacher's Guide



This guide is designed to assist parents, teachers, and music ministers in teaching the Scriptural lessons found in each of the 26 ABC Bible Verse songs. Each lesson is written in a way which even young children can understand how to apply *God's Word* to their lives.

For more learning products, visit www.Sonbeams.com. The correlating 26 Lesson Plan Guides contain 26 weeks of 5 day/week preschool guides based on *God's Word*. Each week's lesson is based on one of these 26 Bible verses.

A - For All Have Sinned, Romans 3:23

Week 1 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

A is for All. All means everyone or everything, nothing or no one is left out.

We are ALL sinners - dads, moms, children, grandparents, aunt, uncles, teachers, even our pastors.

What is a sinner? A sinner is someone that sins. Sin is something that we do or say that God has said is wrong. Sins can be 'big' or 'little' in our minds, but God sees sin as sin. A child disobeying his mother is just as bad of a sin to God as a grown up that steals something that isn't his.

God is a Holy God - He doesn't sin, and He can't accept it. This is what "come short of the glory of God" means, we don't meet His standards of righteousness, and He can't accept the sin in our lives.

There is good news to this sad situation - Jesus Christ came to take our sins upon Himself, saving us from them. When we accept Jesus and His death as payment and forgiveness for our sins, when we ask Him into our lives to save us, and we repent - we are saved by Jesus Christ and the blood He shed on the cross.

Lyrics:

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23, Romans 3:23
(Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Sometimes adults seem like the greatest people in the world to children, but they are sinners just like everyone else. They are in need of the Lord just like everyone else.

Family or Group activity - Go around the group, and ask how each person to share something that makes them a sinner. (This is not for bragging, but to acknowledge sin in our life and then to confess to the Lord and ask forgiveness) Example - Tommy hit his brother this morning.

Hitting his brother was a sin, it was a wrong thing to do. It was not something that Jesus would do. Because of this, Tommy is short of the glory of God. What way has God made for Tommy's relationship to Him to be restored?

B - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 16:31

Week 2- Sonbeams Curriculum

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

B is for Believe. To believe means to know that something is real and true; to have no doubts about.

This verse says that we WILL be saved when we believe that Jesus Christ is Who He says He is. When we believe on Jesus, we believe and accept what He says as truth and obey that. He says that by confession and belief we will be saved.

An example of believing something is when a mother tells her child the stove is hot, to not touch it. If a child believes his mother, he will not touch it. He believes her and doesn't want to burn his hand.

A child that doesn't believe his mother will touch the stove anyway, and will then probably begin crying because he will burn his hand.

It doesn't matter if the child believes the stove is hot or not - it is still hot. The only thing that is different is that disbelief leads to disobedience, and this leads to pain or hurt that isn't necessary.

Some people believe God and His Word, and they follow in His ways and receive His blessings. Yet others don't believe God. This doesn't make Him 'not real'.

Those that don't believe in Him don't read His Word or obey it. They will be 'burnt' by their sins, because they do or say things that God has warned them about - they just didn't listen to Him.

Lyrics:

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Acts 16:31. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

On a chalkboard or large sheet of paper, write down 5 statements (with at least 2 or 3 being true). Read this list together, and ask your child which statements they "believe" to be true.

C - Children, Obey Your Parents, Ephesians 6:1-3

Week 3 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."

C is for Children. Who is a child? Everyone is a child to someone; they were created by God for and were born to a mother and father.

In this verse, God gives His commandment to children that they should obey their parents in the Lord - this is the right thing to do.

God set up an authority structure that we all must follow if we live for Him. God is the Most High Authority.

In a family structure, the father is the head - this means that everyone should obey, respect, and honor Him. Next comes the mother. God placed her under His and her husband's authority and over her children.

The children are under God, their father, and their mother. When we follow this line of authority, and keep God at the top, His blessing will be upon our lives!

The following verses go on to say that it's a promise from God that if children obey their parents in the Lord, they will live long on the Earth.

Even something as small as a father asking his son to pick up his toys, and the son doing it, is obeying and honoring his father. Or a mother asking her daughter to clear the dishes from the table, and then her doing it - this is obeying and honoring her mother.

When a child honors and obeys their parents, they are also honoring and obeying God. This is the right thing to do.

Lyrics:

Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor thy father and mother, this is first commandment with promise. That it may be well with thee, it may be well with thee; and thou mayest live long on the Earth. Children obey your parents in the Lord, Ephesians 6: 1 through 3. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Play a game of Simon Says. Children must listen and obey commands to win this game. Once a task is done that "Simon didn't say", that child is out of the game.



D - Depart From Evil, Psalms 34:14

Week 4 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

D is for Depart. To depart means to leave, go away from, to flee from.

We are to leave evil (or bad things), to go away from it, to flee from it. We aren't supposed to do bad things, or even be around bad things. We wouldn't want to learn bad would we? NO! So we don't even need to be near it or think about it.

Instead, God tells us in this verse to do good. Good is the opposite of evil; good is right. We are to seek peace and pursue it. Peace is something without trouble, something calm, something that makes us happy, something right. To pursue peace means to go after it, try to get it, try to live in it.

We are supposed to live doing good things, doing things that help make things better - things that make people happy. This is good!

What would an example of departing from evil and seeking peace be in the following example? Angela was playing blocks with her brothers and sisters, they were building a very tall building. Just before they were finished, her sister walked up and crashed the blocks down.

Angela has two choices -

- She could yell and scream at her sister, hitting her or pushing her down.
- She could gently pull her back, explaining how it wasn't a kind thing to knock down the tower - and ask if she could please help rebuild it.

Which one of these responses is departing from evil, doing good, and seeking peace?

Lyrics:

Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Depart from evil and do good, Psalms 34:14. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

With index cards, write down instances of good or evil situations. Place these in a stack, and take turns drawing cards. If an evil situation is drawn, let your child demonstrate 'departing' from it, and explain how to do good instead.

E - Even A Child (Is Known By His Doings), Proverbs 20:11

Week 5 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Even a child is known by his doings; whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

E is for Even. In this verse, the word 'even' means that no one is left out, or it includes everyone/ everything. 'Even' children are known by what they do, not just adults.

Everyone, even God, sees what we do, what we say - and they will know by our actions if we are pure and right, or if we have a disobedient spirit.

Sometimes you might see an adult talking with anger to another. This 'doing' tells others that this adult is an angry person.

Another example would be a baby that is always crying - he is known as a fussy baby. A child that never listens to his parents, or obeys them, is known as a disobedient or difficult child.

What are some examples of a child that is living pure and right?

- A child that obeys instantly
- A child that uses manners - Yes M'amm, No M'amm, Please, Thank You
- A child that shares
- A child that is kind to others

Lyrics:

Even a child is known by his doings, Proverbs 20:11. Even a child is known by his doings, Proverbs 20:11. Whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. Even a child is known by his doings, Proverbs 20:11. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Even a child... Who are some children you know? What do you know about them? How do you see them?

All of these answers reveal what you see in this person by their doings - whether words or actions.

What might people see or think about you, based on your doings? Is it Christ-like?

F - For God So Loved the World, John 3:16

Week 6 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

F is for For. In this verse the word 'for' means that or because.

Because God loved the world and didn't want us to perish, He gave us Jesus - His only Son. Jesus died in our place to pay the price for our sins. God accepts this sacrifice on our behalf, and we can now come to Him and have everlasting life with Him in Heaven!

Sin separated man from God. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden where they daily walked and talked to God. They were created to be with Him, but their sin blocked that way because God doesn't accept sin.

Today, people are still separated from God because of sin. Those that ask for forgiveness and salvation through Jesus have that relationship restored with God.

Those that don't accept God will spend forever away from Him, and they will perish.

Just as a parent doesn't want to see their child hurt or apart from them, God doesn't want us to be hurt by sin, or separated for eternity from Him because of our sin.

But God's love is even stronger and greater than a parent's love for their child could ever be - that's a LOT of love!

When you love someone, have you ever noticed how you want to do things for them? Or how you love to be around them? God is the same way, only more!

Lyrics:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life - it's written in His Word. John 3:16. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Discuss people that you love and care for. What are some things that you do for them out of love? What if there was a reason that they couldn't be near you, would you want to do whatever you could to be with them? God did!

G - God is Love, 1 John 4:16

Week 7 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

G is for God. God is our Creator and our Heavenly Father. God created man in His image, and placed Him in the Garden of Eden.

He created a beautiful world, with lovely things to see and foods to eat. He created man - He walked and talked with him in the garden. God saw that Adam was lonely, without a partner like the other creatures of the earth, so He created Eve for him.

All of these things did because God loved man. Then man chose to listen to another, the serpent, and sinned. This placed a division between man and God. BUT, out of God's love for us, He sent Jesus to take our sin upon Him - dying on the cross.

God did this for everyone - the young and old, good and bad - He loves us all the same. God is love, and if we dwell (or live) in love, we dwell (or live) in God, and God lives in us.

When we love God, He places His love in us, and we then are able to share that love with others around us.

Lyrics:

God is love, First John 4:16. God is love, He created everything! God is love, now His praises we will sing. First John 4:16 says "God is love". (Repeat 2 times)

Put into Practice:

Discuss ways that we can see God's love to us - Creation, friends, answered prayers, meeting our needs, etc...

How can we show God's love in our lives to those around us - not only the good, but also the bad?

H - Happy is He, Proverbs 16:20

Week 8 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

H is for Happy. A happy person is one with a smile on their face, love in their hearts, peace in their lives, a sparkle in their eyes!

When we place our trust in the Lord, we are happy. Why? Because if we are trusting Him completely, then we KNOW that He is in control and nothing will happen that He's not wanting to.

An example: Sally's family needed a new car, and soon! They didn't have much money, and had no luck finding anything.

During evening prayers, they came together and prayed about this need. They told the Lord of their need for a car, and asked Him to provide just the right one and at the right price.

In faith, trusting Matthew 18:19-20, **"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."**, they were able to rest easily, knowing the Lord would meet their need.

They were happy, because they knew God would meet their need. They didn't need to worry about what they didn't have - they just waited in peace. God met that need and to this day, HE receives the glory for that!

**This is a TRUE story of when I, Mrs. Candace, was a child. My parents faith in the Lord made a lasting impression on me, and caused me to be able to trust the Lord at many times in my life!*

Lyrics:

And whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he, happy is he. And whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he, Proverbs 16:20. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Look into a mirror and begin making faces - can you find a happy face? What might a happy face look like? Smiles and twinkling eyes!

Ask your child why they can be happy when they trust in the Lord.

I - I Am the Way, John 14:6

Week 9 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

I is for I. Who is I? When someone refers to themselves, they say "I".

In this verse, Jesus says "I am the way, the truth, and the life". No one else is the way to God the Father, only Jesus.

Just as we are the only ones EXACTLY like us - that is, there is no one else that looks, thinks, and feels just as we do - there is no one else able to get us to God. Jesus is the One that shed His blood to cover our sins.

Jesus is the only One that's Truth - He never lies, never deceives - we can always trust Him.

Jesus is the only One that offers us eternal life.- He's the only One that gives meaning and purpose to our life.

Lyrics:

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me. I am the way, the truth, and the life; I am the way, John 14:6. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Demonstrate ways of "one way".

- Stand before a room. What is the only way to enter this room? Through the door!
- What about driving? Some roads are "One Way" - this means you can only travel down the road that one direction. If you try to go a different way, you will most likely have a wreck.
- When you are dirty, what is the 'one way' that you get clean? It's not by playing in the mud! To get clean, you must take a bath or shower.



J - Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Acts 8:37

Week 10 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

J is for Jesus. Read Acts 8:27-39. In this passage, a eunuch had visited Jerusalem to worship, and on his return was reading from the prophet Esaias.

The Spirit of God prompted Philip to go to him. Philip asked if he understood what he was reading. The eunuch replied 'How can I, except some man should guide me?', and he wanted Philip to explain it to him.

After hearing the message of Christ, they came to some water. The eunuch asked what he must do to be baptized. Philip's reply was that he must believe with all his heart.

The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God".

Lyrics:

(Optional intro - I believe that...) Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and He came to save us from our sin. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Acts 8:37. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

After reading this passage together, share the plan of salvation with your child. Ask them if they understand Who Jesus is, what He did, and how we can become saved.

What is baptism? Baptism by emersion symbolizes dying completely to ourselves (going all the way under the water) and surrendering our lives to Christ.

When we come out of the water, we are cleansed by Jesus' blood and begin a new life in Him. The old man died (in the water), and we are a new creation in Christ (being raised into new life/ raised from the water). Baptism is simply a way to publicly show that we have died to ourselves and surrendered to the Lord.

What do you know and believe?

K - Knock, And It Shall Be Opened, Matthew 7:7

Week11 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

K is for Knock. Knock, knock, knock - Who's there?

-What do you do when you would like a glass of water? You ask someone for it!

-What do you do when you have lost a toy? You look for it - you seek it.

-What do you do when you visit someone's home? You knock on the door to let them know that you are there and would like to come in.

Jesus tells us in this verse that when we ask Him for something in prayer - in His Name and according to His will - it will be given to us. It might not be the answer we thought we would get, but it will be God's will and answer. This is what we should always pray for anyway, because God knows best.

He goes on to say that if we seek Him, we shall find Him. We seek Him by reading our Bibles and spending time with Him in prayer.

Lastly, He says if we knock, He will hear and open the door to you. He is standing there, waiting for us to come to Him. He won't force us to come to the door, to knock, or to come in - that must be our choice. But when we decide, He is ready to welcome us in!

Lyrics:

Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you - Matthew 7:7. (Repeat 2 times)

Put into Practice:

Take turns asking for something, seeking something, and knocking - someone will need to be the asker, seeker, and knocker - someone else needs to be the giver, finder, and opener.

L - Love the Lord Thy God, Mark 12:30

Week 12 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment."

L is for Love. To love means to care for, care about, cherish and treasure. If we love the Lord, we care for Him, we care about Him, we cherish and treasure Him. We will aim to please Him, to do good, to serve Him 100% - with our ALL.

When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied that it was to love the Lord God with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength - this is the first commandment.

The second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. These two commandments summarize the 10 Commandments given to Moses.

If we are loving God with everything in us, we WILL be keeping all of the 10 Commandments - out of love, honor, and respect to Who He is!

Lyrics:

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself; there is none other commandment greater than these - Mark 12:30 and 31. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Read Exodus 20 together - this is where God gives Moses the 10 Commandments.

Discuss different ways that we can love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. Encourage your child to answer first, prompting them with ideas as needed.

M - Make A Joyful Noise, Psalms 100:1-3

Week 13 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands."

M is for Make. To make something means to create, to put something together. How do we make a joyful noise unto the Lord? We create a joyful, or happy noise - we put together a joyful noise.

This can be through song - whether with our voices or with instruments. This can be praises we give to God in daily conversation with Him in prayer, or with others. God has done MANY great, wonderful, powerful things for us - He is worthy of our highest praises!

What kind of noises might you hear a child make when they see a present for them, or get to do something special? Usually, you'll hear squeals of excitement, you might even see them clapping their hands and jumping up and down.

Well, we are God's children, and we've been given a present - salvation from sin and eternal life with the Lord! We get to do something special, we get to have a one on one relationship with the Creator of the universe!

Let's be just as excited - even more - and give the Lord 'joyful noises'! We are His people, and we belong to Him. We are His sheep. A shepherd will lay down his life to protect his sheep - and this is what our Saviour has done for us. Shout, sing, and serve our mighty God with gladness!

Lyrics:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God, it is He that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture - Psalms 100: 1 through 3. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Make a list of things the Lord has done for you. Then, as a family or small group, share a special time of prayer and praise - each praying to the Lord. Thank Him for the goodness He's given you.

Praise His Name. Find a song or two to sing in praise to Him. Examples - "I Will Enter His Gates", "Praise Him, Praise Him - God is Love", or "Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul".

N - Nothing Shall Be Impossible, Matthew 17:20

Week 14 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

N is for Nothing. Nothing means none, not one thing at all, zero.

When we have faith in the Lord, all things are possible - NOTHING is impossible. Jesus shares here how you could even move mountains with faith in Him.

This kind of action isn't something just any little bit of faith can do though - He said it must be accompanied with much prayer and fasting.

When we do things in our own strength, we will either accomplish very little or nothing at all. BUT when we pray, seek the Lord, even fast - we are under the Lord's will, and HE makes all things possible.

How? Because He's God and ALL things and power belongs to HIM!

Lyrics:

And nothing shall be impossible unto you, impossible unto you, impossible unto you. Nothing shall be impossible unto you - Matthew 17 verse 20. If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Give young children a visual for 'nothing'. You can fill bowls with cereal, leaving one empty - "Which one has nothing?" You can draw pictures on several sheets of paper and leave one blank - "Which one has nothing drawn on it?"

What about when we pray? Is there anything that we could pray about that God can't do, or that God won't care about? NO - there is NOTHING that He can't do or doesn't care about!

Is there something that is a really big need to you or someone you know, something that no one can do anything to help? Well, God can - take it to Him in prayer, and believing in faith that NOTHING is impossible, give it to Him!

O - Be Not Overcome of Evil, Romans 12:20-21

Week 15 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

O is for Overcome. If you are overcome of something, this means you are taken by it - it has proven stronger than you are.

If someone is overcome of hunger, this means they are very hungry and have begun to eat. If someone is overcome of sin, they have been tempted to do something wrong and given in to it.

God wants us to overcome evil with good, not to let evil overcome us. When we are faced with evil, He wants us to show love in return - to do good instead.

What about when someone is mean or hateful to you, or if they hurt you - on purpose even? God still wants you to overcome that evil action with good. He doesn't want us to give evil for evil - that would only make us sin like the one that offended us.

He tells us that we should meet the needs of those that offend us, go out of our way to be good and kind to them. THIS is showing them the love of Christ.

It's been said that in Bible days, a kind gesture was to give someone a bucket of hot or warm coals. They would carry these over their heads. So to 'heap coals of fire' on someone's head was actually a way to help keep them warm - it was a good thing!

Lyrics:

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good, Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:20 and 21.

Put into Practice:

What is something that has offended you before? How can you overcome that 'evil' with good? One thing Jesus mentioned was to pray for our enemies. (Matthew 5)

P - Praise Ye the Lord, Psalms 106:1

Week 16 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

P is for Praise. What do you think of when you hear - "Good Job", "That was GREAT!", "You were AWESOME!"? You hear praises and good news of the one being praised.

The only One that truly deserves ALL of our praise is God! He HAS done a good job, a great job in all things - and He IS awesome!

Praise can be given directly to someone, telling them how good something they've done is. Praise can also be shared with others, by telling others how good of a job someone has done.

This verse here tells us to praise the Lord, to give thanks to Him - for (or because) He is good and His mercy to us is everlasting (will last forever).

Lyrics:

Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever. Psalms 1-0-6:1, Praise ye the Lord. Psalms 1-0-6:1, Praise ye the Lord. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

What are some things you can praise the Lord for in your life? How can you praise the Lord?

Praises can be given in private, alone prayer time with God. Praises can be given to God in public. Praises can be given in word or in song.

What are some praise songs that you know? "Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our Blessed Redeemer" is one that we sing at church. "Praise Him, Praise Him, all ye little children - God is love" is a familiar children's praise song.

Q - Behold, I Come Quickly, Revelation 22:12-13

Week 17 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

Q is for Quickly. If something is quick, this means it is fast. It can happen faster than you think, or before you think to even expect it. Jesus' return will be quick. We don't know when to expect it, and even though it's seemed like a long time since He was last on earth, He will be back again before we know it.

We won't get a warning, we won't have time to prepare ourselves to meet God. The trumpet will blow and Jesus will appear in the clouds, and all the saved will rise to meet Him in the air! It will be very quick - and quick in the sense of soon, too.

Some will be ready. They will be living their lives for Him, serving Him in all they do. They will meet Him in the air and go to forever be with the Lord in Heaven. Others won't be ready. They will be living in their sins, ignoring God and what His Word says. They will remain on earth to face terrible judgment on sin.

When Jesus does return, He will have a reward with Him for every man. This reward will be given according to the work we've done in His name.

It's like a test in school. If a student does good work on the test, they will receive a good grade/ reward - a 100. If a student doesn't put forth effort and shows no good work on their test, their reward will be less than desirable.

It's not just doing good things that get rewards either, though. It's when we do things in God's name and for Him - not out of requirement, but out of love for Him.

Lyrics:

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and (the) last - Revelation 22:12 and 13. (Repeat full song, then repeat chorus)

Put into Practice:

Give your child a little time to complete a short quiz that you create for them. This will be an unexpected test - for a 'quick' unexpected return. They will receive a 'reward' based on their work - whether a grade or a prize.

R - Resist the Devil, James 4:7

Week 18 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

R is for Resist. When you resist something, you push or fight against it. You use all your strength to keep it from you.

When a child resists their parents authority, they are fighting against their parents - they are not wanting to do what they say. In this instance, this is disobedience and a sin.

When a Christian resists the devil, they fight against the temptation to do wrong - they don't want to do what the devil is trying to get them to. THIS is a good thing!

What does this verse tell us that are we supposed to do? We are supposed to submit ourselves to God. This means we are to place ourselves under God's authority - listening to Him and then obeying what He tells us to do.

When we are submitted to the Lord, and resist the devil in Jesus' name - the devil will flee! He knows God, and he knows His power - he has already been kicked out of heaven. He has no power against God, and will flee upon mention of His name.

Lyrics:

Resist, resist, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Resist, resist, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (Repeat) Ending - James 4:7.

Put into Practice:

As we mentioned, to resist something means to fight or push against it. Have your child stand on one side of a door, while you stand on the other. Let them try to resist you closing the door. Don't over power them, but let them see that it's hard at times to resist.

Can your child feel the pressure, the resistance needed to keep the door open? Just as it takes effort to resist the door closing, it will take effort to resist the devil. He will try to push sin onto you.

Now, have someone small try to push the door, and you stand on the side with your child. With the help of someone bigger than them, it will be much easier to resist the door. By submitting to God, you will have HIS help to resist the devil!

S - Seek Ye First, Matthew 6:33-34

Week 19 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

S is for Seek. To seek means to look for something, to have our eyes focused on finding something. When we seek first the kingdom of God, we are looking first (above any other thoughts) to how we can serve God and benefit His kingdom.

We don't have to worry about how something will work out, how it will be paid for, what we should do next. God tells us that when we seek Him first - obeying His will without questions, doubts, or reservations - that everything else will take care of itself.

Why? Because GOD is in charge of everything else! He will more than provide for our NEEDS (not wants) when our main focus is serving Him, His kingdom, and His righteousness. There will always be something that we can worry about, but can we really do anything about those things? No, we can only trust and follow the Lord!

Lyrics:

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33, 34. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. But seek ye first the kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33, 34.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33, 34. Matthew 6:33, 34.

Put into Practice:

Begin by giving your child an idea of what it means to seek something out. Play a game of 'Hide and Seek'. As the seeker, you know what you are looking for, and a general idea of where you could find it. The seeker must look a little deeper if he wants to find the 'hider'.

In life, we will have questions - we will seek answers. The answers can be found - do you know where? In the Bible! As in our game, you must look a little deeper to find the answer; you can't just open up to a page and find it, you must pray and read.

T - Trust in the Lord, Proverbs 3:5-6

Week 20 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

T is for Trust. Trust is similar to believe - when we trust something, then we know or believe it to be true.

If someone climbs a ladder, they 'trust' it will hold them and that they can climb up it. A baby trusts its mother to feed and care for it. Have you ever noticed how a crying baby calms down when he is held by his mother? This is because he trusts her to take care of him and meet his needs.

To trust in the Lord means to believe He is Who He says He is, and that He will do what He says He will do. When we trust in Him with all of our hearts, this means we don't pay attention to doubts or reasons that would make us think He's not in control.

We don't need to try and think or reason things out on our own. Instead, we should pray and seek God's Word for answers. If we acknowledge Him in all things, He will direct us and show us what we should do.

Lyrics:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Put into Practice:

What are some things that we trust?

- We trust a light will come on when you flip the light switch
- We trust that our crayons will color when we use them
- We trust that a toy car will roll when we push it

How are some ways that you trust God?

U - Sing Unto the Lord, Psalms 96:1-2

Week 21 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day."

U is for Unto. In this verse, the word 'unto' means 'to' - Sing to the Lord. Notice it doesn't say to sing about the Lord, though that is a good thing to do. We don't need to just sing about Him, we need to also sing UNTO Him!

Think about this: If you loved your father and mother, do you think they would rather you tell others "I love my parents", or would they prefer you tell them directly? They would rather that you told them that you loved them.

They would rather have you talk to them and share your thoughts with them, than hear you only tell others about them.

Now, let's look at it this way. God is our Father, our Creator in Heaven. While He does love that we tell others about Him, He really wants us to talk to Him too! He wants to have a relationship with us - spending time with His child.

Sing unto the Lord, all the earth - bless His name!

Lyrics:

O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Psalms 96, verses 1 and 2. (Repeat entire song, then repeat chorus) Ending - Sing unto the Lord.

Put into Practice:

Gather together as a family (or small group). Have someone begin by sharing a praise about another in the group. BUT, they need to share this with another person in the group, and NOT the person they are praising.

How does this make the person being praised feel? They probably do appreciate that someone is praising them, but will also feel a little left out.

Now, have that person share a praise about someone, but share it directly with that person. How does this make them feel? Special, loved, cared for - because someone took the time to stop to share this with them! God is no different.

V - I Am the Vine, John 15:5

Week 22 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

V is for Vine. Just as leaves grow on branches on a tree, fruit grows on branches on a vine. If you cut a branch off a tree, the leaves will shrivel up and die. If you cut a branch off of a vine, the fruit will shrivel up and die.

Why? Because it's the branches that supply water and nutrients to the fruit they bear. And the tree and vine are what give the branches what they need. If these branches are cut off, how can they get the water and nutrients they need to continue new growth and life? They can't.

Our Christian life is the same way. Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. If we live in Him, then we will be supplied with the nutrients we need to live and thrive in Him, bearing great fruits for His kingdom.

But, if we cut ourselves from Him, we no longer have the Living Water that He provides, or the meat of the Word to feed us. We will soon shrivel up and die spiritually, and be unable to bear good fruit anymore. We can do nothing unless we are in Christ!

Lyrics:

I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. I am the True Vine, abide in Me; I am the True Vine, John 15:5. (Repeat)

Put into Practice:

Find a tree or a flowering plant and observe the trunks, vines, and branches. Break off a small piece, with leaves or flowers attached. Now, right away you won't see any major changes.

But after a few days, what happens? You begin to notice a little browning. Give it another few days or a week, and you'll soon see it dry up completely and die. It will lose its leaves and flowers - it will be useless.

The Bible tells us that just as a tree is known by its fruits, so we will be known by our fruits. Can others see that we are abiding in the True Vine?

W - Therefore All Things (Whatsoever), Matthew 7:12

Week 23 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

W is for Whatsoever. Whatsoever means "whatever" things, or "those" things that you would want men to do to you - these are what you should do to them.

If you would like someone to be friendly to you, then you should be friendly to them. If you want someone to share with you, then you should share with them.

Remember the verse "Be ye kind, one to another"? If you are kind to others, MOST of the time, the kindness will be returned. For the times people don't treat you the same way back, remember "Depart From Evil, and Do Good".

Sometimes, a person's heart will be changed by our right attitudes and actions to them - even if it's not right away. By showing them that you treat them the way you would like to be treated, others will be less defensive, since there's no one to fight against.

This verse is very similar to the Golden Rule, which is our "L" verse. Read Mark 12:30 and 31. This is something that Jesus tells us to do! People weren't treating Him in a way they would want to be treated, were they? But Jesus loved them anyway!

Lyrics:

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. (Repeat) Ending - Matthew 7:12, Do ye even so to them.

Descant - Therefore all things whatsoever, Do unto them; This is the law and the prophets.

Put into Practice:

What are examples of things that you would like others to do to you, to treat you like? - Being kind, playing together, not fussing, encouraging, sharing...

How can you offer these first? What are ways that you can demonstrate these to others?

X - Can Two Walk Together (eXcept They Be Agreed), Amos 3:3

Week 24 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

X is for the sound in eXcept. "Except" they be agreed - this means that unless they agree. If we are doing something with someone, can we do it together if we are doing things differently? Not very well.

Let's look at this in real life situations:

- Tom and Sally are playing Hide and Seek. They both want to be the one to hide - can they play together if they both hide?
- Dad and Mom are buying a new car. Dad wants a red sports car and Mom wants a blue minivan - can both of them buy a car together?

There are times when two people must decide on something together. This can mean one person gets things their way and the other submits, or they can come up with a new solution together that they both agree on.

Can we love God and walk with Him if we don't agree to follow His ways? We can't. God is a Most Holy God, and He will not allow evil. We cannot walk in darkness (sin) AND walk with Him. We are walking against Him if we do this. But life with Him will be much easier when we walk along side/ in step with Him!

Lyrics:

Can two walk together, except they be agreed, except they be agreed, except they be agreed? Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3. When we walk with the Lord, we follow in His ways; if we turn and go astray, we will fall on our faces. (Repeat from beginning)

Ending - Can two walk together, except they be agreed, except they be agreed, except they be agreed? Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3.

Put into Practice:

With a rope, loosely tie together two children's legs together (the inside leg) - like they are in a three-legged race. First, ask them to walk different ways. Note - Remind them to be gentle and careful, and try this on carpet, so no one gets hurt!

It's hard - no, it's impossible for both children to walk a different way. Now have them walk in step with one another, going the same direction. It's easy now! Can you see the relation to God in this activity?

Y - Let No Man Despise Thy Youth, 1 Timothy 4:12

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Week 25 - Sonbeams Curriculum

Y is for Youth. Youth refers to age - a young person, or a young Christian. A youth (age) means young people that aren't adults yet. A youth (Christian) means someone that is new to the faith, someone that hasn't been a Christian for a long time.

Even though we might not be as old as others - in age or faith - we can still be an example of the believers. The words we speak, our conversations with others, the charity we show to all - these are things that ALL people can be good examples in, not just older, more experienced people.

Our spirits can always display Godly character, we can all have faith in God and what He says, and we can all strive to keep a pure heart - one free from sin.

Don't ever feel 'less than qualified' to do things for the kingdom of God. Jesus has said in reference to children, "For such is the kingdom of heaven". In ways, children display Godly lives and faith in greater ways than many adults.

New Christians also show more fervor than some older Christians - because they have found a new life, a new love and are excited to tell and show everyone. We must always remember to be 'hot' Christians, not lukewarm - keeping the newness of life in Christ always!

Lyrics:

First Timothy 4:12, let no man despise thy youth. First Timothy, 4:12, let no man despise thy youth. But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (Repeat from beginning)

Ending - First Timothy 4:12, let no man despise thy youth. First Timothy, 4:12, let no man despise thy youth.

Put into Practice:

In your small group, who is the youngest? In what ways can they display the qualities listed in this verse? It might not be in the same way as others, but they are still able to live out each one aren't they!

How can you live out an example of a believer in God according to this verse?

Z - Blow Ye the Trumpet in Zion, Joel 2:1

Week 26 - Sonbeams Curriculum

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand."

Z is for Zion. Zion is the city of God, where God dwells. Israel, Jerusalem, Mount Zion (where David built his house) and Mount Moriah (where Solomon built the Temple) are all referred to as Zion in the Bible. Basically, Zion is where God lives or dwells.

One day the Lord will return to Earth - He will return to Jerusalem, to Israel His chosen people. Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound an alarm - the Lord is coming back, He is coming here! The day is nigh at hand, this means it is coming soon.

We must be ready and prepared for His return to receive His people unto Him. It will be a great and wonderful day! The trumpet will sound one day, and we will see Jesus coming in the clouds - this day is closer now than ever before.

Lyrics:

Blow ye the trumpet, the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain.
Blow ye the trumpet, the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain.
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh. Blow ye the trumpet and sound an alarm, Joel 2:1. (Repeat)

Ending - Blow ye the trumpet, the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain. Blow ye the trumpet, the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain.

Put into Practice:

Have you ever noticed how people make noise on instruments welcoming the arrival of something or someone special? Maybe you've seen a movie where musicians blow trumpets to announce the arrival of a king, or heard a drum roll just before a big announcement is made? This is a way to build excitement before something BIG.

You can do this yourself! Take turns pretending you're in a show - either singing, playing an instrument, putting on a play. Create a BIG introduction before your child takes the stage. This, of course, is by no means any comparison to the entry cries our Lord will be given, but will give them an idea of what this verse is referring to.