The church nursery is an exciting and vital ministry in the church—a launching pad for nurturing the faith of the next generation. Nurseries should be a place of prayer where young children hear foundational Bible stories, learn simple truth statements and memorize Scripture as they form their language skills.

The philosophy of A Sure Foundation presents ministry to young children as a way to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus. Although infants and toddlers cannot completely understand deep truths, their spirits can respond to the Spirit of God as they begin to understand those simple truths.

Nursery caregivers with prayers on their lips and in their hearts, songs of worship filling their spirits, and conversation and teaching about Jesus pouring forth from their souls spread this fragrance of Jesus to the children under their care.

The only foundation to lay for children that will not crumble is the sure foundation of Jesus Christ. The nursery ministry is just the beginning of leading a child to Jesus. Much of the work is hidden, and the fruits of this ministry may take years to see, but God is faithful. The foundation of prayer, blessing, and a godly atmosphere may look unimportant to the untrained eye and may even be forgotten when the child matures, but a sure foundation can be the means of salvation for a child.

So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."—Isaiah 28:16

A Sure Foundation is divided into four stages. The Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ establishes the philosophy of nursery ministry and helps churches create a Christ-centered, prayerful environment for infants. Young toddlers are taught The Wonders He Has Done, which presents four lessons (repeated throughout the year) on creation, our love for Jesus, and His love for us, along with a series of simple truth statements. His Praiseworthy Deeds, teaches older toddlers (24-36 months) 13 key Bible stories (repeated throughout the year) along with monthly foundation verses to memorize. Finally, for toddlers 36 months and up who have not graduated to a preschool class, the Older Toddler Volume 2 Teacher’s Guide, Set Their Hope in God, introduces 16 additional Bible stories with an accompanying memory verse for each lesson.
Our Mission

Children Desiring God exists to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things so that the next generation may know and cherish Jesus Christ as the only One who saves and satisfies the desires of the heart.

We want millions in every generation to set their hope in God. To that end, we aim to fuel spiritual desire by producing God-centered, Bible-saturated, Christ-exalting resources, and by equipping parents and churches working in partnership to instruct the mind, engage the heart, and nurture the faith of the next generation.

Our Distinctives

- A Big Vision of God
- The Centrality of God in All Things
- Doctrinal Depth, Accuracy and Clarity
- Faithfulness to the Gospel
- A Serious and Sober View of Sin
- A Scope and Sequence that Aims to Present the Whole Counsel of God
  - A Chronological Presentation of Bible Stories
  - Biblical Theology
  - Systematic Theology
- A Rigorous Study of the Bible and Training of the Mind
- Personal Application that Encourages a Proper Response in the Mind, Heart and Will
- Excitement for God’s Global Purposes
- Maximizing Classroom Time with Biblical Teaching and Spiritual Discussion
- Assisting Parents in Discipling Their Children
- Stewardship of Resources
A Sure Foundation
A Philosophy and Curriculum for Ministry to Infants and Toddlers

A Sure Foundation helps transform nurseries from a babysitting service to a vital, intentional ministry to build a foundation of truth in the lives of infants and toddlers. The curriculum is divided into four stages. A Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ establishes the philosophy of ministering in infant nurseries and creates an environment centered on prayer for each baby. Young toddlers, 18-24 months, are taught four repeating Bible stories along with truth statements about God's character in The Wonders He Has Done. The Older Toddler Volume 1 Teacher’s Guide, His Praiseworthy Deeds, reviews the four stories already learned and teaches 24- to 36-month-old toddlers nine new stories. For toddlers 36 months and up who have not graduated to a preschool class, the Older Toddler Volume 2 Teacher’s Guide, Set Their Hope in God, introduces 16 new Bible stories. Both young and older toddlers are also taught monthly memory verses.

A Sure Foundation provides practical advice for setting up a schedule for the nursery, creating a Christ-centered atmosphere, praying Scripture over and blessing children, leading toddlers in worship, helping children memorize Scripture, and instilling simple truth statements about God as a foundation of truth is built.

Truth Statements

» God is good.
» God is big.
» God is strong.
» Jesus loves you.
» We love Jesus.
» God made everything (the trees, birds, your nose, etc.).

» Thank you, Jesus.
» God is with us.
» God knows everything.
» Jesus is my friend.
» Jesus loves ______ (babies, children, boys, girls).
» We need God.

Young Toddler Lessons: The Wonders He Has Done

Lesson 1: GOD MADE EVERYTHING
Genesis 1; Psalm 139:13-16
There was nothing, but God is so big and strong that He made all things.

Lesson 2: JESUS IS HERE!
God kept His promise to send Jesus, a special baby, which is good news!
A Sure Foundation
Scope & Sequence

The Scope & Sequence provides an overview of the curriculum, including lesson titles, main Scripture passages, key themes, and memory verses. Scope & Sequences are also available as a PDF download at childrendesiringGod.org

Usage Tips:
- Explain to church leaders what children are learning at each grade level.
- Help teachers and caregivers understand the scope and sequence of the curriculum so they can reinforce the truths more effectively.
- Share with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their infant or toddler.

A Sure Foundation Scope & Sequence © 2017 Children Desiring God

Older Toddler, Volume 1 Lessons: His Praiseworthy Deeds

Lesson 1: GOD MADE EVERYTHING
Genesis 1; Psalm 139:13-16
There was nothing, but God is so big and strong that He made all things.

Lesson 2: ONLY GOD IS BIG
Genesis 3
Adam and Eve wanted to be like God, but no one can be big like God.

Lesson 3: GOD IS GOOD
Genesis 21:1-7
God is good and kept His promise to give Abraham and Sarah a baby.

Lesson 4: GOD ALWAYS WINS!
Exodus 5:1-2
Pharaoh would not let the people go. But, God always wins and made Pharaoh let the people go.

Lesson 5: GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING
1 Kings 17:1-6
Ahab wanted to hurt Elijah, but God knows everything and knew how to take care of Elijah.

Lesson 6: ONLY ONE GOD
2 Kings 5:1-14
No one could heal Naaman except the one true God.

Lesson 7: GOD IS EVERYWHERE
Jonah 1:3
Jonah could not run away from God because God is everywhere.

Lesson 8: JESUS IS HERE!
Luke 1:26-3:20
God kept His promise to send Jesus, a special baby, which is good news!

Lesson 9: WE LOVE JESUS
Matthew 21:12
The wise men were so happy to find Jesus, who was so special and great.

Lesson 10: JESUS IS THE BOSS
Matthew 8:23-27
Jesus stopped the storm because He is the boss of the wind and water, and of all things.

Lesson 11: JESUS LOVES ME
Matthew 19:13-15
Jesus’ friends wanted to send the children away, but Jesus would not let them because Jesus loves boys and girls.

A Sure Foundation Scope & Sequence © 2017 Children Desiring God
A Sure Foundation

A Philosophy and Curriculum for Ministry to Infants and Toddlers
Grade Range: Birth–36+ Months   Lessons: 4 / 13 / 16
Translation: ESV   Author: Sally Michael

Scope & Sequence
The Scope & Sequence provides an overview of the curriculum, including lesson titles, main Scripture passages, key themes, and memory verses. Scope & Sequences are also available as a PDF download at childrendesiringGod.org

Usage Tips:
• Explain to church leaders what children are learning at each grade level.
• Help teachers and caregivers understand the scope and sequence of the curriculum so they can reinforce the truths more effectively.
• Share with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their infant or toddler.

A Sure Foundation Scope & Sequence

TARGET GRADE: BIRTH–36+ MONTHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>JESUS IS A FRIEND</td>
<td>Luke 19:2-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>JESUS IS ALIVE!</td>
<td>John 19:39-42</td>
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Older Toddler, Volume 2 Lessons: Set Their Hope in God

TARGET GRADE: 24-36 MONTHS

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>YES, GOD</td>
<td>Genesis 6:9-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>GOD’S WAY</td>
<td>Genesis 9.1,11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>GOD HAS A WAY</td>
<td>Exodus 14:15-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>WE NEED GOD</td>
<td>Exodus 17:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>GOD CAN</td>
<td>Joshua 6:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>PRAISE GOD</td>
<td>Daniel 4:28-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ONLY GOD</td>
<td>Daniel 6:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JESUS IS MOST SPECIAL</td>
<td>Matthew 21:1-2; Luke 12:33-36:21-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>JESUS IS ENOUGH</td>
<td>John 6:32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>THANK YOU, JESUS</td>
<td>Luke 17:11-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>HELP ME, JESUS</td>
<td>Mark 10:46-52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Sure Foundation Scope & Sequence © 2017 Children Desiring God
### A Sure Foundation Scope & Sequence

The Scope & Sequence provides an overview of the curriculum, including lesson titles, main Scripture passages, key themes, and memory verses. Scope & Sequences are also available as a PDF download at childrendesiringGod.org.

#### USAGE TIPS:
- Explain to church leaders what children are learning at each grade level.
- Help teachers and caregivers understand the scope and sequence of the curriculum so they can reinforce the truths more effectively.
- Share with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their infant or toddler.

#### Memory Verses, Volume 1

(To be memorized with the Young Toddler and Older Toddler, Volume 1 lessons.)

- January: Matthew 6:24a
- February: Philippians 2:14
- March: Psalm 56:3
- April: Psalm 118:24
- May: Ephesians 6:1
- June: Proverbs 18:10
- July: Proverbs 3:5
- August: Proverbs 17:17a
- September: Genesis 1:1
- October: Romans 3:23
- November: Psalm 1:6
- December: James 1:17a

#### Memory Verses, Volume 2

(To be memorized with the Older Toddler, Volume 2 lessons.)

- Lesson 1: Psalm 119:10
- Lesson 2: 1 Peter 5:7
- Lesson 3: Psalm 86:7
- Lesson 4: Psalm 100:5
- Lesson 6: Psalm 95:3
- Lesson 7: Isaiah 30:15b
- Lesson 8: Psalm 10:5
- Lesson 9: Philippians 4:13
- Lesson 10: 1 Corinthians 13:4-5a
- Lesson 11: Leviticus 19:18b
- Lesson 12: Psalm 100:3
- Lesson 13: Deuteronomy 6:5
- Lesson 14: John 3:16
- Lesson 15: Isaiah 43:5a
- Lesson 16: Psalm 100:1-2

Please visit childrendesiringGod.org to find more information about A Sure Foundation, review curriculum samples, see the entire line of curriculum from Children Desiring God, or place an order for your church or home.

A Sure Foundation Scope & Sequence © 2017 Children Desiring God
What You Need to Start

A *Sure Foundation* was written to be used in nurseries with infants and toddlers in a variety of settings. The main focuses of the ministry are prayer, blessing, spreading an atmosphere of Christ—through worship music and gently spoken words of kindness and truth, simple truth statements about God, Bible storytelling for toddlers, and training in righteousness. An adaptable sample schedule and adult-to-child ratios are provided.

The main nursery coordinator should begin with a Nursery Coordinator's Kit.

### Nursery Coordinator's Kit

This kit contains the basic tools you need to start a ministry to infants and toddlers. Each kit contains:

- **A. Infant Teacher's Guide**
  1 - Spiral-bound philosophy for infant ministry book

- **B. Young Toddler Teacher's Guide**
  1 - Spiral-bound curriculum for young toddlers (18-24 months) with ministry philosophy, four lessons, coloring and parent pages, and monthly memory verses

- **C. Older Toddler, Volume 1 Teacher's Guide**
  1 - Spiral-bound curriculum for older toddlers (24-36 months) with ministry philosophy, 13 lessons, coloring and parent pages, and monthly memory verses

- **D. Older Toddler, Volume 2 Teacher's Guide**
  1 - Spiral-bound curriculum for older toddlers (36+ months) with ministry philosophy, 16 lessons, coloring and parent pages, 16 memory verses, and additional activities

- **E. Curriculum Resources**
  1 - DVD with files you can print or display including: Coloring Pages, Growing in Faith Together: Parent and Child Resource Pages, the Resource Packet, Truth Statement Posters, Story Pictures, the curriculum logo, a training video, and teacher resources.

- **F. Booklets**
  1 - A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children booklet with 12 double-sided blessing cards
  1 - Mothers: Disciplers of the Next Generations booklet
  1 - Praying for the Next Generation booklet

- **G. Foundation Verse Pack - ESV**
  1 - This pocket-sized verse packet helps lay a foundation of biblical truth. 76 verse cards with picture prompts are printed on cardstock and bound with a metal ring.
Additional Resources

Depending on the number and size of nursery and toddler rooms, you may need additional resources in order to enhance the Bible stories, encourage Bible memory, or equip additional caregivers.

Teacher Booklets

ORDER ONE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CAREGIVER

The spiral-bound booklets are designed to equip teachers and caregivers with their own copy to study and pray through as they prepare to minister to the children under their care.
A. Infant Teacher’s Guide
B. Young Toddler Teacher’s Guide
C. Older Toddler, Volume 1 Teacher’s Guide
D. Older Toddler, Volume 2 Teacher’s Guide

Resource Packet

ORDER ONE PER CHURCH OR NURSERY IF YOU WOULD LIKE PROFESSIONALLY PRINTED RESOURCES
E. Includes 17 prayer signs and 28 prayer cards to be used by caregivers in all nurseries and classrooms to pray over infants and toddlers. It also has signs for all 28 memory verses, along with coordinating memory verse cards and magnets to be used with toddler lessons. This packet is printed in full-color on cardstock.

Truth Statement Posters

ORDER ONE SET PER NURSERY
F. Simple truth statements can be spoken frequently and intentionally to infants and toddlers to nurture their spirit and teach big truths from a young age. These 12”×12” full-color posters are designed to hang in nurseries and toddler classrooms.

Story Pictures

ORDER ONE FOR EACH TODDLER NURSERY IF YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED ВУSЕAL FOR ВIBLE STORIES
G. Young Toddler Story Pictures: 17”—8.5”×11” full-color, original Bible illustration for use with the young toddler stories
H. Older Toddler Story Pictures, Volume 1: 53”—8.5”×11” full-color, original Bible illustration for use with the Older Toddler Volume 1 stories
I. Older Toddler Story Pictures, Volume 2: 82”—8.5”×11” full-color, original Bible illustration for use with the Older Toddler Volume 2 stories
The Infant Nursery is a Place for Prayer Warriors to Minister

A Sure Foundation provides advice on creating a Christ-centered atmosphere, along with prayer guides to help caregivers pray through Scripture and plead for the soul of each baby.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Target age range for infants is birth–18 months.
- Have a set of truth statement posters and prayer signs (included in the Resource Packet and Curriculum Resources) to display in each infant nursery.

### Philosophy of Nursery Ministry

**For too long nurseries have been part of church life because “somebody” has to take care of the infants and toddlers while their parents participate in worship services and Sunday school classes. Infants and toddlers cannot care for themselves, therefore nurseries exist. But the church nursery, a place where children learn about their language skills, and a place where they can be transformed into an integral part of the church.**

**How can this transformation take place?**

- As childcare workers but also as prayer warriors and ministers to children. If every child can be transformed into an integral beginning of ministry to children.

**Church nursery.**

- It can be more than a babysitting service—it can be a launching pad for nurturing and prayer training the next generation.

** Purpose:**

- A place for prayer warriors to display in each infant nursery.
- It can be more than a babysitting service—it can be a launching pad for nurturing and prayer training the next generation.

**God Can Work in the Souls of Our Little Ones**

- God is intimately acquainted with our way before birth.
- When Elizabeth heard the voice of the Lord, God was ready to work. He is always ready to work in the lives of infants and toddlers. The curriculum is divided into these children before their parents could impart truth to them.

**These passages suggest that God’s Spirit is at work in the lives of infants and toddlers.**

- David speaks about how God was present with him before his birth, creating and sustaining him:
- “God, my Maker, I am only clay in Your hands. When I was in my mother’s womb You knew me, and wrote me down as an engraving on a seal. I was woven together, made in Your body in the flesh.”

**Setting the Atmosphere of the Nursery**

- There are at least three important elements of an atmosphere of Godliness:

  - **A Spiritual Atmosphere**
    - A nursery ministry focused on spiritual well-being should have a Christ-centered atmosphere. The atmosphere in the nursery should be one that parents can pray for their children. It is not a bottle, and putting clean sheets on a crib. The nursery is a place of lovingkindness and soul nurturing.
    - Hymns and worship songs can be posted on the nursery walls to facilitate singing.
    - The noises—both musical and spoken—should reflect a Godward orientation. There is God to the babies in their care.
    - Music should be played and the atmosphere a nursery where worship songs and hymns are played. The nursery is a place of prayer and worship. It is a place of love and care.

**An Atmosphere of Humbly Dependence**

- While it may seem to some that working in the nursery has less ministry potential than teaching older children, the nursery actually offers great ministry opportunity. The infant nursery, more than any other children’s department, particularly lends itself to the crucial ministry of prayer for children. At all of our teaching, modeling, and interaction with children will have no effect on their hearts if God does not call them to Himself. It will all fall on deaf ears and hard hearts unless God does a redeeming work in them. If we spend nursery hours pleading for their souls, what might God be pleased to do in their lives? What a wonderful foundation it would be for the children in our churches if someone prayed for them every week they were in the nursery. The prayers of godly men and women are a rich heritage for these babies.

- There are tools in the Nursery Coordinator’s Kit to encourage nursery workers to intentionally pray in the nursery. Signs can be printed and hung on the walls to help focus prayer efforts. (See the Curriculum Resources DVD or electronic downloads.) One sign links prayer topics. Others contain Scripture passages that can be prayed for the children.

- A sign with Psalm 139:1-12 included to illustrate how to turn Scripture portions into prayers. As you discover passages that can be turned into effective prayers for the next generation, create new Scripture signs.

- You can also prepare a prayer kit with the names of the babies entered in it. Those who work in the nursery can pray for each baby, either as he is dropped off or during his time in nursery care. You might also hang a large whiteboard in the nursery to

**An Atmosphere of God’s Presence**

- When workers are pointed to God, babies are not undetermined or unsure what God might be pleased to do through the telling of these simple truths. Words of blessing can be spoken over a child as he is placed in a crib or as he leaves the nursery (see A Father’s Guide to Blessing His Children and the blessing cards).

- Ancient truths can be taught by repetition. There are tools in the Nursery Coordinator’s Kit to encourage nursery workers to intentionally pray in the nursery. Signs can be printed and hung on the walls to help focus prayer efforts. (See the Curriculum Resources DVD or electronic downloads.) One sign links prayer topics. Others contain Scripture passages that can be prayed for the children.

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The Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ

The infant nursery is a place for prayer warriors to minister. A Sure Foundation provides advice on creating a Christ-centered atmosphere, along with prayer guides to help caregivers pray through Scripture and plead for the soul of each baby.

**ORDERING TIPS:**

- **Target age range for infants is birth–18 months.**
- **Have a set of truth statement posters and prayer signs (included in the Resource Packet and Curriculum Resources) to display in each infant nursery.**

**Prayer Topics**

1. Pray that the children will trust Christ as Savior at a young age and treasure their inheritance as children of God, that they will not accept Satan’s design against them but walk in the light as heirs of the kingdom.
2. Pray that they will hate sin and live to glorify God.
3. Pray that they will appreciate discipline. They will be caught when they sin; that they will be protected from persecution. Pray that they will be patient when they have problems.
4. Pray that they will be responsible and will walk in humility and look to others for help.
5. Pray that they will submit to God’s authority over them.
6. Pray that they will choose godly influences away from bad friends, that they would not be imitators of the wicked.
7. Pray that they will choose godly influences away from bad friends, that they would not be imitators of the wicked.
8. Pray that they would desire inner beauty more than Christ-like looks; that they will be humble.
9. Pray that they will learn to walk in circumstances.
10. Pray that they will be fully devoted to the kingdom.
11. Pray that they would grow in faith and love and hope; that they will not be caught when they sin; that they will not be stubborn in matters of faith.
12. Pray that they would treasure God’s free from deception and the lies of the world.

**Psalm 1 Prayer Guide**

**How to Turn Scripture into Prayers**

The words of Psalm 1 can serve as prayer springboards for prayer. Beneath each verse is a guide:

**Verse 1**—Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of Mockery.

*Prayer:* Don’t let him listen to ungodly advice or evil influence; listen to the suggestions of evil men or associate with those who are not your friends. Let him learn the things of God and be a disciple of the Gospel.

**Verse 2**—But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

*Prayer:* May he love the Word; may he study the Word to memorize the Word; may it be a ready defense for him in time of need.

**Verse 3**—He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and his leaf does not wither; in all weather.

*Prayer:* Make Him strong in You; may he abide in You and bear much fruit. May he always have his eye on the things of God and be a disciple of the Gospel.

**Verse 4**—The wicked are not so; they are like chaff that the wind drives away. (Therefore the wicked will not stand before You for a moment.)

*Prayer:* Unlike the wicked, may he stand strong in faith; that he stand victorious to the end of his life so that he can stand before You pure and blameless claiming the blood of Jesus, His Redeemer.

**Translation:** ESV  **Author:** Sally Michael
The Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ

The infant nursery is a place for prayer warriors to minister. A Sure Foundation provides advice on creating a Christ-centered atmosphere, along with prayer guides to help caregivers pray through Scripture and plead for the soul of each baby.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Target age range for infants is birth–18 months.
- Have a set of truth statement posters and prayer signs (included in the Resource Packet and Curriculum Resources) to display in each infant nursery.

The Prayer Guide walks through each verse of Psalm 1 and provides sample prayers based on the Scripture. The accompanying posters and prayer cards offer other key verses to pray over children. Posters can be hung around the room or a monthly verse can be highlighted on a bulletin board. Cards can be bound with a ring or laminated like flash cards and used by caregivers as they are rocking babies.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.—Psalm 1:3

My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching; 2Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. 3When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. 4For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light; and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, PROVERBS 6:20-23

My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 2Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them within your heart. 3Make them in your heart as the fruit of your mouth, and write them upon your heart. 4For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light to your eyes, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, PROVERBS 4:20-27

O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, like a dry and weary land lacks water. 2So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3My soul is melted within me; my belly is overwhelmed, for joy at the reproofs of discipline. 4For there is a reproof for your people, O Lord, but you correct and discipline them. 5For the love of your people is life; and tender love will cast out their sins. 6O God, the greatness of all your works, and your节能 in the glory of your power! 7With my lips I will praise you, when I think of you upon my bed, and in the middle of the night. 8My soul meditates upon you by day; for you are my helper and my song. 9My soul will say to God, “How great are your works; through the greatness of your power your wisdom is established. 10The children of God, that they may accept Satan’s design against them but walk in the light as heirs of the kingdom. PRAYER TOPIC

Pray that the children will trust Christ as Savior at a young age and treasure their inheritance as children of God, that they will not accept Satan’s design against them but walk in the light as heirs of the kingdom.
The Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ

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- Target age range for infants is birth–18 months.
- Have a set of truth statement posters and prayer signs (included in the Resource Packet and Curriculum Resources) to display in each infant nursery.

Truth Statements are key phrases about who God is that can be easily repeated to infants and toddlers both formally during a lesson and casually while playing or reading a book. These 12- by 18-inch posters are designed to be displayed on the walls of nursery and toddler rooms. Young children will connect the images with the truths they are hearing.
The Wonders He Has Done

These four lessons present young toddlers with simple Bible stories and verses to memorize to start a foundation of biblical truth. Toddlers will quickly learn the lessons through repetition and experience.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Target age range for young toddlers is 18–24 months.

The four young toddler stories can be taught in cycles with each story being taught one to four weeks in succession. With repetition, toddlers will easily remember the stories just like they memorize commonly read books.

Short stories are scripted for teachers using simple language and repetitive phrases that toddlers can relate to. Teachers should read the Scripture passages to prepare their own heart to teach, and practice the story so they are familiar with the visuals.

Instructions for actions and prompts for using visuals are included in the right column.

Lesson review gives toddlers a chance to repeat back key points from the lesson. This can be done in a variety of ways, such as after the lesson, with a separate puppet skit, or casually while coloring.

### A Sure Foundation

#### The Wonders He Has Done

#### Lesson 1

### God Made Everything

Genesis 1; Psalm 139:13-16

**Note:** Although this story is based on Genesis 1, “babies” are also mentioned. The reason that the story goes beyond Genesis 1 is to make the point that everything—every single thing—is made by God and comes to us from His loving hands. Babies are very special to little children, and it is a good connection for little children to understand that “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17a)

#### Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make a sad face.</td>
<td>Display each picture (1A-1E) as you talk and then throw it face down on the floor. Make a very sad face.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a very happy face; arms up, palms up. Draw yourself up to your full height with your arms extended above. Make a strong gesture.</td>
<td>Display the pictures again, tacking or leaning them against the wall as you show them, if this can be done easily and quickly. Make a happy face.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweep hands over all the pictures. Make a big gesture. Make a strong gesture. Clap.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Review**

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who made the trees? [God!]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who made the flowers? [God!]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A Sure Foundation © 2016 Next Generation Resources. Illustrations Children Desiring God*
The Wonders He Has Done

These four lessons present young toddlers with simple Bible stories and verses to memorize to start a foundation of biblical truth. Toddlers will quickly learn the lessons through repetition and experience.

ORDERING TIPS:
• Target age range for young toddlers is 18–24 months.

Worship songs can help set a joyful mood in the room. Songs show God as good and great, and words are simple for toddlers to learn. Songs supporting lesson themes are included here, and a master list of songs is in the Teacher’s Guide.

A list of monthly memory verses is included in the Teacher’s Guide.

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God Made Everything

Sing

My God Is So Great

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There’s nothing my God cannot do!
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There’s nothing my God cannot do!
The mountains are His, the rivers are His. The stars in the sky are His, too!
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There’s nothing my God cannot do!

God Made Me

God made me, God made me.
In my Bible book it says that God made me.
God loves me, God loves me.
In my Bible book it says that God loves me.
God helps me, God helps me.
In my Bible book it says that God helps me.

Pray

Thank God for making the trees, flowers, birds...everything! Praise God for being so big and so strong.

Memory Verses

Work on the Scripture memory verses and/or Foundation Verses.¹

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Translation: ESV     Author: Sally Michael

Grade Range: Birth–36+ Months   Lessons: 4 / 13 / 16
A Sure Foundation

Nursery & Toddler Curricula

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The Story Pictures include 3-6 images to be used while telling the Bible Stories. Visuals help toddlers stay engaged with the lesson as they connect truths and concepts about God with real items and scenes. These illustrations are printed in color on cardstock. You may want to laminate them for extra durability.
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Coloring Pages can be used as an in-class activity or sent home with toddlers. Pictures match lesson Story Pictures and highlight lesson themes. They can be effective in reviewing the story, both in class and at home.
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**Lesson 1**

**God Made Everything**

**Story**

Creation

**Scripture**

Genesis 1; Psalm 139:13-16

**Main Idea**

God made everything.

**At Home**

- Talk about the different things God made.
- When you talk about trees, birds, dogs, people, and so on, tell your child that God made these things.
- Tell your child that God made these things because God is so big.

**Pray**

Thank God for all the things He made.

**Memory Verse**

Work on memorizing this month’s verse with your child.

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Although there is a great opportunity to spiritually influence toddlers while they are at church, the primary responsibility and greatest opportunity for faith nurturing belongs to parents. Growing in Faith Together: Parent and Child Resource Pages encourage parents to take their faith nurturing role seriously. These pages provide the Scripture references from the story, the key theme, and prompts for starting discussions with their toddlers and praying with them. GIFT pages can be printed on the back of the Coloring Pages and sent home with children or emailed to parents.
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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**GENESIS 1:1**
His Praiseworthy Deeds

Building on the foundation of *The Wonders He Has Done*, older toddlers will learn 13 simple Bibles stories and a monthly memory verse, and review the truth statements.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Target age range for older toddlers (with Volume 1) is 25–36 months.

Older Toddler, Volume 1 stories are set up in the same way as the Young Toddler Bible stories. The four stories from *The Wonders He Has Done* are repeated in addition to nine new lessons for toddlers to learn. Stories may be taught for two or four consecutive weeks, depending on the toddlers’ familiarity with the Bible stories before moving to the next lesson and then repeating the cycle.

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### We Love Jesus

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Story**

Look at the big star!  
It is moving!  
Where is the star going?  

The men will go with the star.  
They will go very far.  
They will not stop when the star is moving.  

The men went many days.  
Where is the star going?  

The star will take them to little Jesus.  
What a happy day!  
They will see Jesus!  

One day the star stopped.  
The star stopped at a house.  
Who is inside?  
Is it Jesus?  

Yes, it is Jesus!  
The men were so happy!  
They gave Jesus presents.  
What could the men say to Jesus?  
"We love you, Jesus.  
We are happy to see you.  
You are very special.  
You are great."

**Display Star (9A).**  
Move the star.  
Hold up your palms up in a questioning gesture, and look puzzled.  

**Display Wise Men Follow Star (9B).**  
Move the men with the star.  
Shake head “no.”

**Display Star Over Inn (9C).**  
Make a questioning gesture and a puzzled expression.

**Display Wise Men See Jesus (9D).**  
Show excitement in your voice.  
You may want to show presents.

**Smile and clap.**

**Review**

Who was the star going to? (Jesus)  
Jesus is special.  
We love you, Jesus.
His Praiseworthy Deeds

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**ORDERING TIPS:**
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It is important for teachers to model short, simple prayers for toddlers. Toddlers may need to be taught how to fold their hands and pray. As they become more familiar with prayer, teachers may want to ask them to repeat short phrases. Prayer should be formal—with the lesson or before a snack—and informal—thanking God for a toy to share or healing an owie.
His Praiseworthy Deeds

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**We Love Jesus**

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His Praiseworthy Deeds

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Lesson 9
We Love Jesus

Story
The wise men love Jesus

Scripture
Matthew 2:1-12

Main Idea
We love Jesus.

At Home
• Show pictures of the wise men and baby Jesus. Talk to your child about how happy the men were to see Jesus.
• Make statements professing love for Jesus throughout the day. For example, “I love Daddy. I love Sister. And I love Jesus!” or “We love Grandma. We love Grandpa. We love Jesus most!”

Pray
Tell Jesus that you love Him.

Memory Verse
Work on memorizing this month’s verse with your child.
His Praiseworthy Deeds

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

PROVERBS 3:5
This final series of 16 lessons takes older toddlers further in depth with foundational Bible stories as well as teaches them a memory verse with each lesson and continues to build on the truth statements.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Target age range for older toddlers (with Volume 2) is children over 36 months who have not transitioned to preschool.

**Older Toddler, Volume 2 stories go more in depth—expounding on key stories and introducing new ones. Stories may be taught for one or two consecutive weeks, depending on the toddlers’ familiarity with the Bible stories before moving to the next lesson and then repeating the cycle.**

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**A SURE FOUNDATION**

**SET THEIR HOPE IN GOD**

**Lesson 14**

**Jesus Lives!**

**John 19:16b-20:31**

**Note:** If using a flannel board, set up the scene with Jesus on the cross and women around the cross.

**Activity:** Review the story of Jesus’ death with the children.

**Story**

| Why are these ladies crying? | Display **Women** (14A). Make a sad face. |
| They look so sad. | Display **Jesus on Cross** (14B). Point to Jesus’ hands and feet. |
| They are sad because their friend, Jesus is on the cross. | Point to the cross (14B). Make a strong gesture. Then shake your head “no.” |
| It hurt Jesus very much to be on the cross. Jesus is taking the punishment for the sin of His people on the cross. | |
| But Jesus can get down! He doesn’t have to stay on the cross. He can call angel warriors to fight the soldiers. Jesus is strong and powerful, and He doesn’t have to stay on the cross. Jesus is God who can do anything. | |
| But Jesus said, “I will let them hurt me. I will not stop them. I will not get down from the cross. I will take the punishment for sin.” | |
| Jesus stayed on the cross until he died. The ladies knew they would not be able to talk with Jesus… Or walk with Jesus…or eat supper with Jesus anymore. Jesus was gone, and His friends were very, very sad. | |
| They would put Jesus in a tomb. “Goodbye Jesus. We will miss you very much. You told us about God and made sick people better.” “You were kind and you made fish and bread for hungry people.” | 

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Set Their Hope in God

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Additional Activities such as finger plays, customized songs, games, and acting out stories emphasize key themes and engage children with different learning styles.

Jesus Lives!

“We will miss you very much.”

But Jesus’ friends did not stay sad because... Jesus did not stay dead! He is alive again!

Mary saw Jesus and talked to Him! “Jesus lives, Jesus lives!” she said. She ran to tell the other friends. “Jesus lives, Jesus lives!”

Jesus’ friends are happy and I am happy, too!

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Thank you, Jesus. You are the Savior of your people.

Review

Did Jesus get down from the cross? [no]
Jesus died for the sins of His people.
Did Jesus come back? [yes]
What did Mary tell Jesus’ friends? [Jesus lives!] Jesus lives! And we are happy.

Sing

Review songs.

Pray

Thank Jesus for staying on the cross. Thank Jesus for coming back.

Memory Verse

John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Additional Activity

The children can pretend to be the friends of Jesus and tell others that Jesus lives. (You may want the children to “visit” different adults in the class to tell them this good news, or to visit other classrooms.)
Set Their Hope in God

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Grade Range: Birth–36+ Months     Lessons: 4 / 13 / 16
Translation: ESV    Author: Sally Michael
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Jesus Died for Sinners and Lives Again
Lesson 14
Jesus Lives!

Story
The cross and resurrection

Scripture
John 19:16b-20:31

Main Idea
Jesus died for sinners and lives again.

At Home
- Help your child to retell the story of the cross and resurrection.
- Help your child to memorize John 3:16.
- Encourage your child to tell the story of the cross and resurrection to someone else.

Pray
- Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to be the Savior.
- Pray that Jesus would be your child’s special friend and Savior.

Memory Verse
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.—John 3:16
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For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16