

Week 1 Sample of the ABCJesusLovesMe.com 4 Year Curriculum

Items Needed:

These are suggested supplies and may be substituted with items you already have in your home.

Tactile Letters and Number: l, i, T, t, I, Letters in First Name, 1

Books: Bible, *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, *Big Thoughts for Little People*

CDs: *Hide 'Em In Your Heart*, Vol 1

Worksheets: First Day of Preschool, Straight Line Characters, Visual Perception Worksheets, Building with Colors, I am Looking at Jesus, Peter Walks to Jesus, Jesus Walks on Water, I Love My Shoes, Objective Checklist, Memory Verse cards (available in the *4 Year Workbook*), "I am Learning..." Objective Poster (available in the *4 Year Workbook*)

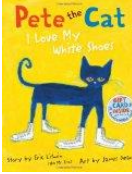
Activities: Water in a bucket, sponge, sidewalk chalk, foods to represent many different colors, ingredients to make homemade ice cream (see below), piece of paper, short and long craft sticks (these items will be needed throughout the curriculum), paint, apple, shallow tray, cloth, glue, Dry Erase Pocket, Dry Erase Marker

Objectives:

The objectives are the goals that you desire to teach your child during the week's time. I suggest using the Introduce, Recognize, Identify teaching strategy - ABCJesusLovesMe.com/ideas/how-to-teach - to help your child learn each point. All objectives do not need to be covered each day but can be spread throughout the week.

<p>Character Trait: Faith & Trust Definition: Believing God will do what He says, believing in something that you cannot see Opposite: Disbelief, not trusting, hopeless</p>	<p>Bible Song: Deep and Wide (<i>Traditional</i>) Deep and wide (put arms vertically, then horizontally), Deep and wide There's a fountain (rain down with fingers) Flowing (play piano with fingers) Deep and wide (Repeat)</p> <p>Optional – each time substitute the below words and say "hmmm" instead 1st Time - Deep 2nd Time - Deep, wide 3rd Time - Deep, wide, fountain 4th Time - Deep, wide, fountain, flowing</p> <p>1st Time Example: Hmmm and wide Hmmm and wide There's a fountain Flowing Hmmm and wide (Repeat)</p>
<p>Bible Story: Jesus Walks on Water Objective: Keep your eyes on Jesus. Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33 <i>The New Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes:</i> pg 296-297 <i>The Beginner's Bible:</i> pg 364-370 <i>Through the Bible in Felt:</i> Story #122</p>	
<p>Comprehension Questions: Who did the disciples think was walking on the water? How did the disciples feel when they saw someone walking towards them? What did Peter want to do? Did Peter walk on the water? Why did Peter start to sink? Sometimes we forget to trust Jesus. Tell me about a time that you forgot to trust Jesus.</p>	
<p>Verse: Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Steve Green – <i>Hide 'Em In Your Heart</i>, Vol 1 - #16</p>	<p>Books of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John</p>

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<p>Math: Black, White, Blue, Brown, Green, Yellow, Orange, Red, Purple</p> <p>Letters: l, i, T, t, I</p> <p>l – body T - body and roof I - body, roof, floor</p> <p>i - down and dot t - down and cross</p> <p>Number: 1</p> <p>Straight down and then you're done. That's the way to make a one!</p> <p>Information: First name</p>	<p>Book of the Week:</p>  <p><i>Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes</i> by Eric Litwin</p>	
<p>Fine Motor Skill: Draw My Family</p>	<p>Gross Motor Skill: Put the Fire Out</p>	<p>Visual Perception: Color Tracking Worksheets</p>

Suggested Activities:

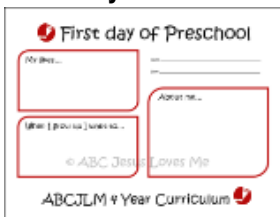
The activities below are merely suggestions to help teach the objectives for the week. Pick and choose activities that your child would enjoy and fit into your schedule. As much as possible, include the learning into play time, craft time, and current activities - tinyurl.com/incorporate-learning.

• "I am Learning" Objective Poster:



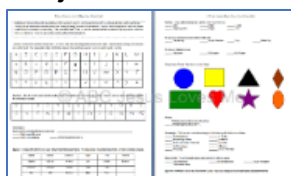
Optional Addition: One of the best ways that I have found to keep track of what the child is to be introduced to (the objectives) and incorporate the objectives into daily activities and play is to use the "I am Learning..." Objective Poster. Transfer the objectives (above) to the sheet and hang it on your refrigerator or prominent place to help you and others remember the objectives for the week. By placing the poster in a dry erase pocket or a picture frame and using a dry erase marker, the sheet is reusable from week to week. *This printable is only available in the 4 Year Workbook.*

• First Day of 4 Year Curriculum:



Print the First Day of Preschool poster to create a precious photo op to remember today. *Be sure to tag #ABCJLM or @ABCJesusLovesMe when you post the image on social media!*

• Objective Checklist:



Use the 4 Year Objective Checklist to determine what your child knows and to check for learning along the way. Tips - ABCJesusLovesMe.com/ideas/objective-checklist

Week 1 Sample of the ABCJesusLovesMe.com 4 Year Curriculum

• Character Trait:

- Unique to the 4 Year Curriculum, the child is introduced each week to a character trait through the support of a Bible story. Using this week's Bible story, discuss how Peter walked on the water when he trusted God. But as soon as he became afraid, he sank into the water.



"Do You Have Faith?"

Give the child an apple. Ask the child, "What is inside the apple?" (seeds, the white part of the apple, juice) "I have a secret...there is really a star in the apple!" The child will probably doubt this statement. "How can we find out if there really is a star inside?" (cut open the apple) "Do you trust me that there is a star inside without us cutting it open?" (cut the apple from side to side through the seed part) Show the child how the seeds in the apple and the area around the seeds look like a star. Explain that just as the child had to have faith that you were correct about the star, we have faith that Jesus is real even though we can't see Him.



Apple Prints

Extend the "Do You Have Faith?" activity by doing apple prints. Have the child write "I Have Faith" at the top of a piece of construction paper. Dab the apple several times onto a cloth to remove excess moisture. Place paint into a shallow tray. Have the child dip the apple into the paint (or paint the apple) and then stamp it on the paper.



- *Big Thoughts for Little People: ABC's to Help You Grow* is a book that I highly suggest you use throughout the curriculum to learn about Jesus and discuss character traits, as well as ABC's and phonetic sounds. Suggested pages are found under the Character Trait Objectives but not all weeks (like this week) contain one.



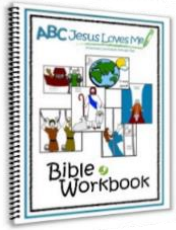
Optional Addition:

Available as a digital download, the 10-page Character Training Printable combines on posters and individual cards the 20 character

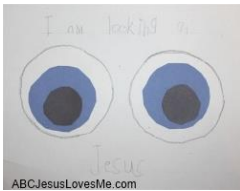
Week 1 Sample of the ABCJesusLovesMe.com 4 Year Curriculum

traits, definitions, opposite meanings, and Bible verses used in the 4 Year Curriculum. Print, post, hole punch, and bind together for easy access and mobility. Order at ABCJesusLovesMe.com/order/printables

• Bible:



- Almost all the Bible lessons include at least one ABCJLM Bible Workbook sheets. These worksheets are found in the *ABCJLM Bible Workbook* available to purchase. This week have the child decorate the Jesus Walks on Water worksheet. Use this time to work on colors and fine motor skill by using crayons, colored pencils, or fingerpaint.



- Use the I am Looking at Jesus worksheet to remind the child to keep her eyes on Jesus. Have the child look in the mirror at her eyes to see the three main colors. Cut out the circles on the printable. Place the circles in order from biggest to smallest and glue on a piece of paper. Add the title "I am looking at Jesus"

- Color the first picture of Jesus and the boat on the Peter Walks to Jesus worksheet. Cut a slit along the dotted line. Color and cut out Peter on the second page. Glue the figure to a craft stick. Slide the stick into the slit and move Peter up and down in the water according to the story.

- He Walked Upon the Sea (*Original Source Unknown*)

Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, row, row your boat,

Gently down the stream.

Jesus did not need a boat,

He walked upon the sea.



- While it is an investment, for toddler and preschoolers I believe flannelgraph is one of the best ways to teach Bible stories. Because of this, in each lesson plan, you will see story numbers associated to the Betty Lukens *Through the Bible in Felt Teacher Manual*. The Bible story, as well as a list of the needed flannelgraph scenes, characters, and props, are listed to help you tell the story. Read more about "Using Flannelgraph." *ABCJLM Video:* <https://tinyurl.com/usingflannelgraph>

- See more Jesus Walks on the Water Ideas on the ABCJLM website. - ABCJesusLovesMe.com/ideas/jesus-walks-on-water

• Memory Verse:

Week 1 Sample of the ABCJesusLovesMe.com 4 Year Curriculum



- **Optional Addition:** Memory Verse Cards are a wonderful tool to teach the memory verses. Each card contains the verse, reference, a corresponding picture, and a piggyback song or CD to sing the verse. Also listed is the week the verse is used in the ABCJLM Lesson Plans (i.e. 4 Year Week 6). Cut out and glue both the front and back of each card to cardstock for extra durability. Rubber band together or hole punch and combine with a c-ring. Keep in the car, by the child's bed, or near the dinner table for quick reference and review for the whole family. *This printable is only available in the 4 Year Workbook.*

• Song:

- The songs chosen are old "Sunday School" favorites and are added to heighten the curriculum. I have tried to choose ones that are familiar to most, but if the song is not known any Bible song can be used. Most songs can be found on Amazon through MP3 download or on several Bible Songs CDs available to purchase. It is best to learn the song yourself and then teach the child the song in slow, small sections. Use the CD once the song is learned.



- **Optional Addition:** Available as a digital download, the 4 Year Bible Song Cards consists of 27 cards containing the New Testament Books of the Bible and Bible Songs used in the 4 Year Curriculum. Also included is 1 extra card to create your own. Print, hole punch, and bind together for easy access and mobility.

• Books of the Bible

To study the Bible, I believe everyone should know the order of the Books of the Bible. With a little help, most preschool children can master this task. The New Testament books have been divided into small group with a new group being introduced every 3-4 weeks in the curriculum. Use a song, motions, or simply repetition to help your child. More ideas - www.abcjesuslovesme.com/ideas/teaching-the-books-of-the-bible and see a video - <https://tinyurl.com/OldTestamentSong>

• Math:

- Eat and discuss foods that represent many different colors (green beans, bananas, carrots, chocolate chip cookies, etc.)



- Using the Building with Color worksheet, create a caterpillar. Use the activity as an assessment tool.

• Letters and Numbers:

ABCJLM uses a five-step process to help children develop good handwriting skills. *If you are new to ABCJLM, please read Learning to Write to understand each of these steps - ABCJesusLovesMe.com/ideas/learning-to-write.*

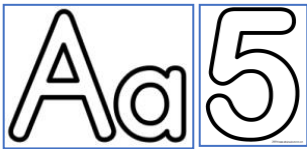
1. Holding the Pencil Correctly - 2 Year Curriculum
2. Pre-Writing Worksheets - 2 & 3 Year Curriculum
3. 3" Tactile and Written Letters and Numbers - 3 & 4 Year Curriculum
4. ABCJLM Letter and Number Progression Worksheets - 4 Year Curriculum
5. ABCJLM Tracing Worksheets - 5 Year Curriculum

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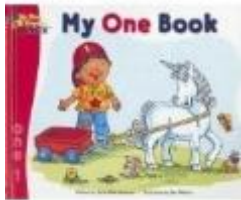
The 4 Year Curriculum focuses on writing all characters using a logical formation progression. Weeks 1-4 focus on "straight-line letters." This week focus on letters l, i, T, t, I - characters made with straight lines only. Before being placed on tracing paper, each formation is reviewed with tactile letters and numbers (ABCJesusLovesMe.com/ideas/tactile-letters-numbers) and then created using crafts sticks, play dough, or pipe cleaners. When ready use the Straight Line Characters worksheet to show the progression of the letters l, i, T, t, I. Be sure to say the Letter Formation Chants as the child creates each character. *If this is not an appropriate level for your child, begin at the level in which he can be successful. If in doubt, start a level below where you think he is ready.*



- For repeat practice, I encourage you to place all writing worksheets in a dry erase pocket and write with a fine tip dry erase marker.



- If the child completed the 3 Year Curriculum, she created books made up of letter and number posters. If not, I encourage you to create ones this year. Letter of the Week activities and books as well as posters to print are available on this website to further the learning and develop fine motor skills or creativity.



- The *My First Steps to Reading* (also known as *Sound Box*) and *My First Steps to Math* books by Jane Moncure used to be a large part of the 4 Year Curriculum as they are the best books which I have found for teaching numbers, letters, and phonetic sounds. Sadly these books are no longer in print and thus they have been removed them from the supplemental materials. But, I encourage you to search for these books at your library, on Amazon or Ebay, and in used book stores. *They are that good!*

- **Calendar Activity** - Begin each day with this activity to reinforce numbers, days of the week, and months of the year - tinyurl.com/calendar-activity

• Information:

In the 3 Year Curriculum the child learned to write her name in all capital letters using 3" letters. In the 4 Year Curriculum, the child will learn how to write on 1" lined paper her first and last name using a capital letter for the first letter only and lowercase for the rest. To begin the process, review the formation of each letter in her first name using tactile letters. Lay the tactile letters in order so the child begins to think of the letters as a "word" instead of individual letters. If letters are doubled, you may need to make extra tactile letters.

• Book of the Week:



- Color the I Love My Shoes worksheet and add the name of the color to the sentence. Imagine with the child the object that turned his/her shoes that color. Create several different colored shoes and write your own version of the book.

Week 1 Sample of the ABCJesusLovesMe.com 4 Year Curriculum

- Pete could have gotten discouraged when troubles came his way, but he continued to be joyful. Use this story to discuss faith and trust in God even through the tough stuff.

- View the story and listen to the song on a live video with the author, Eric Litwin - tinyurl.com/eric-litwin.



• **Family Fun** - Create a family tradition of making homemade ice cream in a bag or in a coffee can.

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon sugar

½ cup milk, cream, or half and half

¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

Place the three ingredients in a quart-sized zip-top bag or a small coffee can. Mix and seal the container very well. *Because the seal may not hold through the mixing process, you may want to tape the seals closed.* If possible, refrigerate this mixture for a few hours to speed up the freezing process. Place the well-sealed zip-top bag in a gallon-sized zip-top bag or the small coffee can inside a large coffee can. Place crushed ice cubes and approximately 1/2 cup rock salt inside the larger containers to surround the smaller bag or can. Seal the larger bag or coffee can very well. Then shake and roll the containers for 5-10 minutes until the mixture turns into ice cream. Carefully open the smaller container making sure that the water and salt freezing ingredients do not come in contact with the ice cream. Grab a spoon and enjoy!

• **Fine Motor Skill:**



Periodically throughout the curriculum, the child will be instructed to draw his family. This can be a daunting task for some children. Begin by demonstrating how to draw a person. Use simple shapes for parts and explain what you are doing as you draw. Let your child assist in the process. Later in the week, give your child a chance to try it himself. For more ideas read, "Teaching Your Child How to Draw a Person" - tinyurl.com/draw-person

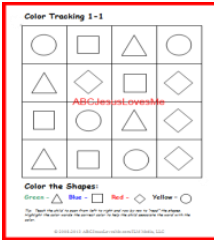
• **Gross Motor Skill:**



Play "Put the Fire Out" - a fun outside activity that involves sidewalk chalk, water, and a sponge. Begin by drawing a ladder on cement with sidewalk chalk. Draw a fire at the top of the ladder. Place a bucket and a sponge at the bottom of the ladder. Have the child wet the sponge and jump between the rungs of the ladder to get to the fire. Once at the fire, squeeze the sponge over the fire to put it out! (*Idea from YourTherapySource.com*)

Week 1 Sample of the ABCJesusLovesMe.com 4 Year Curriculum

• Visual Perception Skill:



Along with fine and gross motor activities, each lesson plan in the 4 and 5 Year Curricula contains visual perception activities. Visual perception is the translation between the eyes and the brain. Correct translation is imperative to reading and writing. These activities can help correct visual perception issues as well as strengthen the brain and eye communication. While one activity may be difficult for your child, another may be simple. Worksheets are available by clicking the links online or in the ABCJLM Visual Perception Workbook available to purchase. The worksheets increase in difficulty.

For the first week, use the Color Tracking Visual Perception Worksheets. Ask the child to color certain shapes, certain colors. Highlight the color words the correct color to help the child associate the word with the color. Use this activity to help the child search for items left to right and row by row. Another option is to assign each shape a colored candy. Ask the child to lay the correct colored candy on the corresponding shape.

- Be sure to look over the Development Guide - 4 Year so that you are familiar with developmental milestones for your child's age. ABCJesusLovesMe.com/ideas/developmental-guide-4-year

Daily Schedule - Week 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Character Trait	Do You Have Faith?			Apple Prints
Bible Story	Jesus Walks on Water		Comprehension Questions	
Bible Activities		Jesus Walks on the Water	"I am Looking at Jesus"	ABCJLM Bible Worksheets
Verse	Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.			
Song	Deep and Wide	Deep and Wide	Deep and Wide	Deep and Wide
New Testament	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John			
Math		Building with Colors		
Letters/Numbers	Tactile Letters	Craft Sticks	Straight Line Characters	
Information	Tactile Letters	Tactile Letters	Tactile Letters	Tactile Letters
Book of the Week	Read	Read	"I Love My Shoes"	Read
Skills		Draw "My Family"	Play "Put the Fire Out"	Color Tracking Worksheets
Other	"I am Learning..." Objective Poster, Objective Checklist, First Day Poster			Homemade Ice Cream