



Welcome to *God's Little Explorers Preschool Curriculum*! I'm so excited to be sharing this journey with you. If you would like to know more about God's Little Explorers, please [read this blog post](#). You can also find a [listing of resources to use with God's Little Explorers on this page](#).

Each week, I will be sharing the lesson plans I'm using with my youngest daughter (*and my five-year-old, too...once we started, she didn't want to be left out*). We'll be exploring one letter (in no particular order), various math concepts, thematic projects (like cooking, crafts, and science), and one Bible story per week.

The curriculum is written to be four days each week. I recommend using the fifth day for a field trip and/or service project each week to enhance the theme and your child's learning.

I've written the lessons to be approximately 30-45 minutes if you complete the top three sections (Bible, Theme, and ABC & 123). The Life Skills section adds a little more time depending how thorough you are in teaching the various skills. The Other Ideas section, Book Bag, and Learning Bags are just extra ideas I share in case you want to switch-out a project, extend the learning, or don't like an activity I have included in the main lesson. Ideas that work for my children won't necessarily work for yours, so feel free to change and adapt the curriculum to fit your child's needs and your own!

This is a work-in-progress, so feel free to email me with your ideas and suggestions. You can contact me at [motherhoodonadime@gmail.com](mailto:motherhoodonadime@gmail.com). Please feel free to share this program with friends by sending them to [the landing page for God's Little Explorers](#). Please remember, this material is copyrighted, so you may not redistribute or sell these plans. Thanks for your help!

Blessings!

*Stacie Nelson*

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Phillipians 4:19 NIV

Bible

Theme  
"m" is for Money

ABC & 123

Letter: m  
Color: Brown

Life

Book  
Bag

# Day 1

## Bible Exploration:

Read the story of Zacchaeus. Let your children climb something (safely, of course) and pretend to be Zacchaeus.

Sing "Zacchaeus was a Wee Little Man" from Wee Sing. Have your child "come down from there". Talk about how Zacchaeus was a tax collector, but when He encountered Jesus he was changed. He gave half of his money to the poor and paid back those he had wronged.

## Theme Adventure:

This week we are talking about "m" is for money. Begin this week by making a bank with three small jars labeled with spend, save, and give. (You can also purchase these type of banks.)

Give your child a cup of coins. Talk about the different types of coins and [have your child sort them](#).

After sorting, help them divide up the money into the spend/save/give categories of the bank.

**ABC Exploration:** Teach the sound *m m m*. Trace m on your palm and say "m m money."

Make a lowercase "m" Pencil Topper.

**Color Exploration:** Place a sheet of brown paper on the floor. Ask your child to go on a color hunt to find brown items to place on the paper.

## Self Help:

We're moving outdoors for the next few weeks. This week, teach your child basic bicycle safety rules and help her learn to put on her helmet.

## My Mother's Chair

Discuss a special purchase your child would like to make or your family would like to make. Set aside a special jar and begin saving up.

## The Coin Counting Book

Count coins together!

# Day 2

## Bible Exploration:

Read about Jesus and the Money Changers in the Temple.

## Theme Adventure:

Today, talk about the [difference between needs and wants](#). Use the printable chart to draw or list some items that are necessary for our lives (food, clothing, shelter) and some that are just things we want (certain toys, certain brands of clothing, etc.).

## Math/ABC Exploration:

Have your child [make patterns with money](#). For instance, they might put two quarters, two pennies, one dime, one nickel and repeat the pattern.

You can also start a pattern and have them finish it. Adjust this activity according to your child's skill level.

## Chore:

Learn to take care of a bicycle or tricycle (put it away in the correct spot, clean it when it gets dirty, check the tires, etc.).

# Day 3

## Bible Exploration:

Read the stories about Jesus and his teaching on paying taxes (found in Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12:13-17, and Luke 20:20-26 or in the Read & Learn Bible).

Also, review the story and sing "Zacchaeus" from Wee Sing.

## Theme Adventure:

Make a [little booklet about coins](#) with the included printable. Make a rubbing of a penny on the penny page, a rubbing of the quarter on the quarter page, and so forth.

If your child is ready, they can [draw a coin out of a bag and match the correct value with the correct coin on the included printable](#). Please note that many preschoolers may not be ready or able to do this. Help them as needed or skip this activity if your child finds it frustrating.

## ABC Exploration:

Use the printable letter m and do [coin rubbings on it](#). Cut it out and add to the alphabet wall or notebook.

## Color Exploration:

Make a brown collage. Add photos of brown items from a magazine, brown scrap paper, ribbon, buttons, felt, etc. Write the word "brown" on the collage somewhere and save to make a color book.

## Manners:

Teach your child to leave an area cleaner than it was when he arrived. This is an excellent habit for keeping the house cleaner, but it also a great manner to teach when you are visiting someone else's home, a business, or even an outdoor area like a park.

# Day 4

## Bible Exploration:

The Bible has a lot to say about money. We've covered several stories, and today, read about The Poor Woman's Fortune (Mark 12:41-44 or Luke 21:1-4).

This may be a good time to discuss your own family's decisions and actions when it comes to tithing and giving to God.

## Theme Adventure:

[Set up a store](#). Use garage sale tags or masking tape to price items in your store. Give your child some pennies to put into a purse or billfold. Have them count out the correct number of pennies to "buy" items from the store.

Adapt for your child's ability level.

Have a "coin" snack of round crackers or vanilla wafers.

## ABC Exploration:

Review the sound and gesture for letter "m".

Practice writing the letter m in the alphabet notebook.

Glue a pretend piece of money (or draw one) on a small card. Write a letter m on it and [add it to the treasure map](#).

## Service:

This week, begin saving coins or give your child coins to spend on food or other items they can donate. Once they have saved up, allow them to go shopping with you and pick out the items with the money.

# Other Ideas

Go on a field trip to a bank.

Set up a bank account for your child.

Clean pennies using 1/4 cup vinegar and 1 tsp. salt.

Flip coins and predict whether it will land on heads or tails.

Hide some coins in a sand or rice bin and let your child dig for treasure.

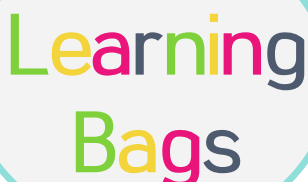
Have your child design their own money and use it to play store.

If you don't normally pay with cash, take your child to a store and bring only a certain amount of money. Have them help you decide what to buy and figure out if you have enough money.

Find information about the studies below on the [Resource Page for God's Little Explorers](#):

- Hymn: Jesus Paid It All
- Composer Study: Johannes Brahms
- Artist Study: Michelangelo

## My Ideas:

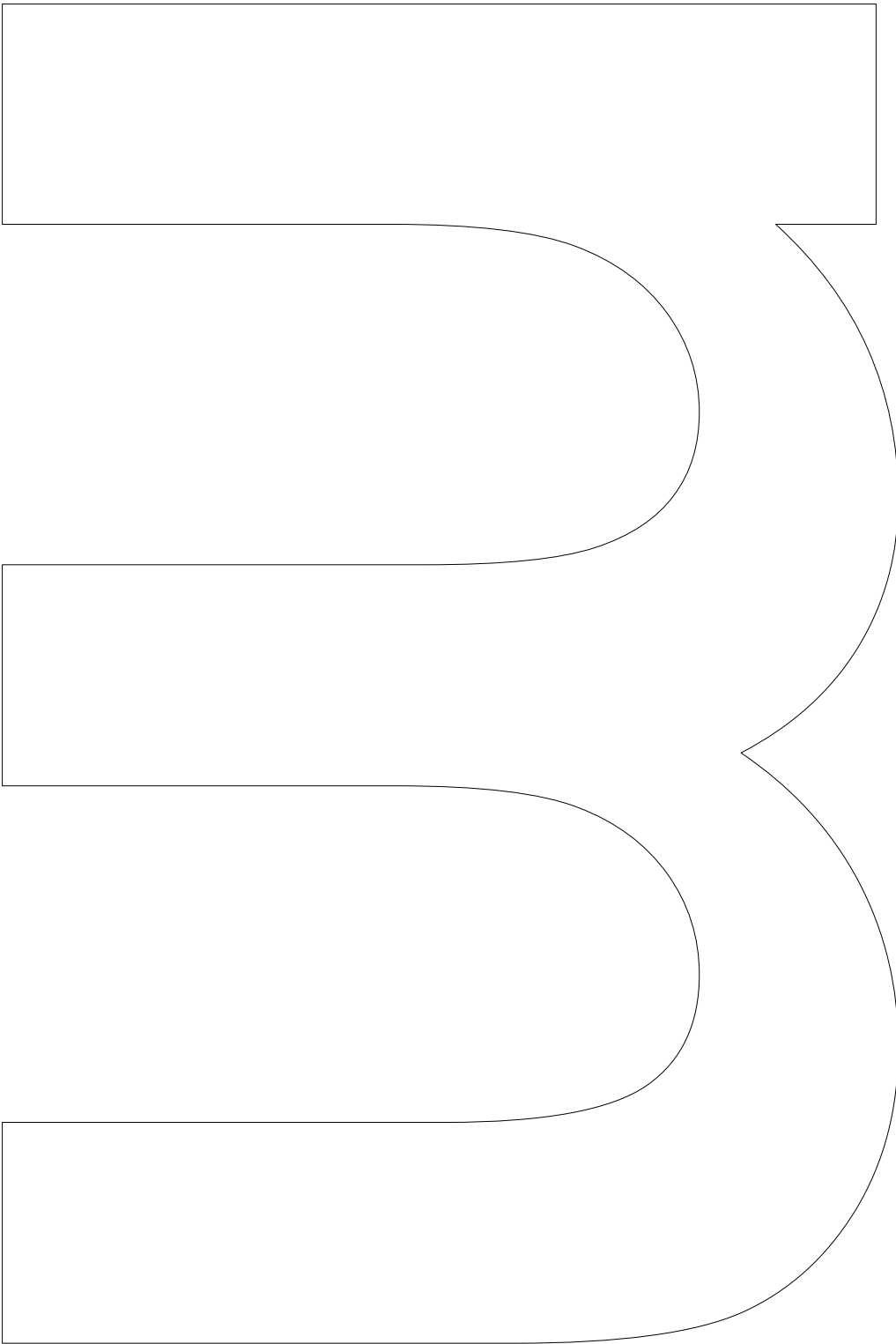
The logo for "Learning Bags" is enclosed in a circular frame with a dashed border. The word "Learning" is written in a multi-colored font (green, yellow, red, blue), and the word "Bags" is written in a solid blue font below it.

Coin Bag: Store the Day 3 theme activity in a bag along with coins. Use it as a busy bag.

Piggy Bank: Use either a toy bank with toy coins or a real bank with real coins, and allow your child to put the money in the piggy bank.

Remember that all activities with coins should be supervised. It is a great temptation for children to put coins in their mouths, and it can be very dangerous.

See how to use the bags on the [Busy Bag Resource page](#) and find more [Learning Bag activities on the Busy Bag page](#).



| <b>Needs</b> | <b>Wants</b> |
|--------------|--------------|
|              |              |

My Coin  
Collection

**Penny = 1¢**

**Nickel = 5¢**

**Dime = 10¢**

**Quarter = 25¢**

**Dollar = \$1**

|     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1¢  | 10¢ | 5¢  | 25¢ | 10¢ |
| 10¢ | 25¢ | 1¢  | 5¢  | 25¢ |
| 5¢  | 1¢  | 10¢ | 25¢ | 5¢  |
| 10¢ | 5¢  | 25¢ | 1¢  | 10¢ |
| 1¢  | 10¢ | 1¢  | 25¢ | 5¢  |
| 5¢  | 25¢ | 1¢  | 10¢ | 1¢  |