

# Overview of the Praise Factory Curriculum

## 10 Key Facts about the 3 Praise Factory Curriculums

<p><b>1. SAME BIBLICAL THEMES</b></p>	<p>The Praise Factory is a family of three, inter-related curriculums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hide 'n' Seek Kids (focus group: ages 2-4; adaptable range: ages 2-pre-K 5's)</li> <li>• Deep Down Detectives (focus group: ages 4--6's; adaptable range: ages 3-2nd grade)</li> <li>• PFI: (focus group: grades K-5th grade; adaptable range: pre-K 5's-6th grade)</li> </ul> <p>Each curriculum teaches the same biblical themes, but are presented in greater depth as the children grow and develop. Together, they work like an expanding spiral of truth that returns to reinforce the same truths with each curriculum, yet leading the children to deeper understanding with each step up.</p>
<p><b>2. SIXTEEN UNITS, SIXTEEN BIG QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>All three curriculums have 16 units. The theme of each unit is presented as a Big Question (and Answer) about God and His Truth, as revealed in the Bible.</p>
<p><b>3. DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF DEPTH</b></p>	<p>While all three curriculums use the same units and biblical themes, each offers a different amount of depth to suit the very different developmental needs of preschoolers and elementary school age children.</p> <p>Hide 'n' Seek Kids presents the 16 themes as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Bible Truths,</li> <li>• each with 1 Bible story</li> </ul> <p>Deep Down Detectives provides more depth by presenting the 16 themes as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 units made up of</li> <li>• 69 Bible truths,</li> <li>• each with 1 Bible story</li> </ul> <p>PFI provides the most depth by presenting the 16 themes as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 units made up of</li> <li>• 104 Bible truths,</li> <li>• each with 3 stories, an Old Testament, New Testament and Story of the Saints (church history or missions story).</li> </ul>

**4. SEEKING  
MASTERY,  
NOT JUST  
EXPOSURE TO  
CONCEPTS**

The Praise Factory curriculums seek not just to **INTRODUCE** children to key, biblical concepts, but to present them in such a way as to help them **REMEMBER** the concepts.

Ideas are reinforced **WITHIN** each lesson by use of activities that reinforce.

Ideas are reinforced **OVER A NUMBER** of lessons by repetition.

**In Hide 'n' Seek Kids,**

- 5 lessons of curriculum are included
- for each of the 16 Bible themes,
- the same Bible story used for all 5 lessons. (i.e., 16 stories in all)

Yes, that's right... the same truth and Bible story for 5 lessons, but with different reinforcement activities. Instead of getting bored, these little 2 and 3 year olds love the opportunity to hear the same story again. How many times do children this age bring you the same book to read over again? This is applying this same approach to the classroom. You don't have to do all five lessons, but we find that it takes this many for the truth to stick with these little ones.

**In Deep Down Detectives,**

- 3 lessons of curriculum are included
- for each of the 69 truths
- that make up the 16 Bible themes,
- the same Bible story used for all 3 lessons. (i.e., 69 stories in all)

That's three lessons on the same truth and using the same Bible story. Again, the curriculum provides different reinforcement activities each lesson to provide variety. These children are older and need less repetition to remember their Bible truths. Here at CHBC, we use two or three of the lessons with our 4 and 5 year olds. This is our target group for this curriculum and we have built it to provide the appropriate amount of repetition for them. If using the curriculum with older, K-5, 6 and 7 year olds, (which have also done sometimes), you would use only one or maybe two of the lessons per Bible truth. Again, the curriculum is written so you can do as few or as many of the three lessons and you want.

**In PFI,**

- 3 lessons of curriculum,
- each with a different story (an Old Testament, New Testament and Story of the Saints--church history or missions story) are included
- for each of the 104 truths,
- that make up the 16 Bible themes. (i.e., 312 stories in all)

There are three lessons which all reinforce the same Bible truth, but present a different story each lesson that reflects it. This provides the repetition that elementary age children, but also their readiness for something new with each lesson.

<p><b>5. CONDUITS OF TRUTH: IMPORTANT REINFORCEMENT THROUGH ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES</b></p>	<p>A conduit of truth activity is one that uses the enjoyable-ness of the activity to fill the children with the important truths of your lesson. There are a wide variety of activities included with each lesson, including a craft, multiple games, songs, sheet music and audio, snacks (only PFI) and drama activities (only PFI). All of these are designed to be conduits of truth to make the most of your time with the children.</p> <p>You can use them all or pick just a few. The curriculum is very flexible.</p> <p>The large number of activities available with every lesson makes the Praise Factory curriculums a good choice even for Vacation Bible School.</p>
<p><b>6. DOWNLOADS OR HARD COPIES</b></p>	<p>Everything is available for download at the Praise Factory website or you can order hard copies.</p>
<p><b>7. TONS OF MUSIC</b></p>	<p>Every Big Question and all the Bible verses are set to music. These songs are also available for download. What makes this music different is that it is directly related to each lesson. Your kids are listening to what you are teaching in class and through the power of music, are far more likely to retain it.</p> <p>The curriculum is available in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIV 1984 (the Bible version used for the 1st edition of the curriculum) and</li> <li>• a (largely) ESV version</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. NIV 1984 AND ESV VERSIONS</b></p>	<p>The only difference between the two versions (besides the translation used, of course) is that ALL of the songs for the ESV version were recorded in studio.</p> <p>The older, NIV 1984 Bible verse songs were done in our church worship hall in less professional quality.</p> <p>And in case you're wondering...The reason the ESV version isn't exclusively ESV is that sometimes I felt the translation of particular verses was too confusing for the children. In those cases, I chose the HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible) and in a last resort, kept the original NIV 1984 text.</p>
<p><b>9. A WORK IN PROGRESS</b></p>	<p>All of Hide 'n' Seek Kids and Deep Down Detectives and about 50% of PFI is available at this point. (PFI units 1,4,5,6,7,8,10,11 and 12. This is three years of curriculum.) More will come available as it is completed.</p>
<p><b>10. SAMPLES AND DOWNLOADS</b></p>	<p>For more information, download the samples below or go straight to download the full curriculum.</p>

## Some What's and Why's: A Little Philosophy

### **WHAT: Systematic Theology**

All three curriculums teach sixteen, theological themes, introduced as sixteen "Big Questions and Answers"-- one for each theological theme.

### **WHY: to provide a broad understanding of biblical truth**

God created us to know Him. Children, like the rest of us, long to understand about who God is, His plans for this world, our lives, and the wonderful things of the world to come. Systematic theology is simply biblical truth organized into helpful themes that take into consideration the whole counsel of Scripture, not just a verse here or there. It is a great way to help them (and us!) learn what God has revealed about these important topics.

### **WHAT: Surprising Amounts of Repetition**

Most curriculums take the one-new-concept-every-lesson approach, but the Praise Factory curriculums repeat truths and even Bible stories for multiple lessons. Hide 'n' Seek Kids--for the youngest children-- provides five lessons on the same Bible truth, Bible verse and Bible story. Deep Down Detectives --for older preschoolers and early elementary--provides three lessons on the same Bible truth, verse and story. PFI--for elementary age children-- provides three lessons on the same Bible truth and verse, though it uses a different story for each of the three lessons.

### **WHY: to promote understanding and memory of biblical truth**

While it might sound boring to revisit the same Bible truth, verse and story, we have found that repetition allows children to actually understand and remember the truths we are teaching them. The extensive number of activities offered with each lesson provides the variety needed to keep the learning fresh over multiple lessons.

### **WHAT: Rich Reinforcement through Conduit of Truth Activities**

A conduit of truth activity is one that uses the enjoyable-ness of the activity to fill the children with the important truths of your lesson.

### **WHY: to make class time activities as rich in biblical truth as they are fun**

There are many ways to help children enjoy their time in class, but not all activities reinforce what we most want the children to understand and remember. Choosing and using activities that are conduits of truth help achieve this very important goal. All the activities used in the Praise Factory curriculums--crafts, games, music, even snacks-- have been designed to be conduits of truth that will reinforce the important concepts of each lesson, not just fill class time.

### **WHAT: The Same Theological Themes, But Different Depth within Each Curriculum**

While all three of the curriculums cover all sixteen Big Questions and Answers Theology Themes, they vary in the amount of time and depth they spend on each one.

- **Hide 'n' Seek Kids** covers the 16 theological themes simply as sixteen, single-concept truths. (16 Bible truths presented, 16 Bible stories presented--1 per Bible truth, 5 reinforcing lessons per Bible truth.)
- **Deep Down Detectives** covers the same 16 theological themes but now as units with multiple Bible truth (sub-concepts), that expand and build upon the Big Question basics the children learned in Hide 'n' Seek Kids. (69 Bible truths, 69 Bible stories presented--1 per Bible truth. 3 reinforcing lessons per Bible truth.)
- **PFI** covers the same 16 theological themes also as units, but now in even greater depth. (104 Bible Truths, with three stories for each: one Old Testament, one New Testament and one Missionary/Church history story for each.)

### **WHY: to take advantage of the increasing capacity children have to grasp biblical truth as they grow**

While it certainly would make for easier shop-keeping to have everyone spend the same amount of time on each Big Question, Praise Factory has opted to focus on maximizing what children of different ages can learn, and how much reinforcement they need to master what they are learning. We call this approach a Spiral of Truth, that returns to reinforce the same truths while also expanding ever-more broadly with each circuit.

**The next two pages provide an overview of the 16 Big Questions and their theological theme; as well as, a comparison chart of the three curriculums.**

	<b>PRAISE FACTORY UNIT</b>	<b>THEOLOGICAL THEME</b>
<b>1</b>	Unit 1: The God Who Reveals Himself Big Question: How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like!	Revelation
<b>2</b>	Unit 2: God's Wonderful Word, the Bible Big Question: What's So Special about the Bible? It Alone Is God's Word!	The Bible
<b>3</b>	Unit 3: The Good News of God Big Question: What Is the Gospel? Salvation through Faith in Christ!	The Gospel
<b>4</b>	Unit 4: The God Like None Other Big Question: Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like? He's Not Like Anyone Else!	The Attributes of God
<b>5</b>	Unit 5: God, the Good Creator Big Question: Can You Tell Me What God Made? God Made All Things Good!	Creation
<b>6</b>	Unit 6: God, the Just and Merciful Big Question: How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World? Bad Things Came through Sin!	The Fall
<b>7</b>	Unit 7: The Law-Giving God Big Question: What Are God's Laws Like? God's Laws Are Perfect!	God's Laws
<b>8</b>	Unit 8: The God Who Loves Big Question: What Is God's Love for His People Like? It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!	God's Enduring Love for His People
<b>9</b>	Unit 9: Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with Us Big Question: What Did Jesus Come to Do? Jesus Came to Bring Us to God!	Jesus, the Son of God
<b>10</b>	Unit 10: The Holy Spirit: The Indwelling God Big Question: What Does the Holy Spirit Do in God's People? He Changes Their Heart!	The Holy Spirit
<b>11</b>	Unit 11: The God Who Saves Big Question: How Can We Be Saved? It's God's Free Gift!	Salvation
<b>12</b>	Unit 12: God's People Live for Him Big Question: How Should God's People Live? They Should Live Like Jesus!	Discipleship
<b>13</b>	Unit 13: The Sustaining God Big Question: Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It is God's Sustaining Grace!	Perseverance of the Saints
<b>14</b>	Unit 14: The God Who Delights in Our Prayers Big Question: How Does God Want Us to Pray? Every Night and Day!	Prayer
<b>15</b>	Unit 15: God's People Gather Together Big Question: Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another!	The Church
<b>16</b>	Unit 16: Jesus, the Returning King Big Question: What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Back? God Will Make Everything New!	The Return of Christ

HIDE 'N' SEEK KIDS	DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES	PFI
<p>Focus group: 2-3 year olds</p> <p>Adaptable use: 2-pre-K 5's</p> <p>16 Big Questions/16 Bible truths</p>	<p>Focus group: 4-6 year olds</p> <p>Adaptable use: 3's -2nd grade</p> <p>16 Big Questions/69 Bible truths</p>	<p>Focus group: K-5th grade</p> <p>Adaptable use: pre-K 5's to 6th grade</p> <p>16 Big Questions/104 Bible truths</p>
<p>taught as 16 units consisting of a single truth per unit</p> <p>1 Bible story per unit</p> <p>1 Bible verse per unit</p> <p>5 lessons per unit same story, all 5 lessons can use 1-5 of the lessons</p> <p>16+ months of curriculum</p>	<p>taught as 16 units, consisting of 2-8 Bible truths per unit</p> <p>1 Bible story per Bible truth</p> <p>1 Bible verse per Bible truth</p> <p>*3 lessons for each Bible truth same story, all 3 lessons can use 1-3 of the lessons</p> <p>4+ years of curriculum</p>	<p>taught as 16 units, consisting of 3-14 Bible truths per unit</p> <p>1 Old Testament story 1 New Testament story 1 Church History/Missions story per Bible truth</p> <p>1 Bible verse per Bible truth</p> <p>3 lessons for each Bible truth different story each of the 3 lessons can use 1-3 of the lessons (but will lose stories if you do)</p> <p>5 years of curriculum</p>
	<p><i>*There is also a one-lesson introductory lesson for each of the 16 Big Question if teachers want to introduce the bigger theological theme before teaching the Bible truths included in each unit. If you use these lessons, then you will be extending your curriculum by 16 additional lessons.</i></p>	