

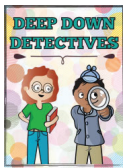
Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives:

The Basics



Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives

Get It



Order the **Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version** (or download it from the website in the Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives section). It will be your easiest, most visual way to learn about this curriculum. Order/download the **Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book (ESV/NIV)**. Choose one of the **Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids books to use. There are Story Scene Pictures (simplest to prepare and use) or the Small Format/Large Format Storyboard (flannelgraph) pictures.**

Tour It...Three Times

1

1. Read through the whole Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version book once.

Learn how the Praise Factory family of curriculum is related to each other. Pay special attention to the section on Deep Down Detectives.

2

2. Go back and read through just the section on Deep Down Detectives in the Tour book again.

3

3. Now go back and read the Deep Down Detectives section of the Tour book a third time, only this time, get out your two resource books (Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum and, Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids books) and follow along.

This will help see how the curriculum flows and where to find each of the resources visualized in the Tour Book.

Rip It Up



The **Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids book** is meant to be taken apart. These will be made into your visual aids and story pictures used in each lesson.

You May Want to Second It



The **Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book** contains resources you will probably want to photocopy--such as, the lesson plans, the crafts/take home sheets, and the music for the songs. **For this reason, you might want to print out a second copy (from online) or buy a second copy of this book.** This will allow you to take apart one copy for easy photocopying and still have another one intact for reference. Or, you can photocopy a copy from your original and keep that on hand.

Choose It



Choose how you want to use the curriculum resources with your kids and your setting. There is a questionnaire and other resources in the Getting Started section of the praisefactory.org website that can help you make the best custom fit for your situation. You may want to follow the curriculum as written and use them all. Or, you may want to pick and choose. Do what is best for your situation.

Prepare It and Protect It



Cut out and laminate the Big Question Box resources (Big Question and Answer; the Bible Truth Unit Concepts; the Bible Truth; the Bible Verse; and, Listening Assignment signs) as well as the storyboard pictures or Simple Story Scenes from the **Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids book**. Stick velcro on the back of the storyboard pictures to get them ready to be used in story-telling and in the Story Review game. **More information about making durable storyboard pictures/Story Scenes can be found in Appendix E of the Core Curriculum and Visual Aid books.**

Download It



Download the **zip file of unit songs** from the website. Or, download **the QR code sheets** with the songs listed on it. You can access the songs via the camera on your phone.

Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives, continued

Make It... Before You Get Started



There are a few more Deep Down Detectives resources that you need to make/buy before you use the curriculum. You need to purchase/make a **Big Question Box**; a **DDD "Bible" folder**; and a **flannelgraph storyboard**. Directions for making these are found in the **back of the Core Curriculum books in Appendix E**.

Are You Game?



Deep Down Detectives is a very active curriculum, with a number of different games suggested for each lesson. The good news is that they are used in a rotation throughout the curriculum. That means once you make these games, you store them and use them over and over (and for years to come!).

While you only need to make whatever games you choose to use with each lesson, **I strongly recommend that you make all the games before you start using the curriculum**. Get the prep work over with at the beginning and coast your way through years of enjoyment!

Store them in ziploc bags or baskets and pull them out when needed. So simple! Your teachers will love how easy it is to have an engaging learning session with so little work for them to do! Happy teachers are more likely to be repeat teachers! **A full list of the games and the supplies needed to make them can be found in the back of the Core Curriculum books in Appendix B with the instructions for all the games.**

Session Prep



Prepare the curriculum for your teachers. Largely, this will mean making copies of the lesson plan, the crafts and take home sheets...especially if you have already assembled the games. We give the teachers a **basket of curriculum and materials they will use to teach the class each session**. This has worked very well for us.

Don't Ignore It, Store It!



This is a curriculum that keeps on giving, year after year. If you do a good job of storing the curriculum, it will serve your church well and at little cost for many years. We store the resources for each unit in **manilla envelopes and magazine storage boxes**.

Learn More



There are many more resources online that may help you customize the curriculum to fit your learning situation. These are listed online in the Further Resources section, as well as in the Getting Started section at the Praise Factory website.

Two you might especially want to look at are:

- **From the Ground Up** (Making a Great Start in Children's Ministry and with the Praise Factory Family of Curriculum)
- **Classroom Management Suggestions for Teaching Preschoolers**

These are available for download or to order through Amazon.com.

See It in Action



visit us in
Washington,
D.C.

Three times a year (the third Saturday/Sunday of March, May and September), we hold a **free lunch, learn-and-look workshop and observation time here at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.**

On the Saturday, we gather for lunch and talk philosophy, child protection policy, encouraging parents, dealing with discipline issues, etc. and, of course, curriculum. After finishing up our group session, we are happy to talk to individual churches about their particular situations. Then on Sunday, we offer an opportunity to see Deep Down Detectives and the other Praise Factory curriculum in action in our classes. The registration form for these workshops can be found on the Praise Factory website.

Session Prep (especially good for newbies!)

Pray!



Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in your and the children's hearts.

Review



If new to the curriculum, look at the **Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives section of the Core Curriculum book.** (p.5) It will be especially helpful to read through the Deep Down Detectives section of **The Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version Book.** This is a visual way to understand what goes on in the classroom. (A pdf of the book is found in the samples section on the website.)

Look through and Learn the Lesson



Read over **lesson plan.** Practice any **songs or action rhymes** you are using. Choose/make up motions to go with these. Choose less with younger children and more with older preschoolers. **Practice the lesson with the visual aids** and using the Big Question Box/Briefcase.

Read and Rehearse the Bible Story with Pictures



Read the Bible story from the Bible. Read the curriculum version. Practice telling it with Simple Story Scenes or storyboard pictures. (If you have not previously laminated the story pictures, do that now.)

Let There Be Music



Download the music and listen to the songs. Choose which of the songs you will use with the children. If using live musicians, make sure they have the sheet music (Appendix A, Core Curriculum book).

Put the Props in Place



1. Prepare your Visual Aids. Put the Big Question, Unit Bible Truths, Bible Truth, Bible Verse, and Listening Assignment signs, as well as the Bible Story script in one side of the Bible folder.
2. Get out your storyboard. If using Simple Storyboard Scenes, put these in your Bible Folder. Or, if using the individual storyboard figures, put all background pictures in place (they have a BG by the number). Put the rest of the storyboard pictures (these have a SB by the number) in order of use in the other side of the Bible folder.
3. Put the DDD Bible Folder as well as the Big Question sign in the Big Question Box/Briefcase and shut it. If your box/briefcase has locks and you want to use the unlocking the box as part of your session, lock it now....but make sure you have the key or know the code first.
4. Prepare the music CD or sheet music or mp3 device for use in your session.

Set Out Free Play Activities



Choose and set up free time activities you will use with the children. Choose a variety of different activities that will be enjoyed by different types of children. Rotate the activities you provide to keep them interesting and fresh to your children. (Suggestions in Appendix D, Core Curriculum books.)

Prepare Any Activities



Choose which (if any) of the Bible Truth games and crafts activities you want to use in the session. Bear in mind your time frame as well as the developmental abilities and attention span of your children as you decide which/how many to prepare. **Look over the Discussion Sheet** and choose a few questions you might use to spark discussion with the children as they do their activities (especially good for ages 3's+). Pray for God to give you opportunities to talk about these things with the children.

Let Them Take It with Them



Make copies of the craft/take home sheets, if you are not already using them as one of your activities. You may also want to make copies of the story (see take-home version of each story included in Appendix C with the other take home resources) to have for parents to use with their children at home. There's a link on each craft/take home sheet to the story, if you don't make hard copies.

Store It



After your session is over, collect the resources and store them for future use. This curriculum can be used over and over for years to come.