

Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives:

A Lot More Details...

for those who want it



A Deeper Look

Looking for more information about Deep Down Detectives? You've come to the right place! Here's what we are going to cover in this section:

Learning More about the Deep Down Detectives Curriculum, by Resource

Learning More about the Deep Down Detectives Curriculum, by Activity

Customizing the Curriculum: Know Yourself to Know What You Need

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Master Supplies List for all Deep Down Detectives Games

Learning More about Deep Down Detectives Curriculum, by Resource

The extra-depth information starts here! This section will describe important features of the Deep Down Detectives curriculum. Look at each resource in the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum and Visual Aid books as you read below. **This first section takes a look at the major resources used in presenting the curriculum.**

<p>Scripted Lesson Plan</p>  <p><i>Found in the Core Curriculum books</i></p>	<p>There are three lessons of curriculum provided for each Bible Truth. Since much of the text is the same for all three lessons, only one lesson plan is needed. The different activities for each lesson are noted where they occur. The lesson plans are fully-scripted. This helps even the most inexperienced teacher to know what to say and do. They train your teachers in what to say and do, every step of the way. Notice the green squares with numbers found in the left side bar of the lesson plan. These are references to the visual aids the teacher can use with the children as she teaches.</p>
<p>Visual Aids</p>  <p><i>Resources found in the Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids books</i></p>	<p>Visual aids are very important in the Deep Down Detectives curriculum. They help the children learn, and keep them focused and interested. Visual aids also help even the newest teacher teach with greater ease. All of the visual aids are used with the Big Question Box/Briefcase and are revealed as the lesson progresses. They include the Big Question and Answer sign, the Unit Bible Truths sign, the Bible Truth sign, the Bible Verse sign, the Listening Assignments (used as the children listen to the Bible story), and the storyboard pictures used with the Bible story.</p>
<p>Big Question Box/Briefcase</p>  <p><i>Directions for making this are found in the back of the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum books</i></p>	<p>The Big Question Box/Briefcase is a simple box with a lid that you buy or make; or, you can use a briefcase with a combination lock (kids love this!). Inside the Big Question Box/Briefcase are the props for key teaching concepts (Big Question and Answer; Unit Bible Truths, the Bible Truth concept, the Bible verse and Bible story. While not absolutely necessary, the Big Question Box adds a lot of interest to the lesson.</p>
<p>Deep Down Detectives "Bible" Folder</p>  <p><i>Directions for making this are found in the back of the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum and Visual Aids books</i></p>	<p>The Deep Down Detectives "Bible" Folder is a large, homemade folder made from a 22" x 28" piece of poster board. Images for the front and back of this mock Bible can be glued in place. 8.5" x 11" front and back cover images are included in the Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids in the back. Larger versions of the front and back covers are found online for download with the resources for each unit.</p> <p>Inside this over-sized folder, the teacher places the Bible Verse, the Listening Assignment for the Bible story, the text to the Bible story and the storyboard pictures. The point of this Bible folder is for children to begin to grasp that the truths they are learning come from the Bible.</p>

Learning More about Deep Down Detectives Curriculum, by Resource

Two, Colorful Ways to Present the Story: Simple Story Scenes OR Storyboard (Flannelgraph) Pictures



Directions for making these are found in the back of the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum and in the Visual Aids books

Beautiful **pictures** have been created to help you bring the story alive.

The Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids and Simple Story Scenes Book for each unit is the easiest way to access these pictures. There are 12-25 scenes with story text written along the bottom. You can use them from the Visual Aids books or take them out (or print them from online, or even view them online. Quick to prepare. Easy to use.

Or, you can use the **Storyboard Pictures**, which are individual, flannelgraph pieces that you put up on a felt storyboard as you tell the story. There are **two, different sizes of storyboard pictures** you can choose from. **The pictures in the Deep Down Detectives Small Format Visual Aids books fit on 24" x 36" to 36" x 48" storyboards.** Plenty for a smaller class or home setting. Or, for **larger classroom settings**, choose **The pictures in the Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids (Large Format Storyboard pictures) books work best on a storyboard that is AT LEAST 36" x 48"**.

Those with less prep time or with less experience teaching may feel more at ease with the Simple Story Scenes. The storyboard pictures do take time to cut out and laminate. You do need to take time to learn to tell the story with them. But, the children love watching the story unfold as you put up the storyboard pictures. And, they can take an active role in helping put them up, which is of great, educational benefit. We (CHBC) actually use both. We love to tell the story with the Story Scenes; then, we have the children review the story by reconstructing it with the Storyboard Pictures. They are like a big puzzle that kids love to put together. Either or both are all great options.

Deep Down Detectives Music



Songs for each unit found in the back of the Core Curriculum book

Lyrics and sheet music for the songs used with each unit are actually included within the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum books in Appendix A.

Deep Down Detectives Audio mp3's



Resources found online only with the resources for each unit




The audio music for each unit is **included in a zip file** found on the Praise Factory website with the resources for each Deep Down Detectives unit.

Download the zip file from the website to a desired location on your computer. Open the zip file by choosing the "extract" option (often shows up when you right click your mouse over the file.) Once they are extracted, you can access them.

You also can play the songs right off of the website from the Deep Down Detectives "Just Music" section. And, there are QR code sheets that you can print out and access the songs via your phone's camera.

Learning More about Deep Down Detectives Curriculum, by Activity

This section describes the activities offered in the Deep Down Detectives curriculum, in order of use. Look at them in the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum and Visual Aids books as you read below.

<p>Intake Activities</p> 	<p>These are activities that help the children settle in their class and get ready for learning. They are open-ended so that any child can join in as they are checked into class.</p> <p>Younger children typically do a free time activity.</p> <p>Older children typically play a Bible Verse Memory Game or take part in the Sing-along Music Time. Adding the Music, Movement & Memory Activity to the singing can be especially enjoyable for these children.</p> <p>Both the Bible Verse Memory Game and the Music, Movement & Memory Activity are some of the games included in the Response Activities section of the lesson plan. There are three sets of these games suggested, enough for a new set of game for each of the three lessons included with each Bible Truth. Game directions are found in Appendix B of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.</p>
<p>The Classroom Song</p> 	<p>Transitions between activities can be difficult, particularly for preschoolers. The Classroom Song is a simple song with four verses used at transition times to make transitions easy and fun.</p> <p>Verse 1: The Gathering Verse invites the children to gather together to worship God.</p> <p>Verse 2: The Go and Play Verse dismisses the children to play time.</p> <p>Verse 3: Time to Go & Tell Verse transitions the children to Closing Circle Time,. It is used not only to help them remember what they have learned in class , but also to go and tell others what they've learned</p> <p>Verse 4: What's Our Big News Verse asks the children to think about what they will go and tell others as they are dismissed.</p> <p>The lyrics to the Classroom Song are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. An audio version of each verse is included in the unit music.</p>
<p>The Deep Down Detectives Theme Song</p> 	<p>Circle Time opens with the curriculum theme song. It reminds the children what their learning time is about. The lyrics to the Classroom Song are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The song audio included with the rest of the unit songs.</p>
<p>The Classroom Rules Song</p> 	<p>A major challenge and important goal with preschoolers is teaching them how to act in a more formal, group teaching setting. Remember this and do not let yourself become frustrated. Your work with the children now will make way for easier teaching as they get older. Reviewing simple and clear classroom rules, then praying for God's help with the children is a great way to start every session During the rest of the session, you may want to refer back to the rules, praising the children when they are keeping them well or reminding them of the rules when addressing problems.</p> <p>The Classroom Rules Song provides a simple, fun to sing/say chant of class rules. It helps remind children of the behavior expected of them in class.</p> <p>The lyrics to the Classroom Rules Song are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for this song is included in the unit music.</p>

Prayers



Two prayers are used in each session: **an Opening Prayer and an Unit ACTS prayer.**

The Opening Prayer stays the same for every session of Deep Down Detectives. It is a prayer asking for God's help to keep the class rules and to learn about Him.

The Opening Prayer can be introduced with the **"Let's Pray!" Song/rhyme.**

The ACTS Prayer changes with each Bible Truth. It is called an ACTS prayer because it incorporates four elements of prayer: Adoration (praising God for who He is); Confession (asking forgiveness for our sins); Thanksgiving (thanking God for what He's done, especially through Jesus); and, Supplication (asking God to do great things). It centers around the Bible Truth the children are learning. The ACTS prayer for each Bible Truth can be introduced by the **ACTS Prayer Song**, which helps familiarize the children with the four elements of prayer represented by A,C,T, and S.

The lyrics to "Let's Pray" and the "ACTS Prayer Song" **are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for these songs is in the unit music.**

The Big Question & Answer



The Big Question Box Song



The Big Question and Answer is introduced by the use of a 8 1/2" x 11" two-sided **Big Question and Answer sign**. This sign is hidden in **The Big Question Box/Briefcase**, a simple box with a lid you can buy or make; or, a briefcase. (Suggestions for making or buying one included in the Core Curriculum books in Appendix E).

The children sing/say the **Big Question Box/Briefcase Song**, then the teacher or a designated child opens the box/briefcase and gives it to the teacher to hold up and read to the children. The teacher and children then sing the **Big Q & A Song**: the Big Question and Answer set to the tune of a familiar nursery rhyme.

The words to the Big Question Box Song **are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for this song is included the unit music.**

Big Question Action Rhyme and Song



The meaning of the Big Question and Answer is explained by use of an action rhyme. The action rhyme includes actions that you can do as you say it. Use as few or as many of the actions as you deem appropriate for your children.

Or, you can sing the **Big Question Song**, which incorporates the same concepts into a song.

The lyrics to the Big Question Song **are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for this song is in the unit music.**

Unit Bible Truths



Having learned the Big Question and Answer for the unit, now it's time to introduce the Bible Truths about this Big Question that the children will be learning. The teacher holds up the **Unit Bible Truths sign** that show all the Bible Truths in the unit. (There are anywhere from two to eight truths in a unit). He tells the class that these are the truths they will be learning about the Big Question, one by one. This helps the children to group the truths together and review what they are as they progress through the unit.

The Bible Truth Clue Sign



Having shown the children all the Bible Truths, the teacher is now ready to focus in on the one of the Bible Truths. The teacher/designated child will take the **Bible Truth Clue sign out of the Big Question Box/Briefcase** and show it to the class. At first, he only shows them the words on the top of the sign (use one hand to cover up the answer along the sign's bottom). He reads the words along the top, emphasizing the word that is missing. The class listens to the clue hint and works together to come up with the missing word. The teacher reveals the answer, then reads the meaning of the Bible Truth off of the back of the sign (or from the lesson plan.) There are three lessons for each Bible Truth, allowing the children to learn and master the concept before moving onto the next one.

The Bible Chant



The kids prepare to hear teaching from the Bible by singing/saying **the Bible Chant Song**. This is a simple jingle that reminds the kids that the Bible is very special because it alone is God's Word.

The lyrics to the Bible Chant **are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for this song is in the unit music.**

The Deep Down Detectives "Bible" Folder



After singing the Bible Chant song, the teacher/designated child pulls out the **Deep Down Detectives "Bible" Folder** from the **Big Question Box/Briefcase**. As explained previously, the point of this Bible folder is for children to begin to grasp that the truths they are learning come from the Bible. The Deep Down Detectives "Bible" Folder is a large, homemade folder made from a 22" x 28" piece of poster board. Images for the front and back of this mock Bible can be glued in place. Inside this over-sized folder, the teacher places **the Bible Verse, the Listening Assignment for the Bible story, the text to the Bible story and the storyboard pictures.**

The Bible Verse and Song



The first thing that the teachers pulls out of the "Bible" folder in the Bible verse. Only one Bible verse is taught with each Bible truth. This gives the children three lessons to really learn the verse and its meaning--not just hear it and forget it. The Bible verse is reinforced even more through **the Bible Verse Song**. This song is used as part of the regular teaching time in Circle Time, as well as in the **Music, Movement and Memory activities**, described next. These activities provide even more opportunities for learning the verse.

The lyrics to the Bible Verse Song **are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for this song is in the unit music.**

The Bible Story and Resources



Only one Bible story is used in each Bible truth. Instead of tiring of hearing the same story for three lessons, the children are delighted to have a chance to master it.

Optional actions/questions are woven into the story text. Two different types of colorful resources help you bring the story alive. **Choose the easier-to-prepare Simple Story Scenes** (12-25 picture scenes with story text along the bottom. **Or, the Storyboard (Flannelgraph) Pictures.** (These are individual, flannelgraph pieces that you put up on a felt storyboard as you tell the story.) These come in two sizes of pictures to suit small or large classroom needs.

These resources can be found in the **Deep Down Detectives Visual Aids books.**

Directions for making a homemade storyboard board and for making durable storyboard pictures/story scenes are found in the back of the Core Curriculum and Visual Aid books.

Story Response Songs



There is a hymn and a praise song that you may choose to close Opening Circle Time with. Each unit features a different pair of response songs, related to the unit Big Question and Answer. This gives the children many lessons to learn these songs. A short unit tie-in description is included with each song.

The words to these two songs **are included in the lesson plan. Large format lyrics and sheet music are included in Appendix A of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. The audio for this song is in the unit music.**

Response Activities: Games and Crafts



After Opening Circle Time, the children can either enjoy free play (**see Core Curriculum Appendix D for suggestions**) or one of the many game or craft activities. The games and crafts are all created to help reinforce the truths the children have just learned in Circle Time. These are all created to help reinforce the truths the children have just learned in Circle Time.

There are **three, different games suggested for each lesson:** the Bible Verse Game, the Bible Story Game, and the Music, Movement & Memory Activity. And, there is a **simple coloring craft/take home sheet for each of the three lessons, as well as three extra crafts that can be used at any time.**

Because there are so many response activities, some teachers like to incorporate some of them as Intake Activities at the beginning of a session.

Let's look at each of these activities, starting on the next page.

Response**Activities:****Games****The Bible Verse Game****The Bible Story Review Game****Music, Movement & Memory Activity**

When Opening Circle Time ends, the children can either enjoy free play or one of the many game or craft activities. **The games are referenced in the lesson plans, but are listed in Appendix B at the back of each Deep Down Detectives Curriculum book. The crafts are referenced in the lesson plan, but instructions and any pages to be photocopied are found in Appendix C at the back of each Deep Down Detectives Curriculum book.**

Let's look at the games, then the crafts.

The Bible Verse Game helps the children learn the Bible verse and think about what it means. **The Bible verse games are referenced in the curriculum, but listed in Appendix B in each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.**

The **Bible Story Review Game** helps the children think about what they learned in the story. It uses the **Storyboard Pictures** from the Bible story. **The Bible Story games are referenced in the curriculum, but listed in Appendix B in each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.**

The Music, Movement & Memory Activities have the children do certain movement or use **simple homemade (or store bought) musical instruments**, as they sing songs or say the Bible verse. A **simple hymn** and **praise song** as well as the **Bible Verse Songs** and **Big Question Song** are suggested for use. A short blurb describing how each song ties in with the Bible Truth concept is given. **The Music, Movement & Memory Activities are referenced in the curriculum, but listed in Appendix B in each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.**

The lyrics and sheet music to these songs are included in the Core Curriculum books. The audio for these songs is found with each unit's music.

All three of these activities are part of a **collection of games that can be assembled ahead of time, then stored** for use throughout the curriculum on a rotation basis. This makes it easy to keep each lesson active and fun, but with less prep work. **A complete list of supplies need to make the games is included in later in this chapter and in Appendix B of each Core Curriculum book.**

Response**Activities:****Crafts****Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets**

There are both coloring pages/take home sheets as well as a few extra crafts available with each Bible Truth. **The crafts are referenced in the lesson plan, but instructions and any pages to be photocopied are found in Appendix C at the back of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.**






A coloring page is provided for each of a Bible Truth's three lessons. On the back of each page are the key concepts, a few questions; an ACTS prayer; and, a song/s for parents to use with their children that act as a take home sheet. There is a different emphasis for each lesson's coloring sheet that corresponds with the listening assignment for the lesson:

Lesson 1 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: The Bible Truth

Lesson 2 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: The Bible Verse




Lesson 3 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: The ACTS Prayer

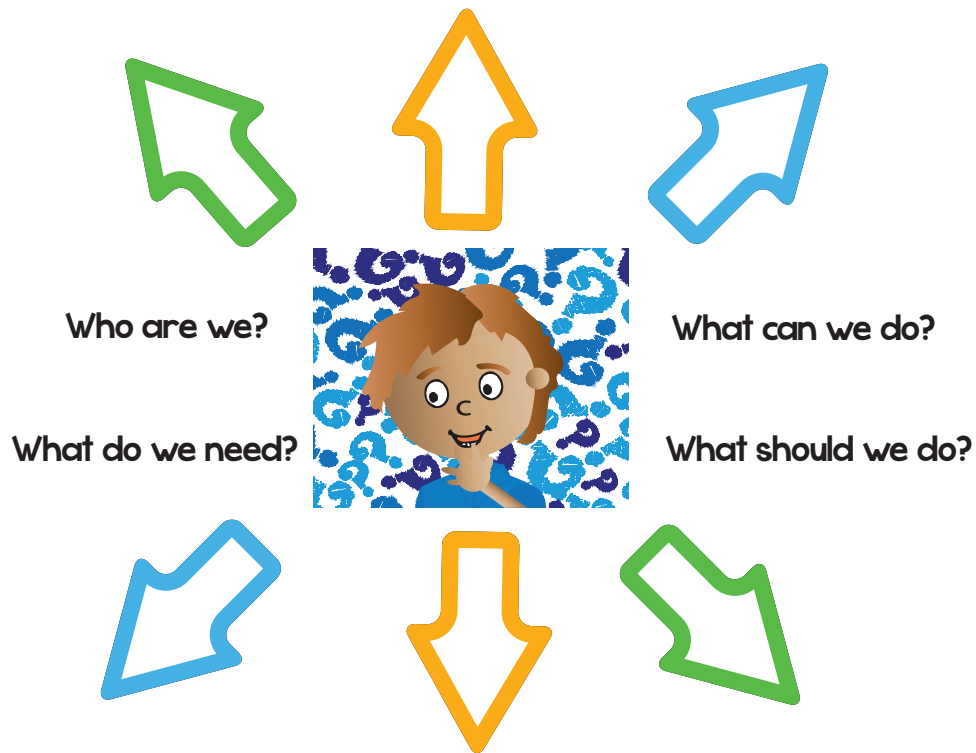
While these are simple, coloring sheets, they can be easily turned into something more. Upgrade your coloring sheet to a more interesting craft by offering simple embellishments, such as jiggly eyes, craft sand, glitter, glitter glue, colored paper dots (made with a hole punch), fabric scraps, etc. Make cut-to-size glued-on clothes, hair, etc. for characters by using a copy of the coloring sheet, cutting out the selected portions and making them the patterns for whatever you want to cut out of fabric, paper, foil, etc.



<p>Response Activities: Crafts</p> <p>Extra Crafts</p> 	<p>With each Bible Truth, there are three extra crafts included for use at any time.</p> <p>These are a Go-and-Tell Craft; a Bible Story Coloring Picture and a Bible Story Puzzle (which is the Storyboard Picture Placement page from the story, which you can cut out into the appropriate number of puzzle pieces for your children, then re-assembled by them).</p> <p>Like the other crafts in the curriculum, these extra crafts are referenced in the lesson plan, but instructions and any pages to be photocopied are found in Appendix C at the back of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.</p>
<p>Response Activities: Discussion Sheet</p> 	<p>The discussion sheet contains questions about the key concepts used in the Bible Truth. These can be used to spark good conversation as the children are coloring. They can also be used as part of the games and other activities to add even more depth.</p> <p>They are most appropriate for use with children ages 3 and up.</p>
<p>Take Home Resources</p> <p>Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets</p>  <p>Take Home Version of the Bible Story</p> 	<p>There is a different coloring page/take home sheet for each of the three lessons provided for every Bible Truth. Each take home sheet has a slightly different emphasis, but they all include the key concepts and a few questions. They also tell parents where they can find the full script to Bible story and other resources on the Praise Factory website (in the Parents' Resource section for the curriculum), if they want to use them at home with their children.</p> <p>The front side is the coloring page and the back side is the take home sheet. The coloring pages/take home sheets are referenced in the lesson plan, but the pages to be photocopied are found in Appendix C at the back of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book.</p> <p>There is also a take home version of the story that you can give out along with the take home sheets. This is also available online in the Deep Down Detectives parents' resources section.</p> <p>This version of the Bible story is referenced in the lesson plan, but is included in Appendix C at the back of each Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum book. It is also available online in the Deep Down Detectives Parent Resource section, as parents are reminded on each take home sheet along the bottom.</p>
<p>Music Resources</p> <p>Lyrics and Sheet Music</p>  <p>audio mp3's of the songs</p>	<p>Lyrics and sheet music for the songs used with each Bible Truth are included within the Deep Down Detectives Core Curriculum books.</p> <p>Each lesson plan includes the lyrics to the core songs used with each Bible Truth. Large format lyrics and sheet music for the songs is included in Appendix A of each Core Curriculum book.</p> <p>Frequently, the lesson plan references extra songs. The lyrics and sheet music to these extra songs are only found in Appendix A with the other unit songs.</p> <p>The songs can be downloaded from the praisefactory.org website. There are 16 zip files of mp3s of songs, one for each of the 16 Deep Down Detectives units. You can also listen to them on the website in multiple locations, including the Parent Resource section.</p>

Customizing the Curriculum: Know Yourself to Know What You Need







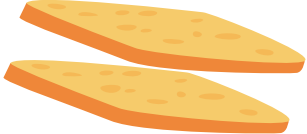

A good, curriculum custom-fit starts with thinking carefully about those involved. Here are six, key factors to consider. (The Children's Ministry Questionnaire will guide you through these issues in much greater depth.)

 <p>Your Children's Abilities</p>	 <p>Your Teachers' Agility</p>	 <p>Your Time Capacity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + readers/pre-readers? + age groupings in the same class + attention span + exposure to the gospel? + etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + teaching experience + experience with children + classroom experience + their own spiritual maturity + etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Thirty minutes or one hour? + Once a week/five days a week? + A camp session/a V.B.S + School year/a full year? + etc.



 <p>Your Teaching Locality</p>	 <p>Your Ministry Priorities</p>	 <p>Your Practicalities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Home, church or school? + Urban, suburban or rural? + Storage space available? + Classroom size? + etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Who gives you spiritual oversight? + What do they want you to teach? + Are they willing to look over the curriculum/help find and screen teachers? + etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + What is your budget? + Who will prepare the curriculum? + How much time do they have? + Is there anyone willing/able to oversee the start up and implementation of a new curriculum?

Customizing the Curriculum: Build-Your-Own-Curriculum Sandwich

	<p>You've thought about who you are, what you need, what you can do, and what you can should do. Now it's time to customize your own curriculum version. We like to think of this process as similar to creating your favorite sandwich. Start with what you know has to be there, then add in extras until you get just what you want. You might be a "meat-only" sandwich, needing only the very basics of the curriculum. Or, you want "the works"--the whole curriculum, just as it is written. Many people use something in between. The important thing is to keep in mind the specifics of your teachers; your children; your time constraints; and, your ministry situation. Then build your own version of Deep Down Detectives that works best for you. Bon appetit!</p>	
1. Start with the Meat: Core Curriculum 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Question and Answer • Bible Truth • Bible Verse • Bible Story 	<p>These are the backbone of biblical truth for the curriculum. You really only have to have these. Everything else is extra!</p>
2. Choose Your Cheese: Response Activities 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Memory Game • Bible Story Review Game • Music, Movement & Memory • Crafts 	<p>Response activities are second in importance only to the "meat." They are enjoyable, hands-on activities that help the children learn and retain the "meat" of biblical truths.</p>
3. Add the Lettuce: Intake Activities 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Play • Activity Centers • Unit Songs • Bible Memory Game 	<p>Intake Activities are a nice addition to your curriculum "sandwich", but you don't have to have them. They often help the children settle better in class and prepare them for learning.</p>
4. Throw on Extra Veggies: Zesty Extras 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Down Detectives Song • Classroom Rules Chant • The Big Question Box Song • The Bible Song • Let's Pray Song • ACTS Prayer Song 	<p>These are few extras that add zest to the curriculum. The Classroom Rules Song is especially helpful for reminding the children of expected classroom behavior in a fun way.</p>
5. Spread on Condiments: Transitions 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Classroom Song (4 verses) 	<p>Harnessing the transition points in your curriculum can make teaching much easier for your teachers and actually fun for your kids. The Deep Down Detectives curriculum uses music to structure and teach the children through every transition.</p>
6. Choose Your Bread: Curriculum Presentation Features 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Question Box/Briefcase • Storyboard Pictures 	<p>These are resources that are used to present the curriculum to the children. They help keep the children focus and make the learning more visual and interactive.</p>
7. Prepare It for Carry Out Take Home Resources 	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloring Sheet/Take Home Sheet for each lesson • Take Home version of each story 	<p>Take home resources are a great way for parents to know what their children are learning and to provide them with a tool for further discussion.</p>

Common Customizations: Age Groups

Having considered these questions, put this information to work to build your version of the curriculum.

Here are some ways we have customized the curriculum or seen it customized by others:

CUSTOMIZE BY: Age Group	
2 year olds	<p>GENERAL OBSERVATIONS: You are doing well just to get these children to begin to sit as a group. Build up to this, as they get adjusted to a classroom setting. Set your expectations LOW! Helping the children learn how to be a group prepares them for learning more later and even more being able to join in the church service better. This, by itself, is a job well-done.</p> <p>NUMBER OF LESSONS OF A UNIT USED: All three lessons for sure! Repetition is great for these kids! But, if you go at this rate, you will not get very far through the 69 Bible Truths in a year. Consider using Hide 'n' Seek Kids instead.</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM: Opening Activity Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free play time as they come to class • You can have unit music playing in the background • Use the Classroom Songs to begin to teach them about transitions Opening Circle Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Big Question Box/Briefcase • Teach them the Big Question • Sing the Big Question Song (short, nursery rhyme version) • Tell them the Bible Verse (maybe sing the song) • Tell the Bible story, using the storyboard • Do not expect these children to be able to do the listening assignment. • End with the ACTS prayer or an even shorter prayer, if attention is lagging. Response Activity Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismiss to free play time. • You can have unit music playing in the background. • Offer the coloring sheet/take home sheet craft after they have played for a while. • You MIGHT be able to weave a few of the discussion questions into your conversations with the children as they play or do their coloring sheet... but don't count on it. It's just fine if they don't! They are only two years old! Closing Circle Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Classroom Songs to gather them back together. • Ask them the Big Question and Answer and sing the short Big Question Song again. • End with the ACTS prayer or an even shorter prayer, if attention is lagging. Dismissal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give out the take home version of the Bible Story, the day you start a new unit. • Give out coloring sheet/take home sheet for the lesson. </p>

Common Customizations: Age Groups

CUSTOMIZE BY: Age Group	
3 year olds	<p>GENERAL OBSERVATIONS: This age group can enjoy much of this curriculum.</p> <p>NUMBER OF LESSONS OF A UNIT USED: All three lessons for sure! Repetition is great for these kids! But, if you go at this rate, you will not get very far through the 69 Bible Truths in a year. Consider using Hide 'n' Seek Kids instead.</p> <p>HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM: As written, except... the listening questions will be a new concept to this children of this age. This is the new skill you will be working on to give the children. It may take a while to get them used to holding on to a question or two as they listen. You might even want to remind them of the questions as you read the story. (This is another way we help these children prepare to gather with the congregation and be ready to learn from a sermon. And, be careful not to overwhelm them with too many discussion questions. Choose a few and repeat them when playing the games. Add in more as they master the answers to your initial ones.</p>
4-5 year olds OR 2-5 year olds as one class	<p>GENERAL OBSERVATIONS: 4-5 year olds: The concepts of the curriculum are still very good for this age group, but three years repeating it (if you use it with 2's and 3's, too) is a bit much. I would move on to Deep Down Detectives, if I was using Hide 'n' Seek Kids already with 2's and 3's. However, if this curriculum is being introduced with this age group, it will be great for them.</p> <p>2-5 year olds as one class: You are combining children with fairly different developmental abilities. While one teacher is teaching, the other teacher may need to be quietly tending to the 2 year olds as their attention span fades.</p> <p>NUMBER OF LESSONS OF A UNIT USED: These children will do best with 2-3 lessons of the three included with each Bible Truth. We do two concepts per month of Sundays. That 2 lessons from Bible Truth, then 2 lessons from the next Bible Truth. Or, in months with five Sundays, you would choose to do 2 lessons from one Bible Truth and 3 lessons from the next. You will complete the curriculum in about 2 1/2 years at this rate.</p> <p>HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM: As written. Definitely introduce the longer, full Big Question Songs, not just the short nursery songs with these groups.</p> <p>And, for those who have combined 2-5 year olds, having the children do the suggested actions that go with the full, Big Question Songs can be a great chance for the little 2-year-olds to get some wiggles out.</p>

Common Customizations: Age Groups

CUSTOMIZE BY: Age Group

pre-K & K

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The concepts of the curriculum were especially created with this age group in mind.

NUMBER OF LESSONS OF A UNIT USED:

These children will do best with 2 lessons of the three included with each Bible Truth. We do two concepts per month of Sundays. That 2 lessons from Bible Truth, then 2 lessons from the next Bible Truth. Or, in months with five Sundays, you would choose to do 2 lessons from one Bible Truth and 3 lessons from the next. **You will complete the curriculum in about 2 1/2 years at this rate.**

HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM:

As written. Definitely introduce the longer, full Big Question Songs, not just the short nursery songs with this group.

K-2nd grade

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

The concepts of the curriculum can still very good for this age group, but you are bumping up against its outer limits. I would move on to Deep Down Detectives, if I was using Hide'n' Seek Kids with the preschoolers. However, if this curriculum is being introduced with this age group, it will be great for them.

NUMBER OF LESSONS OF A BIBLE TRUTH USED:

These older children will do best with 1 to 2 lessons of the three included with each Bible Truth. You will probably bore them if you repeat beyond this point.

HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM:

Definitely introduce the longer, full Big Question Songs, not just the short nursery songs with this group.

I would either do:

two, full lessons per Bible Truth;

OR,

I would do one full lesson per Bible Truth, then use the Opening Activity time of the next session to review the previous session's concepts by playing the Bible Story game/ Bible Verse Review Game/singing the songs). I would then introduce the next Bible Truth concepts in Opening Circle Time.

Common Customizations: Teaching Situations

CUSTOMIZE BY: Teaching Situation	How to Structure the Curriculum
Single Session One, 60-90 minute session on a lesson, in one day, once a week examples: Sunday School, Church Hour, Mid-week programs	As written. If you do not really have 60 minutes of actual teaching time, you will need to choose what not to use. Choose what you think is most important to have in your session, then continue to add in elements until you have filled up your time budget.
Double Session Two 60-90 minute sessions, on the same lesson, in one day, once a week examples: Sunday School PLUS Church Hour OR, Sunday Morning PLUS Sunday Evening OR, Sunday Morning PLUS Wednesday Evening	<p><i>(This is how we use the curriculum here at CHBC)</i></p> <p>First session of the Double:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Opening Activity • Opening Circle Time • And choose an activity • Fill in extra time with free play activities <p>snack and potty break</p> <p>Second session of the Double:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Opening Circle Time • Choose another activity • Fill in extra time with free play activities
Daycare/Schools Bible Class	<p>Schools vary in how many days they teach Bible. Some will have a daily Bible class. Others, will have it only certain days.</p> <p>Here's a suggestion for one Bible Truth a week, 5 days a week Bible class for preschoolers:</p> <p>Typically, each session you will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminding the children of the Big Question and Bible verse; • Telling them the Bible story (or asking them questions to review it); • Singing the songs; and, • Following up with a response activity. <p>There are three lessons in each Bible Truth, with a listening assignment for each lesson. each with a coloring page, and three games; plus, three extra crafts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That makes 12 activities, plus the three extra crafts. Plenty for a week of Bible classes for little preschoolers. • You could read the story on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, using a different listening activity each time. Use the coloring sheet corresponds to the listening activity on those days. • Then, the other two days of the week, use the games to review what they have learned. <p>With 16 units of 67 Bible truths, this gives you about two academic years of curriculum.</p>
Camps, VBS and Short-term Missions Trips	<p>Since camps, VBS and mission trips usually involve both preschoolers and elementary school children, you will do best use two or three of the Praise Factory family of curriculum to meet everyone's needs. At the end of this introduction section, we provide suggested schedules for these ministry situations. We also have included how the Bible Truths across all three curriculums line up so you can coordinate the truths you are teaching across all of the age groups/curriculums.</p>

Maiden Voyage: Testing Out the Curriculum

Making a Test Run

At last it's time to try out the curriculum on your kids. As mentioned before, our favorite way to try out a new curriculum is with a smaller group of children (of the more-likely-to-be-well-behaved variety), when there is an opportunity to do so. This gives the curriculum its best test-run. Ideally, you want to give any curriculum a few sessions trial period. New curriculum is new curriculum. Teachers will be getting used to it as will the kids.

You may choose to dive in the deep end and introduce the whole curriculum to the children at once. As you introduce the curriculum to your children, also remember that everything will be new to them at first. New ideas and structures use up a lot more attention and energy than when they are familiar and routine...and it takes time for them to become routine. Be patient! Expect this!

Or, you may take the gradual approach, deciding on lesson elements to introduce gradually, then adding more in as you go. Think about the routine the children are used to in your classroom already. What works? What doesn't work? Slot Deep Down Detectives resources into the parts of your current framework that work best with your children, then gradually build from there.

For example, you might want to start with just the Bible story and Bible verse the first lesson, adding other elements the second lesson, and so on. Also, realize that the children will be doing a lot more watching and a lot less direct participation at first as they are learning the routine.

Give yourself and the children a few lessons to settle into the routine before deciding what is the right amount of activities to include each week. As the children get used to the lesson routine, you will find the children have more attention and energy to devote to the learning activities.

Evaluate and Adjust It

As you test-run the curriculum, you will probably want to evaluate and make changes. Reflect on how the teaching session goes, after each of your test runs and make any necessary changes. As you get closer to a good fit, add in more conditions like the typical classroom--such as your crazier kids, etc.. See how the curriculum works with these new elements. Make more changes until you feel good about your fit.

The Real Launch: Implementing the Curriculum in Your Situation

Sign Post It	Once you have figured out what works best for your children and those teaching the curriculum, put sign posts in place in the classroom. If you found that certain activities work better in a certain part of the room (such as games or craft time), put up a sign on the wall near that area indicating that. Or, put down a rug where you want to have Circle Time.
Choose and Train Your Load-Bearers	<p>If the curriculum follows a set time schedule, display the schedule on the wall in large print so a teacher can with just a glance know what he/she should be doing.</p> <p>Signpost where you store your curriculum resources (games, curriculum, music, craft supplies, etc), too, so that even the newest teacher can easily find what he/she needs.</p> <p>Once you feel that you have adjusted the curriculum to a good fit for teacher and children, begin to train others in how to teach it, too. Ideally, this starts as a mentoring experience between you and another teacher (preferably two). You are looking for people who are willing to learn the curriculum inside-out until they can teach it well themselves and can later train others in it, too. I call these teachers, "load-bearers," because they will share the weight of implementing the new curriculum.</p> <p>First, have your load-bearers come observe you as you teach the curriculum. Have them read the introductory materials and the curriculum lesson plan before they observe. After class, de-brief with them about the session. Have them continue to come for a number of session, gradually handing over the teaching responsibilities until they are comfortable and confident.</p>
Bring the Parents Up to Speed	Make sure to include parents in your launch! Communicate with them about the change in curriculum that is happening. Hold a meeting. Send out an email. Hand out the Deep Down Detectives flyer (pgs. 7-8, Core Curriculum books). Ask them to parents. Invite their feedback. Make them your partners, after all, it is them and their kids you hope to help.
Add Others	With your load-bearers in place and confident in the curriculum, you can now begin to look for more potential teachers to be trained. The load-bearers will then follow the same steps as you took with them: having them observe, then gradually take teaching responsibilities, de-briefing after each session. Continue until they are confident.
Want to See More?	<p>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.</p> <p>On Saturday, we gather for lunch and talk philosophy; child protection policy; encouraging parents; recruiting teachers; 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.</p> <p>Then on Sunday, we offer an opportunity to see Deep Down Detectives and the other Praise Factory curriculum in action in our classes. This can be a great way to help others understand and get excited about the curriculum.</p> <p>The registration form for these workshops can be found on the Praise Factory website.</p>

Protect Your Investment: Tips on Storing the Curriculum for Future Use

This is a curriculum that keeps on giving year after year. Everything is re-used. If you do a good job storing the curriculum, it will serve your church well and at little cost for many years.

Here are two ideas to help you:

Idea #1: If you are teaching only a small group of children:

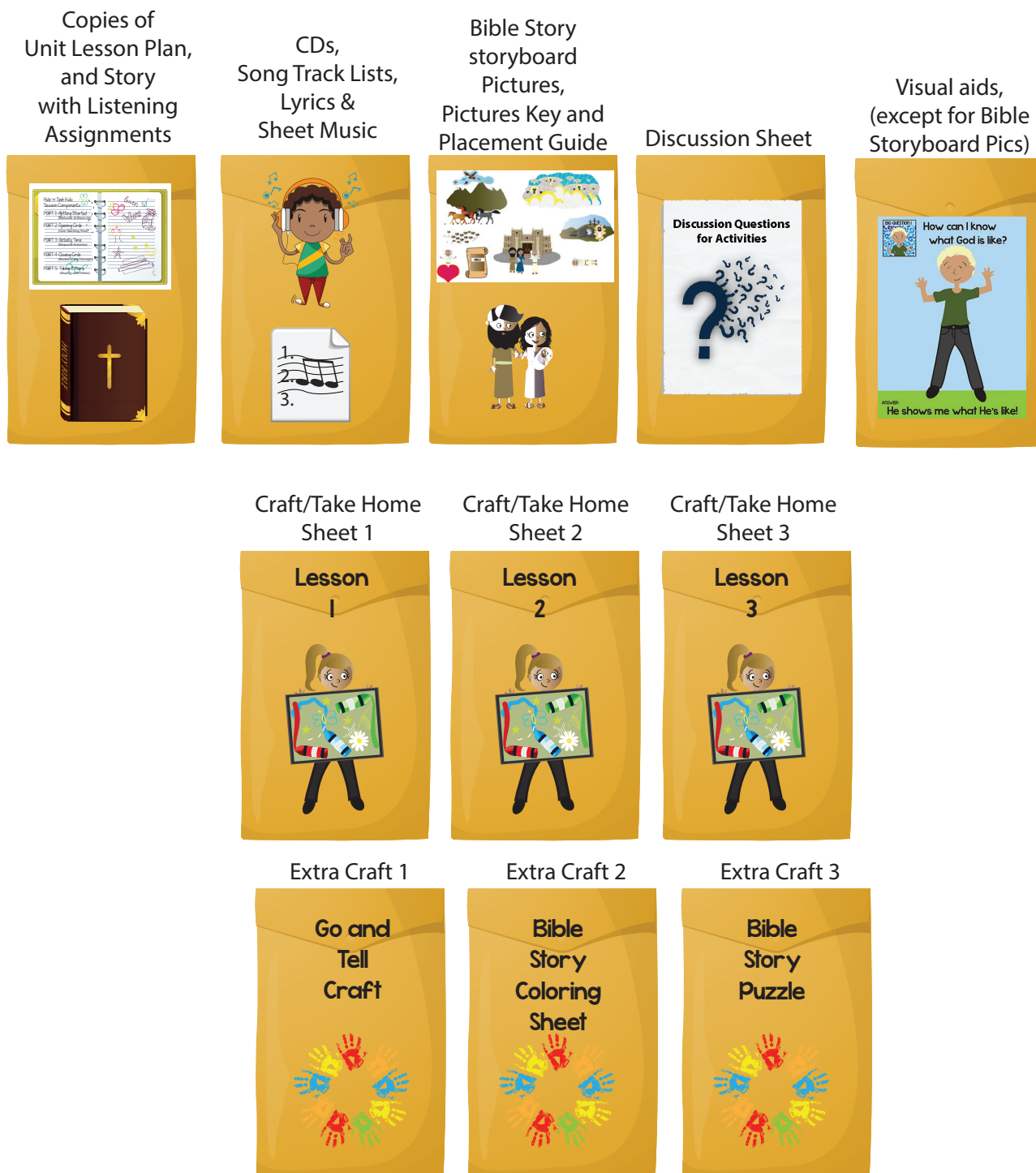


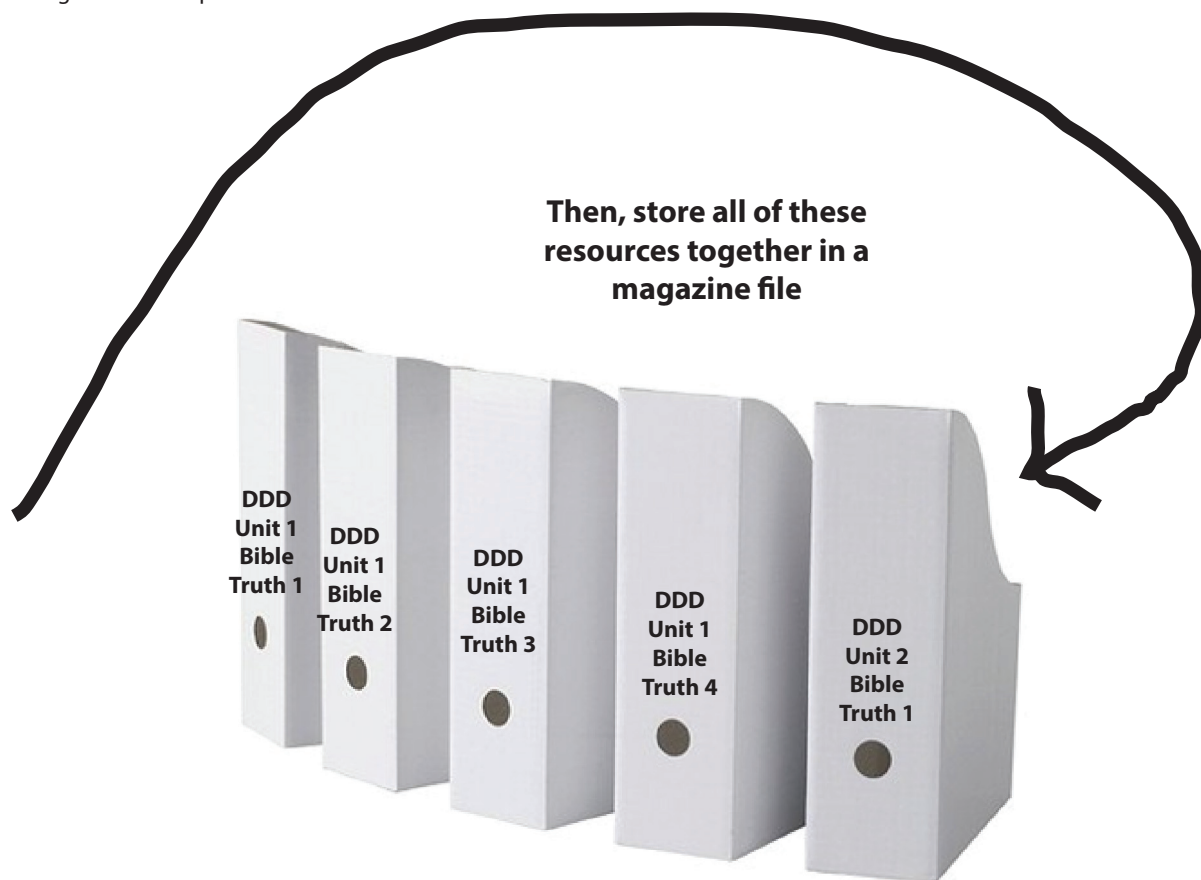
Then, store all of these
resources together in a
magazine file



Protect Your Investment: Tips on Storing the Curriculum for Future Use

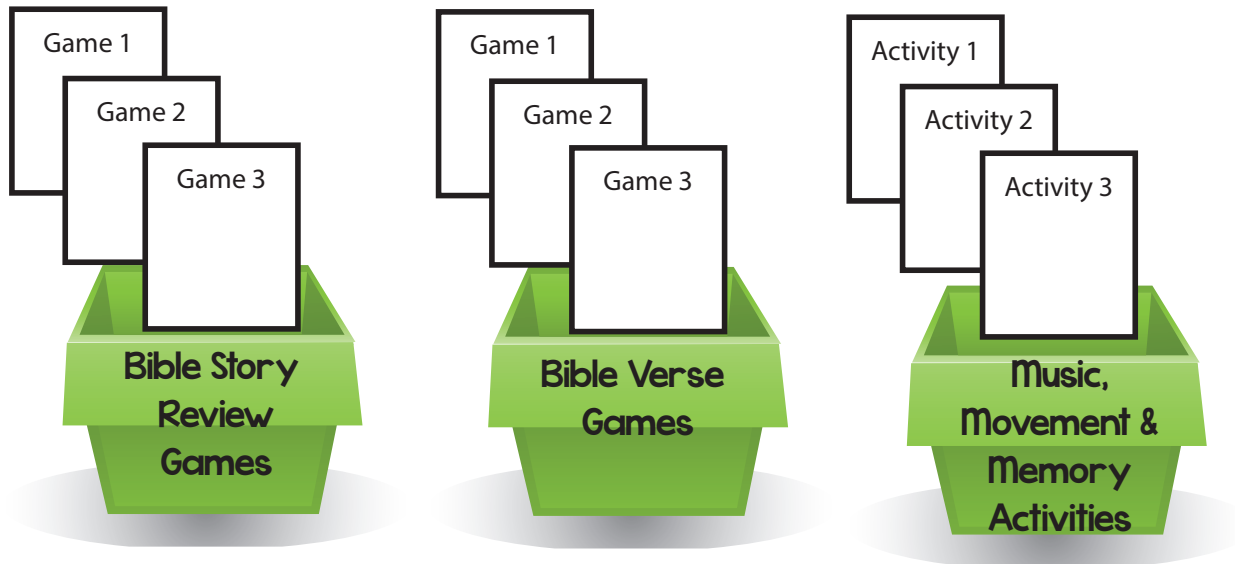
Idea #2: If you are teaching a large group of children (like we do at CHBC), you may want to have a separate envelope for each resource type.





Protect Your Investment: Tips on Storing the Curriculum for Future Use

Store your games in separate ziploc bags and put them in bins.:



Master Supplies List for All Deep Down Detectives Games

Deep Down Detectives uses many games. The good news is, they are simply made and they are re-used throughout the whole curriculum. Make sure you save the games you make and it will save you a lot of time later.

This is the full list of the games and the supplies needed in the Deep Down Detectives Curriculum. 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!

Bible Verse Games

Lily Pad Jump

- Cube-shaped cardboard box,
- paper,
- glue,
- marker

Animal Cube

- Cube-shaped cardboard box,
- paper,
- glue,
- marker

Simon Says How

- Cube-shaped Cardboard box
- Paper, glue, and a marker

Bean Bag Catch

- 1 bean bag per every 2 children (or every child)
- NOTE: Can also fill socks with beans and tie open end to make beanbags.

Slap, Clap and Stack

- 10 or 12 Blocks or other stackable objects

Freeze 'n' Say

- Music and CD/Tape player

Fill'er Up

- 1 bean bag per child
- NOTE: Can also fill socks with beans and tie open end to make beanbags.
- Cardboard box or laundry basket
- Carpet squares, 1 per child

Loud and Soft, Big and Little

- none

Bible Verse Games

Roll 'n' Toss

- Cube-shaped Cardboard box
- Paper, glue, and a marker
- 1 bouncy ball per 2 children

Duck, Duck, Goose

- none

Deep Down Detective Mission Madness Practice

- Detective Gear, such as a trench coat, sunglasses, and a hat

Block Clapping

- 2 wooden blocks per child, preferably about 3"x 2", as found in many children's block sets

Meet, Greet, and Keep It Up

- 16 oz cups, 1 per child (with some extras)
- 2 pieces of rope as long as a line of children
- Masking tape

Master Supplies List for All Deep Down Detectives Games, continued

Music, Movement & Memory

Thumping Drums

- 1 Oatmeal container/coffee can with lid per drum
- Tape
- Popcorn, rice, beans, etc.
- Wooden spoons, dowels, unsharpened pencils, if desired, for mallets

Say, Spring Up and Shout

- Bean bags, one per child

Freeze Frame

- Some kind of fun hat or clothing for the leader to wear

Egg Shakers

- Empty Easter eggs
- Rice, beans, buttons, pennies, popcorn, beads, small nails or bolts, etc.
- Glue and glue gun OR strong packing tape

Jingle Bell Hands

- 1 6" piece of sturdy string
- 4 or 5 jingle bells, available in most craft shops

Sing, Dance, and Fall Down

- Optional: Bean bags, one per child

Big Voice, Little Voice

- none

Bottle Shakers

- 1 empty 16 oz. soda bottle per shaker
- Rice, beans, buttons, pennies, popcorn, beads, small nails or bolts, etc.
- Glue and glue gun OR strong packing tape

March 'n' Say

- Optional: A fun hat for the leader of the march, or for everyone in the march

Clap, Tap and Say

- none

Lullabies, Bells and Lions

- Bell

Music, Movement & Memory

Musical Squares

- Carpet Squares, enough for all of the children (or chairs)

Block Clappers

- 2 wooden blocks per child, preferably about 3"x2", as found in many children's block sets

Master Supplies List for All Deep Down Detectives Games, continued

Story Review Games

Going Fishing

- One long wooden dowel, yardstick, etc. per fishing pole
- Yarn
- Paper clip per fishing pole
- Rope
- Two chairs
- Blanket
- Box/bucket/container
- Bucket

Pony Express

- manila envelopes, one per storyboard picture
- Kid's small backpack or a tote bag with a strap
- Basket
- Cowboy hat
- Stick horse or a broom

Fix Up the Mix Up

- None

Can You Remember?

- Index cards

Deep Down Detectives Clue Hunt

- Variety of interesting items that have one or more places to hide a storyboard picture
- Detective Hat
- 4 False Clues (included on the next page)
- CD Player and Deep Down Detectives Theme Song

Clothespin Line Up and Drop

- Rope
- Clothespins, the hinged type
- Shoe box
- Tape

Who's in the Basket?

- Blanket
- Basket

Run to the Grocery Store

- Grocery bag or kid's grocery cart
- Empty food cartons

Story Review Games

Treasure Hunt

- 10 small lidded plastic containers or boxes (like from a jewelry store) or wooden, hinged boxes from a craft store
- Various decorating supplies, such as fake craft jewels, glitter, glitter glue, foil paper, gold spray paint
- glue

Take Me Through the Tunnel

- Chairs or Table
- Sheet or blanket
- Box

Missing in Action

- None

Who's Inside?

- 10 different containers with lids

Look Who's Coming Down the Tracks

- Two shoe boxes
- 6' or so of rope
- Optional: Engineer's hat