



# God and Me:

## A Close-up Look at the Revised Curriculum

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P.R.A.Y. has announced some of the “new and improved” features of the revised God and Me Curriculum (i.e. the Student Workbook will contain all of the GAMEBox handouts, the Counselor Manual will display pages from the Student Workbook in a side-by-side format, and the Adult Mentor Workbook will feature snapshots of the Student Workbook to closely connect the mentor curriculum to the student lessons).

But what about the actual curriculum? What changes were made? For those of you who want a short and sweet version, the basic outline of 4 lessons (with 2 Bible stories in each lesson) stayed the same, as did the GAMEBox and the family projects. Although some of the Bible passages changed, the focus of each lesson stayed the same.

For those of you who want to know the specifics (what changed versus what stayed the same), here’s a close-up look with all the details:

**Introduction:** Jesus Blesses the Children – Matthew 19:13-15

The introduction is the same but with new artwork and a reminder to start memorizing the Lord’s Prayer.

### **Lesson 1: God Created Me**

Exploring: Children will still create scribble pets from the same scribble line.

God Said That It Was Good – Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Children are still reading the creation story but with a new focus. Rather than concentrating on the order of creation (putting the days in order), the new lesson will encourage children to be filled with wonder and amazement over God’s vast creation. After finding animals in a “hidden picture,” children will go outside and explore creation.

God Made Me – Psalm 139:13-14

Although this Scripture passage is new, it still teaches the lesson that God knows you and calls you by name and that you are important to God. It is reinforced with the old activity: glue a picture of yourself in your book and ask others to name your positive qualities. [The Isaiah passages with its fill-in-the-blank activity with Good/God and the “My Song of Praise” activity were deleted.]

GAMEBox: Same Matching Game (no change) – but a set of preprinted game cards will be available in the P.R.A.Y. Online Resource Library.

### **Lesson 2: Jesus is God’s Gift to Me**

Exploring: Children will still draw a favorite gift and have others guess what it is.

Jesus Is Born – Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20

The big change is that there are only 2 Scripture passages. The artwork was changed so that there is less drawing for the children when they add pictures to tell the Christmas story. The “Jesus’ Story / My Story” has been updated to be inclusive and more sensitive to different family backgrounds. [The mirror activity (what do you want to be when you grow up?) and the names of Jesus have been deleted.]

Jesus Was Born to Be Our Savior – John 3:16

The blank scroll has been filled in with pictures and words to communicate John 3:16. The “I Believe” activity has changed in format: children will look at pictures and describe how people help each other and circle those actions that they can do.

GAMEBox: Same Guessing Game (but there are fewer names and some have changed since there are only 2 scripture passages instead of 4).

### **Lesson 3: I Can Talk with God**

Exploring: Children will still play a Kim’s game (memory game), but the items have been updated.

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray – Matthew 6:5-13

The lesson skips the Mark passage (when Jesus was praying in a solitary place) and jumps to the Matthew passage where Jesus teaches us what to do when we pray (children will learn that Jesus wants us to be honest, sincere, and be ourselves when we pray rather than babble on and on and try to sound impressive) and where Jesus teaches the Lord’s Prayer. PATH is still used to introduce the 4 parts of prayer but corresponding “hand gestures” have been added for greater expression and to reinforce the different postures we can assume before God in prayer.

God Talks to Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:1-10

The story of Samuel, the fill-in-the-blanks exercise, and the discussion questions on listening to God are still the same. The “Why I Pray” jumbled sentences have been replaced with 2 activities to encourage children to pray: breath prayers (centering prayer) and a prayer walk.

GAMEBox: Same Prayer Cube (but the tabs have changed to make it easier to fold).

### **Lesson 4: Because God Cares for Me, I Can Care for Others**

Exploring: The “find the lost sheep” activity has been changed to a maze.

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd – Matthew 18:12-14

Two activities (draw a sheep and shepherd, and the agree/disagree statements) have been deleted and replaced with a new activity: Children will connect the words to Jesus that describe him as the good shepherd. Naming your good shepherds (the shepherds’ staff activity) has been expanded: children will talk about community helpers (people who help and care for us) and then personally name the good shepherds in their lives.

Jesus Is a Friend to All – Luke 19:1-10

Instead of numbering sentences in order, children will number pictures in order. They will then list the ways they can befriend other people. The “before/after” exercise was moved to the Counselor Manual and changed to a sit down / stand up activity designed to get the children moving.

GAMEBox: Same Board Game (but both the artwork and the review questions have been updated).