



# The Revised God and Me Program

## INFORMATION SHEET

OCTOBER 2020

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### NEW GUIDELINES FOR GOD AND ME PROGRAM

**Grade Guidelines** - New eligibility guidelines will restrict God and Me to grades 2 & 3 (1st graders will shift to the Jesus and Me program for K-1).

**Transition period** – The “old” God and Me booklets may still be used and will not be considered obsolete. Congregations and scouting groups can transition to the new curriculum on their own timeline as appropriate. However, it is expected that the transition to the new curriculum will be done as quickly as possible (and while supplies last).

**Only in the P.R.A.Y. Webstore** – Scout shops will still have the old God and Me booklets on their shelves when the new program is launched. You will have to visit the PRAY Webstore to purchase the new booklets.

**Old vs. New Curriculum** – The booklets cannot be mixed and matched, i.e. the new Counselor Manual only works with the new Student Workbook (it will not work with the old one). Here are the new product numbers:

- #655839 *New God and Me Student Workbook*
- #655840 *New God and Me Counselor Manual*
- #655841 *New God and Me Adult Mentor Workbook*

**“Starburst” on Cover** – The new booklets all feature a “Starburst” on the front cover to make it easy to distinguish the new books from the old.

**Copyright Requirement** – Students must have original workbooks even when participating in online classes. Workbooks must not be copied. Please note that this copyright requirement applies to both old and new booklets.

### NEW FORMAT FOR GOD AND ME BOOKLETS

**Self-Contained Student Workbook** – All GAMEBox handouts (i.e. hands, memory game cards, prayer cube, board game, etc.) will be included as cut-out sheets in each Student Workbook. Counselors will no longer have to make copies and provide these handouts. These handouts will still be available for download from the online Resource Library, but students will have their own copies in the new Student Workbooks. These self-contained workbooks will be ideal for virtual classes.

**Side-by-Side Counselor Manual** – The new Counselor Manual will include full-size pages of the Student Workbook matched to corresponding instruction pages in a side-by-side format. This will not only streamline lesson preparation, but also improve program delivery. Note: these student pages include the “answers” and are strictly for use by the counselor.

**Integrated Adult Mentor Workbook** – The new Mentor Workbook will integrate the Student curriculum by including quarter-size student pages to closely connect the mentor curriculum to the student lessons.

 **P.R.A.Y. Online Resource Library** – The library has expanded and provides easy access to important resources. The new Counselor Manual refers to specific resources available to parents and counselors to enrich the learning experience of the children.

**“Starburst” on Cover** – Don’t forget: The new booklets feature a “Starburst” on the front cover. Be careful not to mix old and new books.

## NEW REVISED CURRICULUM

**Same Great Program**– The basic outline with 4 lessons (and 2 Bible stories in each lesson) remained intact, as did the GAMEBox and the family projects. Although some of the Bible passages changed, the focus of each lesson stayed the same.

### Outline of Lessons and Bible Stories

Changes are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

#### Introduction

Jesus Blesses the Children – Matthew 19:13-15

#### Lesson 1: God Created Me

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

\*God Made Me – Psalm 139:13-14

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

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

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

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

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

God Talks to Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:1-10

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

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

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

## CLOSE-UP LOOK AT THE CHANGES

**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).

## THANK YOU TO P.R.A.Y. VOLUNTEERS

The revised God and Me curriculum is the product of countless volunteers. It has been the vision of P.R.A.Y. CEO Jason Noland to have a multi-denominational team of volunteers with unique gifts and backgrounds to conduct curriculum revisions. The God and Me Revision Team had the task of sifting through the many comments and suggestions, deciding a course of action, and introducing new lessons while upholding the essence of God and Me. P.R.A.Y. is indebted to the following volunteer team:

**Rev. Barry Chance** – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
First Presbyterian Church, Hammond, LA

**Caroline Honeycutt** – Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Claremore, OK

**Rev. Dr. Christopher Rodkey** – United Church of Christ  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Dallastown, PA

**Heidi Stiles (artist)** – AHG Patriot  
Christian and Missionary Alliance

P.R.A.Y. is grateful to these team members for their commitment of time and talent and for investing in the P.R.A.Y. ministry!

## HELPFUL LINKS

God and Me home page  
<https://www.praypub.org/god-me>

God and Me products (books and awards)  
<https://store.praypub.org/god-me>

God and Me Resources (P.R.A.Y.'s Online Resource Library)  
<https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources?lib-category=god-and-me>

