



PreScripts Cursive Letters and Coloring, Medieval to Modern World History Created by Courtney Sanford and Jennifer Greenholt Illustrations by Kelly Digges and Courtney Sanford

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a Note for Parents: Tools for the Journey

Introduction

The word "prescript" comes from the Latin words prae (meaning "before" or "in front of") plus scribere ("to write"). The PreScripts series from Classical Conversations MultiMedia is designed to precede—to come before—writing. Just as we learn to speak by mimicking our parents' words, we can learn to write well by copying the words that others have written. Even though coloring, drawing, tracing, and copying are simple tasks from an adult perspective, imitation is at the heart of a classical education. In order to learn how to write, children must first acquire fine motor skills and learn to sit still and follow instructions. They do so with the help of simple tasks like these. Rather than resorting to mindless busywork that isolates our youngest children from their family's education, the PreScripts series is designed to initiate young learners into the world of knowledge they will inhabit as they mature.

How to Use This Book

Each book in the PreScripts series combines a functional design with excellent content. The goal of *PreScripts Cursive Letters and Coloring* is to introduce your child to the building blocks of cursive writing and drawing through an immersion method of fun exercises. Finger tracing, tracing with pencil, and copying letters build confidence as well as develop fine motor skills, and the coloring pages provide variety.

Our job as classical educators is to teach students to make the effort to be neat but even more, it is to encourage them to aim higher by teaching them to write beautifully. Many schools no longer teach cursive writing, claiming that it is too difficult for young children to master. Teaching a child to write in cursive does require diligence and patience, but it has a number of compelling benefits. Research suggests that cursive writing more effectively develops manual skill and dexterity. Cursive may also aid students struggling with dyslexia or dysgraphia because 1) capital and lowercase letters are distinct; 2) each word is one fluid movement, so the child's rhythm is not disrupted by frequent pauses; and 3) letters like "b" and "d" are more difficult to reverse.

When children are learning to read and write, what they study matters as much as how they study it. Parents are more likely to give up on cursive when the content seems frivolous, so Classical Conversations is pleased to offer cursive writing books that give the student plenty of practice using rich, meaningful content. With PreScripts cursive writing books, your student can become a confident writer while learning or reviewing important subject matter, such as history sentences, passages

of literature, and proverbs. This book focuses on colorable images from medieval and world history, including influential people, scenes from important events, and famous works of art.

In this way, PreScripts takes inspiration from the one-room schoolhouse model, in which all students studied the same material but at different levels. Your youngest children can scribble, trace, and color these pages on their own, freeing you to teach your older students history, writing, and art. Then, when your "scribblers" begin to learn in earnest, they will already recognize some of the letters, shapes, and images they will be asked to master.

If your children ask questions about the images they are coloring, you, or an older sibling, can explain as much or as little as you wish about the historical context, whetting their appetite to learn about history. (See the image credits in the back of the book for more information.) When your child is ready for the next level of learning, you can introduce parallel resources, such as the *Classical Acts & Facts History Cards*, which delve deeper into the events and individuals pictured.

The Journey in Perspective

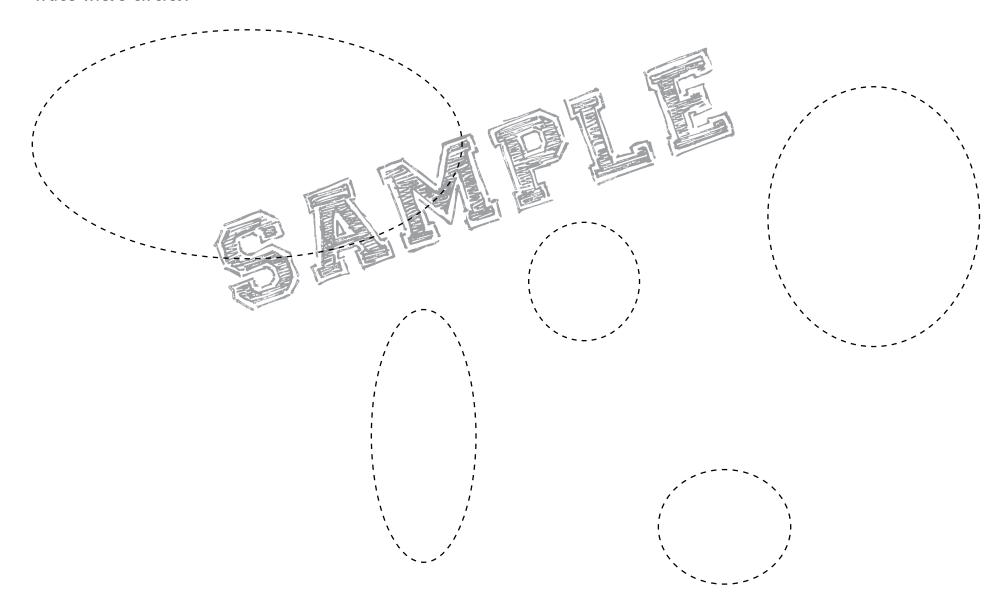
The key to good writing is daily practice. The key to a heart that seeks truth, beauty, and goodness is providing quality content to copy. We hope you will find both in *Prescripts Cursive Letters and Coloring*.

The goal of the PreScripts series is for your children to master the skills of copying and writing in the context of a biblical worldview, building on a second meaning of the word "prescript." A prescript can also mean a command, rule, or moral guideline. The Bible instructs parents to remember the commandments of God and teach them to their children.

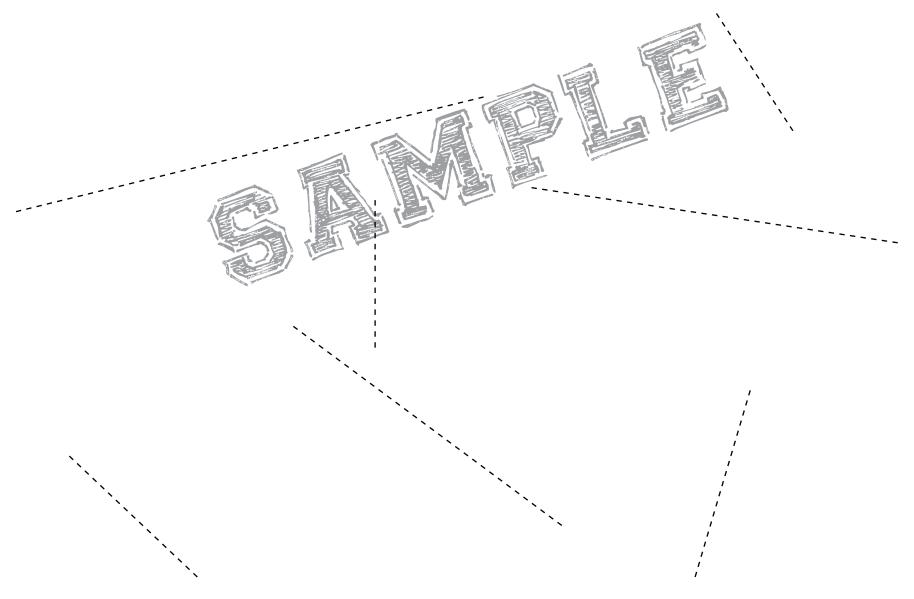
Deuteronomy 6:6–9 reads, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." As this Scripture reminds us, writing, memorizing, and reciting are all forms of worship that we model for our children.

Let's get started!

Trace these circles.



Trace these lines.



Trace and fill these dots.



Trace these angles.



Trace these curves.



Color.

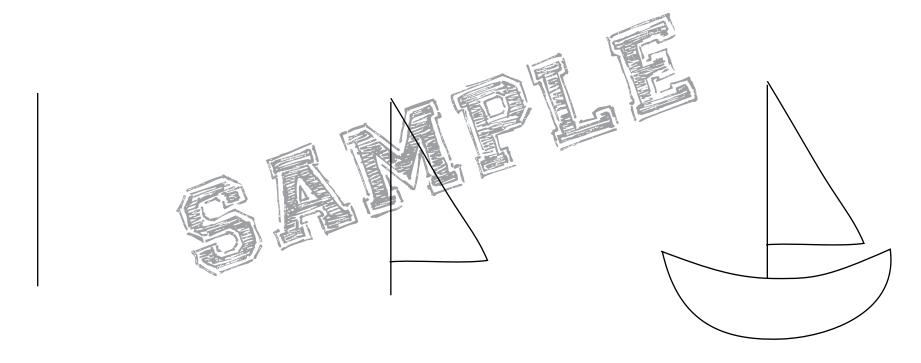


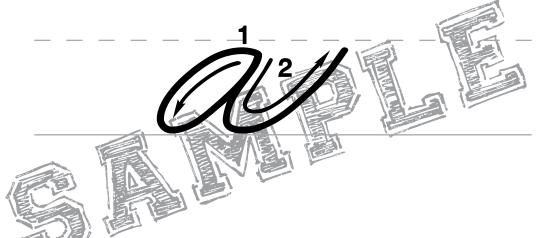
Detail of a miniature of Charlemagne being crowned emperor



Trace with your pencil, then write.

Trace and color.

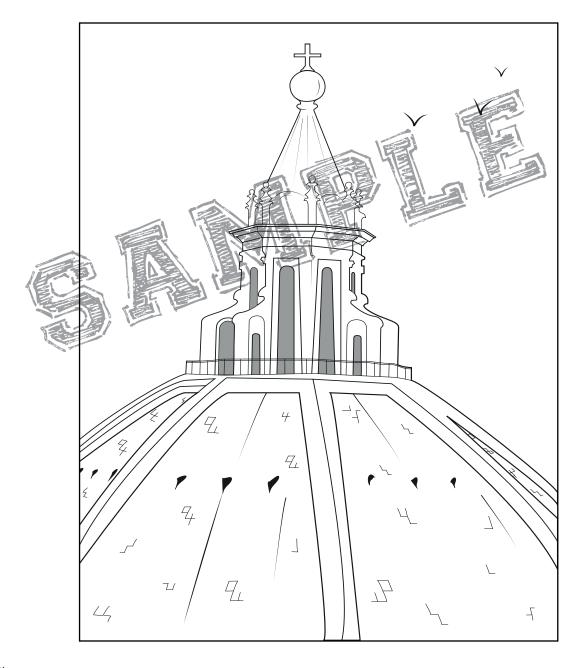


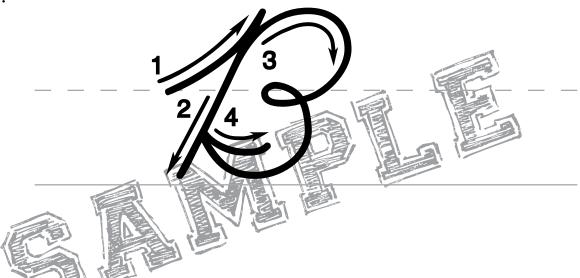


Trace with your pencil, then write.

<u>a ----a ----a ----a ----a ----a ----</u>

Color.



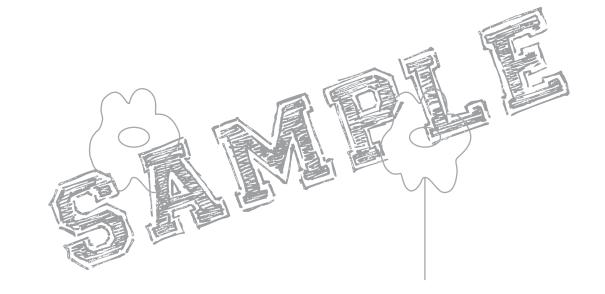


Trace with your pencil, then write.



B----B----B

Trace and color.





Trace with your pencil, then write.

Color.

