

PreScripts

CURSIVE WORDS AND DRAWING

SAMPLE
Scripture

*Classical
Conversations*
MULTIMEDIA

PreScripts Cursive Words and Drawing: Scripture

Created by Courtney Sanford and Jennifer Greenholt

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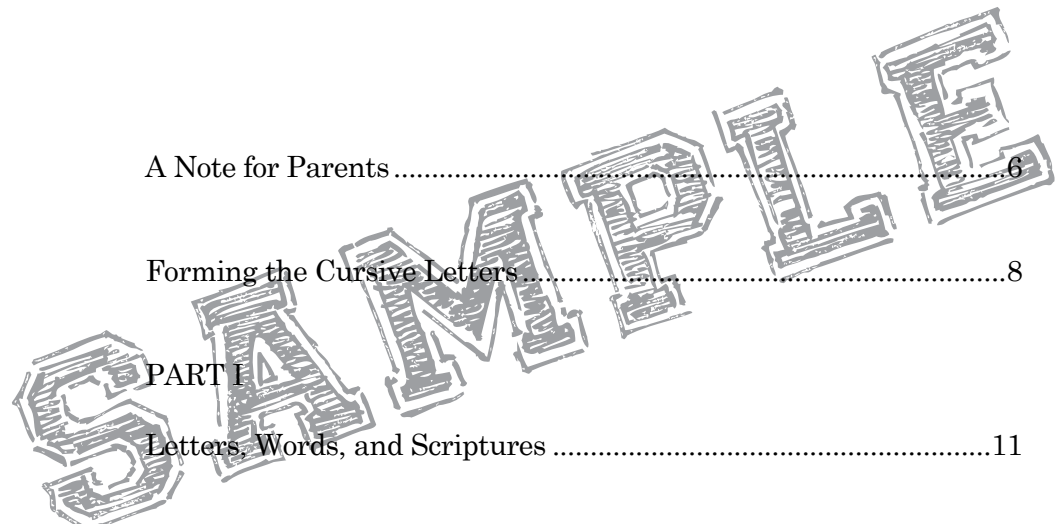
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A Note for Parents: Tools for the Journey

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: Beginning Cursive Writing and Drawing* is to introduce children to the building blocks of cursive writing: letters first, then words, and then simple sentences. Your student will practice each letter, first tracing it, and then writing it, keeping the model nearby. Eventually, as students gain confidence and skill, they will trace and write a sentence.

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 who are 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.

While they master the manual skill of writing, students will also begin to pick up basic writing and reading rules. They will start to notice that every sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with an end mark, that items in a list are separated by commas, that names are capitalized, and so on. When your child becomes curious, take a moment to explain these rules. As a result, writing correctly will come to them more naturally when it is time to compose their own sentences. Likewise, if you use these short sentences to show them how to read unusual punctuation—e.g., hyphenated words at the end of a line—they will be less likely to stumble when they encounter this practice in other books.

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.

To provide some variety for your child, drawing lessons are sprinkled throughout the book. Drawing will help develop the fine motor skills necessary for writing and provide practice in sitting still and working independently. Although the exercises coordinate with the basic drawing lessons taught in Classical Conversations Foundations communities, being a part of a CC community is not necessary to learn these simple lessons.

Your child will enjoy experimenting with the basic shapes and then combining the shapes into drawings. The exercises are simple enough for your child to do independently, and they follow a logical progression from single elements (dots, lines, and curves), to various combinations, to drawings that show depth and perspective. If you wish to extend the drawing time further, you may want to encourage your child to color his drawings. Even coloring will help your child develop his fine motor skills and improve his stamina for writing in a fun, creative exercise.

Although variety is important, the key to mastering cursive is to practice every day. For best results, set aside a specific time each day for cursive practice. You choose the pace appropriate for your child. You can assign one page a day to a beginning student or assign two to four pages a day to an older or more experienced student. A very young student, or one who struggles with writing, might even do half a page a day until his or her fine motor skills become stronger, working up to a page or two a day. The pace is completely up to the parent.

If you choose to do one page a day, there are enough pages for a complete school year, working on approximately four or five pages a week. If you participate in a Classical Conversations community, you can do four pages a week while your community meets, and five pages a week the rest of the school year. Older children might do two pages a day and complete two books a year. If you would like your child to memorize the Bible verses in this book, you can read through the verses weekly to review or have your student do the same book twice.

To keep the lessons simple and self-contained so that students can be self-sufficient, we have included only part of some of the Bible verses, while remaining true to their spirit. We have added references to all quotations so that you can look up the Bible verses in full as a family.

Since PreScripts is designed for young children who might be confused by unusual punctuation, we have omitted the marks that would typically indicate when a quote has been modified. If you wish to teach this lesson to your older children, you can explain that writers use an ellipsis (three periods) to indicate a gap in the quoted material and use brackets to set off anything that has been added to the quote, such as capitalization or final punctuation.

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 Beginning Cursive and Drawing: Scripture*.

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.

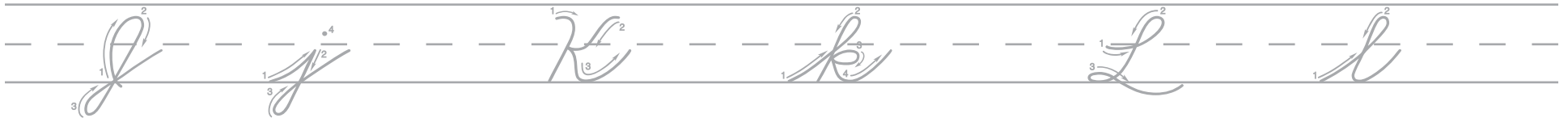
For more information about the drawing instruction used in this book—drawing with the five basic elements — we recommend *Drawing with Children* by Mona Brookes.

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.

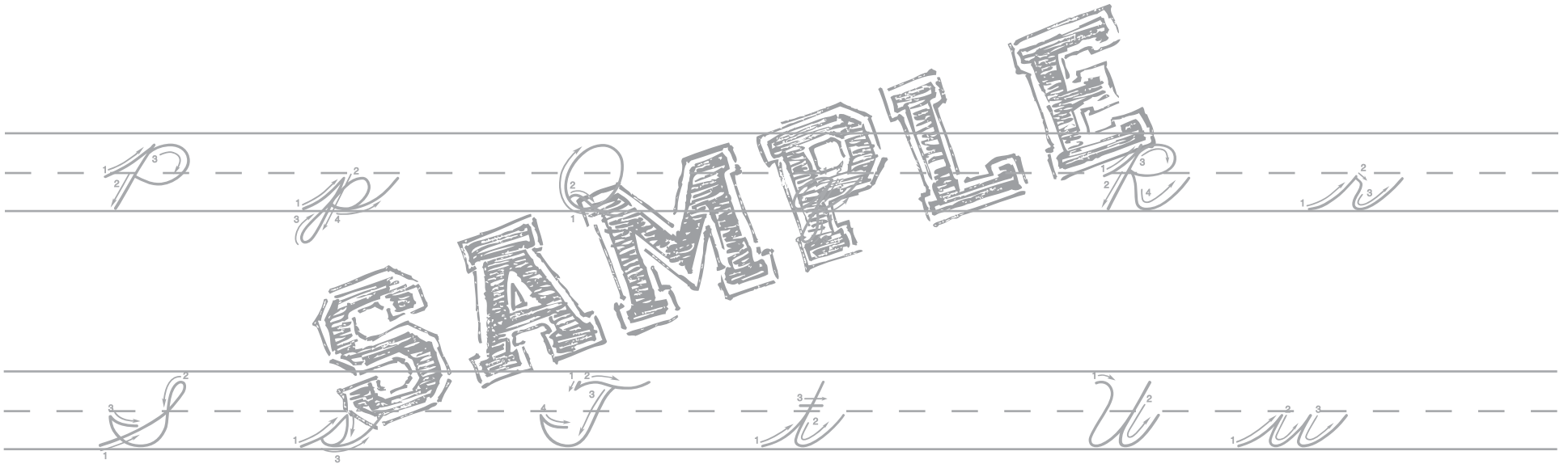
Let’s get started!

Forming the Cursive Letters

Trace, then write each letter.



Trace, then write each letter.



Trace, then write each letter.



Write your name in cursive.

SAMPLE

Part I

Letters, Words, and Scriptures

SAMPLE

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version. Other versions are used in order to have a verse begin with a certain letter or due to space limitations.

The other versions used are the New International Version and the King James Version. When only a portion or the meaning of a verse is used, the actual Scripture is cited with this notation: See [Scripture reference].



Trace, then write.



See Romans 3:23.



Circle

In drawing, we call any closed, rounded shape an element in the circle family. Trace these, then draw some on your own. Try to fill the page with different kinds of circles. Make some big and some small.





Trace, then write.



Believe

Believe

See Acts 16:31.

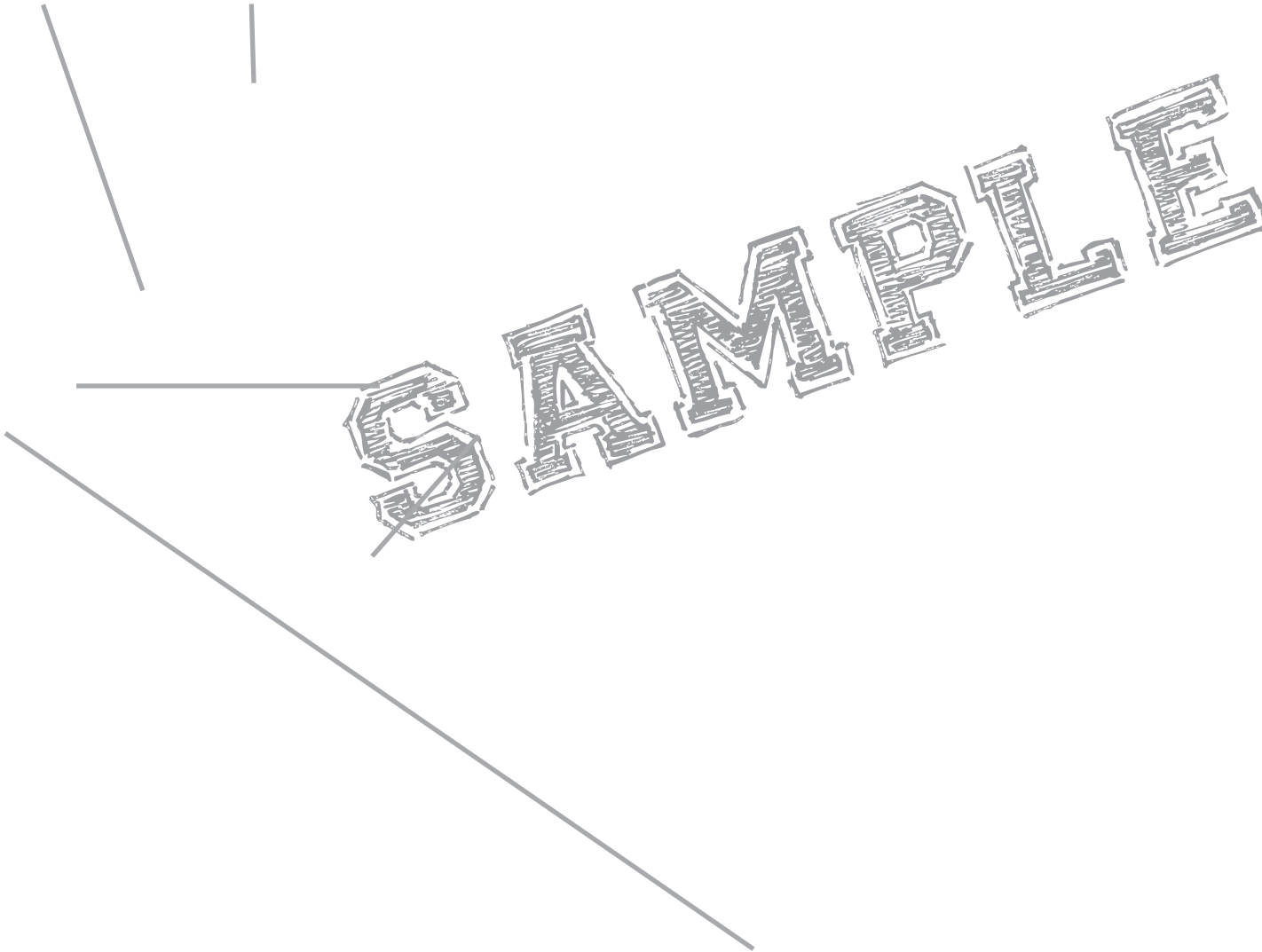
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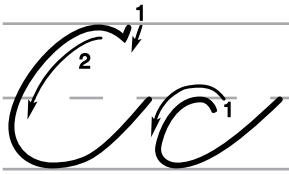
Believe on Lord Jesus Christ,

and you will be saved.

Line

Lines are straight. They can be long or short. They can go in any direction.
Trace these, then experiment by drawing lots of lines.





Trace, then write.



Commit

Comm

See Proverbs 16:3.

SAMPLE

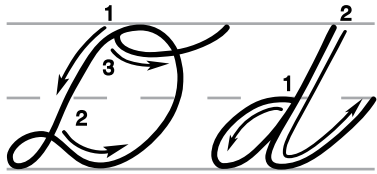
Commitment works to the

Lord.

Dot

A dot is a circular shape that is filled in. It can be any size and any kind of round shape. Trace these, then draw your own. Experiment with different sizes.





Trace, then write.



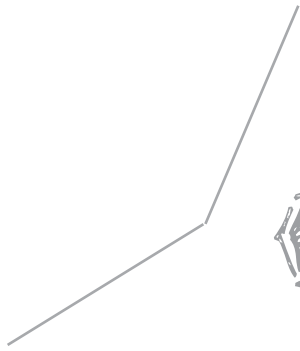
See Proverbs 20:13.



Angle

An angle is formed when two straight lines come together. It can be wide or narrow.

Trace these, then draw your own. Experiment with different size angles: wide and narrow.



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