

# Introduction

## To the Student

History is one big story made of many stories. History is the life stories of billions of individuals: men, women, girls, and boys, all made and loved by God. We know some of their names, like Abraham, Genghis Khan, and Simón Bolívar. We don't know the name of the servant girl that drew water for Abraham's family; the frightened mother who watched from the door of her tent for the approach of a conquering army; or the weary mine worker whose heart was stirred by whispers of independence. Famous or not, the story of every person in history is important.

History is about people like you. History is about people who sought the Lord and people who didn't. Above all else, history is the story of our faithful God. All those true stories help us to live better and wiser in our own story.

World history has many threads that all eventually overlap. At the same time in history, life looked very different in different parts of the world. The Inca civilization built the mountain stronghold of Machu Picchu around the same time that Gutenberg worked on his printing press in Germany and Chinese artists perfected blue and white porcelain. We chose stories from history for *From Adam to Us* to give you the picture of what was happening, what was changing, and what was staying the same throughout history in many different corners of the world. We wrote this book with the goal of giving you an understanding of world history that is true, meaningful, and helpful for making sense of the present. We pray that this curriculum helps you know God better.

As you read *From Adam to Us*, enjoy the stories. Look at God's wonders and praise Him for his power and generosity to all mankind. See what creative people made in God's image have built. Learn about imperfect people who made a mark on history. Read the stories of tragedy and of celebration. Praise God for His blessings and mercies in our world. Give Him thanks for the place in history He created especially for you.

## To the Parent

Thank you for choosing *From Adam to Us* from Notgrass History as your student's guide for learning the story of world history. Please read the important information on the following pages titled "How to Use This Curriculum" so that you can make the most of your student's learning experience. We designed this curriculum to be rich in meaningful content while flexible and easy to use. We hope that *From Adam to Us* will be a blessing to your student and your family and bring glory to God as you learn about His faithfulness in history.

# How to Use This Curriculum

*From Adam to Us* is a one-year world history and literature course designed for students in grades five through eight. The daily lessons are written in a narrative style and richly illustrated with color photographs and maps. Primary sources, literature, and hands-on activities help the student connect with the history in a personal way. With parental help and supervision, younger children can participate in many activities and can benefit from hearing the lessons read aloud.

All of the instructions for what to do each week and each day are included in the main lesson text. The curriculum has thirty chronological units of five lessons each. Each weekly unit has one lesson from each of five categories.

- **Our World Story:** We use major events to provide a framework for understanding the chronology of world history. Examples include the Tower of Babel, the conquests of Alexander the Great, the early church, the invention of the printing press, and the fall of Communism in Europe.
- **God's Wonders:** We explore the world's created wonders and show how they have influenced history and culture. These lessons include the Mediterranean Sea, the Indus Valley, the Potosi Silver Mine of the Andes, the Gobi Desert, and the Cape of Good Hope.
- **World Landmark:** These lessons explore places that demonstrate the amazing abilities of people made in the image of God and their place in history, including the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, the moai statues of Easter Island, Macchu Piccu, and modern skyscrapers.
- **World Biography:** These lessons relate the life and times of some of history most influential personalities including Ramses II, Judas Maccabeus, Johann Sebastian Bach, Queen Victoria, and C. S. Lewis.
- **Daily Life:** We give an inside-view of everyday life from the beginning of history to modern times, exploring how new ideas and inventions make a difference for ordinary people. These lessons include early writing, Chinese porcelain production, the missionary work of Methodius and Cyril, the Industrial Revolution, and globalization.

## From Adam to Us Curriculum Package

The basic curriculum package for *From Adam to Us* includes:

- ***From Adam to Us Part 1: Creation to Cathedrals*** — This book has seventy-five lessons, designed to be completed in one semester, which begin in the week of Creation and continue through the time of the cathedrals of the Middle Ages.
- ***From Adam to Us Part 2: Castles to Computers*** — This book has another seventy-five lessons, also designed to be completed in one semester, which explore history from the days of castles to modern times.
- ***Our Creative World*** — This collection of historic documents from around the world includes short stories, poems, songs, letters, diary entries, and speeches. It also features images of art and architecture.
- ***From Adam to Us Map Book*** — This collection of maps was created especially to accompany this curriculum. At the end of many lessons, your student will do activities using the maps.
- ***From Adam to Us Timeline Book*** — This timeline of history from Creation to the present is designed specifically to accompany this curriculum. After most lessons, your child will add one or more events to the timeline.
- ***From Adam to Us Answer Key*** — This book has all of the answers needed for the assignments included at the end of the lessons, the activities and tests in the *Student Workbook*, and the questions and tests in the *Lesson Review*. The *Student Workbook* and *Lesson Review* are described on page vii.

## From Adam to Us Literature Package

This is a selection of ten literature titles that complement the lessons in *From Adam to Us*. These books can be purchased from Notgrass Company as a package or individually. You can also obtain them from another source such as the library, a bookstore, or an online source. You can use any unabridged edition of these books.

- *The Golden Goblet* by Eloise McGraw (Units 3-5)
- *The Fables of Aesop* by Joseph Jacobs, editor (Units 6-7)
- *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare (Units 9-11)
- *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park (Units 13-14)
- *Otto of the Silver Hand* by Howard Pyle (Units 15-16)
- *The King's Fifth* by Scott O'Dell (Units 18-21)
- *Madeleine Takes Command* by Ethel C. Brill (Units 22-23)
- *The Switherby Pilgrims* by Eleanor Spence (Units 24-25)
- *The Chestry Oak* by Kate Seredy (Units 26-28)
- *Children of the Storm* by Natasha Vins (Units 29-30)

## Notes for Parents on the Literature Selections

After careful consideration, we chose ten books to accompany the history lessons in *From Adam to Us*. We selected books that are well written and provide an educational look at a certain time period and place in world history. Some of the books have plot elements or dialogue that we want you to be aware of in advance. You can find our notes and comments at the back of your *Answer Key*. You are the best one to decide what your child is ready to hear or to read on his own.

## Optional Resources – *Student Workbook* or *Lesson Review*

We offer these books as a supplement to the curriculum for parents who wish to have their student do workbook activities or answer questions after reading the lessons and take tests over the lessons and literature. We recommend that you choose either the *Student Workbook* or the *Lesson Review*, but your student can complete both if you prefer.

- *From Adam to Us Student Workbook* — This collection of crosswords, word searches, matching, and other handwork activities reviews and reinforces information learned in the daily lessons. It also includes literature review questions and unit tests.
- *From Adam to Us Lesson Review* — This features daily lesson review questions, literature review questions, and unit tests.

## How to Use *From Adam to Us Part 1* and *Part 2*

These two volumes are the core of the curriculum. They give you and your child all of the information you need in order to use *From Adam to Us* on a daily basis.

These two volumes contain fifteen units each for a total of thirty units. Your child can study *Part 1* during the first half of the school year and *Part 2* during the second half. Each unit has five lessons.

At the beginning of each unit, an introductory page gives a list of the lessons in that unit, a reminder of the literature title that goes with that unit, and a short introduction to the unit. The world map on this page has push pins with lesson numbers on them. These pins show the primary location (or locations) associated with each lesson.

Following the introductory page are the daily lessons. Students can read these on their own, or you can read the lessons aloud. The lessons are richly illustrated. The student's learning experience will be greatly enhanced if you encourage him or her to examine the illustrations closely. We have carefully selected them to be an integral part of the learning experience. You will notice that we have included many stamps from around the world. These were chosen to show students that many countries thought the people and events illustrated were worth remembering. Many lessons show wildlife that live in various places around the world. When possible, the photos show animals in their native habitat. However, a small number of these photos were taken at zoos.

Many of the lessons have maps showing the locations of historic places and regions. The light brown dotted lines on some of these maps show modern country borders for reference.

To help children review what they have learned in previous lessons, we often refer to an earlier page or lesson. Please let your children know that they don't have to turn back to those pages. They are simply there to help with review when needed.

At the end of each lesson is a list of several assignments. Students are not necessarily expected to complete all of these assignments. You may choose which assignments you wish to assign. Subjects of the assignments vary from day to day, but they come from the following list.

- Reading assignments from *Our Creative World*
- *Map Book* assignments
- *Timeline Book* assignments
- Assignments in the *Student Workbook* and the *Lesson Review*
- Thinking Biblically assignments
- Vocabulary assignments
- Creative writing assignments
- Reading assignments from the literature

In the lessons that have vocabulary assignments, the five vocabulary words are printed in bold text in the lesson.

## How to Use *Our Creative World* and Literature

At the end of many of the daily lessons, the student will be given a reading assignment. Some of the assignments are taken from *Our Creative World* and others are taken from the literature we recommend to go along with the course. The list of assignments at the end of each lesson will tell your child exactly what to read each day.

Since the selections in *Our Creative World* are original source documents from different time periods and many parts of the world, they use vocabulary and sentence structure that may be unfamiliar to your student. We have provided footnotes and updated the spelling in some of the documents, but your child may still need a little help understanding them. These documents provide a first-hand look at life in the past, so we encourage you to spend the time necessary to get the most out of them.

## How to Use the *Map Book*

Many lessons in *From Adam to Us* have a corresponding map in the *Map Book*. At the end of each lesson that includes a map assignment, you will be instructed to turn to a certain map and complete the activities for that lesson. You should use colored pencils to complete each assignment. Regular crayons will be too thick. We highly recommend a quality colored pencil such as Prismacolor®.

## How to Use the *Timeline Book*

A timeline assignment is listed at the end of most lessons in *From Adam to Us*. Each assignment will tell you the page to turn to in the *Timeline Book*. Find the box on that page that has the matching lesson number and copy the assigned statement on the blank lines. The timeline also includes other events from world history. Across the top of each page are black bars showing the life spans of key people mentioned in the lessons.

## How to Use the *Student Workbook*

Students using the *Student Workbook* will complete the page for Lesson 1 after reading Lesson 1 and so on after each lesson. At the end of each unit, there is a test for that unit found at the back of the book. When the student has finished reading each of the literature titles, the Student Workbook has questions over the book.

## How to Use the *Lesson Review*

Students using the *Lesson Review* will complete the questions for Lesson 1 after reading Lesson 1 and so on after each lesson. At the end of each unit, there is a test for that unit found at the back of the book. When the student has finished reading each of the literature titles, the Lesson Review has questions over the book.

## Enjoying the Weekly Family Activities

At the end of one lesson in each unit, we give an idea for a Family Activity. Projects include arts and crafts, recipes, and games. The instructions for the Family Activities are found in the back of *From Adam to Us Part 1* and *Part 2*. We recommend reading the instructions and gathering the supplies early each week. Then you can complete the activity on the day it is assigned or on another day that is convenient for your family.

When our children were growing up, our family enjoyed a family night once each week. You could do the Family Activity on a family night so that more family members can take part in the fun and learning. Like all components of *From Adam to Us*, the Family Activities are optional. We offer them as extra learning experiences. You, the parent, are the best one to decide if you are able to schedule time to complete them.

### Parental Supervision Required

*The Family Activities are designed for parental involvement. Please review the activity and discuss with your child what he or she may do alone and what he or she needs your supervision to do. The Family Activities in this book include the use of sharp objects, the oven and stove, and a few Internet research suggestions. Some children may be allergic to recipe ingredients or craft supplies. Notgrass Company cannot accept responsibility for the safety of your child in completing these activities. You are responsible for your child's safety.*

## How Much Time Does It Take to Complete Each Lesson?

Depending on how many assignments you choose to complete, most students will need forty-five minutes to an hour and a half to complete one lesson. You will need more time on the day you do the Family Activity. This curriculum has 150 lessons and is designed to be completed in one school year. Since a typical school year has about 180 days, the student completes one lesson on most school days. However, some families may choose to spread the curriculum out over a longer period of time.

## What Supplies Will My Student Need?

Students will need blank paper, lined paper, a pencil, colored pencils, and a three-ring binder, plus the materials needed to complete the Family Activities. These materials are listed on the individual Family Activity instruction pages.

We recommend that each student have a three-ring binder notebook to use only for *From Adam to Us*. He or she will keep in this notebook the Thinking Biblically, Vocabulary, and Creative Writing activities completed as part of the end-of-lesson assignments.

## How Many Assignments Should My Student Complete?

Parents know best what their children are capable of accomplishing. *From Adam to Us* is designed to be flexible. A variety of activities is included in each lesson. A parent may require an eighth grader who is academically gifted to read the daily lessons and complete every assignment at the end of each lesson independently. On the other hand, the parent of a fifth grader with learning challenges may decide to read aloud each lesson in *From Adam to Us* and the selections in *Our Creative World*, and help the student be successful in the *Map Book* and *Timeline Book* assignments. The variety of assignments is intended to make it easy for you to create a positive, rich, engaging learning experience for your student. You should not feel pressured to complete every assignment.

## Expanding *From Adam to Us* to Make Your Homeschool Experience Easier

As you look ahead to your school year or evaluate midway, consider how you might make your child's education less complicated and educationally richer by using *From Adam to Us* as a large part of his or her learning for this year. *From Adam to Us* is much more than history. You can use *From Adam to Us* as all or part of your literature, writing, vocabulary, art, handwriting practice, and Bible learning. For example, you do not necessarily need a separate language arts curriculum. You may find that eliminating busywork in an entirely separate subject and allowing that subject to be incorporated into this study makes for a less stressful, more engaging, more memorable school year!



## Helping Struggling Students and Using *From Adam to Us* with Multiple Ages

For students who struggle with reading and/or writing, please feel free to make adjustments to help them be successful and not frustrated with *From Adam to Us*. Any of the lessons and reading assignments can be read aloud. Most writing assignments can be easily altered, shortened, or completed orally. Answering questions in the Lesson Review and completing tests can be done orally as well if that works better for your student. *From Adam to Us* was designed to be very flexible to meet the needs of individual families and students.

If you have more than one child in grades five through eight, you may enjoy reading the lessons aloud as a family. Afterward, you can give each child different assignments, depending on his or her age and skill level. If you have carefully observed your child and prayed about the direction to take, then you can look back at the end of the school year and know you have accomplished the goal of completing *From Adam to Us*.

## Some Reminders So You Will Not Feel Overwhelmed

Remember that God gave you your children and your daily responsibilities. A homeschooling mother who has one child can complete more *From Adam to Us* activities than a homeschooling mother who has seven children and an elderly grandparent living in her home. God will use the efforts of both of these mothers. God does not expect you to do more than you can do. Be kind to yourself. He knows exactly what you and your children need this year. Remember that out of all the parents in the world to whom He could have given your children, He chose you. He is the one who put your family together. He knows what He is doing. Trust in His choice. God created you. He created your children. Relax and remember that this is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24)!

We are here to help you. If you have more questions or simply need some encouragement, send us an email ([help@notgrass.com](mailto:help@notgrass.com)) or give us a call (1-800-211-8793).

## Acknowledgements and Dedication

We are grateful to God for the opportunity to develop this curriculum and share it with you. Our prayer is that your walk with God and your understanding of history will be stronger as a result of using it.

It has been a joy to complete this project not only as a team but as a family, with our daughters Bethany Poore and Mary Evelyn McCurdy, our son John Notgrass, and our son-in-law Nate McCurdy. Thanks also to Ethan Reynolds and Michelle Sullivan for their invaluable assistance. This has been a team project from start to finish.

Everyone we mention here has been a vital part of the process. The by-lines you see in the curriculum package tell you that Bethany Poore wrote and developed the end-of-lesson assignments and the Family Activities, Nate McCurdy drew the maps especially for this curriculum, and Mary Evelyn McCurdy wrote the *Student Workbook* and *Lesson Review* and designed the covers. In addition, John Notgrass helped with the overall curriculum development and served as project manager.

With love we dedicate this curriculum to our grandchildren. It is our prayer that you and your parents and we your grandparents live faithfully to God while in the world and that we will all live together with God in the eternity that He will give after He writes the final page of the history of the world.

*Ray and Charlene Notgrass*