

Second Grade



Bible

As we explore *Finding God's Promises in the Bible* this year, second graders use the book of Exodus to study the life of Moses. In this study, the promises of God are evident, as the Israelites and their leader see both victory and tribulation as they learn to trust God. One theme of importance in our curriculum is encouraging our students to "conform to the image" of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28). A strong emphasis is placed on character development, with lessons that encourage the students to make wise decisions for themselves.

Language Arts

Our program focuses on reading strategies, writing, and opportunities to share orally in front of the class to help them continue developing reading fluency and comprehension skills and Shurley English's jingles and repetition makes learning grammar, sentence structure, and writing mechanics exciting. Formal spelling instruction continues, using patterns established in first grade and the eager second graders also begin learning formal cursive handwriting. Book reports introduce students to a variety of genres (fiction, biography, and fantasy). Throughout the year, we also integrate several core literature books in class which include: *The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo*, *Flat Stanley*, *Molly's Pilgrim*, *The Knight at Dawn*, and *The Courage of Sarah Noble*.

History/Social Studies

We begin the year with our *Family Ties* unit, learning about family trees, traditions, and where our ancestors are from. We study *Earth, Our Home*, where students learn geography skills by studying maps, using a compass rose, and identifying the seven continents. Students also learn about the major forms of land and types of water found on earth. The *Working World* helps students learn about factories, flow charts and

trading goods and, students learn more about *People, Places and Holidays*. In this unit, they study famous Americans and their contributions, historical and natural landmarks, and various holidays celebrated in the United States. During the second half of the year, we study the Middle Ages by travelling back to medieval Europe and Asia to learn about these different civilizations as we recognize that, while time changes, God is the same throughout all of our world's history.

Math

Second grade mathematics continues to build on and expand math concepts introduced in earlier grades. Through the use of hands-on manipulatives, students increase their knowledge of number sense, geometry, money and time, fractions and probability, measurement, and multiplication and division. Problem solving and critical thinking skills are practiced by the students as they learn to solve multi-step word problems. Students complete twice-weekly math fact drills, adding and subtracting numbers up to 18, with the goal of attaining memorization and ownership of these important math skills.

Science

Second grade science is an enjoyable year as students investigate, observe, record, and discover God's creation. Intriguing and active lessons in our FOSS Curriculum are fascinating and engaging for the students, as they train their young minds to uncover God's design, order and creativity. Our science units include: *Pebbles, Sand and Silt*, *Balance and Motion*, and *Insects and Plants*.