

# FEED MY LAMBS INTRODUCTORY UNIT

## The Crisis of Childhood

According to statistics published by the World Health Organization, 58% of the world's population is under the age of 25. In many developing countries, half the population is under the age of 15! UNICEF reported in 2001 that 149 million children suffered from malnutrition and 100 million children were out of school because of poverty, discrimination, or lack of resources.

A culture can be judged by the way it treats its children and elders. A culture is really a reflection of the values and practices of the prevailing religion in a society. Today, most cultures have a pagan or secular view of children. Children are despised in increasing numbers around the world, and never, in the history of mankind, have so many little ones been aborted, abandoned and abused. This rising generation is a 'fatherless generation:' unwanted, unloved, deserted, and unsupported physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Even when fathers are home, they spend on the average of less than five minutes a day with their offspring. There are so many impoverished street children in Brazil, that according to a PBS documentary (1999), they were shot like vermin in the night hours by police who could not control their high crime rate. In eastern Europe, children go missing, snatched off the streets for the growing pornography industry. Young teenage girls prostitute themselves to support their families. Many children in the sub-Saharan regions of Africa have AIDS, and in Sierra Leone's horrific civil war last year, eight to ten-year-old boys were conscripted as soldiers. Drugged and armed with machine guns, they were given heinous instructions to kill members of their own villages. Before the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, "Saddam's Cubs," young boys toting rifles, protected the dictator in the world's twelfth largest standing army.

Nations need the hearts of fathers to turn back to their children and the children to their fathers. Children's ministries that evangelize should follow with a program that nurtures the 'whole child' and enables him to transcend the hopelessness and mediocrity of his surroundings – one in which his soul can take wing on Christian ideals and principles of truth and beauty; one that loves children unconditionally and plants hope and solutions in family and community life. Principia has produced such a program – we call it *Feed My Lambs*.

## Program Description

*Feed My Lambs* (FML) is an enriched, principle-based children's program designed and edited by Dr. Elizabeth Youmans, who has nearly 25 years experience pioneering principle approach education in the classroom, administering school life, training teachers, and writing and editing curriculum. The FML curriculum was designed with paraschools in mind, but it is also appropriate for day and home school settings, as well as adult literacy programs and teaching English as a second language to both adults and youth. The lesson plans are written so the lay Christian teacher, or the one with no formal degree, can implement the program. However, FML is recommended for any Christian teacher or parent.

FML was birthed through a challenge to Elizabeth from Food for the Hungry International to develop a principle-based program for the thousands of children they sponsor around the world. The desire of many international teachers and children's ministries for a principle-based curriculum prevented Elizabeth from instantly rejecting the idea. After great deliberation, she was encouraged by the Lord to write a program. It was presented in May, 2002 to Food for the Hungry Latin American country and child development directors in Lima, Peru.

Distinct from other programs which seek to "entertain" children, FML nurtures the soul and consecrates the heart of the child with the ideals of truth and beauty and the knowledge of moral principles through children's classics, inspiring vignettes from Christian history, reading the Bible to build biblical literacy and reasoning skills, and participation in the fine and performing arts. Wholeness and well-being within and without are cultivated, as the love of learning is planted. FML builds a Christian world view through the biblical principles and ideals embedded in every lesson plan. It teaches *two generations* how to reason with God's principles for wise choices and solutions. It employs the notebook method with graphic organizers, the Children of the Promise Timeline, and beautifully illustrated coloring pages that accompany the classics and timeline. Each child has a permanent record of learning to take home.

FML emphasizes building language skills and vocabulary. Since words are the building blocks of ideas, each child is immersed in a noble vocabulary from which he learns to think and reason

with words of truth and beauty. Words cultivate mental images and, when combined with the revelation of God's Word, help transform the child's mindset, releasing creativity and hope and guiding the will to wisely steward his full potential in Christ. This affects a child's imagination, his hopes, his daily choices and decisions, and the way he perceives life

and solves problems. As one child is renewed and liberated to fulfill his divine potential, it affects his family, his community, and ultimately his nation.

## Curriculum Components

- One **CD rom** with lesson plans, vocabulary cards, graphic organizers, coloring pages, music, patterns, and activities for:
  - Children's Classic:** *Heidi* is read aloud by the teacher. Redemption is the theme told through the life of a Swiss, orphan girl who learns to read, as the beauty of the Alps fills her soul with joy. Lessons include graphic organizers for simple notebook work and beautiful coloring pages.
  - Bible Reading:** Passages from Proverbs are read by the children. The wise and foolish child are contrasted, and the godly leader and woman are portrayed.
  - Christian History:** Children of the Promise Timeline highlights key events, individuals, and documents, as children learn about the eternal, living God and how His eternal promises affect individuals and nations for the gospel and liberty.
  - Vocabulary Cards:** The student vocabulary word from each lesson can be printed on a card for daily drill or placement on a 'Treasury of Words' bulletin board.
  - Wellspring of Wonder:** The telling of sacred stories and parables with accompanying sensorial materials build the child's spiritual potential and godly imagination, while verbal and nonverbal gateways are integrated with follow-up activities. In this unit, stories from the history timeline are featured.
  - Weekly Arts and Crafts:** Lesson plans for creating inexpensive projects coordinate with the children's classic, history, and Bible reading lessons.
  - Music, Singing, and Dance:** Lessons in listening and movement
  - Community Service Project:** The principle of sowing and reaping
  - Festival:** The love of learning celebrated in the public marketplace
  - Parent Prayer and Blessing Cards:** Cultivate relationships
- Copy of the Classic *Heidi***
- The Mozart Effect Music for Children CD**
- Teacher Training Video** (20 hours) and **Manual** (to be sold separately)

*Feed My Lambs* is based on the Christian view of children, which acknowledges the image of God and His individuality within each child. It imputes value and dignity to each one apart from his station in life and emphasizes that he is created by God and destined for immortality. The curriculum teaches the principles of virtue and morality for growth in Christian character and self-government, as well as the Hand of God in the lives of individuals and nations. Every lesson inspires the child to learn God's ways, practice godly governance, seek God's plan for his life, and wisely steward his giftings. Weekly prayer and blessing cards go home to parents for encouragement, instruction, and involvement. Program directors are encouraged to fellowship with parents through monthly mothers' teas and fathers' Saturday breakfasts. Each ministry is also encouraged to reach into the business world in their community to build relationships and support

the program through principles of service, enterprise, and Christian economics. Currently, the program is being piloted in English by PROMOTE in their Summer Readers Camp in Chesapeake, Virginia with children five to twelve years of age. Each component of the program has been fully implemented. Enthusiastic comments abound from the children, staff, parents, and grandparents. What is the children's favorite part of the program? – their FML binders with their graphic organizers, coloring pages, and word bank! They are making hand puppets to produce a Heidi puppet show for the children at King's Daughters Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia.

## Program Format

The entire program will be marketed on CD roms, for which a computer with a CD drive is needed. In this electronic medium, the curriculum can be modestly priced for Christian ministries and easily shipped around the world. The three-year program is formatted in four 12-week units per year and can be used with any school- aged child. Assignments are mediated based on individual skills. The schedule has a five-day week with a two-and-a-half-hour day or twelve-and-a-half program hours per week. Teachers print only those documents they intend to use. A principle and Scripture verse lay the foundation for each lesson. Content is provided from which to teach. Important and unusual words are defined for the teacher, while a key student vocabulary word is highlighted on every lesson with a corresponding vocabulary card. Leading ideas and questions guide thinking and reasoning. Graphic organizers facilitate notebook work, and carefully illustrated coloring pages delight the children! Whether remediation or enrichment for the classroom or afterschool setting are your objectives for seeking a fresh curriculum, *Feed My Lambs* inspires and consecrates both teacher and student in the teaching and learning relationship. This is 'nation building' – one individual at a time!

## Potential Pilot Sites

- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- La Paz, Bolivia
- Windhoek, Namibia

## Contact Principia

For additional information on the *Feed My Lambs* curriculum and other areas of Principia's ministry, visit our web site: [www.principiacorp.org](http://www.principiacorp.org)  
Email: [info@principiacorp.org](mailto:info@principiacorp.org)

## Sample Heidi Lesson Plan

**Heidi Lesson 23**

**Time:** 40 minutes **Reading:** First half of Chapter 14, "Sunday Bible" **Review:** God is faithful to keep His promises. **Goal of Lesson:** Teach the children about the providence of God for good in their lives. **Principle:** God's provisions come to us in His perfect timing. **Scripture:** Because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the Lord granted my requests (1 Chronicles 2:1).

**Content:**

- Distribute student binders.
- Introduce and define vocabulary words. Pin the student vocabulary card on the Treasure Chest bulletin board.
- Distribute the coloring page (if-allowed).
- Read the first half of chapter 14.
- Discuss the leading ideas in the first half of the chapter using the reason questions below.
- Have children complete their notebook work.
- Before leaving class, have children repeat the Student Oral Work (below).

**Questions and Leading Ideas:**

- How did God's providence for good bless Heidi?
- How did Heidi bless Alm Uncle's life?
- Describe the various ways that Alm Uncle blessed Heidi's life.
- Describe the God's providences for good in your life.

**Student Notebook Work:**  
Revised characterizations of Heidi on the Heidi Graphic Organizer:

Internal	External
"The thought she might make it light and happy again for grandmother gave her the greatest pleasure!"	"She sang and skipped along holding her grandfather's hand as light hearted as a bird."
"How glad I am that God did not let me have as much as I prayed and wept for!"	

**Student Oral Work:**  
God's gracious Hand of providence rests upon me for good.

© 2003 Principia
Eliza Reiter
Feed My Lambs Book Curriculum

## Sample Coloring Page

