

God's Design for Science®

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How are the new *God's Design for Science* books different from the old ones?

- Full-color lessons
- Vocabulary lists in each lesson
- Glossary
- Updated content where appropriate
- Additional pictures, illustrations, and diagrams
- Added third book (*Properties of Ecosystems*) to *Chemistry* series
- Beginner section (for grades 1–2) added in the *Life* and *Heaven & Earth* series
- Challenge section (for grades 6–8) added in all the books
- Separate Student Supplement with worksheets & quizzes (electronic or printed versions available)
- Separate Teacher Supplement with helpful introduction and appendices, including answers to all book questions, worksheets, and quizzes (comes with Student Supplement CD-Rom with printable student worksheets & tests)

2. What are the components of the *God's Design for Science* series?

- Three full-color Student Manuals per year
- One Teacher Supplement per year (comes with Student Supplement CD-Rom)
- Printed Student Supplement (worksheets, quizzes)—optional

3. What makes *God's Design for Science* different from other science curricula?

- has a strong biblical worldview
- integrates the Seven C's of History, showing how various topics in science relate to biblical history
- requires minimal teacher preparation
- teaches critical thinking skills
- includes fun, hands-on activities with every lesson
- has beautiful, full-color photos and illustrations
- is flexible and works with all learning styles
- can easily be used with multiple ages together
- was written by experienced homeschoolers

4. What ages/grades are *God's Design for Science* books appropriate for?

Each book is multi-level. *God's Design for Life* and *God's Design for Heaven and Earth* are appropriate for grades 1–8. *God's Design for Chemistry* books and *God's Design for the Physical World* books are appropriate for grades 3–8. The lessons are adaptable to your child's level.

5. How many books should I order for one year?

Each series (*Life, Earth, Chemistry, and Physical Science*) is composed of three books and is designed for a full year of study. Each book contains 35 lessons and each lesson will take approximately 30–45 minutes to complete. We recommend that you do science three days a week. In this way you can complete an entire series in one school year.

6. Which series should I start with?

That is really up to you. Many parents find that introducing science to their children with a topic that interests them helps to build curiosity, wonder, and a love for learning. So, for example, if your third-grader loves astronomy, we would recommend starting with *God's Design for Heaven & Earth*. If your sixth-grader is interested in bugs and snakes, then start with *God's Design for Life*. However, we do have a recommended order and grade level for those beginning in first grade, or for teachers in Christian schools who want to use *God's Design* in their classrooms .

God's Design for Science was developed with the classical model of education in mind, such as that laid out in the book, *The Well-trained Mind*. This model recommends the following course of study in the sciences:

Grade 1: Life Science

Grade 2: Earth Science

Grade 3: Chemistry

Grade 4: Physical Science

Grade 5: Life Science

Grade 6: Earth Science

Grade 7: Chemistry

Grade 8: Physical Science

7. How can one book be used for both elementary and middle school students?

The books in *God's Design for Science* are specially designed to be used with multiple grades. Each of the lessons in the *Life* and *Earth* series starts with a “Beginner” section that has basic information appropriate for a first- or second-grader. The main part of the lesson in all of the *God's Design* books is appropriate for third grade on up. Finally, all of the books also include a “Challenge” section, which contains additional information or more difficult experiments, specially designed for the middle-school grades. You only need to complete those sections that apply.

8. If I am teaching more than one child, do I need to order a book for each of my children?

You may wish to order a book for each child, but that is not necessary. Students could share the book, or read it together. All of the worksheets and tests are separate and may be photocopied. A Student Supplement CD-Rom with these sheets in PDF format comes with each Teacher Supplement for easy printing of the student pages. Permission is granted for you to make copies for single-family or single-classroom use only.

9. Do I have to buy the field guides and other recommended resources in order to use the books?

No. The field guides, animal encyclopedia, anatomy book, and other resources are suggested because they are extremely helpful, but they are not required to complete the work. For example, when completing the leaf identification project from *The World of Plants*, it is very helpful to have a tree guide available. Similarly, an illustrated animal encyclopedia is suggested for *World of Animals* because it contains hundreds of color illustrations that greatly add to the enjoyment of the lessons, but it is not required in order to complete the lessons.

10. Do I need to buy a science supply kit or additional laboratory supplies?

All of the activities and experiments in *God's Design for Science* use common household supplies or items that are available at your local grocery store or craft store. There are a few scientific items that you might want to purchase, such as a gram scale, microscope, and graduated cylinder. A complete list of supplies needed for all the activities is included in the appendices of the Teacher Supplement.