CLASSICAL Cursive

Scripture for Children

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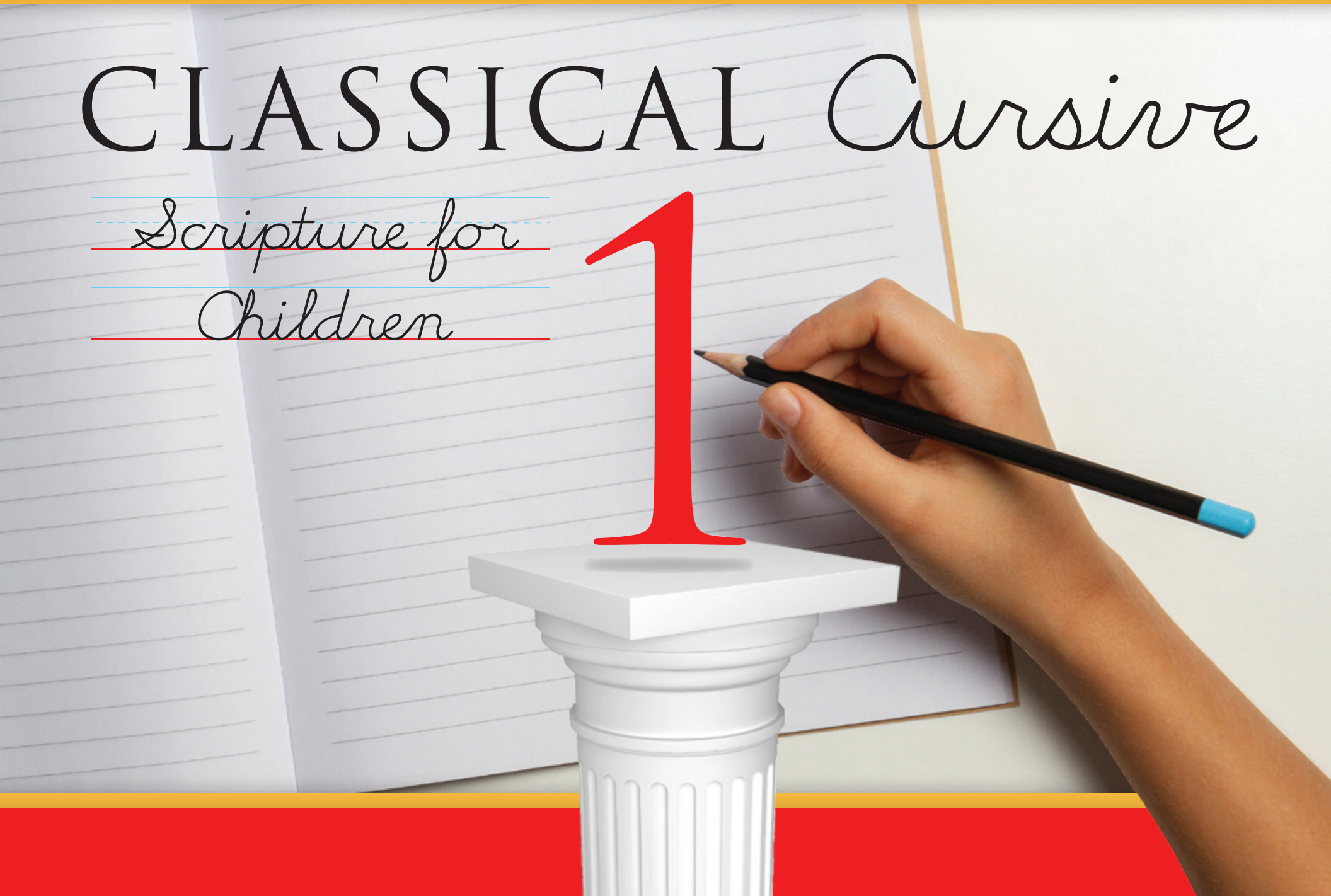

CLASSICAL Cursive 1

Scripture for Children

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Classical Cursive: A Timeless Skill for Young Learners

Welcome to *Classical Cursive,* a four-book handwriting curriculum designed for young elementary students. This curriculum's four parts—*Scripture for Children I/II* for second-graders and *Poetry for Children I/II* for third-graders—teach modern cursive through meaningful, engaging content. By blending letter formation with Bible verses and children's poetry, *Classical Cursive* fosters not only fine motor skills but also a love for God's Word and the beauty of language.

Why Cursive—Why Handwriting—in a Digital Age?

In an era dominated by keyboards and touchscreens, parents and teachers may wonder why cursive handwriting matters. The answer lies in its unique benefits for young minds. Research shows that handwriting, especially cursive, enhances cognitive development in ways typing cannot. Writing by hand strengthens fine motor skills, improves memory retention, and boosts reading comprehension. Cursive, with its flowing, connected strokes, encourages fluency and speed, helping students express ideas more naturally. For second- and third-graders, mastering cursive builds confidence and discipline, skills that carry into all areas of learning.

Beyond academics, cursive connects students to history and culture. Many foundational documents, like the U.S. Constitution, and personal treasures, like family letters, are written in cursive. Teaching children to read and write cursive equips them to engage with these texts directly. Moreover, cursive offers a personal, creative outlet—whether signing a name with flair or penning a heartfelt note—that digital tools cannot replicate. In a world of instant communication, the deliberate act of cursive writing teaches thoughtfulness, patience, and care.

The Modern Cursive Difference

Classical Cursive uses a modern cursive style, a streamlined approach to more traditional handwriting scripts. Modern cursive is designed for ease and legibility, making it ideal for young learners. Its continuous strokes minimize the need for lifting the pencil, reducing frustration and fatigue. The style also closely resembles modern manuscript, which many students learn in earlier grades, creating a smooth transition to cursive. By focusing on modern cursive, *Classical Cursive* ensures that second- and third-graders develop a clear, confident handwriting style that serves them well in school and beyond.

Scripture and Poetry: A Meaningful Practice

The heart of *Classical Cursive* lies in its content: Bible verses, creeds, and prayers in Books 1 and 2 and children's poetry in Books 3 and 4. These selections do more than provide text for tracing and copying. They inspire and shape young hearts. For second-graders, practicing cursive with Scripture introduces them to God's Word in a personal, tactile way. As they form letters to write verses like "Commit your works to the Lord," they internalize timeless, biblical truths.

For third-graders, *Poetry for Children* brings the joy of language to life. Poems, with their rhythm and imagery, captivate young imaginations while offering rich opportunities to practice cursive. From classic works by R. L. Stevenson and Lewis Carroll to playful rhymes, these selections make handwriting a delightful exploration of words. Copying poetry hones letter formation while fostering an appreciation for beauty and creativity, key pillars of a classical education.

A Curriculum for Growth

Classical Cursive is more than a handwriting program. It's a tool for holistic growth. The series progresses thoughtfully. The *Classical Cursive: Scripture for Children* books guide second-graders through basic letter formation and simple verses, building a strong foundation. The *Poetry for Children* books challenge third-graders with more complex letter connections and longer passages, encouraging fluency and expression. Each of the four books includes clear instructions, practice pages, and engaging illustrations to support parents and teachers, whether in a homeschool or a brick-and-mortar setting.

We invite you to embark on this journey with *Classical Cursive*. By teaching cursive through Scripture and poetry, you'll equip your students with a skill that strengthens their minds, connects them to heritage, and nurtures their souls. In a digital age, cursive remains a timeless gift—one that Veritas Press is proud to share with your young learners.

Instructions

On pages that teach or review a letter's formation, have students trace the dotted letters starting from the indicated points and following the arrow(s). Each letter's starting point is indicated in red, as is its initial (and usually only) formation-directional arrow. After they complete the dotted letters, have students fill in the "mazes," or hollow letters, beginning with the same starting point and moving in the direction of the example's arrow(s). Last, have students write the letter free-form on the lines provided. For every line of letter formation—whether dots, mazes, or free-form—students should work left to right.

Check students' work line by line. Ensure their letters maintain the proper slant and that they touch the baseline, midline, and headline as instructed in the letter-formation directions. If students don't correctly imitate a letter's formation, then they should repeat the exercise.

On pages with Bible verses or other Christian quotations, have students fill in the hollow words before they write them free-form on the lines provided. For added challenge, or maybe just for fun, consider inviting students to memorize what they're writing.

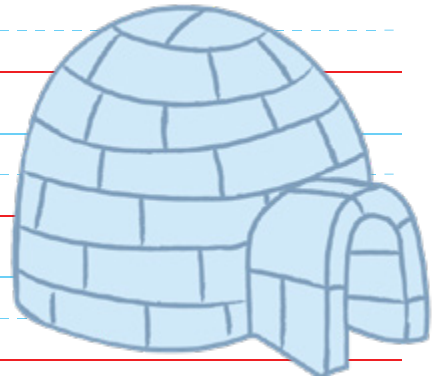
Important notes

Each successive book in this series assumes that students have mastered the handwriting material in previous books. Book 2 (*Scripture for Children II*), for example, assumes that students have already mastered the handwriting skills taught in Book 1 (*Scripture for Children I*). Also, we strongly recommend that students use pencil throughout the *Classical Cursive* curriculum.

Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil on the baseline (the bottom line on your paper).
2. Make a small, smooth curve upward toward the midline (the middle line on your paper).
3. From the midline, bring your pencil straight back down to the baseline, keeping the stroke slightly slanted to the right.
4. At the baseline, curve your pencil slightly to the right to create a tiny hook.
5. Once you've finished the hook, lift your pencil off the paper.
6. Place a small dot just above the midline and directly above the straight part of the letter.



Name _____

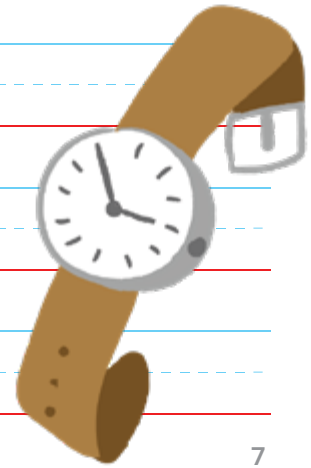
Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil on the baseline.
2. Draw a smooth, upward curve that reaches the midline.
3. From the midline, bring your pencil straight back down to the baseline in a slanted motion.
4. Without lifting your pencil, curve back up to the midline.
5. Bring your pencil straight down to the baseline again and finish with a small hook that curves slightly to the right.

Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

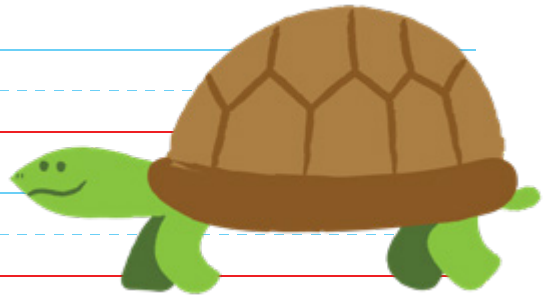
1. Place your pencil on the baseline.
2. Draw a smooth, upward curve to the midline.
3. Bring your pencil straight down to the baseline in a slanted motion.
4. Curve back up to the midline, like the first upward stroke.
5. Bring your pencil down to the baseline again.
6. Curve upward again to the midline, keeping this curve the same size as the previous curve.
7. Bring your pencil straight down to the baseline one last time and end with a small hook that curves to the right.



Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

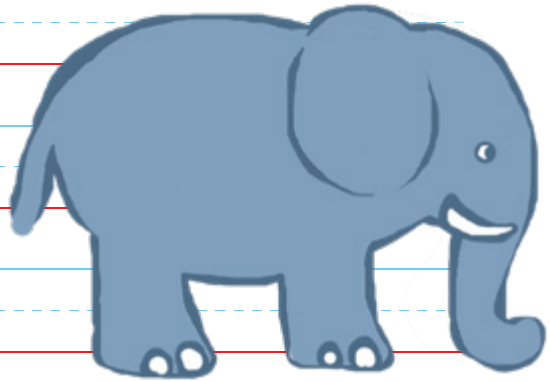
1. Place your pencil on the baseline (the bottom line on your paper).
2. Make a small, smooth curve upward toward the midline (the middle line on your paper).
3. From the midline, bring your pencil straight back down to the baseline, keeping the stroke slightly slanted to the right.
4. At the baseline, curve your pencil slightly to the right to create a tiny hook.
5. Once you've finished the hook, lift your pencil off the paper.
6. Place a small dot just above the midline and directly above the straight part of the letter.



Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

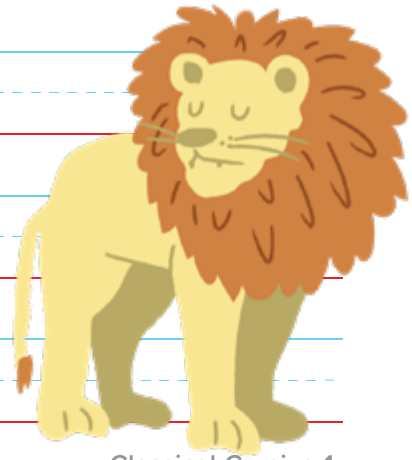
1. Place your pencil on the baseline.
2. Begin with a smooth, upward curve that moves slightly to the right and ends just below the midline.
3. From this point, form a small loop by curving your pencil to the left, crossing over the upward stroke just above the baseline.
4. As you complete the loop, bring your pencil back down to the baseline, curving slightly upward to the right to create a small hook.



Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil at the baseline.
2. Begin with a long, smooth curve that moves upward to the top line (the top line on your paper).
3. From the top line, curve your pencil down and toward the left in a slightly slanted line to the baseline.
4. At the baseline, curve your pencil slightly upward to the right to create a small hook.



Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil slightly below the midline.
2. Begin by curving your pencil slightly upward to the left, creating the top of the letter.
3. Continue curving your pencil down and around to the left, creating an oval shape that opens to the right and touches the baseline.
4. At the baseline, curve the stroke slightly upward and to the right.

Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil directly on the midline.
2. Curve your pencil down and around to the left, forming an open oval that touches the baseline.
3. From the baseline, bring your pencil back up to the starting point at the midline, closing the oval shape.
4. From the top of the oval, draw a straight, slightly slanted line downward to the baseline.
5. Curve the stroke slightly upward and to the right at the baseline.

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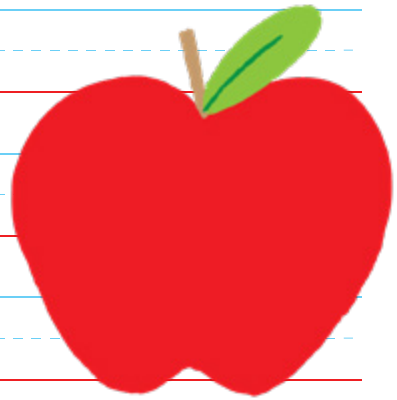

Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil slightly below the midline, in about the same starting position as for the letter c.
2. Curve your pencil slightly downward and to the left, forming the top of the letter.
3. Continue curving your pencil down and around to the left, forming the bottom of an oval that touches the baseline.
4. At the baseline, curve the stroke upward and to the right, closing the oval and adding a little tail just below the midline.

Name _____

Trace the dotted letters, starting at the arrow. Fill in the mazes the same way. Then write the letters on your own.

1. Place your pencil directly on the midline, in the same starting position as the letter a.
2. Curve your pencil down and around to the left, forming an open oval that touches the baseline.
3. From the baseline, bring your pencil back up to the starting point at the midline, closing the oval shape.
4. Continue drawing a straight, slightly slanted line upward, extending all the way to the top line.
5. Retrace the straight, slightly slanted line all the way down to the baseline.
6. At the baseline, curve the stroke slightly upward and to the right.

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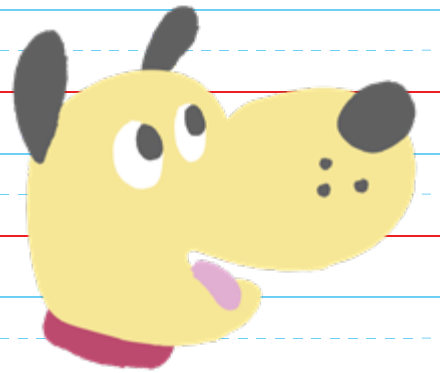

This first book of *Classical Cursive: Scripture for Children* guides young students to master cursive through timeless truth. As children learn to write verses like "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" and "A soft answer turns away wrath," they build fine motor skills and cursive fluency. The book's verses spark reflection on faith and virtue, blending handwriting with heart. *Classical Cursive: Scripture for Children (I)* turns penmanship into a journey of spiritual growth.

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