For this is what the LORD says—
he who created the heavens,
he is God;
he who fashioned and made the earth,
he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty,
but formed it to be inhabited—he says:
"I am the LORD, and there is no other..."

Isaiah 45:18,22

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A Note from Marie

Synergy Groups – Learning Together!™

I’m excited to share something we designed to meet a need for community among MFW families – Synergy Groups. Synergy means “working together” and describes the multiplying results when we join together, creating something greater than our individual efforts.

Synergy Groups are simple. You don’t need a large group, or a lot of advance planning, or a huge time commitment. We want to make your life easier while providing friendship and encouragement. Our easy-to-teach Synergy Group Guide provides flexible structure with minimal preparation.

What Is a Synergy Group™?

- weekly groups of two or more families, all using the same year of MFW curriculum
- friendship and accountability with like-minded families
- science, history/geography, Bible memory, art, and music (all from your MFW Teacher’s Manual) – freeing up more of your time at home – as well as speech opportunities

How Do I Begin a Synergy Group?

It’s simple – just invite one or more of your friends to use the same year of curriculum as you. You can use MFW catalogs to share about the curriculum. Perhaps you can find a family at your church or in your local homeschool group. You might invite a new family to consider homeschooling, with your mentoring assistance and the encouragement of weekly group times.

Special Note: If you invite a friend who is new to MFW, they would usually begin with ECC. However, because we believe so strongly in the strength of community, we make an exception to this guideline. Your friend can meet with you weekly in a Synergy Group and use CTG at home, benefiting from your past experience (with ECC and MFW) as well as your mentoring and encouragement.

Each family needs their own Creation to the Greeks curriculum package to teach at home – Deluxe (or Basic plus God and the History of Art and the music CDs). This guide uses the © 2016 revised edition of Streams of Civilization. The Group Leader and any other parents who are teaching will need a Synergy Group Guide to lead you through group activities that match your MFW curriculum, week by week.

If you’re new to homeschooling, Synergy Group Guides make it easy to partner with another family. If you’ve homeschooled before, these groups are an easy way to reach out and mentor other families just beginning the homeschool journey.

We hope you have a wonderful year learning together!

Marie
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Welcome to an exciting year! *Creation to the Greeks* is a chronological, history-based unit study for students in grades 2-8. You will travel back in time to Old Testament times, beginning with Creation. As you learn about the history and culture of Israel, you will participate in the feasts commanded by God that the Jewish people celebrated. The Old Testament will be the foundation of your study of history (His Story). This will be integrated with the study of other civilizations, such as Egypt, Greece, and Babylonia. We hope and pray that you will understand history and the Bible in a new way, and that God’s kingdom will be affected by what you learn this year.

**Overview**

*Synergy Group Guides* are written so that families using the same year of MFW curriculum can meet and participate in group activities. Activities are primarily those already scheduled in the MFW Teacher’s Manuals. We were careful not to increase the weekly time or work load for the parent and student. Group activities reinforce lessons learned during the week at home while also giving an opportunity for public speaking, public prayer, and group interaction.

*Synergy Group Guides* can be used with as few as two families. It’s best to split into smaller groups if more than five families join. Attendance of all group members every week is encouraged but not required; most missed activities can be completed at home.

**Schedule**

We encourage groups to meet **Thursday afternoon or any time Friday** because some group activities assume parents have already taught lessons from their MFW Teacher’s Manual for that week. We believe afternoon meetings are best so that valuable morning home teaching time is not lost. MFW lesson plans generally are much lighter on Friday, so Friday afternoon may be an ideal time to meet.

Groups meet for about **two hours a week**. Plan for quick transitions between activities and a short mid-meeting break. Actual time will vary from week to week.

- Opening Prayer – 3 minutes
- Recite Memory Verses (Current and Review) – 10 minutes
- Public Speaking Opportunity – 10 minutes
- History – 25 minutes
- Science – 25 minutes
- Music and Art – 25 minutes
The Group Leader can set a schedule for the year that works best for your group and distribute it to all families at the first group meeting. See the sample Synergy Group schedule page.

**Activities**
Groups work best with a defined, repeatable structure. In Synergy groups, activities change each week, but the structure remains the same, greatly reducing the Group Leader’s preparation time.

Activities are designed for grades 2-8. Often, older children can help younger ones with an activity for true group learning. Younger siblings may participate as they are able. Parents are expected to attend all group sessions with their children.

Families teach lessons at home from their MFW Teacher’s Manual for the same week being taught in the group. Weekly summary sheets list activities from your MFW Teacher’s Manual that will be completed in group and won’t need to be taught at home.

No homework is assigned, except for occasional minimal preparation for public speaking opportunities.

**Leader**
One person is the designated Group Leader, providing cohesive leadership for the year and teaching all activities. Your group can designate a second parent as a co-teacher, or divide tasks so that each parent teaches a specific activity all year, such as science. However, it is still important to designate one individual as the Group Leader. All teaching parents will need their own *Synergy Group Guide*.

**Preparation**
Fill out the top half of the *Parent Handout* page. Photocopy and distribute it and the *Week 1 Summary* to all participating families before your Week 1 meeting. In addition, give the *Parent Handout – Science in the Beginning Lesson Schedule* to any families that have a 2013 or earlier *Creation to the Greeks TM*.

Begin to gather materials:

- The *Synergy Group Guide* lists materials each week for the Group Leader (or other parents) to provide. Each group will need to decide how to share the expense of any materials that are purchased. In addition, materials are listed for each family to bring.

- School Supply Box – Every week each child will need to bring a School Supply Box with several pens and pencils, kid-safe scissors, white school glue, and colored pencils. Also include crayons and/or markers. These items will not be listed in the weekly supply lists; we will assume you have them on hand each week.

- Leader Supply Box – Each week the leader will need to bring a Leader Supply Box with 9” x 12” colored construction paper (50-sheet pack, multicolored), one ream of white copy paper, 2-3 adult scissors (for fabric and other uses), several rulers, and scotch tape. These items will not be listed in the weekly supply lists; we will assume you have them on hand each week.

- Art Supplies – See the information on Week 1 Summary sheet. Parents will bring art supplies each week. The group will decide how to provide the acrylic painting supplies that are used beginning in Week 25.
Week 10 Summary
Synergy Group – *Creation to the Greeks*

**Egyptian Meal**

First the science lesson will be taught. Then visitors will arrive for an informal presentation about this fall’s school work, followed by an Egyptian meal. Each family will have a table where they can display their work.

Assign parents foods to bring for an Egyptian meal. Plan a meal of fish or cheese, pita bread, grape juice, cucumber slices dipped in yogurt, other fruits and vegetables, nuts and dried fruit for dessert. Someone might make fig cakes from *Ancient Egypt*, pages 28-29.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day in TM</th>
<th>Group Activity</th>
<th>Notes to Parents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speech Opportunity</td>
<td>Review with your children the importance of each item they will be displaying at the party so they can explain it to their fellow students, the parents, and other guests.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Science – <em>Science in the Beginning</em>, p47, Lesson 16: Water and the Expanse</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>History – Egyptian Meal</td>
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Mark the above activities in your *Creation to the Greeks* TM so you do not do them at home.

**Materials for each FAMILY to bring:**
- Invite relatives and friends to join us for an informal presentation about this fall’s school work, followed by an Egyptian meal.
- Assigned food items for an Egyptian meal
- Arts and crafts, history notebooks, and other school-related items to display and share with others. Include pictures or items from the Biblical feasts—anything from the first ten weeks of *Creation to the Greeks*.
- *Science in the Beginning*
- Science journal
- School Supply Box

**Additional materials for LEADER to bring:**
- Paper plates
- Eating utensils
- Napkins

**Materials for Science:** (If you do not have a stove or microwave, do all of the science lesson, but explain about the experiment instead of doing it. Children may do the experiment at home.)
- *Science in the Beginning*
- Hot pads
- Water
- Matches
- Two glass jars or two tall glasses that are nearly the same
- Something to cover one of the jars or glasses. It can be a lid, or it can be just a small plate that sits comfortably on top of the jar or glass.
- A microwave oven (If you don’t have one, you will need a stove and a pot to heat some water.)

**Photocopies:**
- Week 11 Summary (one copy per family)
Group Activities – Week 10

*Creation to the Greeks*

Science and Egyptian Meal

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Science:</strong> Science in the Beginning, page 47, Lesson 16: Water and the Expanse</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note: If you do not have a stove or microwave, do all of the lesson, but explain about the experiment instead of doing it. Children may do the experiment at home on another day.</td>
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**EGYPTIAN MEAL**

**Preparation:** Prepare for your guests. Set up a buffet line and seating for the Egyptian meal. Each family sets up a table or area with their work, crafts, projects from the first ten weeks of *Creation to the Greeks*. Ideally, there is one table per child, but space may necessitate that it be one table per family. Your group will have to decide the best approach.

**Invite Guests into the Room:** Give the guests time to come into the room and to settle down.

**Prayer:** Pray for Egypt. Have one or more children (or adults) pray for modern-day Egypt.

**Memory Work:** Have all the children gather and recite the memory work together.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Exodus 20—The Ten Commandments

“I am the Lord your God…you shall have no other gods before me.”

“You shall not make for yourself an idol.”

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.”

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

“Honor your father and your mother.”

Recite all 39 books of the Old Testament.

| Genesis | 1 & 2 Kings | Song of Songs | Obadiah |
| Exodus | 1 & 2 Chronicles | Isaiah | Jonah |
| Leviticus | Ezra | Jeremiah | Micah |
| Numbers | Nehemiah | Lamentations | Nahum |
| Deuteronomy | Esther | Ezekiel | Habakkuk |
| Joshua | Job | Daniel | Zephaniah |
| Judges | Psalms | Hosea | Haggai |
| Ruth | Proverbs | Joel | Zechariah |
| 1 & 2 Samuel | Ecclesiastes | Amos | Malachi |

**Speech Opportunity:** Have each child talk for 1-2 minutes in front of the group about something they brought from home or about an experience with a Biblical feast.

**View Tables:** Have the children go to their display tables. Then the visitors and parents go to each table and ask each student about the displayed items.
**Egyptian Food:** Show courtesy to your guests by asking them to go first. After eating, the children can view each other’s tables and show each other their projects.

**Clean-up:** Dismiss the guests. Encourage all family members to participate in clean-up.

Give copies of Week 11 Summary to each family.

**LEADER NOTES:**