CD ROM software teaches children Articles of Faith

For many years, seminary students all over the LDS Church have learned the names of the books in the Book of Mormon, the New Testament and other scriptures by singing songs. Even 25 or more years later, many of these same students can still recite these books by singing the songs they learned in seminary. Now this proven method of memorization has been employed to help primary-age children learn the Articles of Faith. *Sing N' Learn the Articles of Faith*, the latest CD ROM software release from Sing N' Learn Software, combines this time-tested memorization method with high-tech graphics and computer programming to delight young children while helping them learn and memorize.

Labor of Love

This new multimedia software package represents a labor of love by its authors and designers. *Sing N' Learn the Articles of Faith* for Windows and Macintosh has been specifically designed to help primary age children easily memorize the Articles of Faith, a task they are asked to complete before graduating from primary. But it doesn't stop there. Through the creative use of puzzles, games, stories, coloring, animations and music, this software actually helps children understand the principles expressed in the Articles of Faith, while it reinforces through song the word-for-word memorization of each article.

And, yes, there's an added bonus that rote memorization cannot provide: since these articles are presented as a series of catchy tunes, they are remembered for years after the requirement to recite them has long passed.

A History of Helping

Although this latest product employs state-of-the-art programming and graphics, the idea and songs for this amazing software actually had their start over 14 years ago. In 1981, the original version of these songs was developed to teach the Articles of Faith to mentally handicapped primary children in South Davis County. Within a short time, these handicapped youngsters had memorized the articles through song, something they had never been expected to do.

Amazing Response

The result was remarkable. Recorded and marketed by Cassette Productions as an audio cassette and coloring book, *Sing N' Learn the Articles of Faith* was an instant success. Over the years, the cassette and its accompanying coloring book have sold to over 10,000 LDS families nationwide.

Since that time, one of the composers of the songs, David Shelton, has formed a new company, Sing N' Learn Software, with his brothers Rick Shelton and Todd Shelton, and a local actor, video producer and graphic designer, Gerry Graves. This team of business, music, video and programming professionals has revived and renewed the Articles of Faith idea with this innovative new software release, making it available to a new generation of primary children, who can enjoy learning the Articles of Faith in a way that has never been possible, until now.

For Dave Shelton, this project has become a dream come true. "I've always had a special place in my heart for these songs," says Shelton, "so when the opportunity came to create a multimedia program based on this idea, I jumped at it. I've always been interested in creating products that were more than just something to sell. Our dream is to create something that will actually make an impact on the life of the user. We think that *Sing N' Learn the Articles of Faith* accomplishes that goal.

"We know that if we can make learning and memorizing a fun experience, the child will more easily assimilate the information. And when the information is valuable and life-changing, it just makes it that much better."

Fellow programmer and designer Graves is equally proud of the effort. "A few years ago," he says, "I had the opportunity to produce a video for Lex de Azevedo. I'll never forget what he told me. He said that everyone has to make a living, and many people out there make their living polluting others' minds and thoughts, but few of us have the opportunity to make our living creating things that uplift and inspire. This project definitely falls into that category."

Available Now

Sing N' Learn the Articles of Faith is now available at all Deseret Book stores. This CD ROM will operate with Windows 3.1, Windows 95 or Macintosh System 7.1 or greater. Sing N' Learn Software recommends that, for best speed, you have at least a 486 or 68040 processor with 8 megs of RAM and a 2x CD ROM drive. If you're in the market for something fun and exciting that will help your child reach the goal of memorizing the Articles of Faith, *Sing N' Learn the Articles of Faith* should be at the top of your Christmas shopping list.

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