

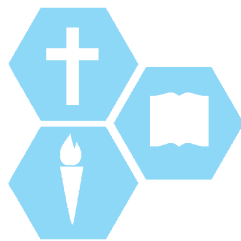
*Handwriting*

# Writing with Power

*Second Edition*

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Michael McHugh



Christian Liberty Academy  
Handwriting Program

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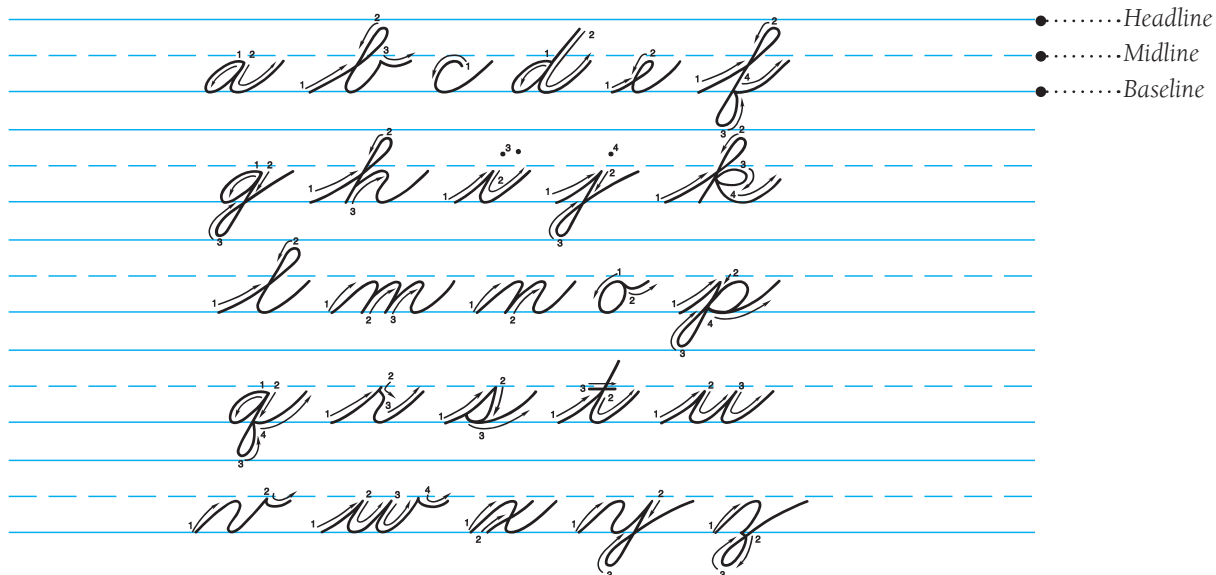
Text set in Berkeley  
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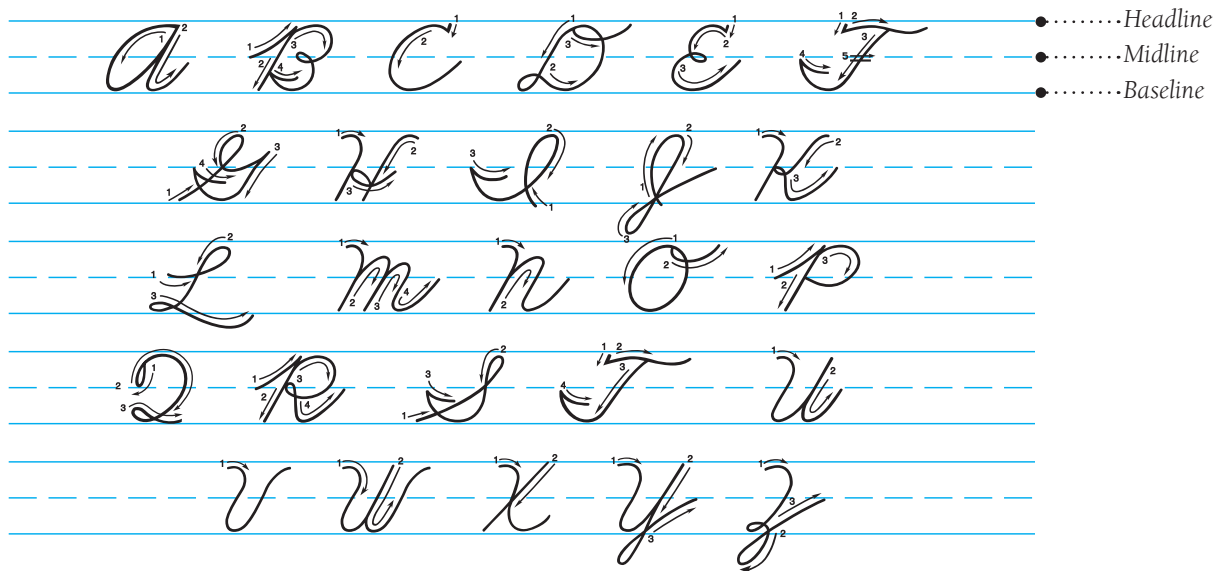
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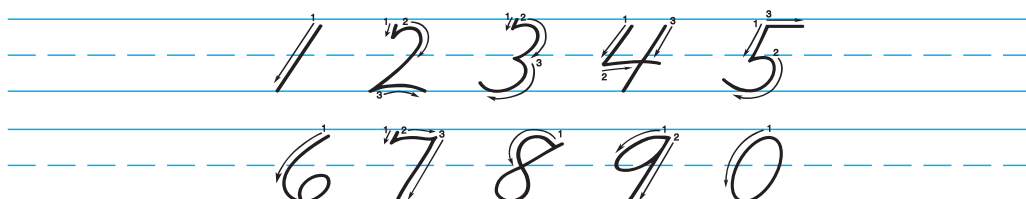
# Lowercase Cursive Alphabet



# Uppercase Cursive Alphabet



# Numbers



# Preface

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This is the fifth text in the Christian Liberty Academy handwriting series. We remind you that one key to teaching success is reducing frustration in both parent and student. A wise teacher will not fail to take into account the maturity of the children so they can enjoy their handwriting activities without constant boredom or extreme fatigue. Learning need not be a tedious exercise. The staff at Christian Liberty Academy has taken care to design each lesson to fit the attention span of the average primary student. Patience, prayer, and persistence are indispensable for success in teaching primary handwriting.

It is very important for instructors to realize that extra drill work (on the blackboard and practice paper) must be assigned for each and every concept in the textbook. In addition, have the students practice each exercise before writing their work in the book.

Both gross and fine motor skills are involved in handwriting. Certain abilities are generally found at this level of development:

1. Good control of pencils, scissors, buttons, and zippers.
2. Ability to follow a series of spoken or written directions.
3. Ability to trace lines.
4. Ability to draw figures such as circles and squares.
5. Ability to distinguish between proper and improper spacing.

This text contains activities to develop and maintain the above skills.

Good handwriting is an essential skill of expression and communication. Time spent on handwriting is well spent. May the God of all grace help you develop students who will desire to write legibly and attractively for the glory of God.

In Christian fellowship,  
Michael J. McHugh

# Proper Writing Posture



Some children write with their left hand. This picture shows how they should sit when they write.



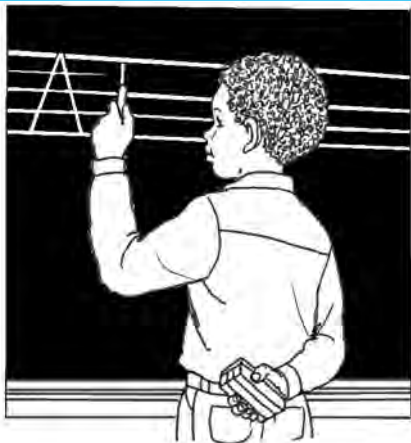
Some children write with their right hand. This picture shows how they should sit when they write.



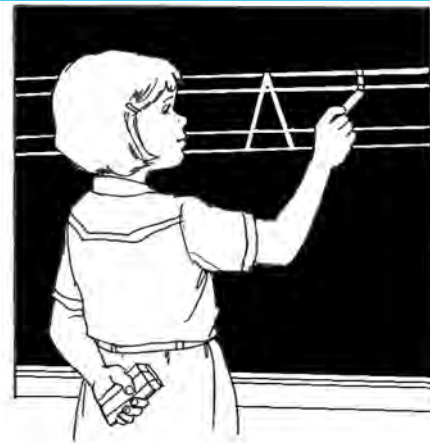
Some children write with their left hand. This picture shows how they should hold their pencil.



Some children write with their right hand. This picture shows how they should hold their pencil.



Some children write with their left hand. This picture shows how they should stand at the chalkboard.



Some children write with their right hand. This picture shows how they should stand at the chalkboard.

# Introduction to Parents

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In this text you will be asking your students to take more responsibility for their handwriting skills. This text will cover the principles of advanced cursive. Therefore, you will be asking your students to evaluate their own developing writing ability.

Before you begin, make sure your students have the proper readiness skills:

1. Can the students hold the pencil in a correct fashion?
2. Do the students recognize the difference in forms of letters and words?
3. Do the students appreciate handwriting as a means of communication?
4. Are the students reasonably able to copy a letter?

To improve fine motor skills and eye-coordination, make sure your students have ample opportunity to cut and paste, use paint brushes, draw with chalk on a board, create with clay, play ball, build with blocks, hammer pegs, and finger-paint. All these playful activities develop and strengthen the skill necessary for handwriting.

Proper forming of letters requires complete relaxation of all the muscles not directly involved in the act of writing: the fingers and wrist should be relaxed, not tense. The forearm should pivot on the elbow to direct hand and pencil along the horizontal line of the paper.

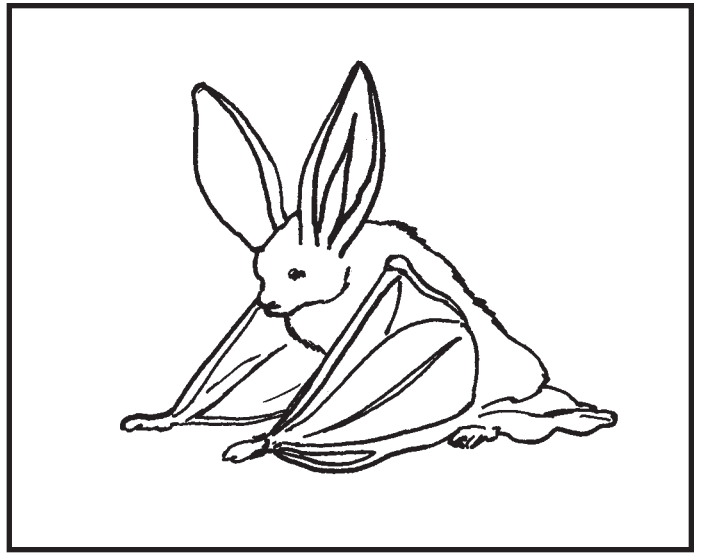
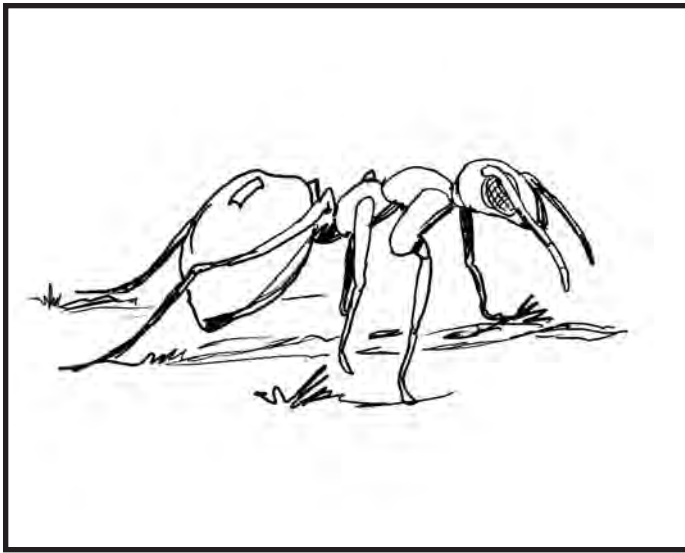
To help students get ready to write, they should be taught to:

1. Sit up straight, leaning forward slightly
2. Rest both arms on the desk
3. Keep both feet on the floor
4. Relax

Handwriting will improve if practiced every day. Fifteen to twenty minutes a day is sufficient at this grade level. If the student is improving at a slower pace than is reasonable, chances are that the student needs more time doing readiness activities first. Don't be tempted to increase handwriting practice time—when readiness skills are developed enough, the student will improve in handwriting skills most efficiently without being pushed.

## ***Left-Handedness***

Make sure your students are using the hand that is most natural for them. If you are unsure, watch to see which hand your student uses to reach for things, which foot starts a flight of stairs, which hand he uses to throw a ball, and with which hand the student has the best fine motor skills (coloring, inserting a key, picking up a coin). The hand that predominates is the hand to be encouraged. Remember that left-handed students will have a more difficult task, because the movement from left to right across the page is awkward for the left hand.



ant

bat

Practice the small letter "a."

a a

Practice the small letter "b."

b b

Write a sentence using the word "ant."

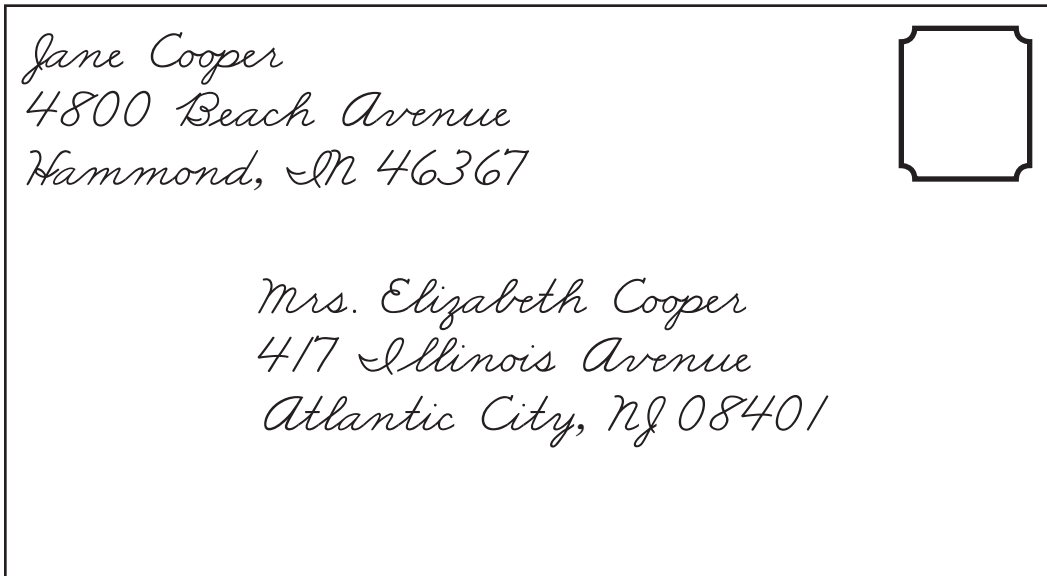
Write a sentence using the word "bat."

Provide extra practice as needed on separate lined paper.



## Addressing an Envelope

Copy the addressed envelope using the lines at the bottom of the page. Be sure to address the envelope in block form and place the return address correctly. Watch your slant and make each letter touch the baseline where it should. This exercise is for practice purposes. When addressing a real envelope, the postal service recommends that you write the addresses in manuscript form.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

# Writing a Short Letter

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Write a letter to a friend. The main point of your letter should be to encourage a friend to read the Bible every day.

Your address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

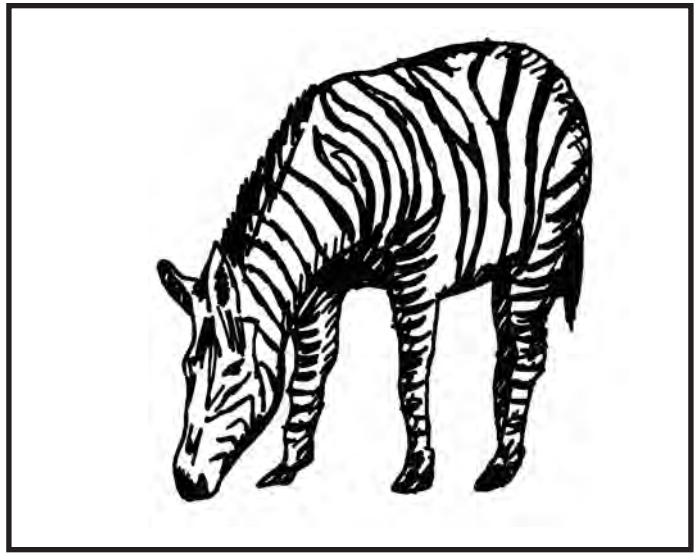
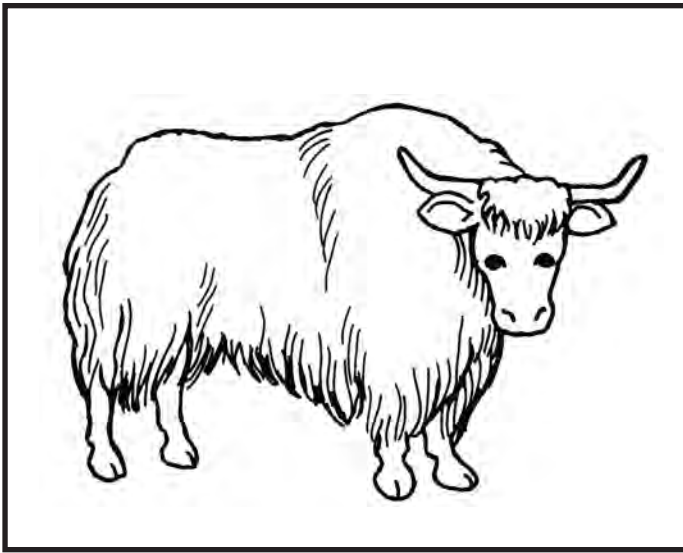
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Your name \_\_\_\_\_



yak

zebra

Practice the small letter “y.”

y y

Practice the small letter “z.”

z z

Write a sentence using the word “yak.”

Write a sentence using the word “zebra.”

Provide extra practice as needed on separate lined paper.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.

~Hebrews 4:12a

## Instructor Tips

Help your students with difficult connecting strokes. Practice on extra paper before writing in the book is encouraged.

## Chapter Check-up

Are you ready to write? Do your best work as you copy this sentence.

**The world was created by the word of God.**

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answer the following questions.

1. Do all my letters slant in the same direction?
2. Am I shaping every letter correctly?
3. Are all the letters in one word connected?
4. Am I spacing letters evenly?
5. Am I leaving space between words?
6. Am I leaving extra space between sentences?
7. Am I remembering punctuation?
8. Am I remembering to capitalize?

## Circle

Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No

Letters I write well:

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

Letters I need to practice:

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_



## Abigail Adams (1744-1818)

Abigail received her primary education at home when she was young. In later years, Abigail married John Adams, who became America's second President. Abigail Adams became a devoted Christian mother who was well respected for her strong moral character and tender heart. In your best penmanship, write down two reasons why the United States needs to have godly mothers who will be faithful to their duties.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

## Write a Headline

You are a newspaper editor! In your best printing, write a headline for each paragraph. A good headline is short but covers the most important facts of the story or paragraph.

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Our dog, Sarah, had puppies yesterday. There were four puppies. Two looked like her, and one looked like it's father. One was a mixture of Sarah and the other dog. Their names are Ruff, Peewee, Scarf, and Missy.

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Last week the Templetons went to the museum. They spent most of the time looking at the Indian exhibit, because Jaime and his sister, Lois, are interested in the Indian homes and costumes. One thing they saw was a Pawnee earth lodge. The Pawnees lived in Nebraska in houses made of earth. They moved to Oklahoma in 1876.

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Three things needed for fishing are bait, a hook, and some line. A pole makes fishing easier, but it is not needed. Worms are a good bait for many fish, but some fish like insects, minnows, or crayfish. It is very important to be quiet when fishing. Fish can hear in the water, and they will not bite if they are frightened.

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Benjamin Franklin was one of the men who helped organize the colonies into the United States. He accomplished many things. He wrote and printed a magazine called "Poor Richard's Almanac," he invented a more efficient stove for heating, and proved that lightning and electricity were different forms of the same thing. He was also an accomplished swimmer. He was not too shy to try anything that caught his interest.

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There were no horses in America when the first settlers arrived from Europe. All the horses in America are settlers from Europe, too. Most of the wild horses here came from horses that escaped from the Spanish explorers. Before the Europeans brought horses to America, the Plains Indians hunted buffalo on foot.

## Practice Exercises

Practice writing the capital letters in cursive style.

Practice the capital letter "G."

G G

Practice the capital letter "H."

H H

Practice the capital letter "I."

I I

Practice the capital letter "J."

J J

Practice the capital letter "K."

K K

Practice the capital letter "L."

L L

Write the word "Jesus" three times.

## Creating Words

See how many words you can make using the letters in the words below. Use each letter only once as you make new words. One word, for example, is *pop*. Try to make at least ten new words.

**porcupine**

Handwriting practice lines for the word "porcupine". Each line consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are 10 such lines provided for writing.

**radiological**

Handwriting practice lines for the word "radiological". Each line consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are 10 such lines provided for writing.



## Alphabetizing

How do we alphabetize words that begin with the same letter? We have to look at the second letter, and put those into alphabetical order just like in the dictionary. These words are in alphabetical order.

able acre add after age ahead air ajar

See if you can put the following words in alphabetical order.

**break bean bicycle blue**

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**mat mine mutt moon meat**

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---

---

**nod neat nut nail nice**

---

---

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**old over oat on open**

---

---

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Sometimes the first and second letters are both used to put words in alphabetical order.

able acre ball bell call crew cut

**act bug and band**

---

---

---

**dune cat but dot bat cup**

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Here's a really hard one. Ready?

**boil meal bill made bat acre bend older eat**

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For in Christ dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.

~Colossians 2:9-10

## Instructor Tips

Help your students with difficult connecting strokes. Practice on extra paper should be encouraged.

## Chapter Check-up

Are you ready to write? Do your best work as you copy this sentence.

**Jesus Christ is King of Kings and very God.**

Handwriting practice lines consisting of two sets of three horizontal lines each (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

## Answer the following questions.

## Circle

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Do all my letters slant in the same direction? | Yes | No |
| 2. Am I shaping every letter correctly?           | Yes | No |
| 3. Are all the letters in one word connected?     | Yes | No |
| 4. Am I spacing letters evenly?                   | Yes | No |
| 5. Am I leaving space between words?              | Yes | No |
| 6. Am I leaving extra space between sentences?    | Yes | No |
| 7. Am I remembering punctuation?                  | Yes | No |
| 8. Am I remembering to capitalize?                | Yes | No |

Letters I write well:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of two sets of three horizontal lines each (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

Letters I need to practice:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of two sets of three horizontal lines each (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).



## Writing Exercise

Complete the paragraph with your own words in cursive style.

*I think learning at home  
has helped me because*

