

EARLY *Childhood*

BIRTH TO 3 YEARS

Children in this stage are discoverers. Every day holds a new and unexplored adventure—from your baby's first smile to your child's first steps or your toddler's independent "I do it." God is forming your child by giving them a curiosity and desire to grow in every facet of their lives.

We can speak truth over our children in this age. Children need to hear our prayers over them and with them. Also, teach kids foundation statements like: God made you, God loves you, and God hears us when we talk to him.

PARENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *The Beginners Gospel Story Bible* by Jared Kennedy
- o Book: *Family Discipleship* by Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin
- o Article: "How to do Family Worship with Little Ones" (Crossway)
- o Video: "Liturgy for Changing a Diaper" (Every Moment Holy, Youtube)
- o Podcast: *Family Discipleship Podcast*, Episodes 15-19

KID RESOURCES

- o Book: *The Biggest Story ABC* by Kevin Deyoung
- o Book: *Big Theology for Little Hearts* (6 Volume Set)
- o Book: *The Trinity: Little Seminary* by Ryan McKenzie



PRESCHOOL

Childhood

4 TO 5 YEARS

Children in this stage are growing in their independence but also learning to push boundaries. They are developing imagination and creativity. They want to bless you with new tricks, art projects, and many other new activities. In this season, we can take advantage of our child's desire to learn and grow by building intentional time and seizing moments to center their days on God.

Meals times can be a great place to connect to your child's heart and ask them questions about how they see and experience God. Consider playing games like High/Low/Hippo at dinner time to help the conversation.

High: Something about the day you are thankful for.

Low: Something hard about your day

Hippo: Something unexpected about your day

PARENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd Jones
- o Book: *Give them Grace* by Elys Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson
- o Article: "Family Worship and the Day I Made my Daughter Cry"
- o Article: "Teaching Kids the Purpose of God's Word" by Minno Kids
- o Podcast: *Dad Tired*
- o Podcast: *Momma Bear Apologetics*

KID RESOURCES

- o Book: *Tales that Tell Truth Series*
- o Book: *Everything a Child Should Know About God* by Kenneth N. Taylor
- o Podcast: *God's Big Story Podcast* (Fun Bible Stories for Kids)
- o Songs: Seeds Family Worship



EARLY *Elementary*

6 TO 8 YEARS

Children in this stage are gaining independence and trust while their attention spans are growing. Fairness is important to these children. Reading is becoming more and more natural, and friendships are being formed and deepened. Schedules are busier in this season and time together will be more sporadic. Be prepared to have changes to your scheduled time and lean into moments.

This is a great time to buy your child their first Bible and celebrate them by giving it to them. Continue to build the Bible into their regular reading times as they learn to read. Christian Standard Bible (CSB) is a great version for those learning to read.

PARENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *The Biggest Story Bible* by Kevin Deyoung
- o Book: *Child Proof: Parenting with Faith Not Formula* by Julie Lowe
- o Article: “7 Tips for Teaching the Bible to Children” (Crossway)
- o Article: “8 Real-Life Questions about Children and Discipline” (Crossway)
- o Podcast: “You Parents, Your Kids Will Love What You Love—So Love the Bible” (Crossway)
- o Podcast: *Fierce Parenting* Podcast

KID RESOURCES

- o Book Series: *The Wingfeather Saga* by Andrew Peterson
- o Book: *The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New* by Marty Machowski
- o Podcast: *God’s Big Story* Podcast (Fun Bible Stories for Kids)



LATE *Elementary* 9 TO 11 YEARS

Children in this stage are growing in their ability to think more abstractly and think on large concepts in new ways. How to apply God's truth beyond simple rule following is starting to be formed. Late elementary kids are growing in their ability to see the world with an abstract lens and they are beginning to ask big questions about God and themselves. Growing independence is the theme of this age.

In your weekly or daily family worship moments, allow your child to pick a piece (song, story, or prayer) to help lead. Allow them to lead in a certain aspect of family worship.

PARENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *Christian Standard Bible* or your favorite Bible translation
- o Book: *Parenting* by Paul David Tripp
- o Resource: *Levels of Biblical Learning* by Lifeway
- o Resource: *Parent Cue* website and app
- o Podcast: *Family Discipleship* Podcast

KID RESOURCES

- o Book Series: *The Wingfeather Saga* by Andrew Peterson
- o Book: *Exploring the Bible: A Reading Plan for Kids* by David Murray



EARLY *Teens* 12 TO 14 YEARS

Pre-teens and teens in this stage are going from concrete to concept in how they process the world around them. They will also begin the process of shifting the volume of input from parents to peers. This stage creates a unique opportunity for you to join in on processing as they process the world around them and to not simply telling them what to do next.

Pick a book and read it with your student. Process through it with them and help them to create their own thoughts.

PARENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *Age of Opportunity* by Paul David Tripp
- o Book: *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You* by Tony Reinke
- o Website on parenting and technology: jonathanmckeewrites.com

STUDENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *Teen's Guide to Social Media* by Jonathan McKee
- o Book: *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity* by Rebecca McLaughlin



LATE *Teens* 15 TO 18 YEARS

In the last few years of pre-adulthood the hope of seeing our children launched into adulthood as people who love God, love people, and push back darkness becomes very clear and daunting. It is also a time when they are trying to learn how to use their growing freedoms and responsibilities. The call for parents during this time is to give wise counsel to their child as they make decisions that will shape much of their next decade of life.

You will need to fight for time with your child during this stage. Schedule shared time with them. Put it on a calendar and be intentional about your few moments you have with them.

PARENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *The Intentional Father* by Jon Tyson (Great for mothers too!)
- o Book: *Confronting Christianity* by Rebecca McLaughlin

STUDENT RESOURCES

- o Book: *The Gospel-Centered Life for Teens* by Robert Thune, Will Walker
- o Book: *Strange New World* by Carl Trueman
- o Article: “Younger Believers, Older Saints: You Need Each Other” (The Gospel Coalition)

