

What Every Child Should Experience

A Guide for Teachers and Leaders in United
Methodist Congregations



Remember the words of Jesus, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs." -Mark 10.14b



What Every Child Should Experience
A Guide for Leaders and Teachers of Children in United Methodist Congregations
Developed by Ministry with Children of the General Board of Discipleship
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What Every Child Should Experience

A Guide for Teachers and Leaders of Children in United Methodist Congregations

Children are born with an innate sense of wonder and faith that is real and authentic. As teachers and leaders, our role is to provide a foundation of experiences on which children build a life of learning and growth toward a mature and vital faith. With intentional learning and Christian formation, we become the people God calls us to be. As we develop our gifts we can more faithfully encourage and guide others through their own journey of faith. Remember the words of Jesus, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs." [Mark 10.14b] By keeping this scripture before you, and knowing that God is with us, you and those who work with you to care for the children in your congregation and community will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and Peace



Scripture is *“The word of God for the people of God”*

As teachers and leaders our role is to provide a foundation of experiences on which children build a life of learning and growth toward a mature and vital faith. The scripture selection in this resource is a guide. Children need to experience the same Bible stories and Christian concepts at several different stages of their faith journey, because their ability to understand the concepts continues to evolve as they grow. Use this resource as appropriate in your context, and as appropriate for the development of each child that you serve. In the early years, share the Bible in story form. As children grow, spend more time allowing the meanings of the stories unfold.

Bible Passages for Children of All Ages

Old Testament

The Creation
The Ten Commandments
The Shema
Numbers 6.24-26
Ecclesiastes 3
Jonah
Micah 6.8
Psalms 8, 23, 100, 121

New Testament

The Golden Rule
The Beatitudes
The Sermon on the Mount
The Lord's Prayer
The Great Commandment
The Great Commission
The Love Chapter
The Magnificat
The Fruit of the Spirit

Old Testament – Newborn to 18 Months

Creation	Genesis 1
Noah’s Ark	Genesis 6-9
Moses and Miriam	Exodus 2.1-10

New Testament – Newborn to 18 Months

Jesus’ Birth	Luke 2
Zacchaeus	Luke 19.1-10
Jesus Blesses Children	Mark 10.14-16
Jesus’ Baptism	Matthew 3.13
Jesus Enters Jerusalem	Mark 11.1-11
Lord’s Supper	Matthew 26.26-30

Books – Newborn to 18 Months

Babies and Toddlers are not limited to these stories. Share Bible story books and books with biblical foundations.

A list can be found at <http://ministrywithchildren.wordpress.com/childrens-books/>.

Old Testament – 18 Months to 3 Years

Creation	Genesis 1.1-2.4
Adam and Eve	Genesis 2.4-25
Joseph and His Brothers	Genesis 37.1-28
Pharaoh's Dreams	Genesis 39.20-41.57
Joseph Helps His Family	Genesis 45.1-15; 50.15-21
Baby Moses	Exodus 2.1-10
God Will Bring Peace	Isaiah 2.1-5
Isaiah's Call	Isaiah 6.1-8
A Child Called Immanuel	Isaiah 7.10-17
God's Peaceful World	Isaiah 11.1-10
Daniel and the Lions	Daniel 6.1-28
Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4

New Testament – 18 Months to 3 Years

Jesus Is Born	Luke 2.1-20
Wise Men	Matthew 2.1-12
Escape to Egypt	Matthew 2.13-23
Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2.41-52
Jesus' Baptism	Matthew 3.13
Jesus Heals	Mark 1.29-39
The Disciples	Matthew 4.12-23; 9.9-13; 10.1-4
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6.5-15
The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22.34-46
Jesus Blesses the Children	Mark 10.13-16
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10.25-37
Mary and Martha	Luke 10.38-42
Jesus Feeds Thousands	John 6.1-14
The Good Shepherd	John 10.11-18
Jesus Enters Jerusalem	Mark 11.1-11
The Lord's Supper	Matthew 26.26-30
Resurrection	Luke 23.44-24.12
Jesus Appears	John 21.1-13
What is Love	1 Corinthians 13
Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5.16-26

Books – 18 Months to 3 Years

Toddlers and preschoolers are not limited to these stories. Share Bible story books and books with biblical foundations.

A list can be found at <http://ministrywithchildren.wordpress.com/childrens-books/>.

Old Testament – 3 Years to 4 Years

Creation	Genesis 1.1-2.4
Adam and Eve	Genesis 2.4-25
The First Sin	Genesis 3.1-24
Noah's Ark	Genesis 6-9
Abram's Call	Genesis 12.1-9
God's Promises to Abram	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18
Isaac's Blessing	Genesis 25.19-34; 27.1-40
Jacob Wrestles	Genesis 32.22-31
Joseph and His Brothers	Genesis 37.1-28
Pharaoh's Dreams	Genesis 39.20-41.57
Joseph Helps His Family	Genesis 45.1-15; 50.15-21
Praise God	Psalms 8
The Lord Is My Shepherd	Psalms 23
God Will Bring Peace	Isaiah 2.1-5
Isaiah's Call	Isaiah 6.1-8
A Child Called Immanuel	Isaiah 7.10-17
God's Peaceful World	Isaiah 11.1-10
Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1.4-10
Daniel and the Lions	Daniel 6.1-28
Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4

New Testament – 3 Years to 4 Years

Angels Visit	Luke 1.26-38
Mary Visits Elizabeth	Luke 1.39-58
Zechariah	Luke 1.68-79
Jesus Is Born	Luke 2.1-20
Wise Men	Matthew 2.1-12
Escape to Egypt	Matthew 2.13-23
Simeon and Anna	Luke 2.22-40
The Boy at the Temple	Luke 2.41-52
John the Baptist	Matthew 11.2-11
Jesus' Baptism	Luke 3.15-17; 21-22
The Lamb of God	John 1.29-42
Tempted	Luke 4.1-13
Jesus Goes to Nazareth	Luke 4.14-30
Teaching and Healing	Mark 1.21-28
Jesus Heals	Mark 1.29-39
The Disciples	Matthew 4.12-23; 9.9-13; 10.1-4
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6.5-15
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1-12
Walking on Water	Matthew 14.22-33
Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	Matthew 20.29-34
Who Is the Greatest?	Mark 9.30-37
Share God's Love	Mark 9.38-50
Jesus Blesses the Children	Mark 10.13-16
Zacchaeus	Luke 19.1-10
Jesus Feeds Thousands	John 6.1-14
The Good Shepherd	John 10.11-18
Jesus Enters Jerusalem	Mark 11.1-11
Lord's Supper	Matthew 26.26-30
Resurrection	Luke 23.44-24.12
Jesus Appears	John 21.1-13
What is Love	1 Corinthians 13
Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5.16-26

Old Testament – 4 Years to 5 Years

Creation	Genesis 1.1-2.4
Adam and Eve	Genesis 2.4-25
The First Sin	Genesis 3.1-24
The Burning Bush	Exodus 3.1-15
Free from Slavery	Exodus 5.1-6.13
The Red Sea	Exodus 14.1-30
Manna, Quail, and Water	Exodus 16.1-18; 17.1-7
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20.1-17
A Message from God	Deuteronomy 6.1-9
The Battle of Jericho	Joshua 6.1-20
Deborah	Judges 4.1-5.31
Naomi and Ruth	Ruth 1.1-22
Ruth and Boaz	Ruth 2.1-17
Hannah Prays for a Child	1 Samuel 1.9-27
God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3.1-20
David Is Chosen	1 Samuel 16.1-13
David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17.4-11; 32-50
Solomon Builds the Temple	1 Kings 6
Elijah and the Widow	1 Kings 17.8-16
Elisha Feeds 100	2 Kings 4.42-44
Naaman Is Healed	2 Kings 5.1-19
Queen Esther	Esther 2.5-18; 3.1-6; 8.1-17
Isaiah's Call	Isaiah 6.1-8
A Child Called Immanuel	Isaiah 7.10-17
God's Peaceful World	Isaiah 11.1-10
Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1.4-10
A Good Ruler	Jeremiah 33.14-17
Daniel and the Lions	Daniel 6.1-28
Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4
A Ruler from Bethlehem	Micah 5.2-5

New Testament – 4 Years to 5 Years

Angels Visit	Matthew 1.18-25; Luke 1.26-38
Mary Visits Elizabeth	Luke 1.39-58
Zechariah	Luke 1.68-79
Jesus Is Born	Luke 2.1-20
Wise Men	Matthew 2.1-12
Escape to Egypt	Matthew 2.13-23
Simeon and Anna	Luke 2.22-40
Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2.41-52
Jesus' Baptism	Matthew 3.13-17
Jesus Goes to Nazareth	Luke 4.14-30
Jesus, Fisher of People	Matthew 4.12-23; 9.9-13; 10.1-4
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1-12
Jesus Teaches about Anger	Matthew 5.21-37
Love Your Enemies	Matthew 5.38-48
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6.5-15
A Storm	Matthew 8.23-27
The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22.34-46
Be Humble	Matthew 23.1-12
Jesus Blesses the Children	Mark 10.13-16
James and John	Mark 10.35-45
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10.25-37
Mary and Martha	Luke 10.38-42
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15.1-3; 11-32
Zacchaeus	Luke 19.1-10
Jesus Feeds Thousands	John 6.1-14
The Good Shepherd	John 10.11-18
Lazarus	John 11.1-45
Mary Anoints Jesus	John 12.1-8
Palm Sunday	Luke 19.28-40
The Last Supper	Luke 22.14-28
The Day Jesus Died	Luke 23.26-56
The Empty Tomb	Luke 24.1-12
The Road to Emmaus	Luke 24.13-35
Doubting Thomas	John 20.19-31
The Great Commission	Matthew 28.16-20

Old Testament – 5 Years to 6 Years

Creation	Genesis 1.1-2.4
Adam and Eve	Genesis 2.4-25
The First Sin	Genesis 3.1-24
Noah	Genesis 6.9-8.22
Abram's Call	Genesis 12.1-9
God's Promises to Abram	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18
Abraham and Sarah's Visitors	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; 18.1-15; 21.1-7
Rebekah and Isaac	Genesis 24; 25.19-28
Isaac's Blessing	Genesis 25.19-34; 27.1-40
Jacob Wrestles	Genesis 32.22-31
Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 3.1-12
Moses and the Ten Commandments	Exodus 19.16-20.21
Joshua and the Wall of Jericho	Joshua 6.1-21
Birth of Samson	Judges 13.1-7, 24-25
Deborah	Judges 4.1-5.31
Naomi and Ruth	Ruth 1.1-22
Ruth and Boaz	Ruth 2.1-17
Hannah Prays for a Child	1 Samuel 1.9-27
God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3.1-20
David Is Chosen	1 Samuel 16.1-13
David and Goliath	1 Samuel 16 and 17
Daniel and the Lion's Den	Daniel 6
Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4

New Testament – 5 Years to 6 Years

Annunciation	Luke 1.26-38
Jesus Presented at the Temple	Luke 2.22-39
Jesus Teaches in the Temple	Luke 2.41-52
John the Baptist	Luke 3.1-18
Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3.13-17
Fisher of People	Matthew 4.18-22
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1-12
The Centurion's Servant	Matthew 8.5-13
The Sower	Matthew 13.1-9; 18-23
Walking on Water	Matthew 14.22-33
The Vineyard Workers	Matthew 20.1-16
Jesus Calms the Storm	Mark 4.35-41
The Lost Sheep	Luke 15.3-7
Loaves and Fishes	John 6.1-14
Jesus Heals Jarius' Daughter	Luke 8.40-42, 49-56
Lord's Supper	Luke 22.14-20
Resurrection	Luke 23.44-24.12
Jesus Appears	John 21.1-13
Philip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8.26-40
Saul to Paul	Acts 9.1-20
Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9.36-43
Lydia	Acts 16.9-15
Paul and Silas	Acts 16.16-40
Paul's Letters	Romans 1.1-17
Many Members, One Body	1 Corinthians 12.12-31
Paul and the Philippians	Philippians 1.1-14

Old Testament – 6 Years to 7 Years

Creation	Genesis 1–2.3
God Creates Adam and Eve	Genesis 1.26–2.25
Sin Enters the World	Genesis 3
Cain and Abel	Genesis 4.1–16
Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6–9.17
God Calls Abram	Genesis 12.1–9
Abram Rescues Lot	Genesis 14
God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15.1–6; 17.15–27
Abraham's Visitors	Genesis 18.1–15
Abraham and Isaac	Genesis 21.1–7; 22.1–19
Isaac and Rebekah	Genesis 24
Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25.19–34; 27.1–40
Jacob's Dream	Genesis 27.41–28.22
Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 3.1-12
Moses and the Ten Commandments	Exodus 19.16-20.21
Joshua and the Wall of Jericho	Joshua 6.1-21
Birth of Samson	Judges 13.1-7, 24-25
Deborah	Judges 4.1-5.31
Naomi and Ruth	Ruth 1.1-22
Ruth and Boaz	Ruth 2.1-17
Hannah Prays for a Child	1 Samuel 1.9-27
God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3.1-20
David Is Chosen	1 Samuel 16.1-13
David and Goliath	1 Samuel 16 and 17
Daniel and the Lion's Den	Daniel 6
Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4

New Testament – 6 Years to 7 Years

Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1.5–25
Birth of Jesus Foretold	Luke 1.25–38
Birth of John	Luke 1.57–80
Birth of Jesus	Luke 2.1–20
Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2.41–52
Baptism of Jesus	Luke 3.15–22
The Temptation of Jesus	Luke 4.1–13
Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	Luke 4.16–30
Jesus Heals Many	Luke 4.31–44
Jesus Changes Water into Wine	John 2.1–11
Jesus Calls the First Disciples	Luke 5.1–11
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1–12
The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22.34-46
Be Humble	Matthew 23.1-12
Jesus Blesses the Children	Mark 10.13-16
James and John	Mark 10.35-45
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10.25-37
Mary and Martha	Luke 10.38-42
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15.1-3; 11-32
Jesus is Anointed	Luke 7.36–50
The Transfiguration	Luke 9.28–36
Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two	Luke 10.1–24
Jesus Teaches Us to Pray	Luke 1.11–13; John 16.23–33
Jesus Feeds Thousands	John 6.1–14; Luke 12.22–34; 15.29–38
Jesus Seeks the Lost	Luke 15
Jesus Our Shepherd	John 10.22–30; Psalm 23
Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy	Luke 17.11–19
The Lord’s Supper	Luke 22.1–23
Jesus’ Death and Resurrection	Luke 23.26–24.12
Jesus Appears to Thomas	John 20.19–31
Jesus Appears to the Disciples	John 21.1–14
Jesus Ascends into Heaven	Acts 1.1–11; Luke 24.44–53
God Sends the Holy Spirit	Acts 2.1–21
Philip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8.26-40
Saul to Paul	Acts 9.1-20
Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9.36-43
Lydia	Acts 16.9-15
Paul and Silas	Acts 16.16-40
Paul’s Letters	Romans 1.1-17
Many Members, One Body	1 Corinthians 12.12-31
Paul and the Philippians	Philippians 1.1-14

Old Testament – 7 Years to 8 Years

Creation	Genesis 1–2.4
God Creates Adam and Eve	Genesis 1.26–2.25
Sin Enters the World	Genesis 3
Cain and Abel	Genesis 4.1–16
Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6–9.17
God Calls Abram	Genesis 12.1–9
Abram Rescues Lot	Genesis 14
God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15.1–6; 17.15–27
Abraham's Visitors	Genesis 18.1–15
Abraham and Isaac	Genesis 21.1–7; 22.1–19
Isaac and Rebekah	Genesis 24
Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25.19–34; 27.1–40
Jacob's Dream	Genesis 27.41–28.22

New Testament – 7 Years to 8 Years

Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1.5–25
Birth of Jesus Foretold	Luke 1.25–38
Birth of John	Luke 1.57–80
Birth of Jesus	Luke 2.1–20
Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2.41–52
Baptism of Jesus	Luke 3.15–22
The Temptation of Jesus	Luke 4.1–13
Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	Luke 4.16–30
Jesus Heals Many	Luke 4.31–44
Jesus Calls the First Disciples	Luke 5.1–11
Jesus Changes Water into Wine	John 2.1–11
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1–12
Jesus is Anointed	Luke 7.36–50
The Transfiguration	Luke 9.28–36
Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two	Luke 10.1–24
Jesus Teaches Us to Pray	Luke 11.1–13; John 16.23–33
Jesus Feeds Thousands	John 6.1–14; Luke 12.22–34; 15.29–38
Jesus Seeks the Lost	Luke 15
Jesus Our Shepherd	John 10.22–30; Psalm 23
Heals Ten Men with Leprosy	Luke 17.11–19
The Lord’s Supper	Luke 22.1–23
Jesus’ Death and Resurrection	Luke 23.26–24.12
Jesus Appears to Thomas	John 20.19–31
Jesus Appears to the Disciples	John 21.1–14
Jesus Ascends into Heaven	Acts 1.1–11; Luke 24.44–53
God Sends the Holy Spirit	Acts 2.1–21
Philip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8.26–40
Saul to Paul	Acts 9.1–20
Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9.36–43
Lydia	Acts 16.9–15
Paul and Silas	Acts 16.16–40
Paul’s Letters	Romans 1.1–17
Many Members, One Body	1 Corinthians 12.12–31
Paul and the Philippians	Philippians 1.1–14

Old Testament – 8 Years to 9 Years

Jacob's Family	Genesis 29.1–30.24
Esau Forgives Jacob	Genesis 31.3; 32.1–33.20
Joseph and His Brothers	Genesis 37
Joseph's Troubles	Genesis 39
Joseph Saves Egypt	Genesis 40–41
Joseph Forgives	Genesis 42–45
Birth of Moses	Exodus 1.1–2.10
Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 2.11–4.31
Moses and the Plagues	Exodus 5–10
Passover	Exodus 11–12
Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13.17–15.21
God Provides	Exodus 16–17
Ten Commandments	Exodus 19–20

New Testament - 8 Years to 9 Years

Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1.5–25
Mary Visits Elizabeth	Luke 1.26–56
Birth of John	Luke 1.57–80
Birth of Jesus	Luke 2.1–20
Presentation of Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2.22–40
The Wise Men	Matthew 2
John Prepares the Way	Matthew 3.1–12
Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3.13–17
Jesus Calls the First Disciples	Matthew 4.12–25
The Transfiguration	Matthew 17.1–9
Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4.1–11
Jesus Teaches Nicodemus	John 3.1–21
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman	John 4.1–42
Jesus Heals a Blind Man	John 9
Good Shepherd	John 10.1–10
Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11.1–45
Trial, Crucifixion, and Death	Matthew 27.11–66
Resurrection of Jesus	Matthew 28.1–10
An Empty Tomb	John 20.1–18
Emmaus Road	Luke 24.13–35
Peter and John Heal the Lame Man	Acts 3
God's Servant Stephen	Acts 6–7
Phillip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8.26–40
The Conversion of Paul	Acts 9.1–31
Peter and Cornelius	Acts 10
Peter's Escape from Prison	Acts 12

Old Testament - 9 Years to 10 Years

Worship in the Tabernacle	Exodus 25–30 and 35–40
Joshua and the Twelve Spies	Numbers 13–14
The Bronze Serpent	Numbers 21.4–9
Entering the Promised Land	Joshua 3–4; Deuteronomy 34.1–12
Rahab	Joshua 2.6–7
Deborah	Judges 4–5
Gideon	Judges 6–8
Samson	Judges 13–16
Ruth	The Book of Ruth
God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 1–3
Saul Becomes King	1 Samuel 8–11
David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17.1–42
David and Jonathan	1 Samuel 20

New Testament- 9 Years to 10 Years

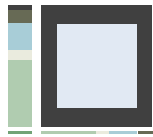
An Angel Visits Mary	Matthew 1.18–25
An Angel Visits Joseph	Luke 1.26–38
Birth of Jesus	Luke 2
Presentation of Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2.21–40
Jesus in the Temple as a Boy	Luke 2.42–52
Baptism of Jesus	Mark 1.1–11
Temptation of Jesus	Mark 1.12–13
Jesus Calls Matthew	Mark 14.1–20
Jesus and the Little Children	Mark 10
Jesus Heals a Paralytic	Mark 2.1–12
Jairus' Daughter	Mark 5.21
The Transfiguration	Mark 9.2–10
Jesus Calms the Storm	Mark 4.35–41; James 1.12–18
Peter's Confession	Matthew 14.22–33; Mark 8.27–38
Jesus Clears the Temple	John 2.13–22
The Widow's Mite	Mark 12.44; John 3.13–22
Zacchaeus	Luke 19.1–9
The Passion of Christ	Mark 14.1–15.47
The Resurrection of Jesus	Mark 16.1–8
Jesus Reinstates Peter	John 21.15–23
Paul's First Missionary Journey	Acts 13–14
Paul and Timothy	Acts 15–16.5
Lydia	Acts 16.11–15
Paul and Silas in Prison	Acts 16.16–40
Paul Sails for Rome	Acts 27

Old Testament – 10 Years to 11 Years

David Becomes King	1 Samuel 16.1–13; 2 Samuel 5–7
Nathan Rebukes David	2 Samuel 12.1–23
Solomon's Wisdom	1 Kings 3
Solomon's Temple	1 Kings 5–6
Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath	1 Kings 16–17
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18
Elijah Taken to Heaven	2 Kings 2.1–18
Naaman and Elijah	2 Kings 5
Jonah	2 Kings 14.25
Hezekiah Prays	2 Kings 18–19
Three Men in the Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3
Daniel in the Lions' Den	Daniel 6
Esther	Esther

New Testament – 10 Years to 11 Years

Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1.5–25
Birth of Jesus Foretold	Luke 1.25–38
Birth of John	Luke 1.57–80
Birth of Jesus	Luke 2.1–20
Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2.41–52
Baptism of Jesus	Luke 3.15–22
The Temptation of Jesus	Luke 4.1–13
Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	Luke 4.16–30
Jesus Heals Many	Luke 4.31–44
Jesus Calls the First Disciples	Luke 5.1–11
Jesus Changes Water into Wine	John 2.1–11
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1–12
Jesus is Anointed	Luke 7.36–50
The Transfiguration	Luke 9.28–36
Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two	Luke 10.1–24
Jesus Teaches Us to Pray	Luke 11.1–13; John 16.23–33
Jesus Feeds Thousands	John 6.1–14; Luke 12.22–34; 15.29–38
Jesus Seeks the Lost	Luke 15
Jesus Our Shepherd	John 10.22–30; Psalm 23
Heals Ten Men with Leprosy	Luke 17.11–19
The Lord’s Supper	Luke 22.1–23
Jesus’ Death and Resurrection	Luke 23.26–24.12
Jesus Appears to Thomas	John 20.19–31
Jesus Appears to the Disciples	John 21.1–14
Jesus Ascends into Heaven	Acts 1.1–11; Luke 24.44–53
God Sends the Holy Spirit	Acts 2.1–21



Forming disciples of Jesus Christ

Children develop in similar ways but their development may vary according to their individual stages of cognitive, social-emotional, physical and spiritual development, learning styles, and ability levels. Make sure to be aware that children have different abilities at different ages and that some children may live with a disability or delay in some developmental areas. The following chart is a guide. Because children come to us with varying abilities and experiences, it is important to see this chart as flowing rather than absolute. Children need to experience the same Bible stories and Christian concepts at several different stages of their faith journey, because their ability to understand the story/concepts continues to evolve as they grow.

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
Birth to 1 Year	God made me and loves me My caregivers represent God on earth	I sense the love of those in Christian community Music helps me connect with the congregation Church is a safe and loving place Pray simple prayers for me and with me	Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through board books and Bible storybooks	I am loved by my family I feel safe in my home I am part of my parents and they are part of me	God loves me just as God created me Talk to me about God	The people caring for me love me	Love Joy Gift Pray Bible Cross God Jesus Manger Wise Men	Love Grace Assurance	Show children that they are loved Provide a safe and trusting environment Read stories, sing songs, and say prayers of God

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
1-2 Years	I am a child of God, who loves me	I can learn simple prayers The Bible is a special book Symbols of my faith are important to me Worshipping with the congregation is important to me	The Bible is a special book Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through board books and Bible storybooks	My family celebrates me just the way I am My family reads stories of the Bible to me My family demonstrates God's love through their actions	I use my senses to explore God's creation	God cares for all creation God wants me to care for God's creation	Love Joy Bible Cross Christ Candle Communion Creation Baptism Prayer Joy Offering Plate Manger Wise Men Shepherds	Love Grace Assurance	Be an adult who is caring and responsive to children's needs Help children experience trust

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
2-3 Years	I can experience God's love through my family and friends	The Bible contains important stories I can sing, pray, and recognize the symbols of the church	The Bible contains stories that are important	My family celebrates me just the way I am My family reads stories of the Bible to me My family demonstrates God's love through their actions	Guide me in play that helps me learn about others	I have a sense of wonder about the world	Love Joy Blessing Hymn Hymnal Community Church Christian Manger Wise Men Lamb Shepherds Cup and Loaf Palm Leaves	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments	Make sure care in the nursery and in weekday ministries emphasize love Talk about God, community, and love

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
3-4 Years	God loves me Jesus is the Son of God	I need a sense of belonging in the life of the congregation I can actively participate in worship I can learn the Christian calendar	The Bible helps me know how much God loves me	My family practices prayer and reads the Bible My family demonstrates love of God and neighbor	Guide me in play that helps me learn the fruit of the Spirit	I like doing good for others	Love Joy Creation Love of God and Neighbor Forgiveness Peace Altar Sanctuary Cross and Flame	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments John Wesley Charles Wesley Circuit Riders	Support the development of children's abilities and understanding of their own identity as a unique child of God

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
4-5 Years	God loves everyone	I can learn, recite, and understand Bible passages I can handle the Bible and hymnal appropriately	The Bible tells stories about how God wanted the people to live	My family and I do good for others My family helps me understand why we do good for others My family talks to me about lessons in the Bible	Guide me in ways that help me live the Golden Rule	I participate in activities that show care and appreciation for others and creation	Love Joy Stewardship Golden Rule Disciple Grace Forgiveness Peace Dove Lily Butterfly	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments John Wesley Charles Wesley Circuit Riders	Show children that God is important in the daily life of caring adults

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
5-6 Years	God is everywhere and cares for all people God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit	I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, serving, and sharing my gifts I can offer prayers for others I begin to understand the significance of the sacraments	The Bible helps me to know how God wants me to live I can tell stories of people in the Bible My family connects church and family	My family serves those in need, and enables me to serve in appropriate ways My family reads stories of faith and prays together	Guide me in ways that help me see the needs of others, and address them in ways that are faithful to followers of Christ	I participate in servant ministry	Love Joy Faithfulness Holy Spirit Sabbath Covenant Forgiveness Peace Tithe Disciple Hospitality	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments General Rules Holy Living Sanctification	Show children what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the world, while being mindful of the need for safe boundaries

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
6-7 Years	God wants people to love God	I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, and serving, and sharing my gifts I can offer prayers for others I begin to understand the significance of the sacraments	The Bible helps me to know how God wants me to live I can tell stories of people in the Bible My family connects church and family	My family serves those in need, and enables me to serve in appropriate ways My family reads stories of faith and prays together	Guide me in ways that will help me address situations in a Christian way	I participate in servant ministry in the community, and begin to understand how my actions impact those around me	Love Joy Holy Spirit Faithfulness Sabbath Covenant Forgiveness Peace Tithe Disciple Discipleship Miracle	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments General Rules Means of Grace Holy Living Sanctification	Be a living role model for children, and talk about how God works in our lives

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
7-8 Years	God loves us, even when we are disobedient	I can understand and participate in the order of worship, and can learn the prayers, creeds, and litanies of the church	I can discuss the meaning of stories in the Bible with others	My family talks about how stories of faith have a direct impact on how we live as a family	Guide me in ways that allow me to use my gifts to help others, and to please God	I participate in servant ministry in the community, and begin to understand how my actions impact those around me	Love Joy Evangelism Conversion Forgiveness Repentance Reconciliation Justice Missionary Servanthood	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments General Rules Means of Grace Holy Living Sanctification	Help children to understand that God gave them unique gifts, and provide opportunities for them to develop those gifts

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
8-9 Years	God wants us to worship God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength	I can understand and participate in the order of worship, and can learn the prayers, creeds, and litanies of the church	I understand that the Bible is God’s inspired Word, and I learn how the Bible came to be	My family helps me to consider and recognize the rights of others, and understand what that means in the way that we live as a family	Guide me in ways that deepen my belief that I am a child of God and part of God’s beloved community	I begin to identify and express attitudes, ideas, and feelings about social injustice	Love Joy Kingdom of God Forgiveness Intercession Thanksgiving Servanthood Salvation Heaven Hell Witness Stewardship	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments General Rules Means of Grace Holy Living Sanctification	Be open to discussions about God, and intentionally guide children in faith development

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
9-10 Years	God's care and concern for us exists regardless of our circumstances	I can understand that being a part of a faith community expands beyond the physical walls of the church I attend	I understand that the Bible is for people of all languages, ethnicities, and cultures	I begin to take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs and values as I interact with my family	Guide me in ways that will help me to take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs	I continue to identify and express attitudes, ideas, and feelings about social injustice	Love Joy Commitment Hope Trust Truth Sacrifice Body of Christ Eternal Life Prophecy Stewardship	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments General Rules Means of Grace Holy Living Sanctification Confirmation	Be open to the ways that children experience God in ways they are not sure how to articulate

	God	Worship	The Bible	Home and Family	Relating Faith to Daily Life	Community and the World	Significant Terms and Images	Wesleyan Heritage	What Teachers and Parents Provide
10-11 Years	God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God is a Trinitarian God	I can understand that being a part of a faith community expands beyond the physical walls of the church I attend	I understand that the Bible tells me how people’s lives were affected by their response to God	I begin to take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs and values as I interact with my family	Guide me in ways that further develop my ability to sense right and wrong in light of Christian faith	I initiate ways to serve others in the community and in the world	Love Joy Lord Messiah Christ Emmanuel Savior Shepherd Son of God Incarnation Resurrection	Love Grace Assurance Sacraments General Rules Means of Grace Holy Living Holy Conferencing Sanctification Christian Perfection Confirmation	Be an accepting adult who is willing to hear the many questions about God

What Every Child Should Experience is a resource that will guide leaders and teachers of children in United Methodist Congregations in the area of faith formation.

This resource contains a comprehensive guide to scripture significant for children as they develop cognitively and theologically. It is meant to closely follow the three-year lectionary cycle.

This resource also contains a chart of what children need and understand developmentally around the concepts of:

God

Worship

The Bible

Home and Family

Relating Faith to Everyday Life

Community and the World

Significant Terms and Images

Wesleyan Heritage

What Teachers and Parents Provide

