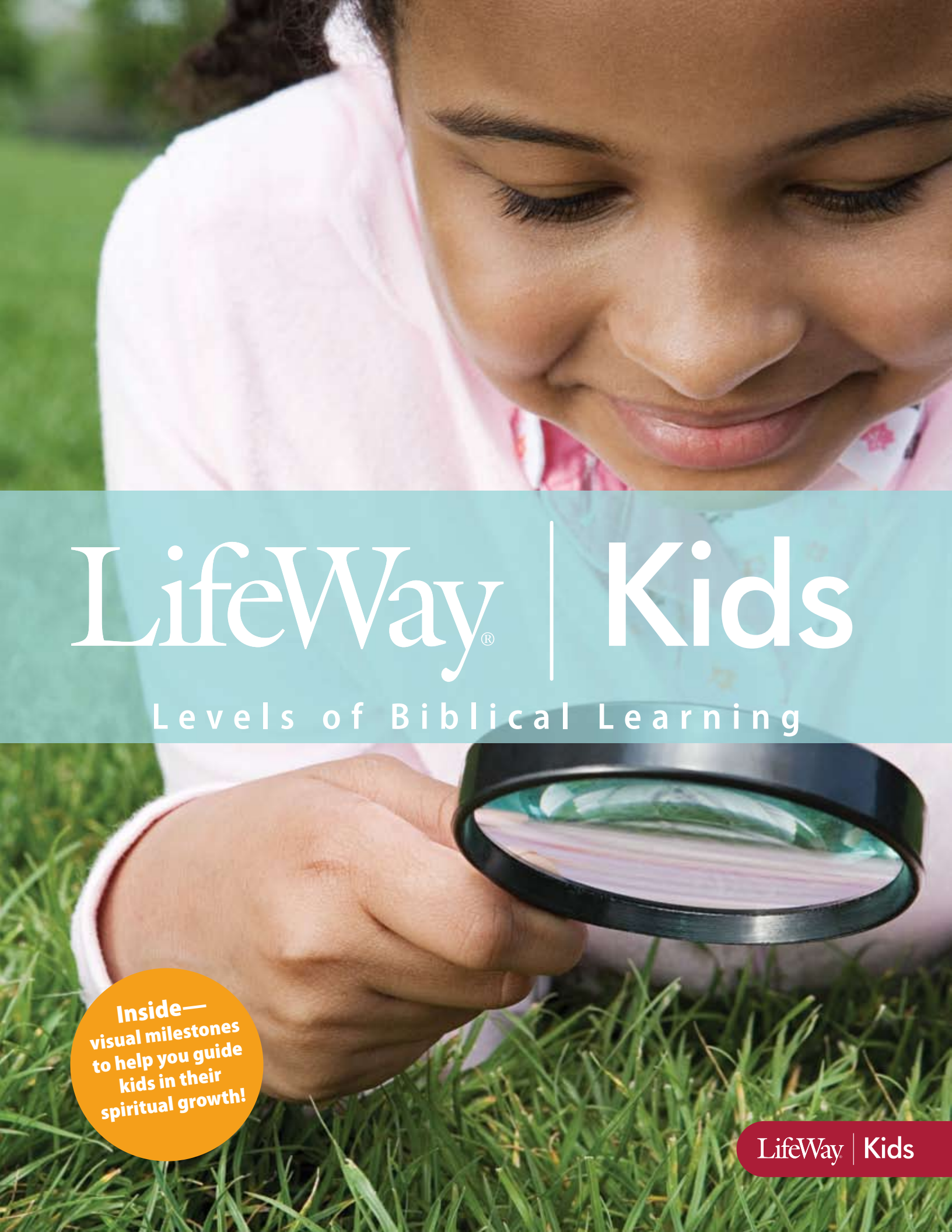

LifeWay® | Kids

Levels of Biblical Learning

Inside—visual milestones to help you guide kids in their spiritual growth!

LifeWay | Kids

LifeWay's

Levels of Biblical Learning

At LifeWay, we work hard to know kids. We take time to understand how they play and how they learn. And we know you need resources you can count on to connect kids to God's Word—leading them toward knowing Christ and growing in relationship with Him. That's why LifeWay Kids promises to offer foundational resources that are biblically sound, age appropriate, fun and easy to use. All of the resources we offer are built on the information in this document called LifeWay's *Levels of Biblical Learning*. This simple but important ministry tool was developed by experts to provide you with visible milestones as you guide kids in their spiritual growth. It provides teachers, parents, and ministers of preschoolers and children with milestones related to biblical knowledge, skills, and attitudes at the designated levels from birth through preteens. *Levels of Biblical Learning* gives a coordinated approach from birth through preteens by using ten concept areas—God, Jesus, the Bible, Creation, Family, Self, Church, Community & World, Holy Spirit, and Salvation. In developing *Levels of Biblical Learning*, we had four basic assumptions.

1 **The Bible as Our Textbook**—The Bible is the basis for everything taught in Bible study settings. Bible content is also the basis for the development of all teaching procedures.

2 **The Child as Learner**—Preschoolers and children are the focus of our teaching. Their understanding, needs, and interests are important considerations in determining how to approach Bible content. Bible study resources must touch the head, the heart, and the hands (body) of the child to create life-changing experiences.

3 **The Teacher as Guide**—The teacher, whether teaching in an open or closed group Bible study, must focus on the five functions of the church—evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship. The teacher must provide activities that will involve children in learning, will guide children to correct information, and will share the biblical revelation. In addition to teaching Bible truths, teachers must live out the biblical message in front of children and parents.

4 **Parents as Primary Teachers**—The primary responsibility for religious instruction of preschoolers and children belongs to parents. The Holy Spirit works through Christian parents as they teach biblical truths in word and action. The church and its ministries must assist and support parents as spiritual leaders by training them and teaching their children.

The ten concept areas offer a broad biblical framework for guiding parents, teachers, and LifeWay curriculum developers in teaching children from birth through sixth grade. It is important to see the correlation and connectivity of the concept areas. Teaching about God and Jesus in the early years play an important role in helping the child understand salvation later in life. The concept areas provide a biblical framework for laying a foundation that becomes the pathway to conversion, spiritual growth, and a biblical worldview. Eight of the concepts are foundational/prerequisite to the more advanced concepts of Holy Spirit and Salvation which are distinctive to first through sixth grade.

As you read the chart, it is good to remember that:

- **Although children develop spiritually in similar ways, the rate of that development will vary.** Some children may understand concepts at an earlier or later age than indicated on the chart.
- **Certain concepts are introduced later** when that concept and content are more useful and meaningful to the child.
- **While God nor His attributes change, a child's level of understanding and vocabulary does change.** It is important to see that small nuances in words and slight changes in concepts are significant in the mind of a growing child. From an adult's perspective, it may seem minor, but these small steps are important for the child's understanding.
- **When teaching or developing resources for broad-age groupings of children, concepts may be combined or adapted** to meet the needs of the group.

We hope you'll find this ministry tool helpful. The *Levels of Biblical Learning* are another reason why you'll find that year after year, LifeWay Kids is the choice you can trust.

Adapted from the original introduction to the Levels of Biblical Learning written by Thomas L. Sanders. Thomas L. Sanders is Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Education: Childhood Ministry, Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership at Dallas Baptist University.

The following information will help you see how the concept areas of *Levels of Biblical Learning* can relate to individual sessions and specific activities in preschool and children's curriculum materials.

Age - Group	Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
Concept Area: God	God cares for me.	God cares for people.	God cares and provides for people.	God has concern and care for all people.	God has concern and care for all people.	God's care and concern exists regardless of people's circumstances.
Bible Passage and Story	1 Kings 17:7-16 God Helped Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-16 God Helped Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-16 God Helped Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-16 God Helped Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-16 God Helped Elijah	1 Kings 17:1-16 God Helped Elijah
Bible Truth	God gives me what I need.	God gives me what I need.	God gives me what I need.	God provides for His people.	God provides for His people.	God provides for His people.
Life Application	Babies–twos will learn that God gives them what they need.	Threes–pre-kindergartners will learn that God gives them what they need.	I can learn that God knows what I need.	I can trust God to provide for me each day.	I can trust God to provide for me each day.	I can trust God to provide for me each day.
Bible-Learning Experience	BIBLE STORY PLUS: Invite twos near you to sit in a circle on the floor. Give each a small paper cup. Walk around the circle pouring a small amount of water into each cup. Say: "God cares for you. God gives us water to drink when we are thirsty." Say a brief thank-you prayer for the water. Introduce and tell the Bible story. Sing the song "God Gives Food to Us." Play a guessing game, describing food and other items familiar to children.	HOMELIVING: "Play Restaurant" Provide props for 3s–pre-kindergartners to use as they play out the roles of cooks, servers, hostesses, and patrons. Without interrupting their play, look for opportunities to comment naturally: "Thank You, God, for giving us good food to eat. This makes me think of Elijah. God cared for him and helped him find food to eat. In the Bible we read, 'God is good to us.'"	DRAMATIC PLAY: "Make Bread" When kindergartners come to the dramatic play center, explain that today they are going to help make bread. Ask one of them to open the Bible to the marked verse, *God will always love me.* Help them "read" the verse. Briefly tell today's Bible story. Say: "The woman made bread for Elijah. We are going to make bread, too." Talk about other ways God took care of Elijah. Guide children to make bread, using refrigerated bread dough. As children eat the baked bread, read pages 7-8 of the book *I Can Choose.*	PERSONALIZE Choice 1: "How Does God Show Care?" Mobiles Girls and boys will work an activity in the learner guide to identify ways God has concern and care for all people. They will identify in a picture the items that show God's care for them. They will use a compass activity to learn the words of 1 Peter 5:9, *He cares for you.* Teachers will guide children to think about their needs. The children will draw pictures of ways God cares for them and attach those pictures to a mobile on which teachers have taped the words of the memory verse.	PERSONALIZE Choice 2: "Thank-You Cube" Boys and girls will work an activity in the learner guide to help them think about ways God has concern and care for all people. The examples involve children in everyday situations needing God's care. Then children will play a game in which they name ways God provides and cares for them. (Use the letters of the alphabet to begin each way.) With a cube pattern from the leader pack, children will make their own "Thank-You Cube" to identify ways God has cared for them and to thank God for His care and provision.	EXPRESS YOURSELF Choice 2: "God Will Meet My Needs" Radio Commercial Preteens will begin by using the learner guide to distinguish between some of their wants and needs as they work to learn that God's care and concern exist in spite of people's circumstances. Then they will look at the memory verse, Philippians 4:19. They will look at needs of preteens in general and will write a radio commercial script that identifies some needs that may not be common to all preteens, but are circumstances in which today's preteens need God's care. Preteens are encouraged to use the memory verse as part of their "hook" line at the end of the commercials.

Talking to Children About Salvation

When talking to a child about salvation:

* **Ask follow-up questions.** When a child asks a question, often he does not know exactly what to ask. Get clarification before deciding how to answer a question. For example, you might say, "Tell me more about what you are thinking," or "What made you ask that question? Where did you hear about this?" Remember, many times the question a child asks may not be the actual question for which he is needing an answer. Avoid asking questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no."

* **Avoid giving more information than a child needs.** Adults can be tempted to tell all they know on a subject. When a child asks a question, only answer what the child is asking. If a child asks for more information, be more specific with your answers.

* **Don't jump to conclusions.** A child may ask, "Why did Andy get baptized?" This question may be only a request for information, not a request for the gospel presentation.

* **Speak in clear terms.** Avoid symbolic analogies that may distract from discussion and understanding.

* **Use simple wording.** Rather than using the phrase "accepting Jesus into your heart," say the words "becoming a Christian."

Steps in talking with a child about God's plan for salvation:

1. **God loves you and has a great plan for you (Psalm 139:13-16).** Talk about these truths: God made the world, God made people, God made you, God wants to have a relationship with people, and God wants to have a relationship with you. Say, "Tell me one way you know God loves you."

2. **We have all sinned (Romans 3:23).** Everyone must understand that he is separated from God. Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our way instead of God's way. (Give some examples of sin such as disobedience, ungratefulness, untruthfulness, etc.) Then ask the child: "Have you sinned? What does God think about sin?" Point out that everyone has sinned.

3. **Even though we choose to sin, God still loves us and offers to forgive us (Romans 5:8).** Ask, "How do you think it makes God feel when you sin?" Focus on the fact that God loves the child even when he sins. Say: "God promised that one day a Savior would come and not sin and would die for all people. Do you know who that Savior is? Did you know that He died for you?"

4. **Jesus died for us (John 3:16).** Talk about John 3:16 and explain that because sin separates people from God, everyone needs a Savior. Ask, "Do you know why Jesus died?" Say, "Jesus loved you so much. He willingly died for you, so you could be with God forever." If the child is old enough to understand the resurrection, say, "Jesus rose from the dead, so we could have eternal life."

5. **You can become a Christian by confessing that Jesus is your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9).**
   Ask, "Would you like to be a Christian?" State that the word *confess* means to say that Jesus is your Savior and that you must:
   Admit you have sinned
   Believe that Jesus is God's Son
   Confess that Jesus is Savior and Lord

6. **Review and follow up.** Encourage a child to tell you in his own words what he understands and believes. Either ask the child to repeat a prayer after you or help the child know what to say in his prayer. After the prayer, read Romans 10:13 and remind him that this verse is a promise. Jesus will be his Savior forever.

About Baptism:

* **Always make distinctions between baptism and becoming a Christian.** Point out that becoming a Christian comes first, and then baptism follows because it is a way of showing he has become a Christian.

* **Avoid emphasizing the emotional side of the baptism experience.** Keep in mind that public recognition should not become a motivating factor for making a decision.

God

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God is good.	God is special.	God is special. No one is like Him.	God is special—no one and nothing can be compared to God.	God is unique—no one and nothing can be compared to Him.	God is eternal, holy, and perfect.
God made me.	God made everything.	God created everything.	God is Creator.	As Creator, God is to be praised.	God the Creator is to be worshiped, not His creations.
God loves me.	God loves me and is with me.	God is always with me.	God is everywhere.	God is everywhere at all times.	God is omnipresent.
God hears me.	God hears people talk to Him when they pray.	God wants people to pray to Him.	God hears and answers prayer.	God hears people's prayers and communicates with them.	God knows the desires of my heart but still wants me to pray.
God cares for me.	God cares for people.	God cares and provides for people.	God has concern and care for all people.	→	God's care and concern exist regardless of people's circumstances.
God loves people.	God loves all people.	God shows His love to all people.	God shows His love to all people in the same way.	God loves and values all people.	God's love is not limited by time, space, culture, or ethnicity.
God gives rules because He loves me.	God gives rules to help me know what to do.	God loves people even when they make wrong choices.	God loves and forgives people.	God loves people enough to provide forgiveness for sin.	God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
God wants people to love Him.	God wants people to sing and pray to Him.	God wants people to worship Him.	→	God is worthy of praise and worship.	God wants people to worship Him with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength.
God wants people to learn about Him	God wants people to do what He says.	God wants people to obey Him.	God wants me to obey, respect, and honor Him.	God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.	Because God deserves respect, obedience, and honor, God nurtures and disciplines Christians.
	God can do things people cannot do.	God can do all things.	God is powerful.	God is almighty.	God is omnipotent.
	God does what He says He will do.	God always keeps His promises.	God is fair and can be trusted.	God is faithful and just.	God is righteous.
		God knows everything.	→	God is all-knowing.	God is omniscient.
		God is real.	God is real, the only true God.	→	People believe in different gods, but there is only one true God. God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Trinity).

Jesus

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God chose a family for Jesus.	Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.	People in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.	Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.	Old Testament prophets revealed God's plan for Jesus to be the Savior.	God planned for Jesus from the beginning of time.
Jesus was born.	Jesus was sent to earth by God.	God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.	→	Jesus came to earth in human form.	Jesus was born of a virgin.
Jesus grew and had a family.	Jesus grew like me.	Jesus grew, learned, and had friends.	Jesus grew in mind, body, and in relationships with God and with others.	Jesus understands what it means to be human.	Jesus was God in human form.
Jesus went to church and learned about God.	Jesus read the Bible at church.	Jesus worshiped God in the synagogue/temple.	Jesus taught that God's house is a house of prayer.	Jesus taught that worship is focused on God alone.	Jesus taught that true worshipers must worship in spirit and truth.
Jesus told people about God.	Jesus taught people about God.	Jesus taught people about what God is like.	Jesus shows me through His life and teachings what God is like.	Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God.	→
Jesus helped people because He loved them.	Jesus did things that people cannot do.	Jesus performed miracles and healed the sick.	Jesus performed miracles, healed the sick, and restored life.	Jesus performed miracles because He is God's Son.	→
Jesus wants me to love Him.	Jesus wants people to love Him.	Jesus wants people to love and obey Him.	Jesus wants people to follow Him.	Jesus wants people to trust Him.	Jesus wants people to be transformed by Him.
Jesus loves me.	Jesus loves all people.	Jesus died on the cross and is alive.	Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Jesus from the dead.	Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.	Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection were a necessary part of God's plan for the forgiveness of sin.
	Jesus is God's Son.	Jesus is God's one and only Son.	Jesus is the only Son of God, and He was sent to be the Savior of all people.	Jesus is the only Son of God, and He was sent to be my Savior.	Jesus is the Messiah and Savior, and God sent Him to fulfill His promise of redemption.
	Jesus did everything God told Him to do.	Jesus always obeyed God.	→	Jesus was tempted by Satan but did not sin.	Jesus is holy and perfect.
		Jesus is in heaven.	→	The ascension describes Jesus' return to heaven.	→
				Jesus promised His followers that He would come back to earth.	Jesus will return to earth someday.

Bible

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
The Bible is a special Book.	The stories in the Bible are real.	The stories in the Bible are true.	Bible truths never change.	The teachings in the Bible will last forever.	The Bible is eternal.
The Bible tells about God and Jesus.	I can learn about God and Jesus from the Bible.	The Bible tells what God and Jesus are like.	The Bible helps me know more about God and Jesus.	The Bible is God's message.	The Bible is God's message about Himself.
People in the Bible told about God.	People in the Bible wrote about God.	People wrote God's words in the Bible.	God helped people know what to write in the Bible.	God inspired people who wrote the Bible.	The Bible is the only written Word of God.
The Bible has stories about Jesus.	The Bible tells what Jesus did.	The Bible tells what Jesus is like.	The Bible tells what Jesus is like and how to be like Him.	The Bible tells me that Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead.	The Bible tells me that salvation through Jesus is God's gift.
The Bible helps me know what to do.	The Bible helps me know the right things to do.	The Bible helps me know what God wants me to do.	The Bible helps me understand how God wants me to live.	The Bible tells me how to live the Christian life.	The Bible applies to personal and social issues.
	The people in the Bible were real people.	The Bible has stories about God, Jesus, and people.	The Bible tells me what God wants me to do through verses and stories about people and events.	The Bible tells me how people's lives were affected by their responses to God.	→
	People at church use the Bible.	The Bible is for everyone.	The Bible has truth and meaning for me.	Every person can find truth and meaning in God's Word.	The Bible is for people of all languages, ethnicities, and cultures.

Creation

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God made day, night, plants, sky, sun, moon, stars, animals, water, birds, and fish.	God made everything.	God created the earth and everything in it.	God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.	God created the world from nothing.	Creation can be credited to God only.
God made people.	God made people different from the other things He made.	God created people able to make choices.	God created people able to think and solve problems.	God created people in His own image.	→
God made food for people and animals.	God planned for people, animals, and plants to grow.	God provides for His creation.	God's creation follows His plan.	God's world is orderly.	God's created order is governed by His laws.
God wants people to take care of the things He made.	→	God planned for people to care for the things He made.	God tells people to take care of His world.	People can accept increasing responsibility for taking care of God's world.	God helps people to discover, understand, and use His resources.
God wants me to enjoy the things He made.	God made the world for people to enjoy.	→	God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy His creation.	Understanding what God is like comes by discovering the things He created.	God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.
God wants me to thank Him for the things He made.	God wants me thank Him for people, animals, plants, and things in the world.	God wants me to thank Him for His creation.	God wants me to praise Him for His creation.	→	→

Family

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God made my family.	God's plan for families is found in the Bible.	God's plan for a family is for mothers and fathers to raise children.	Mothers and fathers are to love each other.	The first responsibility of mothers and fathers to their children is to teach them about God.	Families are part of God's plan for providing my physical, spiritual, mental, social, and emotional needs.
My family loves me.	God wants family members to love one another.	I can show my family I love them.	Each person in my family deserves love and respect.	→	Understanding that each family member is a person of significance and worth can help me relate to her.
God gave me a mommy and a daddy.	I can do what my parents tell me to do.	I can obey my parents.	God helps me know how to honor and obey my parents.	God's plan is for parents to lead families.	God's plan is for parents to lead families according to His Word and will.
Family members help me.	Family members help one another.	→	Each family member has his own work.	Each family member should make a contribution in a positive way.	Each person in my family has a contribution to make to the family.
My family tells me about God.	→	God wants families to worship together.	→	Worshiping together can help families grow stronger.	God wants me to help lead my family in worship.
My family is kind to me.	God wants family members to be kind to one another.	→	God wants me to treat family members fairly and with kindness.	God's love helps me consider my family members before myself.	God wants me to show love, respect, cooperation, and consideration for all persons in my family.
God loves my family.	God loves and cares for my family.	→	God loves and cares for families in all kinds of situations.	→	→
My family helps.	My family can help other people.	My family can love and care for other people.	My family can show God's love and care for other people.	My family can show love and care to other people regardless of their circumstances.	My family can show God's love and care to other people regardless of their circumstances by ministering to their needs.

Self

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God made me.	I am growing.	I am growing as God planned for me to grow.	My birth and growth are part of God's plan.	I am created in the image of God.	Life is a gift from God.
I am special.	I am special because God made me.	People are special because God made them.	People are God's most important creation.	Each person is unique and of value to God.	I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
I can make choices.	I can make right and wrong choices.	My choices can make me happy or sad.	I can be trusted to make some good choices.	I am responsible for my choices.	I can take responsibility for my choices and their consequences.
I am learning.	God made me so I can think, work, and play.	God has made me able to do many things well.	I can use my talents and abilities in ways that please and honor God.	I can develop and use my abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.	God will help Christians know and use their spiritual gifts.
I can talk to God.	I can pray.	God wants me to pray.	God wants me to pray and read the Bible.	God wants me to communicate with Him through praying and reading the Bible.	God wants me to communicate with Him and study the Bible daily.
I can grow like Jesus grew.	I can do some things like Jesus.	I can try to be like Jesus.	I follow Jesus' example when I obey God.	I can follow the examples, teachings, and commandments of Jesus.	I can take deliberate actions to grow in Christlikeness.
I am learning to take turns.	I can take turns and learn to share.	Jesus is my example for how I treat other people.	I can be a good example for others.	I can learn to love others as I love myself.	I am accountable to God for the way I treat other people.
God loves me.	God will always love me.	No matter what happens, God loves me.	Good and bad happen to me, but God still loves me.	I am learning to respond in positive ways to what happens to me.	I can live with joy regardless of my circumstances.
	God has a plan for people.	God has a plan for me.	God has a plan for my life.	God's plan for my life is that I accept Jesus as Savior and Lord and obey Him.	I can understand and follow God's specific plan for my life.
	I can do what God wants me to do.	I can show love for God by obeying Him.	God wants me to live every day in ways that please Him.	I can learn about and recognize God's authority.	I can acknowledge and follow God's authority in my life.
		God wants me to take care of my body.	I need to take care of my body because God created me.	I need to take care of my body and mind to honor God.	My body is God's temple.
		I can say "No" to what I know is wrong.	→	I can recognize and reject wrong actions and wrong influences of others.	My self-control and obedience to God can help me stand up to peer pressure. My self-control honors God and benefits me.
		I can begin to recognize when I hurt others.	When I hurt others, I can ask them to forgive me.	I am able to admit that I have hurt others and ask them to forgive me.	I can take deliberate actions to ask for forgiveness and restore relationships.
			God wants my actions, attitudes, and words to be good.	God wants me to have pure thoughts and actions.	God expects me to remain pure in all aspects of my life.

Church

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
People at church love God and Jesus.	People learn about God and Jesus at church. People go to church in different kinds of places.	Churches are a part of God's plan for people.	The church is more than a building; it is Christians who do God's work. *Believer* is another word for a Christian.	A church is a group of baptized Christians who meet together to pray, to tell other people about Jesus, to worship God, to learn from the Bible, to meet needs of others, and to encourage one another.	The church is a fellowship of baptized believers where all people are welcomed and wanted. The functions of the church are evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship.
People at church love and teach me.	People at church love each other and teach about God and Jesus.	Church helpers teach about God and Jesus.	Church leaders teach about God and Jesus.	Church leaders are called by God to do His work.	Churches ordain people to do certain tasks.
People at church help me.	People at church help other people.	My church provides ways for me to help other people.	My church meets the needs of other people in mycommunity and around the world.	God uses the church to accomplish His purposes in the world today.	Believers are to take God's message into the world.
People enjoy going to church. They sing, talk to God, listen to Bible stories, and talk about God and Jesus at church.	People thank God at church. People give money at church.	People at church worship, pray, give, sing, read the Bible, and listen to teaching and preaching.	People worship at church and bring tithes and offerings.	People have responsibilities to participate in worship services, to pray for their church, and to give money for the work of their church.	Corporate worship is the responsibility of all church members.
God wants people to go to church.	People at church help in different ways.	At church people have different kinds of jobs.	Church members have different responsibilities.	Being a church member involves responsibilities and privileges. Church members are called by God to do His work.	Each believer is given one or more spiritual gifts. Believers use spiritual gifts to do God's work.
		The Lord's Supper is a special meal to remember Jesus.	The Lord's Supper is a special event at church. People can remember Jesus when they see the Lord's Supper being observed.	The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church. The Lord's Supper is a way to remind people about what Jesus did. Christians participate in the Lord's Supper.	The body and blood of Jesus are represented in the Lord's Supper.
		A person is baptized after she becomes a Christian.	Baptism is a special event at church. Baptism shows that people have accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. Becoming a Christian and being baptized is the way a person becomes a church member.	Baptism is an ordinance of the church that shows that people have accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.	Baptism by immersion is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
					Churches today are part of the movement begun by Jesus and His followers.

Community & World

Babies–2s	3s–Pre-K	Kindergarten	Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God made people.	God made people alike and different.	God made people in my community and the world alike and different.	God's world is made up of people from different nationalities and cultures.	God values people of all nationalities and cultures.	Because God values people of all nationalities and cultures, I will respect and value each person.
I can help.	I can help others around me.	I can be a part of God's work.	God wants people to be involved in His work in the world.	God wants people to be involved in His work in their community and the world by participating in mission activities.	God wants people to join Him in what He is doing in the world.
People tell about God and Jesus.	Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.	Missionaries tell people about God and Jesus in my country and in other countries.	Missionaries are Christians who share the good news with people in this country and around the world.	All Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus.	All Christians are called to be on mission with God.
I can talk to God.	I can ask God to help others.	I can pray for people in my community and world and for missionaries.	God wants people to pray by name for missionaries and people groups.	God wants people to pray for specific needs of missionaries and people groups.	God wants people to pray consistently for missionaries and people groups and for their personal involvement in missions.
People work together.	God wants people to work together. People have different kinds of work to do.	God wants people in my community to work together. People in my community have different jobs.	God wants me to cooperate and work with others willingly.	→	→
God cares about other people and me.	All people are important to God.	The Bible tells me to love others in my community and in the world.	God wants people to treat one another fairly and with kindness.	God wants people to respect the rights and property of others. God wants people to treat others as they would want to be treated.	God wants peple to look for opportunities to help people of all ethnicities, and cultures.
	I can give money to help other people learn about God and Jesus.	My offerings help missionaries in my community and around the world.	God wants people to give tithes and offerings so that people of all nations can learn about God and Jesus.	God wants people to give their time, talents, and possessions in addition to money so that others can learn about God and Jesus.	Stewardship of money, time, talents, and possessions helps others learn about God and Jesus.
	I can tell others about Jesus.	I can tell people in my community that Jesus loves them.	God wants people to tell others in their communities and schools about Jesus and invite them to church.	God wants people to tell others with different beliefs about Jesus and what He has done for them.	God helps people to share their faith in Jesus with those who have different beliefs.
			God wants people to give and accept forgiveness from others.	→	→

Levels of Biblical Learning

by LifeWay Kids

Holy Spirit

Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
The Holy Spirit is a special helper.	The Holy Spirit can support people in times of trouble.	The Holy Spirit is the comforter.
God showed His approval of Jesus by sending the dove at Jesus' baptism.	The Holy Spirit was present at Jesus' baptism.	The Holy Spirit was present in Jesus' life and ministry.
God's Spirit worked in Old Testament times.	God's Spirit has always existed.	God's Spirit was active in creation.
Jesus promised the early believers that God would send the Holy Spirit.	The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to give power to believers.	The Holy Spirit helps people know, understand, and remember all things about God.
The Holy Spirit helps people know what to do.	The Holy Spirit helps people understand God's plan of salvation.	The Holy Spirit urges people to accept God's salvation.
	The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God.	The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.
	The Holy Spirit enters the Christian's life when he accepts Jesus as his Savior and Lord.	→
	The Holy Spirit helped Bible writers know what to write.	The Holy Spirit inspired Bible writers and breathed God's Word.
	The Holy Spirit helps believers grow as Christians.	The Holy Spirit helps believers grow in their relationships with God and with others.
	The Holy Spirit helps believers tell others about Jesus.	The Holy Spirit empowers believers to tell others about Jesus and His plan of salvation.

Levels of Biblical Learning

by LifeWay Kids

Salvation

Grades 1–2	Grades 3–4	Preteen
God provided a way for people to become Christians because He loves them.	God provided a plan of salvation because He loves me.	God had a plan for salvation before the beginning of time because He loves me unconditionally.
The Bible tells that Jesus came to earth because God loves everyone.	The Bible tells of God's plan of salvation.	The Bible tells me God sent Jesus, so I can have a personal relationship with God.
God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the one and only Savior of the world.	Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection make my forgiveness possible.	Salvation is a gift from God.
God is displeased when people choose to do what they want rather than what God wants.	Sin is choosing my way instead of God's way. Sin separates people from God. People can choose to accept or to reject Jesus as Savior and Lord.	Without a Savior, the punishment for sin is eternal death and hell.
When people choose to displease God, there are consequences.	Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins.	Jesus took the punishment for everyone's sin.
God helps me know when it's time to become a Christian.	When the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, I can trust Jesus as my personal Savior.	→
God will forgive me if I ask Him.	Salvation is admitting sin, repenting of sin, believing that Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead, and confessing Jesus as personal Savior.	Christians can know that Jesus will be their personal Savior forever.
People become Christians by accepting Jesus as their Savior and Lord.	I need and can accept God's salvation.	I can understand I need a personal and growing relationship with Jesus. I can experience joy when I recognize God is at work in my life and in the lives of other people.

Foundational Bible Stories

Certain stories are so important that they must be taught frequently during childhood so that the child will understand not only the facts of the story but the biblical principles that it communicates. Listed below are examples of foundational Bible stories that preschoolers and children will study. Boys and girls will learn biblical concepts through these and additional Bible stories.

Babies–Kindergarten

God Made the World and Everything in It
Adam and Eve's Choice*
God Made Families
Noah and the Ark
Joseph
Miriam and Baby Moses
Ruth's Family
Hannah's Prayer and Boy Samuel
David Helped His Family
David and Jonathan
Solomon and the Temple
God Helped Elijah
Elisha's Friends Helped
Daniel Obeyed God and Chose Good Food
Jesus' Birth and Related Events
Jesus Went to Church
Jesus Chose Special Helpers
Four Friends Who Helped
Jesus Fed the People
A Woman Gave Her Money
The Good Samaritan
Jesus Visited Mary and Martha
The Man Who Said Thank-You
Zacchaeus Met Jesus
Jesus and the Children
Jesus Talked to the Woman at the Well
Children Sang for Jesus
Jesus Is Alive! *
Breakfast with Jesus
Philip and the Ethiopian
Timothy Learned About God
Paul Taught Lydia About Jesus
Church Helpers

** Introduced in Kindergarten.*

Grades 1–6

All stories listed for babies—kindergarten and the following:

Cain and Abel
Abram's Call
God's Covenant with Abraham **
The Sacrifice of Isaac ***
Isaac and the Wells
Jacob Tricked Esau
Joseph's Story
Moses and the Burning Bush
The Plagues and the Exodus
The Ten Commandments
Joshua and Caleb
The Fall of Jericho
Deborah, Gideon, or Samson
David and Goliath
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
Naaman's Healing
Daniel's Friends in the Furnace
Daniel in the Lion's Den
Esther
Jesus' Birth and Related Events
Jesus' Baptism and Temptations
The Sermon on the Mount
Jesus Performed Miracles
Jesus and the Storm
The Transfiguration ***
The Prodigal Son
The Raising of Lazarus
Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection
Jesus' Post Resurrection Appearances
Jesus' Ascension **
The Jerusalem Church
Stephen **
Peter's Escape
Paul's Missionary Journeys

*** Introduced in Grades 3-4*
****Introduced in Grades 5-6*

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