



Faith Connections
Children's Sunday School Curriculum
Organizing Principle and Age-Group Goals
"What Children Will Learn"

Organizing Principle for the Curriculum

We study the Bible to know, love, and serve the God of the Bible.

Overarching Goals for Children's Sunday School Curriculum

To help children . . .

1. Desire a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
2. Accept Jesus as Savior
3. Become lifelong disciples
4. Develop a biblical worldview*
5. Be a part of and participate in Christian community
6. Develop skills to do their part in fulfilling the Great Commission

Age-Group Goals

Note: The goals for each age-group build on those from previous age-groups. Goals for earlier age-groups run through all the higher levels.

Babies — Birth to 12 months

- B1. Experience God's love through the love of caregivers
- B2. Form a foundation of trust upon which faith may be built
- B3. Sense God's presence as caregivers practice the presence of Christ
- B4. Feel loved and secure in church
- B5. Become familiar with the words "God" and "Jesus"
- B6. Hear Bible verses in various ways

Toddlers & Twos — 12 months to 36 months

- T1. Know God made them and be aware of His love for them
- T2. Know that the Bible is a special book that tells them about God and Jesus
- T3. Know that Jesus, God's Son, is Someone special who loves them
- T4. Know they are part of their church, a special place to learn about God
- T5. Enjoy the wonder of God's creation through their senses
- T6. Express thanks and praises to God for His love and care

Preschool — Three- and Four-year-olds

- P1. Know that God is great and good

- P2. Recognize that they make choices
- P3. Know that Jesus is alive
- P4. Want to please God
- P5. Love Jesus as their Friend
- P6. Fall in love with Bible stories
- P7. Enjoy Bible verses through a variety of experiences
- P8. Talk with God
- P9. Begin to participate in the activities of their church community.

Kindergarten — Five- and six-year-olds not in first grade

- K1. Recognize that some choices are right and some are wrong
 - a. Learn to share possessions
 - b. Begin to be sorry for wrongdoing because it hurts God and others
 - c. Begin to understand the concept of forgiveness (Encourage the children to practice and to receive forgiveness.)
- K2. Know that God’s love through Jesus is for all people, including them
- K3. Continue to build a relationship with God
 - a. Recognize that God is trustworthy
 - b. Realize that God hears and answers prayer
 - c. Want to do things for God
 - d. Learn Bible verses that help them know and obey God
- K4. Begin to build relationships with others
 - a. Show respect for others
 - b. Want to help others
- K5. Understand that their Church is a family who loves God
- K6. Believe that Jesus is alive and they can live with Him in heaven someday

Early Elementary — Grades 1-2

- EE1. Know what God is like through His interaction with Bible characters
- EE2. Grow in the understanding that they need to know Jesus as Savior and Lord
 - a. Want to follow Jesus, God’s Son
 - b. Confess sin and seek forgiveness when the Holy Spirit convicts them
- EE3. Become better acquainted with the Bible
 - a. Realize that the Bible helps us know and love God
 - b. Understand that God has given the Bible as a guide for right living
 - c. Learn Bible stories and characters
 - d. Memorize Bible verses as an important means of their spiritual formation
 - e. Learn the basic Bible skills of locating Old and New Testaments, Genesis, Psalms, Gospels, Revelation
- EE4. Develop a beginning understanding of what it means to trust and obey God
 - a. Begin to make choices based on Bible truths
 - b. Grow in the practice of prayer
- EE5. Begin to understand that the Church is God’s people who love and serve Him
- EE6. Know that Christians will live with Jesus forever in heaven

EE7. Grow in concern for people who don't know Jesus

Middle Elementary — Grades 3-4

- ME1. Develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be saved and to respond to God in faith
- ME2. Evidence a desire to strengthen their relationship with God by reading the Bible and praying on their own
- Know how to read Bible verse references and find them in the Bible
 - Begin to develop a personal devotional life
 - Become familiar with and practice various types of prayer: adoration, thanksgiving, intercession, and confession
 - Memorize longer passages of Scripture, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments
- ME3. Make choices in light of God's character and Word
- Begin to understand the consequences of their choices
 - Begin to rely on God for guidance and strength to make right choices
- ME4. Grow in understanding of what it means to be the Church — the people of God
- Realize that if they are Christians, they are part of the Church
 - Practice spiritual accountability
 - Participate in the ministry of their church
- ME5. Know that Jesus will return someday for His people, and they need to live so they are ready to be with Him in heaven

Preteen — Grades 5-6

- PT1. Develop and use Bible study skills to better understand the overall message of the Bible (concordance, Bible dictionary, commentary, and maps)
- PT2. Accept themselves as loved by God
- PT3. Acknowledge Jesus as Lord and pattern their lives after Him
- Understand the concepts of spiritual growth, ministry, service, and outreach
 - Explore the nature of lifelong discipleship
- PT4. Begin to understand what it means to live a life of holiness
- Become aware of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives
 - Begin to understand what spiritual gifts are
 - Begin to experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to do God's will and live the Christian life
- PT5. Begin to understand Jesus' role as their mediator in heaven
- PT6. Begin to integrate their relationship with God with who they are and how they live
- PT7. Begin to recognize the global nature of the Church at work
- PT8. Rely on God to help them make a successful transition from the preteen years to the teen years

"Worldview" is a term used to describe the belief system "lens" through which a person understands and interprets the world, and by which he or she or makes decisions about the world. In the Wesleyan theological tradition, a biblical worldview is a way of both processing what happens in the world, through the lens of scriptural truth, and of affirming that human nature and society can be radically transformed by the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ and energized in us by the Holy Spirit.