

Getting to Know Your Child

Physically

... Socially

... Intellectually

... and especially Spiritually



Who are we teaching?

To effectively touch kids' lives with the truth of God's word, we must connect them to God's Story in ways that makes sense to them. You must become an "expert" on the qualities and characteristics of the child you nurture – both the characteristics generally to be true of children at a given age, and, more specifically, that which is true of the child with whom you have been entrusted. There are no magic formulas and no shortcuts for raising faithful kids, therefore it is essential that you know your child well as you connect him to the love of the Lord.

When you lead a child, remember ...

- ⇒ A child can learn only what he is ready to learn.
- ⇒ A child does not learn what he says; he learns what he lives.
- ⇒ A child learns best in a relaxed environment.
- ⇒ Telling or showing a child how to do something does not teach how to do it. He must practice it on his own.



Getting to Know Infants

Birth to Three Months

- ✓ Ruled by physical needs.
- ✓ Only able to give nonverbal messages, and therefore picks up on nonverbal messages easily.
- ✓ Solves problems using his/her senses.
- ✓ Learns through touch – mostly through the mouth.
- ✓ Needs an abundance of sensory activities.
- ✓ Attracted to bright hanging objects.

Four to Six Months

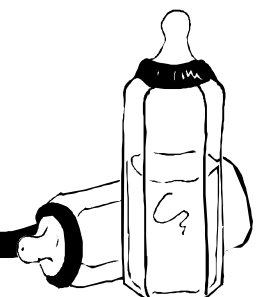
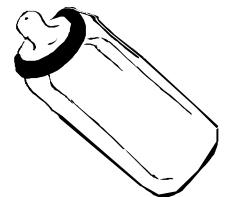
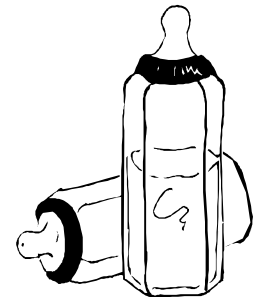
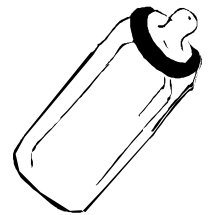
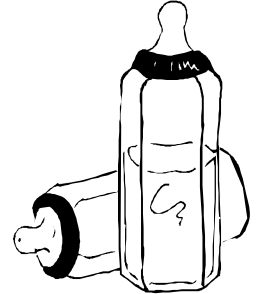
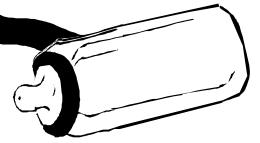
- ✓ Rolls and wiggles.
- ✓ Eager to approach new things.
- ✓ Recognizes mothers face as well as other family members.
- ✓ Cries when family members leave.
- ✓ Learns to pick up objects.
- ✓ Learns to let go of objects intentionally.

Seven to Nine Months

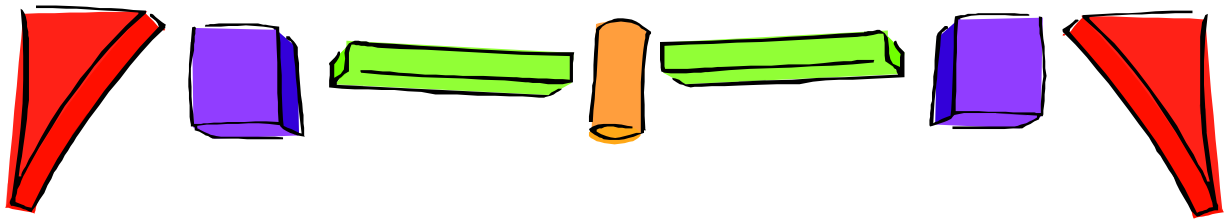
- ✓ First tooth arrives.
- ✓ Enjoys exercising muscles.
- ✓ Learns to sit up and crawl.
- ✓ Becomes very suspicious of “strangers” (a.k.a., someone other than mother and immediate family members).
- ✓ Enjoys exploring.

Ten to Twelve Months

- ✓ Eats solid foods and drinks from a cup.
- ✓ Sits without support and crawls well.
- ✓ Needs plenty of opportunities for adventure.
- ✓ Responds more to adult attention and enjoys interactive games.
- ✓ Needs to be introduced to a variety of books.
- ✓ Learns to pull self up, stand, and begin to walk.

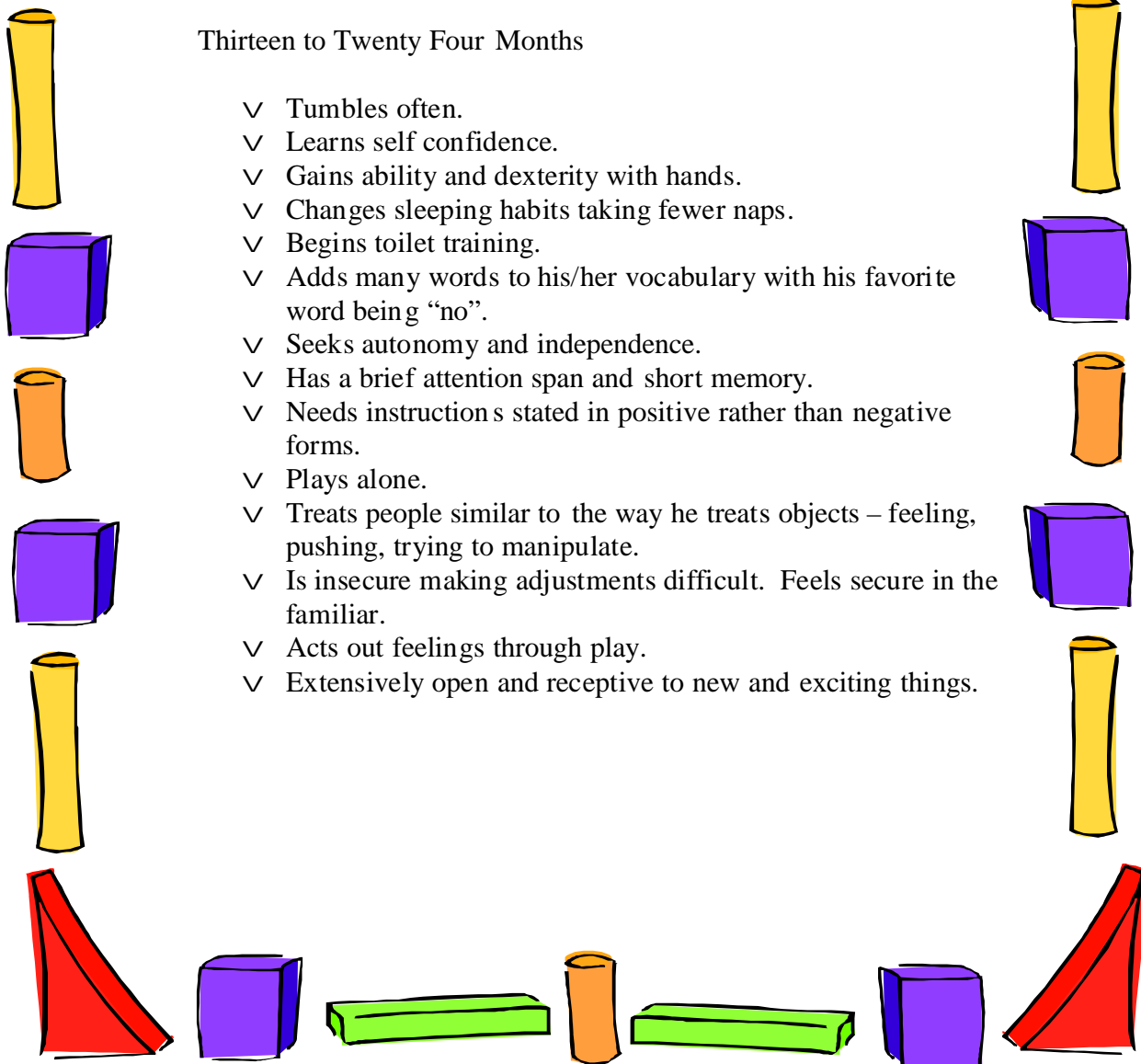


Getting to Know Toddlers



Thirteen to Twenty Four Months

- ✓ Tumbles often.
- ✓ Learns self confidence.
- ✓ Gains ability and dexterity with hands.
- ✓ Changes sleeping habits taking fewer naps.
- ✓ Begins toilet training.
- ✓ Adds many words to his/her vocabulary with his favorite word being “no”.
- ✓ Seeks autonomy and independence.
- ✓ Has a brief attention span and short memory.
- ✓ Needs instructions stated in positive rather than negative forms.
- ✓ Plays alone.
- ✓ Treats people similar to the way he treats objects – feeling, pushing, trying to manipulate.
- ✓ Is insecure making adjustments difficult. Feels secure in the familiar.
- ✓ Acts out feelings through play.
- ✓ Extensively open and receptive to new and exciting things.



Spiritual Foundations for Infants and Toddlers

- ✓ God made each child unique. Babies need parents who are “tuned in” to their needs and are willing to make adjustments to meet those needs.
- ✓ Basic values and concepts communicated to a child during this time of life largely determine the course of that child’s life. Moral and spiritual development is a process. Each experience the child has contributes to the process but no single event has a “make or break” influence.
- ✓ Spiritual development at the early stages hinges on how well basic physical needs are met. The spiritual is learned through the physical. The intangible is learned through the tangible.
- ✓ Basic feelings of security and a sense of trust that a child carries with him throughout life are established when basic needs are met in kind, loving, gentle ways.
- ✓ Having loving, caring adult males in his/her life makes it easier for the child to understand the love and devotion of a Heavenly Father.
- ✓ Toddlers are in awe of the things which God has made.
- ✓ Toddlers love to hear stories of baby Jesus and other important babies in the Bible.
- ✓ Through regularly attending Bible classes, infants and toddlers can:
 - Experience happy feelings associated with God and Jesus.
 - Discover God’s wonders through creation.
 - Develop a sense of belonging and security in the familiar.
 - Associate experiences at home with experiences at church.
 - Develop relationships with others.
 - Begin to understand the Bible as a special book.
- ✓ Receiving physical touch from mother and father is an essential way of learning what love is.
- ✓ Teaching babies to obey parents is the first step to teaching children to obey God. Cooperative and obedient babies tend to have sensitive, accepting, and cooperative parents.
- ✓ When parents model respect by treating their baby with appropriate respect, the baby in turn grows to respect parents, and later respects others - including God.
- ✓ Having the parents’ needs met is as important as meeting the needs of the child.
- ✓ Setting limits is an essential factor in moral development.
 - Setting limits from the start is critical because babies are learning laws of nature – physical and moral. Limits help them figure out how the world works.
 - For limits to be effective, they must be age appropriate, consistent, and specific.
 - If given plenty of opportunity to meet the need for safe exploration and adventure, toddlers are more likely to accept limits put on them.

Getting to Know the 2-Year-Old

- ✓ Learning the basics of life.
- ✓ Absorbs an incredible amount of knowledge and understanding – though more oftentimes knowledge than understanding.
- ✓ Trusts everything parents and teachers say.
- ✓ Hungers to learn about God and the Bible and depends totally on others to fill that need.
- ✓ Feels secure within a fixed schedule.
- ✓ Enjoys repetition – schedules are important and provide a sense of security for the child.
- ✓ Participates in almost all of the parents' everyday activities.
- ✓ Centers everything on self.
- ✓ Becoming very independent as he tries to become his own person. Giving choices within limits helps him establish a healthy independence.
- ✓ Developing the ability to choose. Since his mind isn't quite able to say which is the best choice, he often tries both choices constantly going back and forth, often frustrating to parents and teachers.
- ✓ Plays alone or alongside another child – not interactive “with” another child.
- ✓ Thrives on things to do.
- ✓ Extremely possessive of toys and other items. Uses the word “mine” often.
- ✓ Mimics.
- ✓ Dawdles.
- ✓ “Reads” pictures by telling about them
- ✓ Proud of own work and likes to show it off.
- ✓ Enjoys curiously getting into things.
- ✓ Experiences and special interest focus on their bedroom or their home. Do not understand “outside world” well.
- ✓ Interested in community helpers because these people more often touch their lives than others (such as accountants, teachers, executives, etc.).
- ✓ Interested in simple tools, gardening, animals, and the care of babies.
- ✓ Displays a very short attention span.
- ✓ Needs many opportunities to explore.
- ✓ Must be allowed to practice new skills.
- ✓ Family atmosphere is vitally important.



Spiritual Concepts the Two Year Old is Ready For

About God	<p>God loves me.</p> <p>God takes care of me.</p> <p>God loves and cares for my family.</p> <p>God does good things for people.</p> <p>God wants me to talk to him.</p> <p>God made everything.</p> <p>God made me.</p> <p>I can praise God by singing and praying.</p>
About Jesus	<p>Jesus loves me.</p> <p>Jesus is God's Son.</p> <p>Jesus is a friend.</p> <p>Jesus was once a child like me.</p> <p>Jesus said good things, which are in the Bible.</p>
About the Bible	<p>God gave us the Bible.</p> <p>The Bible tells me about God.</p> <p>The Bible is a special book.</p> <p>The stories in the Bible are true.</p> <p>I should love the Bible.</p>
About Home and Parents	<p>God gave me parents.</p> <p>God gave me a family.</p> <p>I should obey my parents.</p>
About Church and Bible Class	<p>Church is a place to learn about God.</p> <p>Church is a place to see friends.</p> <p>Church is a good place to be.</p> <p>I can give money to God with the church.</p> <p>I can sing to God with the church.</p> <p>I can pray to God with the church.</p> <p>I can listen to stories about God and Jesus with the church.</p>
About Others	<p>God gives grownups to care for me.</p> <p>Jesus wants me to be kind to others and share with them.</p>
About the Spiritual World	<p>Angels came to tell people when Jesus was born.</p> <p>Angels love and praise God.</p>



Getting to Know the 3-Year-Old

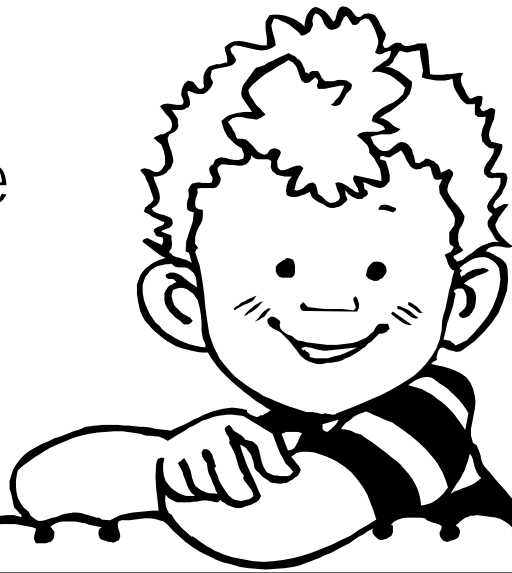
- ✓ Is learning basics of life such as eating habits, sleeping habits, bathroom control, following directions, getting along with others, and talking well.
- ✓ His learning revolves around the significant people in his world.
- ✓ Has extremely strong family ties.
- ✓ Likes to be with other people.
- ✓ Is very trusting and believes *everything* an adult says.
- ✓ Imitates everything and everyone.
- ✓ Is very affectionate.
- ✓ Is more willing to share than a 2-year-old but still has mostly parallel play. (He plays *alongside* other children rather than playing *with* other children.)
- ✓ Has difficulty seeing a situation from another person's perspective.
- ✓ Is beginning to understand taking turns.
- ✓ Is focused on discovering self.
- ✓ Needs to be able to move.
- ✓ Can be managed by distractions.
- ✓ Expresses many fears even though some are not realistic.
- ✓ Thrives on repetition and routine.
- ✓ Understands literal and concrete concepts best. Has difficulty understanding abstract concepts and object lessons.
- ✓ Has limited knowledge and vocabulary.
- ✓ Has an unreliable memory.
- ✓ Has an unclear understanding of cause and effect relationships ("If I do this, that will happen.").
- ✓ Is able to learn one concept at time ("big" or "small"; but not "big and small").
- ✓ Enjoys puzzles and crayons, but his fine motor skills are not developed enough to keep to the confines of a coloring page. (Coloring pages may frustrate him more than help him.)
- ✓ Tends to think with his muscles: he does what he sees.
- ✓ Finds it hard to distinguish between God and Jesus.



Spiritual Concepts the Three-Year-Old Child Is Ready For

About God	<p>God exists.</p> <p>God loves me and is a loving Father. (This concept may be difficult for a child depending on his home situation.)</p> <p>God takes care of me.</p> <p>God loves and cares for my family.</p> <p>God provides for and protects me.</p> <p>God does good things for people.</p> <p>God wants me to talk with Him.</p> <p>God made the world.</p> <p>God made me.</p> <p>I can praise God anytime by singing and praying.</p> <p>I should please and obey God.</p> <p>God is always right.</p> <p>God does what He says He will do.</p> <p>I can trust God.</p>
About Jesus	<p>Jesus loves me.</p> <p>Jesus is God's Son.</p> <p>Jesus is a friend.</p> <p>Jesus was once a child like me.</p> <p>Jesus wants me to be like Him.</p> <p>I can trust Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus is always right.</p> <p>(It's hard for this age to distinguish between Jesus and God.)</p>
About the Bible	<p>God gave us the Bible.</p> <p>The Bible tells me about God.</p> <p>The Bible is a special book.</p> <p>The stories in the Bible are true.</p> <p>I need to listen to stories from the Bible.</p> <p>The Bible tells stories about people I can imitate.</p>
About Home and Parents	<p>God gave me parents.</p> <p>I should obey my parents.</p> <p>God gave me grandparents.</p> <p>God made my brothers and sisters.</p>
About Church and Bible Class	<p>Church is a place to learn about God.</p> <p>Church is a place to see friends.</p> <p>Church is a good place to be.</p> <p>I can give money to God with the church.</p> <p>I can sing to God with the church.</p> <p>I can pray to God with the church.</p> <p>I can listen to stories about God and Jesus with the church.</p>
About Others	<p>God gives grownups to care for me.</p> <p>Other people can be good friends.</p> <p>Jesus wants me to be kind to others and share with them.</p>
About the Spiritual World	<p>Angels came to tell people when Jesus was born.</p> <p>Angels love and praise God.</p>

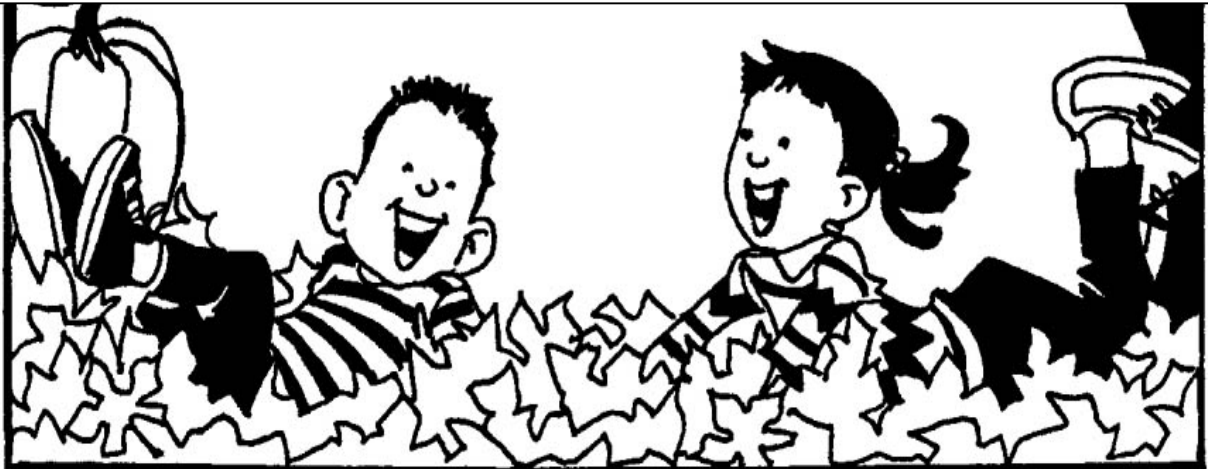
Getting to Know the 4-Year-Old



- ✓ Is curious and eager to learn.
- ✓ Is highly imaginative and creative.
- ✓ Generally has a positive outlook on life.
- ✓ Is full of wonder.
- ✓ Wants to do more than he is capable of doing.
- ✓ Is learning obedience, especially through rewards and punishment.
- ✓ Is ready to understand unconditional love.
- ✓ Is learning the concepts of safe and dangerous.
- ✓ Is learning the concepts of good and bad.
- ✓ Is entering the “Why?” stage.
- ✓ Has a limited comprehension of time and space.
- ✓ Understands literal and concrete concepts best. Has difficulty understanding abstract concepts but is learning to make mental pictures of things.
- ✓ Is easily confused and misled by symbolism and object lessons.
- ✓ Does not comprehend cause and effect relationships (“If I do this, that will happen”).
- ✓ Has simple trust in God, Jesus, and adults around him.
- ✓ Thrives on adult attention. Actively seeks praise and is typically willing to cooperate to get it.
- ✓ Parrots adults and sounds smarter than he really is. His verbal skills are better than his understanding of what he says.
- ✓ Likes nonsense words and silly rhymes.
- ✓ Learns best through repetition (same routine: same stories, same songs, same personnel) and multi-sensory activities.
- ✓ Appreciates order and organization.
- ✓ Traditions and special times are very important.
- ✓ Is discovering friends and will conform to his friends’ opinions.
- ✓ Is beginning the stage of cooperative play (playing *with* someone rather than just beside someone).
- ✓ Displays fewer fears than three-year-olds.
- ✓ Fine motor skills are improving but are not developed enough to stay within the confines of a coloring page (which can cause frustration).

Getting to Know the 5-Year-Old

- ✓ Has an increasing independence and wants an active involvement in his own development.
- ✓ Wants to set the foundation for his own relationship with God. He says his own prayers and reads regularly from Bible and Bible story books.
- ✓ Wants to do more than he is capable of.
- ✓ Is very inquisitive and imaginative.
- ✓ Displays intense emotions.
- ✓ Is discovering friends.
- ✓ Is learning to respect the rights and feelings of others and is developing a genuine concern for others.
- ✓ Has a strong sense of conformity to those around him.
- ✓ Parrots adults, sounding smarter than he really is. His verbal skills are much better than his understanding of what he says.
- ✓ Begins to judge and classify.
- ✓ Is developing a clear sense of conscience.
- ✓ Is learning to distinguish right from wrong and identifies especially with rules.
- ✓ Is learning the difference between fantasy and reality.
- ✓ Likes to play “dress up”.
- ✓ Loves stories.
- ✓ His concept of time is often limited to the span of a day. He can recall specific events of the past but not in terms of time that has elapsed since they occurred.
- ✓ Is eager to learn.
- ✓ Likes to make the familiar more familiar; his conversations focus on his family and other things in his own little world.
- ✓ Learns best through repetition (same routine: same stories, same songs, same personnel) and multi-sensory activities.
- ✓ Enjoys a greater development of fine motor skills with a new appeal for crayons and scissors.
- ✓ His teacher’s goal should be building understanding; memorization should not be the aim.



Spiritual Concepts the Four- and Five-Year-Old Child Is Ready For


About God	<p>God loves and cares for me and others.</p> <p>God loves us no matter what.</p> <p>God cares for and loves families.</p> <p>God made all things.</p> <p>God is to be trusted and depended on.</p> <p>God will hear prayer anytime and listens to the smallest details.</p> <p>God sent Jesus for me and for others.</p> <p>God wants me to be thankful for all He has made.</p> <p>God wants me to obey Him.</p> <p>God is my Heavenly Father. (This concept may be difficult for a child depending on his home situation.)</p> <p>I can praise God anytime.</p> <p>God wants a relationship with me personally.</p> <p>I can sense the greatness, wonder and love of God.</p> <p>God is everywhere. *</p>
About Jesus	<p>Jesus loves me and is my best friend.</p> <p>Jesus will help me obey and share.</p> <p>Jesus loves all the children and wants them to love Him.</p> <p>Jesus is always with me.</p> <p>Jesus can help me do hard things.</p> <p>Jesus showed us who God is and what He is like.</p>
About the Bible	<p>The Bible tells about God.</p> <p>The Bible is God's Word.</p> <p>God tells me what kind of person He wants me to be through the Bible.</p> <p>The stories in the Bible are true.</p> <p>The Bible is one big story.</p>
About Home and Parents	<p>God gave me parents to care for and teach me.</p> <p>God gave me parents to pray for me.</p> <p>I should obey my parents.</p> <p>God wants me to see and think about good things.</p>
About Church and Bible Class	<p>Church is a place to learn about God.</p> <p>Church is a place to meet others who love God.</p> <p>Church is a place to learn, sing and worship God.</p>
About Others	<p>God made all people.</p> <p>God loves everyone and wants all to love Him.</p> <p>God wants me to tell others about Jesus.</p> <p>God wants me to be kind, to share, and pray for others.</p> <p>God wants me to share my money.</p> <p>God wants me to help others.</p> <p>God wants me to spend time with other Christians.</p> <p>God wants me to apologize. *</p>

About the Spirit World	Angels came to tell people when Jesus was born. Angels love and praise God. Satan (the devil) does not want to please God. * Satan wants us to do bad things. *
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* Concepts specific to the 5 Year Old Child



Getting to Know the Elementary Child

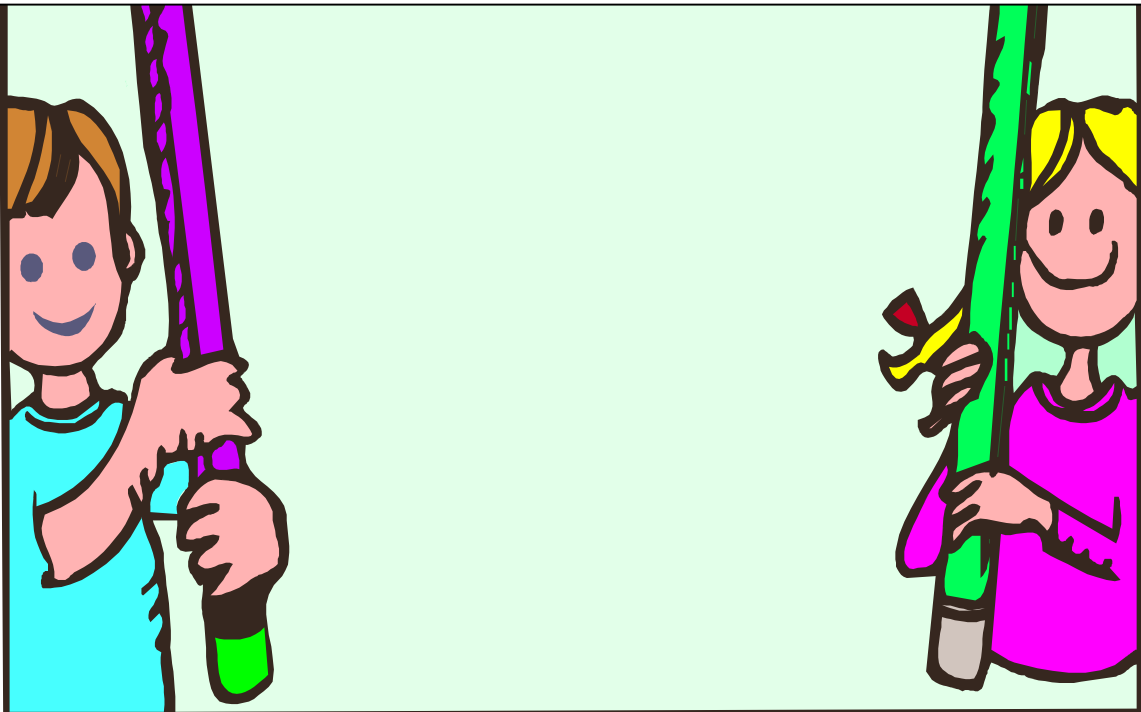
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- ✓ Is learning self control *through relationships*.
 - ✓ Learns Bible truths best through his everyday experiences.
 - ✓ If often more influenced by the attitudes and actions of others rather than by lessons and concepts.
 - ✓ Learns through discovery.
 - ✓ Thinks literally and concretely.
 - ✓ Thinks specifically and does not relate ideas together.
 - ✓ Is most influenced by his parents.

Now About the 6- and 7-Year-Old

- ✓ Is observant.
- ✓ Is learning to read, write, and do arithmetic.
- ✓ Is more interested in the process than the product. He will learn more by doing than by listening.
- ✓ Thinks literally and concretely and does not understand symbolism, abstracts or generalities.
- ✓ Begins to develop a worldview.
- ✓ Begins to understand time relationships (past and future).
- ✓ Is sympathetic to people his own age.
- ✓ Has compassion for people and a strong desire to show it.
- ✓ Knows right from wrong.
- ✓ Learns the difference between fantasy and reality.
- ✓ Applies Scripture from his own personal, everyday experiences.
- ✓ The best way to present the gospel to this age is to use the analogy of human family and God's family. (Be careful in presenting this analogy to a child growing up in a dysfunctional family – especially using talking about fathers and our Heavenly Father.)
- ✓ Learns best when taught using stories, projects, questions, role play, reading, singing, drawing.
- ✓ Parents and teachers are critical role models in all areas, including church attendance, participation in church activities and living a Christian lifestyle.
- ✓ Jesus is real, is their very best friend, and can do anything.

Getting to Know More About the 6-Year-Old

- ✓ Is more eager for acceptance and approval by peers.
- ✓ Is sensitive to criticism, punishment and blame; is concerned about being left out of a group. (A teacher may criticize unconsciously if he comments on one child's drawing and fails to comment on another child's work.)
- ✓ Is learning to read, write, and do arithmetic.
- ✓ Needs plenty of opportunity for movement.
- ✓ Has very little understanding of spatial distances.
- ✓ Do not understand difference between Old and New Testament events. From his perspective, everything happened "long ago."
- ✓ At this stage, sees *all* adults as right. (Application: Uncensored TV viewing can be extremely harmful.)
- ✓ Finds it unbelievable that a church person could do wrong. (Application: He cannot understand that the religious groups like the Pharisees and Sadducees could have been wrong.)
- ✓ Believes everyone with *any* religious connections does good things and is a good person.
- ✓ Has difficulty cooperating in organized games.
- ✓ Tries to determine difference between fantasy and reality
- ✓ Enjoys showing responsibility.



Getting to Know More About the 7-Year-Old

- ✓ Is becoming more independent of mother.
- ✓ Tends to be jealous of siblings.
- ✓ Known as the “eraser age.” He wants everything perfect in order to earn approval of adults, peers, and self.
- ✓ Is a worrier. (Some worries include: not being liked, being late for school, meeting new people, and not getting finished in time.)
- ✓ Verbally stands up for his rights.
- ✓ Has a growing sense of justice for himself and sometimes will argue for the rights of others.
- ✓ Likes Bible stories that show “behavior brings its just reward” (i.e., Jonah disobeyed, was punished, received forgiveness, and did what was right).
- ✓ Absolutely loves stories. Teacher should emphasize which stories are real and which are make-believe.
- ✓ Has trouble distinguishing imaginary stories with Bible backgrounds (i.e. Veggie Tales).
- ✓ Has difficulty comprehending object lessons.
- ✓ Has a need to worship, study, have expression, and enjoy Christian fellowship.
- ✓ Lessons chosen for them should be easily understood and effectively related to a child’s experience. Select Bible events that have a story quality. (Principles expounded on by Paul should wait until later years).
- ✓ Places much more importance on a variety of experiences as opposed to a fixed routine.



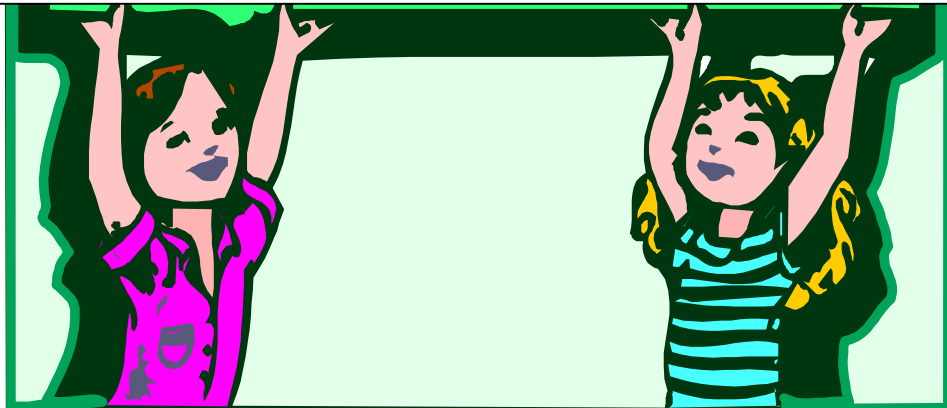
Spiritual Concepts the Six- and Seven-Year-Old Child Is Ready For

About God	<p>God loves me, my family, and friends. God loves all the people of the world. God wants people to love Him too. God wants us to obey Him. God provides food for people by letting plants grow. God takes care of the world He made. God wants us to pray and read our Bibles. God is holy and cannot fail. God has all power to help me and others. God's way works best. God is my Heavenly Father. (This concept may be difficult for a child depending on his home situation.) God is real, and we can be sure of that. There is only one God. God is the creator. God's character is true, honest, loving, generous, compassionate, selfless, forgiving, merciful, faithful, just, impartial, and holy. God gives us concrete evidence of His care.</p>
About Jesus	<p>Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus came to earth to die for us. Jesus never did anything wrong. Jesus rose from the dead and lives in Heaven. Jesus loves us and wants to be our best friend. Jesus did many wonderful miracles while on earth. Jesus can help me choose to do the right thing. Jesus showed us who God is and what He is like. Jesus is the only way to God.</p>
About the Bible	<p>The Bible tells about God. The Bible is God's Word. The Bible is one big story. God tells me what He wants me to do in the Bible. The stories in the Bible are true. The Bible tells how God worked with others. The Bible tells God's plan for me.</p>
About Home and Parents	<p>Parents are God's leaders for us on earth. Parents want to help us, so we should obey them. Parents love us and provide food, home, and clothing for us. God is an important part of our home life. God wants me to see and think about good things. God wants me to exercise self control.</p>

About Church and Bible Class	<p>Church is a place to learn about God.</p> <p>Church is a place to meet others who love God.</p> <p>Church is a place to learn, sing and worship God.</p> <p>I am an important part of the church.</p> <p>People need my help in taking care of the church building.</p> <p>I can give money to God with the church.</p>
About Others	<p>Others may want the same thing I do; I must share.</p> <p>Others may not want to do the same thing I do; I must learn to cooperate.</p> <p>Others may need something very much; I can give.</p> <p>Others may be in trouble; I can pray for them.</p> <p>Others may need help; I can help them.</p> <p>Others may be unkind; I can forgive them.</p> <p>Others may not know about Jesus; I need to tell them.</p> <p>God wants a relationship with everyone in the entire world.</p> <p>Not everybody obeys God.</p> <p>God wants me to spend time with other Christians.</p>
About the Spirit World	<p>Angels love and praise God.</p> <p>Angels are God's servants who help us.</p> <p>Satan wants us to sin and disobey God.</p> <p>Jesus has gone to Heaven to prepare a place for all who love Him.</p> <p>Jesus will come back some day to take us so we can live with Him forever.</p>

Getting to Know the 8- and 9-Year-Old

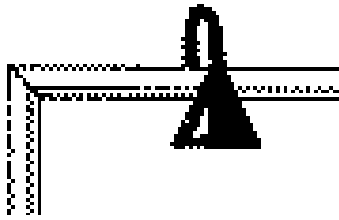
- ✓ Considered the most peaceful time in childhood.
- ✓ Sees self as an individual. This is a critical age to develop a positive self image.
- ✓ Believes he can do anything.
- ✓ Enjoys challenges and competition.
- ✓ Is developing a sense of humor.
- ✓ Is developing intense friendships.
- ✓ Needs to belong to a group. Same gender groups work well because this age has a strong boy/girl clash.
- ✓ Able to understand multiple directions and thinks in terms of steps or processes. Enjoys working on projects with more than one step involved.
- ✓ Comprehends best when the curriculum builds one story upon another.
- ✓ Is most influenced by family members, with the importance of the father increasing while the importance of the mother decreases.
- ✓ Starts hero worship. He recognizes adult leaders with good character traits and wants to be like them. (This is an ideal time to teach Bible heroes using Jesus as the perfect example.
- ✓ Sees life as good or bad – no in between).
- ✓ Feels that lying is inexcusable.
- ✓ Is able to grasp the concept of a time line and chronology.
- ✓ Understands teaching about the events of the past when they are applied to the present situation of this child.
- ✓ Enjoys acting out stories using costumes. This helps him relate to the time period.
- ✓ Is becoming a good reader.
- ✓ Understands true/false statements and are learning to compare and contrast.
- ✓ Can memorize things easily.
- ✓ Feels the need to worship God in the here and now.
- ✓ Likes to plan and carry out his own worship services.
- ✓ Is interested in the God who made his world.
- ✓ Wants to know God personally. He feels a closeness to God and prays as if he is talking to his best friend.
- ✓ Prays for friends and their needs, and takes it seriously. He expects an answer from God.
- ✓ Considers God as the supreme authority and power in the universe.
- ✓ Accepts that God knows what is best for him.
- ✓ Has a hard time accepting that God is timeless and has no beginning.
- ✓ Is curious about death.
- ✓ Becomes aware of the spirit world.
- ✓ Wants guidelines.
- ✓ May be self conscious when reciting in front of a group
- ✓ Many times career choices made at this age will be the career he will pursue in life. This is a great time to lay foundations for careers in ministry and becoming missionaries.



Spiritual Concepts the Eight - and Nine -Year-Old Child Is Ready For

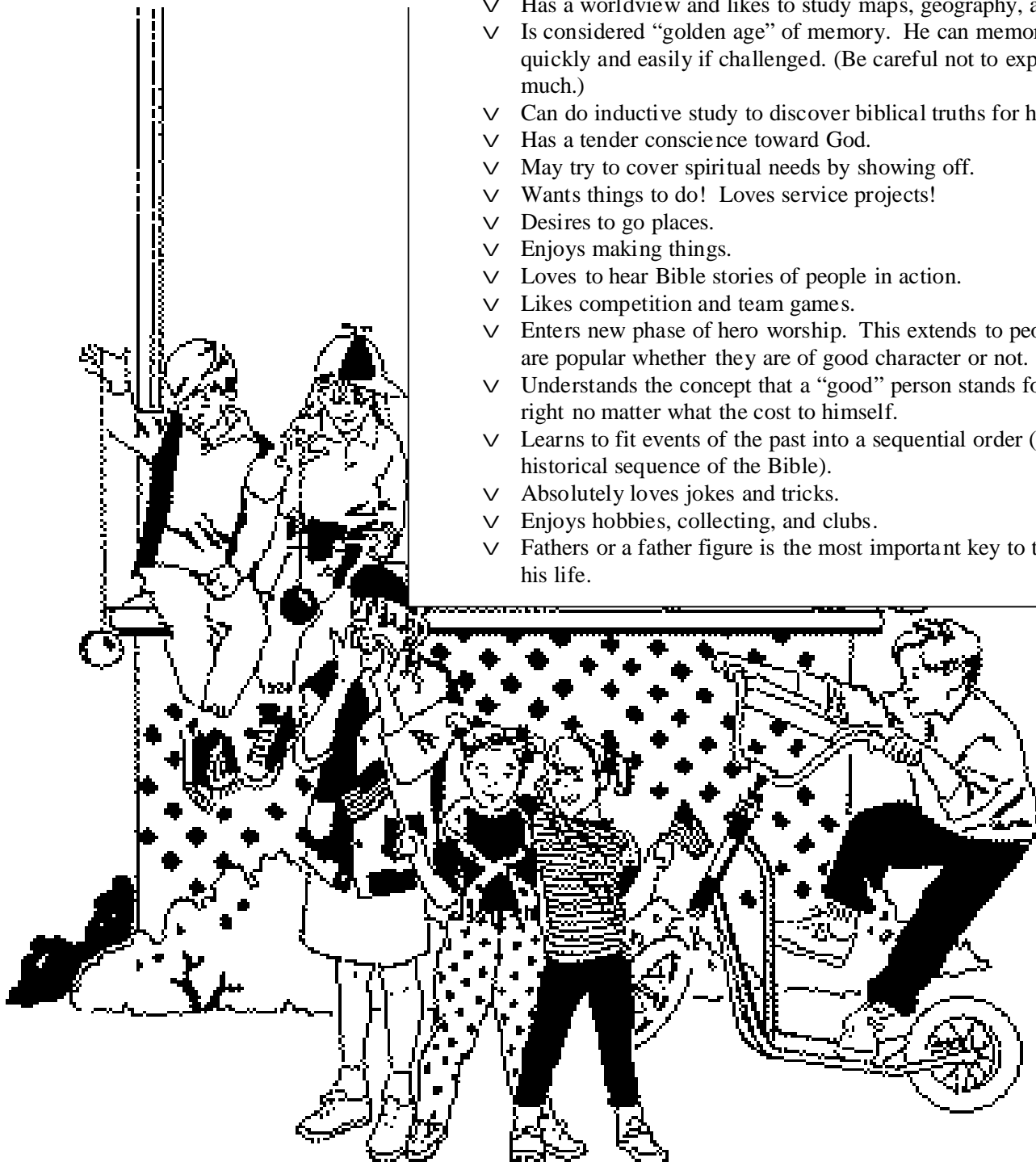
About God	<p>God is all powerful and wise, and is everywhere.</p> <p>God is present with me at all times.</p> <p>God wants to help me as I grow.</p> <p>God loves me and wants me to love Him.</p> <p>God made the universe and everything in it.</p> <p>God wants me to pray each day.</p> <p>God always answers prayers.</p> <p>God loves all people.</p> <p>God's way works best.</p> <p>God is real and I can be sure of that.</p> <p>There is only one God.</p> <p>God's character is true, honest, loving, generous, compassionate, selfless, forgiving, merciful, faithful, just, impartial, and holy.</p> <p>God gives us concrete evidence of His care.</p> <p>God has a plan.</p> <p>God has a plan for me.</p> <p>God is our Heavenly Father. (This concept may be difficult for a child depending on his home situation.)</p>
About Jesus	<p>Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior.</p> <p>Jesus is both God and man.</p> <p>Jesus died on the cross for our sins.</p> <p>Jesus can give salvation to those who desire it.</p> <p>Jesus can forgive sin.</p> <p>Jesus loves me even when I do wrong things.</p> <p>Jesus wants me to be a disciple and follow Him.</p> <p>Jesus is the only way to God.</p> <p>Jesus is always truthful.</p> <p>Jesus loves us and wants to be our best friend.</p>
About the Bible	<p>The Bible tells about God.</p> <p>The Bible is God's Word.</p> <p>The Bible is my guide book for life.</p> <p>The stories in the Bible are true.</p> <p>The Bible should be read every day.</p> <p>The Bible is an exciting book.</p> <p>The Bible is one big story which tells of God's plan for me.</p>
About Home and Parents	<p>Parents have rules for me to follow.</p> <p>God wants parents to obey Him, too.</p> <p>Parents are to me what God is to my parents.</p> <p>Parents want me to be a part of the family group.</p> <p>Home is a secure place where I can find strength.</p> <p>Home is a place where I can talk over my problems with my parents.</p> <p>God is an important part of my home life.</p> <p>God wants me to make wise decisions about what I see and hear.</p> <p>God wants me to develop my talents.</p>

About Church and Bible Class	<p>Church is a place to learn about God.</p> <p>Church is God's idea.</p> <p>Jesus is Head of the church.</p> <p>Church is a place to meet others who love God and encourage one other to follow Him.</p> <p>Church is a place to learn, sing and worship God.</p> <p>Church is a place for families.</p> <p>Church is like a family of which I am a very important part.</p>
About Others	<p>Others include a wider world, far beyond the community.</p> <p>Others include boys and girls from other cultures.</p> <p>Others need help; I can give.</p> <p>Others need the gospel; I can tell.</p> <p>Others need my prayers; I can pray for them.</p> <p>Others need my money; I can give.</p> <p>Others need help; I can help.</p> <p>God wants me to spend time with other Christians.</p> <p>Not everyone obeys God.</p>
About the Spirit World	<p>There is a spirit world.</p> <p>Angels love and praise God.</p> <p>Angels serve God and help us.</p> <p>God is stronger than Satan.</p> <p>Satan is evil.</p> <p>Satan tempts people so they won't follow God.</p> <p>When I am baptized, the Holy Spirit lives in me and helps me.</p> <p>Heaven is where God's followers go after death.</p> <p>People who do not follow God do not get to go to Heaven.</p>



Getting to Know the 10- and 11-Year-Old

- ✓ Has an excellent memory. He can memorize Scripture easily but still needs help understanding and applying it.
- ✓ Thinks critically yet still mainly literal.
- ✓ Begins to think and reason logically.
- ✓ Can understand symbolism and abstraction with careful explanations.
- ✓ Compares, contrasts, organizes, classifies, sequences.
- ✓ Knows right from wrong.
- ✓ Has a keen sense of justice – feels responsible for his wrongs.
- ✓ Recognizes sin as sin in others but finds it hard to see it in himself.
- ✓ May question authority.
- ✓ Has a keen sense of loyalty. (Learns best from adults who really appreciate him.)
- ✓ Has a worldview and likes to study maps, geography, and history.
- ✓ Is considered “golden age” of memory. He can memorize quickly and easily if challenged. (Be careful not to expect too much.)
- ✓ Can do inductive study to discover biblical truths for himself.
- ✓ Has a tender conscience toward God.
- ✓ May try to cover spiritual needs by showing off.
- ✓ Wants things to do! Loves service projects!
- ✓ Desires to go places.
- ✓ Enjoys making things.
- ✓ Loves to hear Bible stories of people in action.
- ✓ Likes competition and team games.
- ✓ Enters new phase of hero worship. This extends to people who are popular whether they are of good character or not.
- ✓ Understands the concept that a “good” person stands for what is right no matter what the cost to himself.
- ✓ Learns to fit events of the past into a sequential order (i.e. historical sequence of the Bible).
- ✓ Absolutely loves jokes and tricks.
- ✓ Enjoys hobbies, collecting, and clubs.
- ✓ Fathers or a father figure is the most important key to this time in his life.



Spiritual Concepts the Ten - and Eleven-Year -Old Child Is Ready For

About God	<p>God is Spirit, who is everywhere but whose home is in Heaven.</p> <p>God is all powerful, but He permits evil things to happen.</p> <p>God is all wise, but He permits people to choose between Him and sin, even though He knows what is best.</p> <p>God is One, but He is also the Trinity: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>God is absolutely perfect, holy, and just.</p> <p>God hates all sin.</p> <p>God cares for and protects His children.</p> <p>God wants to show me His will for my life.</p> <p>God is full of grace and will work in people through His Holy Spirit.</p> <p>God wants all to make a commitment to Him.</p> <p>God's love is unconditional.</p> <p>God has a plan for everyone.</p>
About Jesus	<p>Jesus became a man in order to do what God had planned.</p> <p>Jesus fulfilled part of God's wonderful plan for me; I must fulfill my part of the plan.</p> <p>Jesus shows me how to live for God; He is the perfect example.</p> <p>Jesus took the punishment for the sins of all people on the cross.</p> <p>Jesus is still alive and lives in Heaven.</p> <p>Jesus is the perfect hero.</p>
About the Bible	<p>The Bible has answers to all my everyday problems.</p> <p>The Bible can help me live a happy life.</p> <p>The Bible tells the history of God's work among people.</p> <p>The Bible is God's Word, the authority for life.</p> <p>The Bible is set in the culture of another kind of people. I need to understand that culture to help understand the Bible.</p> <p>The Bible is absolute truth.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit guided the writers of the Bible books.</p> <p>The Bible is a book to honor and memorize. It is God's truth to put into everyday practice.</p> <p>The Bible is God's truth for all people. I need to share it with others.</p> <p>The Bible, which is God's Word, is to be obeyed.</p> <p>God put the Bible together in a fascinating way and it is one big story.</p> <p>The Bible tells me what sin is.</p> <p>I need to learn how to study the Bible.</p> <p>I can develop my own personal faith.</p>

About Home and Parents	<p>My home and parents are part of God's plan for me.</p> <p>My home and parents function as part of God's plan, but I should do my part.</p> <p>I should show loyalty to my home and parents.</p> <p>I should show honor to my home and parents.</p> <p>I should accept correction from parents, for this will help me become a strong leader.</p> <p>I should begin to see what makes a Christian home, looking toward the day when I will start one.</p> <p>God wants me to make wise decisions about what I see and hear and also to set an example for others in this manner.</p> <p>I need to incorporate God's values into my own life.</p> <p>Habits I establish now will affect the rest of my life.</p>
About Church and Sunday School	<p>The church is a fellowship of believers in Christ.</p> <p>The church brings me in contact with Christian leaders.</p> <p>The church trains me in worship, study, prayer, witness, service and fellowship.</p> <p>The church is one place I can serve God.</p> <p>The church is one place I can learn to practice Christian giving and outreach.</p> <p>Church is for encouraging others to follow God.</p> <p>God lets people worship in different ways.</p> <p>I am a vital part of the church.</p>
About Others	<p>Others need my respect for their thoughts, their possessions, and their rights.</p> <p>Others need my understanding.</p> <p>Others need my help.</p> <p>God wants me to show others honesty, loyalty, and fair play.</p> <p>Others need my forgiveness.</p> <p>Others need my prayers.</p> <p>Others fit into God's plans, just as I do.</p> <p>Not everyone believes the truth about God.</p> <p>God wants me to do service for others.</p>
About the Spirit World	<p>Angels love and praise God.</p> <p>God wants me to resist the devil's temptations.</p> <p>Satan wants to keep people from coming to God.</p> <p>God has a plan for the future, which will come to pass.</p> <p>People who have Christ and have died will be raised from the dead to go live with Jesus forever.</p> <p>People who do not have Christ will not get to live in Heaven.</p>

Spiritual Concepts Charts adapted from...

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