# What Every Child Should Experience A Guide for Leaders and Teachers in United Methodist Congregations





### **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 genuine and real. 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 young children 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

Keep this scripture before you, knowing that God is with us. You, and those who work with you to care for the children in your congregation and community, will form disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### I Scripture

### "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, and only scratches the surface of the word of God.

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.

In the early years, share the Bible in story form. As children grow, spend more time allowing the meanings of the stories to unfold through conversation and daily living.

### 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

### **Bibles and Books for Children**

Infants and toddlers connect with stories through their senses. Bible story books and books with biblical foundations are filled with images that little ones will enjoy. There are also translations of the Bible that children will find more meaningful since they are written on a level that young learners understand.

A list of children's Bibles and books with Biblical foundations can be found at **ministrywithchildren.com/childrens-books**, a resource of Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

### **Scripture: Newborn to 12 Months**

#### **Old Testament**

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

•	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

### **Scripture: 12 Months to 3 Years**

### **Old Testament**

•	Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:4
•	Adam and Eve	
•	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	lsaiah 2:1-5
•	Isaiah's Call	lsaiah 6:1-8
•	A Child Called Immanuel	lsaiah 7:10-17
•	God's Peaceful World	lsaiah 11:1-10
•	Daniel and the Lions	Daniel 6:1-28
•	Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4

	Janua Ja Dawa	Luka 0 1 00
•	Jesus Is Born	
•	Wise Men	
•	Escape to Egypt	
•	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	
•	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	
•	The Lord's Supper	
•	Resurrection	
•	Jesus Appears	John 21.1-13
•	What is Love	
•	Fruit of the Spirit	

### Scripture: 3-4 Years

### **Old Testament**

•	Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:4
•	Adam and Eve	
•	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	
•	Isaac's Blessing	Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40
•	Jacob Wrestles	
•	Joseph and His Brothers	.Genesis 37:1-28
•	Pharaoh's Dreams	
•	Joseph Helps His Family	.Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21
•	Praise God	
•	The Lord Is My Shepherd	
•	God Will Bring Peace	
•	Isaiah's Call	Jsaiah 6:1-8
•	A Child Called Immanuel	.lsaiah 7:10-17
•	God's Peaceful World	.lsaiah 11:1-10
•	Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1:4-10
•	Daniel and the Lions	
•	Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4

•	Angels Visit	
•	Mary Visits Elizabeth	
•	Zechariah	Luke 1:68-79
•	Jesus Is Born	
•	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
•	Temptation	Luke 4:1-13
•	Jesus Goes to Nazareth	Luke 4:14-30
•	Teaching and Healing	Mark 1:21-28
•	Jesus Heals	
•	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	
•	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	
•	Jesus Appears	John 21.1-13
•	God's Love	
•	Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:16-26

## Scripture: 4-5 Years

#### **Old Testament**

Creation	
Adam and Eve	
The First Sin	
The Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-15
Free from Slavery	
The Red Sea	
Manna, Quail, and Water	Exodus 16:1-18; 17:1-7
The Ten Commandments	
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	
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	
Isaiah's Call	
A Child Called Immanuel	
God's Peaceful World	
Jeremiah	
A Good Ruler	
Daniel and the Lions	
Jonah and the Big Fish	
A Ruler from Bethlehem	Micah 5:2-5

•	Angels Visit	Matthew 1:18-25. Luke 1:26-38
•	Mary Visits Elizabeth	
•	Zechariah	
•	Jesus Is Born	
•	Wise Men	
•	Escape to Egypt	
•	Simeon and Anna	
•	Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
•	Jesus' Baptism	
•	Jesus Goes to Nazareth	
•	Jesus, Fisher of People	Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4
•	The Beatitudes	
•	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	
•	Jesus Blesses the Children	
•	James and John	
•	The Good Samaritan	
•	Mary and Martha	
•	The Prodigal Son	
•	Zacchaeus	
•	Jesus Feeds Thousands	
•	The Good Shepherd	
•	Lazarus	
•	Mary Anoints Jesus	
•	Palm Sunday	
•	The Last Supper	
•	The Day Jesus Died	
•	The Empty Tomb	
•	The Road to Emmaus.	
•	Doubting Thomas	
•	The Great Commission	Matthew 28:16-20

# Scripture: 5-6 Years

#### **Old Testament**

0	0
• Creation	
Adam and Eve	
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	
Jacob Wrestles	
Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 3.1-12
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19.16-20.21
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 and Boaz	
Hannah Prays for a Child	
God Calls Samuel	
David Is Chosen	
David and Goliath	
Daniel and the Lion's Den	
Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4
_	

•	Annunciation	
•	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	
•	The Beatitudes	
•	The Centurion's Servant	
•	The Sower	
•	Walking on Water	
•	The Vineyard Workers	
•	Jesus Calms the Storm	
•	The Lost Sheep	
•	Loaves and Fishes	
•	Jesus Heals Jarius' Daughter	
•	Lord's Supper	
•	Resurrection	
•	Jesus Appears	
•	Philip and the Ethiopian	
•	Saul to Paul	
•	Peter and Tabitha	
•	Lydia	
•	Paul and Silas	
•	Paul's Letters	
•	Many Members, One Body	
	Paul and the Philippians	
	i aui and the i illippians	IIIIIppialis 1.1-14

## Scripture: 6-7 Years

### **Old Testament**

<ul> <li>God Creates</li> </ul>	Adam and Eve	.Genesis 1.26–2.25
	he World	
	el	
	ie Flood	
<ul> <li>God Calls Al</li> </ul>	oram	Genesis 12.1–9
<ul> <li>Abram Resc</li> </ul>	ues Lot	Genesis 14
<ul> <li>God's Coven</li> </ul>	ant with Abram	.Genesis 15.1-6; 17.15-27
<ul> <li>Abraham's V</li> </ul>	isitors	Genesis 18.1–15
<ul> <li>Abraham an</li> </ul>	d Isaac	Genesis 21.1–7; 22.1–19
<ul> <li>Isaac and R</li> </ul>	ebekah	Genesis 24
<ul> <li>Jacob and E</li> </ul>	sau	Genesis 25.19–34; 27.1–40
<ul> <li>Jacob's Drea</li> </ul>	am	Genesis 27.41–28.22
	he Burning Bush	
<ul> <li>Moses and t</li> </ul>	he Ten Commandments	_Exodus 19.16-20.21
<ul> <li>Joshua and</li> </ul>	the Wall of Jericho	Joshua 6.1-21
<ul> <li>Birth of San</li> </ul>	nson	Judges 13.1-7, 24-25
<ul><li>Deborah</li></ul>		Judges 4:1-5:31
	Ruth	
	oaz	
	ys for a Child	
	amuel	
	osen	
	oliath	
	he Lion's Den	
	he Big Fish	

	Divite of John Forestold	Luke 1 E OE
•	Birth of John Foretold	
•	Birth of John	
	Birth of John	
•	Birth of Jesus	
•	Jesus in the Temple	
•	Baptism of Jesus	
•	The Temptation of Jesus	
•	Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	
•	Jesus Heals Many	
•	Jesus Changes Water into Wine	
•	Jesus Calls the First Disciples	
•	The Beatitudes	
•	The Greatest Commandment	
•	Be Humble	
•	Jesus Blesses the Children	
•	James and John	
•	The Good Samaritan	
•	Mary and Martha	
•	The Prodigal Son	
•	Jesus is Anointed	
•	The Transfiguration	
•	Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two	
•	Jesus Teaches Us to Pray	
•	Jesus Feeds Thousands	
•	Jesus Seeks the Lost	
•	Jesus Our Shepherd	
•	Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy	
•	The Lord's Supper.	
•	Jesus' Death and Resurrection	
•	Jesus Appears to Thomas	
•	Jesus Appears to the Disciples	
•	Jesus Ascends into Heaven	
•	God Sends the Holy Spirit	
•	Philip and the Ethiopian	
•	Saul to Paul	
•	Peter and Tabitha	
•	Lydia	
•	Paul and Silas	
•	Paul's Letters	
•	Many Members, One Body	
•	Paul and the Philippians	Philippians 1:1-14

# Scripture: 7-8 Years

#### **Old Testament**

•	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

	Diate of John Constald	Luke 1 E 0E
•	Birth of John Foretold	
•	Birth of Jesus Foretold	
•	Birth of John	
•	Birth of Jesus	
•	Jesus in the Temple	
•	Baptism of Jesus	
•	The Temptation of Jesus	
•	Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	
•	Jesus Heals Many	
•	Jesus Calls the First Disciples	
•	Jesus Changes Water into Wine	
•	The Beatitudes	
•	Jesus is Anointed	
•	The Transfiguration	
•	Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two	
•	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	
•	Saul to Paul	.Acts 9:1-20
•	Peter and Tabitha	
•	Lydia	
•	Paul and Silas	
•	Paul's Letters	
•	Many Members, One Body	
•	Paul and the Philippians	
	, ,	

### Scripture: 8-9 Years

### **Old Testament**

Jacob's Family	Genesis 29.1-30.24
Joseph's Troubles	Genesis 39
Joseph Saves Egypt	
Joseph Forgives	
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
_	
	Joseph Forgives

	Diath of John Constald	1 1. 5. 0.5
•	Birth of John Foretold	
•	Mary Visits Elizabeth	
•	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	
•	John Prepares the Way	
•	Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3.13-17
•	Jesus Calls the First Disciples	
•	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	
•	Trial, Crucifixion, and Death	Matthew 27.11-66
•	Resurrection of Jesus	Matthew 28.1–10
•	An Empty Tomb	John 20.1–18
•	Emmaus Road	
•	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	
•	Peter and Cornelius	
•	Peter's Escape from Prison	

# Scripture: 9-10 Years

### **Old Testament**

Worship in the Tabernacle	
<ul> <li>Joshua and the Twelve Spies</li> </ul>	
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

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

## **Scripture: 10-11 Years**

#### **Old Testament**

•	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

• E	Birth of John Foretold	Luke 1.5–25
• [	Birth of Jesus Foretold	Luke 1.25–38
• E	Birth of John	Luke 1.57–80
• E	Birth of Jesus	Luke 2.1–20
• J	lesus in the Temple	_Luke 2.41–52
	Baptism of Jesus	
	The Temptation of Jesus	
	lesus Rejected at Nazareth	
	lesus Heals Many	
	lesus Calls the First Disciples	
• J	lesus Changes Water into Wine	John 2.1–11
• 7	The Beatitudes	Matthew 5.1–12
	lesus is Anointed	
	The Transfiguration	
	lesus Sends the Seventy-Two	
	lesus Teaches Us to Pray	
	lesus Feeds Thousands	
	lesus Seeks the Lost	
	lesus Our Shepherd	
	Heals Ten Men with Leprosy	
	The Lord's Supper	
	lesus' Death and Resurrection	
	lesus Appears to Thomas	
	lesus Appears to the Disciples	
	lesus Ascends into Heaven	
	God Sends the Holy Spirit	
	<i>y</i> ,	

### Forming Disciples of Jesus Christ

Children develop in similar ways, although their development may vary according to their individual stages of cognitive, social-emotional, physical and spiritual development, learning styles, and ability levels. Remain aware that children possess different abilities at different ages. Some children may live with a disability or delay in some developmental areas while others are far beyond their years in knowledge.

Because children come to us with varying abilities and experiences, it is important to see this chart as flowing rather than absolute. It 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 comprehend our story and holy living continues to evolve as they grow.

Faith Development: Newborn to 12 Months		
God	<ul> <li>My parents and caregivers represent God on earth</li> <li>God loves me just as God created me</li> </ul>	
Worship	<ul> <li>I sense the love of those in Christian community</li> <li>Music helps me connect with the congregation</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>	
The Bible	<ul> <li>Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through board books and Bible storybooks</li> </ul>	
Home & Family	<ul> <li>I am loved by my family</li> <li>I feel safe in my home</li> <li>I am part of my parents and they are part of me</li> </ul>	
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Talk and sing to me about God's love as we transition from one activity to another</li> <li>Offer a blessing before meals</li> </ul>	
Community & The World	<ul> <li>The people caring for me love me</li> <li>I have a sense of wonder about the world</li> </ul>	
Significant Terms & Images	• Love, Joy, Gift, Pray, Bible, Cross, God, Jesus, Manger	
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance	
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Show children that they are loved</li> <li>Provide a safe and trusting environment</li> <li>Read stories and sing songs of God</li> <li>Pray simple prayers for me and with me</li> <li>Practice rituals that celebrate God's love</li> </ul>	

Faith Development: 1-2 Years		
God	<ul> <li>I am a child of God, who loves me</li> <li>My parents and caregivers represent God on earth</li> <li>God loves me just as God created me</li> </ul>	
Worship	<ul> <li>I can learn simple prayers and sing along with hymns</li> <li>Symbols of my faith are important to me</li> <li>Worshipping with the congregation stimulates my senses and helps me feel like I belong</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>	
The Bible	<ul> <li>The Bible is a special book</li> <li>Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through board books and Bible storybooks</li> </ul>	
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family celebrates me just the way I am</li> <li>My family reads stories of the Bible to me</li> <li>My family demonstrates God's love through their actions</li> </ul>	
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>I use my senses to explore God's creation</li> <li>Offer a blessing before meals</li> <li>Pray with me for the people I love</li> </ul>	
Community & The World	<ul> <li>The people caring for me love me</li> <li>God cares for all creation</li> <li>God wants me to care for God's creation</li> <li>I have a sense of wonder about the world</li> </ul>	
Significant Terms & Images	<ul> <li>Love, Joy, Bible, Cross, Christ Candle, Creation, Prayer, Joy,</li> <li>Offering, Manger, Wise Men</li> </ul>	
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance	
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Be an adult who is caring and responsive to children's needs</li> <li>Help children experience trust</li> <li>Read stories and sing songs of God</li> <li>Pray simple prayers for me and with me</li> <li>Practice rituals that celebrate God's love</li> </ul>	

Faith Development: 2-3 Years		
God	I can experience God's love through my family, friends, and caregivers	
Worship	<ul> <li>I can sing, pray, and recognize the symbols of the church</li> <li>Worshipping with the congregation stimulates my senses and helps me feel like I belong</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>	
The Bible	<ul> <li>The Bible contains stories that are important</li> <li>Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through board books and Bible storybooks</li> </ul>	
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family celebrates me just the way I am</li> <li>My family reads stories of the Bible to me</li> <li>My family demonstrates God's love through their actions</li> </ul>	
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in play that helps me learn about others</li> <li>Let me help others in daily activities</li> <li>Offer a blessing before meals</li> <li>Pray with me for the people I love</li> </ul>	
Community & The World	<ul> <li>God wants me to care for God's creation</li> <li>I have a sense of wonder about the world</li> </ul>	
Significant Terms & Images	Bible, Cross, Love, Joy, Blessing, Community, Church, Christian, Manger, Wise Men, Lamb, Shepherds, Bread & Cup, Palm Leaves, Water, Ark	
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments	
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Emphasize love in the nursery and in weekday ministries</li> <li>Talk about God, community, and love</li> <li>Model love of God and neighbor</li> <li>Read stories and sing songs of God</li> <li>Pray simple prayers for me and with me</li> <li>Practice rituals that celebrate God's love</li> <li>Support the development of children's abilities and understanding of their own identity as a unique child of God</li> <li>Read stories, and sing songs of God</li> <li>Pray simple prayers for me and with me</li> </ul>	

Faith Development: 3-4 Years		
God	<ul> <li>God loves me</li> <li>Jesus is the Son of God</li> <li>I can experience God's love through my family, friends, and caregivers</li> </ul>	
Worship	<ul> <li>I need a sense of belonging in the life of the congregation</li> <li>I can actively participate in worship</li> <li>I can learn the Christian calendar</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>	
The Bible	<ul> <li>The Bible helps me know how much God loves me</li> <li>Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through Bible storybooks</li> </ul>	
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family practices prayer and reads the Bible</li> <li>My family demonstrates love of God and neighbor</li> </ul>	
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in play that helps me learn the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control</li> <li>Let me help others in daily activities</li> <li>Offer a blessing before meals</li> <li>Pray with me for the people I love</li> </ul>	
Community & The World	<ul> <li>I find joy in doing good for others</li> <li>I have a sense of wonder about the world</li> <li>I like caring for nature</li> </ul>	
Significant Terms & Images	<ul> <li>Love, Joy, Creation, Love of God &amp; Neighbor, Forgiveness, Peace, Altar, Sanctuary, Cross, Bread &amp; Cup, Palm Leaves, Water, Ark, Communion, Baptism</li> </ul>	
Methodist Heritage	<ul> <li>Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Circuit Riders</li> </ul>	
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Support the development of children's abilities and understanding of their own identity as a unique child of God</li> <li>Read stories, and sing songs of God</li> <li>Pray simple prayers for me and with me</li> <li>Talk about God, community, and love</li> <li>Model love of God and neighbor</li> <li>Practice rituals that celebrate God's love</li> </ul>	

Faith Development: 4-5 Years	
God	<ul> <li>God loves me</li> <li>Jesus is the Son of God</li> <li>I can experience God's love through family, friends, and caregivers</li> <li>God loves everyone</li> </ul>
Worship	<ul> <li>I can handle the Bible and hymnal appropriately</li> <li>I need a sense of belonging in the life of the congregation</li> <li>I can actively participate in worship</li> <li>I can learn the Christian calendar</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>The Bible tells stories about how God wanted the people to live</li> <li>I can learn, recite, and understand Bible passages</li> <li>Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible through Bible storybooks</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family and I do good for others</li> <li>My family helps me understand why we do good for others</li> <li>My family talks to be about lessons in the Bible</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in play that helps me learn the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control</li> <li>Let me help others in daily activities</li> <li>Offer a blessing before meals</li> <li>Pray with me for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	I can participate in activities that show care and appreciation for others and creation
Significant Terms & Images	Love, Joy, Stewardship, Golden Rule, Disciple, Grace, Forgiveness, Peace, Dove, Lily, Butterfly, Water, Bread & Cup, Cross, Communion, Baptism
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, Circuit Riders, Aldersgate
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Show children that God is important in the daily life of caring adults</li> <li>Read stories and sing songs of God</li> <li>Pray simple prayers for me and with me</li> <li>Talk about God, community, and love</li> <li>Model love of God and neighbor</li> <li>Practice rituals that celebrate God's love</li> </ul>

Faith Development: 5-6 Years	
God	God wants people to love God and other people
Worship	<ul> <li>I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, serving, and sharing my gifts</li> <li>I can offer prayers for others</li> <li>I begin to understand the significance of the sacraments</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>The Bible helps me to know how God wants me to live</li> <li>I can tell stories of people in the Bible</li> <li>Read me stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family serves those in need and enables me to serve in appropriate ways</li> <li>My family reads stories of faith and prays together</li> <li>My family connects church and family</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in ways that help me see the needs of others, and address them in ways that are faithful to followers of Christ</li> <li>Pray with me for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	<ul> <li>I can participate in servant ministry</li> <li>I can participate in activities that show care and appreciation for others and creation</li> </ul>
Significant Terms & Images	<ul> <li>Love, Joy, Faithfulness, Sabbath, Forgiveness, Peace, Tithe, Disciple, Hospitality, Water, Communion, Baptism, Bread &amp; Cup, Cross</li> </ul>
Methodist Heritage	<ul> <li>Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, General Rules, Holy Living, Cross &amp; Flame</li> </ul>
What Teachers & Parents Provide	Show children what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the world, while being mindful of the need for safe boundaries

Faith Development: 6-7 Years	
God	<ul><li>God is everywhere and cares for all people</li><li>God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</li></ul>
Worship	<ul> <li>I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, serving, and sharing my gifts</li> <li>I can offer prayers for others</li> <li>I continue to understand the significance of the sacraments</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>The Bible helps me to know how God wants me to live</li> <li>I can tell stories of people in the Bible</li> <li>Read stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible with me</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family serves those in need, and enables me to serve in appropriate ways</li> <li>My family reads stories of faith and prays together</li> <li>My family connects church and family</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in ways that will help me address situations in a Christian way</li> <li>Encourage me to pray for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	I can participate in servant ministry in the community and begin to understand how my actions impact those around me
Significant Terms & Images	<ul> <li>Love, Joy, Holy Spirit, Faithfulness, Sabbath, Covenant, Forgiveness, Peace, Tithe, Disciple, Discipleship, Miracle, Communion, Baptism, Cross</li> </ul>
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, General Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living, Holiness, Cross & Flame
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Be a living role-model for children, and talk about how God works in our lives</li> <li>Show children what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the world, while being mindful of the need for safe boundaries</li> </ul>

Faith Development: 7-8 Years	
God	<ul> <li>God loves us, even when we are disobedient</li> <li>God cares for all people</li> <li>God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</li> </ul>
Worship	<ul> <li>I can understand and participate in the order of worship, and can learn the prayers, creeds, and litanies of the church</li> <li>I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, leadership, serving, and sharing my gifts</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>I can discuss the meaning of stories in the Bible with others</li> <li>Read stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible with me</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>My family talks about how stories of faith have a direct impact on how we live as a family</li> <li>My family reads stories of faith and prays together</li> <li>My family connects church and family</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in ways that allow me to use my gifts to help others and to please God</li> <li>Encourage me to pray for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	I can participate in servant ministry in the community and continue to understand how my actions impact those around me
Significant Terms & Images	Love, Joy, Evangelism, Conversion, Forgiveness, Repentance, Reconciliation, Justice, Missionary, Servanthood, Communion, Baptism, Cross
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, General Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living, Holiness, Cross & Flame
What Teachers & Parents Provide	<ul> <li>Help children to understand that God gave them unique gifts, and provide opportunities for them to develop and share those gifts</li> <li>Be a living role-model for children, and talk about how God works in our lives</li> <li>Show children what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the world, while being mindful of the need for safe boundaries</li> </ul>

Faith Development: 8-9 Years	
God	<ul> <li>God commands us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength</li> <li>God commands us to love others as we love ourselves</li> <li>God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</li> </ul>
Worship	<ul> <li>I can understand and participate in the order of worship, and can learn the prayers, creeds, and litanies of the church</li> <li>I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, leadership, serving, and sharing my gifts</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>I understand that the Bible is for people of all languages, ethnicities, and cultures</li> <li>Read and discuss stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible with me</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>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</li> <li>My family reads stories of faith and prays together</li> <li>My family connects church and family</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in ways that deepen my belief that I am a child of God and part of God's beloved community</li> <li>Guide me in ways that show devotion to God</li> <li>Encourage me to pray for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	<ul> <li>I begin to identify and express attitudes, ideas, and feelings about social injustice</li> </ul>
Significant Terms & Images	<ul> <li>Love, Joy, Kingdom of God, Forgiveness, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Servanthood, Salvation, Heaven, Hell, Witness, Stewardship, Communion, Baptism, Cross</li> </ul>
Methodist Heritage	<ul> <li>Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, General Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living, Sanctification, Holiness, Cross &amp; Flame</li> </ul>
What Teachers & Parents Provide	Be open to discussions about God, and intentionally guide children in faith development

Faith Development: 9-10 Years	
God	<ul> <li>God's care and concern for us exists regardless of our circumstances</li> <li>God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</li> </ul>
Worship	<ul> <li>I can understand that being a part of a faith community expands beyond the physical walls of the church I attend</li> <li>I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, leadership, serving, and sharing my gifts</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>I understand that the Bible is God's inspired Word and how the Bible came to be</li> <li>Read and discuss stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible with me</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>I begin to take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs and values as I interact with my family</li> <li>My family prays together</li> <li>My family connects church and family</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in ways that will help me to take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs</li> <li>Guide me in ways that show devotion to God</li> <li>Encourage me to pray for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	I continue to identify and express attitudes, ideas, and feelings about social injustice
Significant Terms & Images	Love, Joy, Commitment, Hope, Trust, Truth, Sacrifice, Body of Christ, Eternal Life, Prophecy, Stewardship, Communion, Baptism, Crosss
Methodist Heritage	Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, General Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living, Holiness, Sanctification, Confirmation, Cross & Flame
What Teachers & Parents Provide	Be open to the ways that children may experience God in ways they are not sure how to articulate

Faith Development: 10-11 Years	
God	<ul><li>God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit</li><li>God is a Trinitarian God</li></ul>
Worship	<ul> <li>I can understand that being a part of a faith community expands beyond the physical walls of the church I attend</li> <li>I can participate in corporate worship through attendance, singing, giving, leadership, serving, and sharing my gifts</li> <li>Church is a safe and loving place</li> </ul>
The Bible	<ul> <li>I understand that the Bible tells me how people's lives were affected by their response to God</li> <li>Read and discuss stories about God, Jesus, and people of the Bible with me</li> </ul>
Home & Family	<ul> <li>I can take responsibility for acting on Christian beliefs and values as I interact with my family</li> <li>My family prays together</li> <li>My family connects church and family</li> </ul>
Relating Faith to Daily Life	<ul> <li>Guide me in ways that further develop my ability to sense right and wrong in light of Christian faith</li> <li>Guide me in ways that show devotion to God</li> <li>Encourage me to pray for the people I love and also people I do not know</li> </ul>
Community & The World	I can initiate ways to serve others in the community and in the world
Significant Terms & Images	<ul> <li>Love, Joy, Lord, Messiah, Christ, Emmanuel, Savior, Shepherd, Son of God, Incarnation, Resurrection, Communion, Baptism, Cross</li> </ul>
Methodist Heritage	<ul> <li>Love, Grace, Assurance, Sacraments, General Rules, Means of Grace, Holy Living, Holiness, Sanctification, Confirmation, Cross &amp; Flame</li> </ul>
What Teachers & Parents Provide	Be an accepting adult who is willing to hear the many questions about God and God's presence in our lives

What Every Child Should Experience: A Guide for Leaders and Teachers of Children in United Methodist Congregations is a resource developed by Melanie C. Gordon through Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church to assist leaders and teachers of children in United Methodist Congregations in the area of faith formation. You will find this guide useful in choosing and studying scripture, selecting and writing curriculum, offering parents and guardians useful developmental information, and addressing issues facing today's children.

The first section of this resource contains a comprehensive guide to scripture significant for children as they develop cognitively and theologically.

The second section contains comprehensive charts that address the needs of children and the concepts they can understand at different stages of development:

- God
- Worship
- The Bible
- Home and Family
- Relating Faith to Everyday Life
- Community and the World
- Significant Terms and Images
- Our Methodist Heritage
- What Teachers and Parents Provide

Melanie C. Gordon serves as director of Ministry with Children with Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Her training, experience, and education are in the areas of Spiritual Formation, Arts Education, Theology, and Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

What Every Child Should Experience: A Guide for Leaders & Teachers of Children in United Methodist Congregations
Developed by Ministry with Children of Discipleship Ministries.

©2015 Discipleship Ministries. All Rights Reserved.

Permission is granted for participants to make copies of this material for use in annual conferences, districts, and local congregations of The United Methodist Church. For any other use, contact mgordon@UMCdiscipleship.org.