

Guidelines/ Benchmarks for Christian Formation

Nurture Committee
of First Presbyterian Church
in Oklahoma City

Approved 2008

Two & Three Year Olds

By the time our children have completed the 3 year old Sunday School they should know the following:

God is love.
God created all things.
God is good.
God takes care of me.
God loves me.
Jesus is my friend.
I belong to God's family
I'm a part of the church.
The Church loves me.
The Bible is a special book.
To say thank you to God, we pray and share.

SONGS:

Jesus Loves Me
I am the Church
If You're Happy and You Know It
Silent Night – 1st verse

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 28:20 (Great Commission)

PRAYER:

God is Great; God is Good.

Four & Five Year Olds

By the time our children have completed kindergarten, they should know the following:

The Doxology
Two Sacraments: Baptism & the Lord's Supper
The Bible has two parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament
The Creation Story
Name of the Pastors at FPCOKC
Bringing offering is a way to say thank you to God and to serve God.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1:31 (God saw everything that had been made, and behold, it was very good.)
Genesis 12:2 ("Blessed to be a blessing")
Psalm 100 (Make a joyful noise to the Lord...)
Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)
Psalm 118:24 ("This is the day")
1 John 4:19 ("We love because he first loved us")
Mark 10:14 ("Let the little children come to me...")

SONGS:

For the Beauty of the Earth – 1st stanza
Now Thank We All Our God – 1st stanza
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee – 1st stanza
Were You There? - 1st stanza
Joy to the World - 1st stanza
He's God the Whole World in His Hands
This Little Light of Mine
Jesus Loves the Little Children
Down in My Heart (I've God the Joy)
Go Tell It on the Mountain
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Halleluia

First & Second Grades

By the time our children have completed the 2nd Grade, they should know the following:

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
The Vocabulary of our Worship Service
23rd Psalm
The Names of the Four Gospels
The Names of the 12 disciples
How to find a Scripture in the Bible and follow along
How to use the Hymnal
Participate in regular giving, using own offering envelopes.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 1:1 (In the beginning...)
Exodus 34:6 (Lord God, merciful and gracious...)
Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (Shema)
*Psalm 23
John 3:16-17 (For God so loved the world)
Romans 8:28 (We know that in everything God works for good.)
Micah 6:8 (What does the Lord require of you...)

SONGS:

Away in a Manger – all stanzas	Let us Break Bread Together
Silent Night – all stanzas	Do Lord
O Come All Ye Faithful	Deep and Wide
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	This is the Day
Holy, Holy, Holy	
All Things Bright and Beautiful	
Were You There? – all stanzas	
The God of Abraham Praise	
Father Abraham	
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian	
Alleluia! Alleluia Give Thanks	
Jesus, Name Above All Names	

Third & Fourth Grades

By the time our children have completed the 4th Grade, they should know the following:

The Ten Commandments
The Trinity (3 parts)
The Creation Story – order of creation
The furniture in worship & specific places in worship
(i.e. pulpit, pew, narthex, chancel, table, font)
Basic knowledge of major events & some of Jesus' teachings:
Birth, Teachings, Healings, Relationship with other people
Stories of Old Testament Characters
Abraham Samuel Moses
Isaac Saul Solomon
Jacob David Joseph

Bible Skills
How to locate the Old and New Testament, Genesis,
Psalms, all four gospels
The Books of the Bible in order
How to read a Bible reference (book, chapter, verse)
How to compose prayers
The name of the Youth Director
At least three things their money goes for in the church and three
things in the community
Ways they can be involved in Service

SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 19:1, 23, 46

Matt 25:40 (As you did it to one of the least of these...)

Matthew 28:16-20 (Great Commission)

Luke 12:48 (For to whom much is given, much is required.)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (Words of Institution)

SONGS:

O God Our Help in Ages Past
Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Now Thank We All Our God
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
We Give Thee But Thine Own

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Kum Ba Yah
Rise and Shine
Amazing Grace
I Come with Joy

Fifth Grade

By the time our children have completed the 5th Grade, they should know the following:

The location of all books of the Bible
How to identify and locate key passages: Ten Commandments,
Narratives about Jesus, Lord's Prayer, Beatitudes
How to list in chronological order and give information about:
Adam Joseph Samuel Jeremiah
Noah Moses Saul Nehemiah
Abraham Miriam David John the Baptist
Isaac Joshua Solomon Jesus
Jacob Gideon Isaiah 12 Apostles & Paul

How to place the following on a timeline in chronological order:
Creation, flood, wanderings of patriarchs, slavery in Egypt, Exodus,
Giving of Ten Commandments, settlement in Canaan, rule of judges,
time of kings, Exile, Return to Jerusalem, birth of Jesus, crucifixion and
resurrection, Pentecost, Beginning of the Christian church
To summarize the stories of the Christmas, life of Jesus, crucifixion-
resurrection, Pentecost
How to classify the major biblical characters as:
Patriarch, judge, king, prophet, disciple
How to use a Bible Dictionary and Atlas
The Nicene Creed
The Kyrie Eleison
The Seasons of the Church Year
About other styles of worship (Roman Catholic, Jewish, etc.)
That God cares about what we do with all of our money. A percentage
of the money we have should be given to the Church to be used for
others.

SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 24:14-15 The Beatitudes

Psalms 8, 103, 121, 122, 150 Acts 1:8 (You shall receive HS)

SONGS:

God of Grace and God of Glory Mighty Fortress
Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak I Love to Tell the Story
O Master Let Me Walk With Thee
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

6th, 7th & 8th Grade

By the end of the 8th grade a young person should know the following:

How to use a Bible concordance and commentaries
Names of all the Major and Minor Prophets and identify their message
How to categorize kinds of writing in the Bible (law, history, poetry, prophecy)
The Story of Acts to the present – the Church
The History of the Reformation, especially about the Presbyterians involved, i.e. John Calvin, John Knox, Frances Mackemie, John Witherspoon
How to explain the Trinity
What it means to claim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have made that claim in the form of active church membership
The importance of church membership and the responsibilities
The Creeds and Confessions in the Book of Confessions:
What they are and why they are important
The ten major doctrines of the Presbyterian Church
The story of Jesus' life
The form of government in the Presbyterian Church
Ways to be active in service activities and faithful giving
Understanding that decisions made about how we use our time, make relationships, develop our talents and spend our money should reflect the will of God.

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 13

Galatians 5:22-23 (fruit of the Spirit)

9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th Grade

By the end of high school a youth should:

Be exploring/questioning/responding to great theological themes:
Kingdom of God vs. other loyalties, body of Christ, sin and forgiveness, temptation, suffering/repentance, covenant, faith, gospel, salvation, grace, providence of God

Be exploring decision-making studies on valuing, vocational guidance, partnership/marriage/friendships in light of our understanding of God's concern for our faithful stewardship of life

Be involved in a variety of service activities and active in church activities

Be struggling with the question of good versus evil

Be prayerfully deciding on a percentage of income to give to the church, and be exploring ways to demonstrate God's will in the use of all of their money

Adults

All faithful adult members of Christ's church should:

Have made a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Be able to explain the 10 major doctrines of the Presbyterian Church

Know the Books of the Bible

Be able to tell the story of Christ from birth to resurrection – in general

Be able to explain the major events and characters of the Old and New Testaments

Be able to place all major events in Scripture on a time-line

Be active through service in the church and in the community

Be struggling, expanding, applying faith to life experiences in supportive settings

Know why we worship, forms of worship and key elements of worship

Have an active prayer and devotional life

Understand the polity of the Presbyterian Church

Understand the Sacramental nature of the Church and how it relates to their lives

Be able to share their personal faith journey with others

Understand and demonstrate the importance of percentage giving to the church as a component of stewardship.

Engage in financial planning and maintain an up-to-date will as an act of faithful Christian stewardship.

Ten Major Doctrines of the Presbyterian Church

SHARED WITH THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL:

1. **The Mystery of the Trinity** – One God manifest in three persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit
2. **The Incarnation** of the eternal Word of God in the person of Jesus Christ

SHARED WITH ALL PROTESTANT CHURCHES:

3. **Justification** by grace through Faith
We are made right with God by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior
4. **Scripture** as the Final Authority for Salvation and the Life of Faith
Scripture alone is our guide.

FAITH OF THE REFORMED TRADITION:

5. God's **Sovereignty**
The Book of Order states that God's sovereignty includes "the affirmation of the majesty, holiness, and providence of God who creates, sustains, rules, and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love."
6. God's Choosing (**Election**) of the People of God for Salvation and Service
We are children of God – special and chosen for a life of service.
7. The **Covenant** Life of the Church
Ordering of the church according to the Word of God.
8. A Faithful **Stewardship** of all of God's Creation
A response to God's gifts that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of those gifts.
9. The **Sin** of Idolatry
The making of anything created ultimate instead of worshipping only God the Creator.
10. The Importance of **Obedience** to the Word of God
Obedience that challenges and calls us to work for justice seeking the transformation of society.