Learning As They Grow

Biblical Concepts for Each Stage of a Child’s Life: Levels of Biblical Learning®
History of the
LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING®

The Levels of Biblical Learning concepts were formed from the input of many Christian educators who work with kids each week and help guide their spiritual development. The Levels of Biblical Learning statements were compiled to equip churches and families with age-appropriate language for each spiritual concept and to demonstrate how kids develop spiritually across the preschool and elementary years. Grade levels used in the Levels of Biblical Learning are equivalent to the following ages: Kindergarten (Ages 5-6), Grades 1-2 (Ages 6-8), Grades 3-4 (Ages 8-10), and Preteens (Ages 10-12).

What are the Levels of Biblical Learning®?
What are the Levels of Biblical Learning®, anyway? They are biblical concepts—truths—kids learn as they grow from infancy to the beginning of the teenage years. The concepts are organized by 10 major categories: God, Jesus, Bible, Creation, Family, Self, Church, Community and World, Holy Spirit, and Salvation. Within each of these categories are truths that kids can learn in a progressive manner.

Kids first learn about these concepts at various life stages as they hear parents and church teachers talk about them (Romans 10:14,17). Hearing is only the beginning. The next step is for children to know what the biblical concepts mean as they understand and comprehend Bible truths. Knowing God’s Word includes internalizing Bible truths in both the mind and the heart (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

The Bible teaches that obedience is a third, necessary component (James 1:22). Kids who have a personal relationship with Jesus and are growing spiritually can apply Bible truths to their everyday lives.

While we are not responsible for the choices children make, God may choose to use us to lay foundations for salvation and spiritual transformation. We want kids to learn about Jesus, come to know Jesus personally, and glorify God as they obey His Word. The Levels of Biblical Learning outline the biblical concepts that children need to hear, understand, and apply.
How to Use This Booklet

The following pages illustrate the 10 Levels of Biblical Learning concepts as well as the primary truths that kids learn in each concept area across his preschool and childhood years.

This is a great tool to distribute to both teachers and parents to help them better understand how to teach and guide children in their faith.

Specifically, these truths are reflected in many LifeWay Kids products, such as the Bible Studies for Life: Kids resources.

For more information about the Levels of Biblical Learning and free resources illustrating this concept, please visit lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicallearning.
Although children develop spiritually in similar ways, the rate of that development will vary. Some children may understand concepts at an earlier or later age than indicated on the chart. Certain concepts are introduced later when that concept and content are more useful and meaningful to the child.

While God nor His attributes change, a child’s level of understanding and vocabulary does change. It is important to see that small nuances in words and slight changes in concepts are significant in the mind of a growing child. From an adult’s perspective, they may seem minor, but these small steps are important for the child’s understanding.

When teaching or developing resources for broad-age groupings of children, concepts may be combined or adapted to meet the needs of the group.

Please remember...

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

#### God hears people's prayers and communicates with them.
- God loves and values all people.
- God loves people enough to provide forgiveness for sin.
- God wants people to pray to Him.
- God cares and provides for people.
- God gives rules to help me know what to do.
- God gives rules because He loves me.
- God cares for people.
- God cares for me.
- God hears people's prayers and communicates with them.
- God has concern and care for all people.
- God loves and values all people.
- God loves and forgives people.
- God loves people even when they make wrong choices.
- God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- God knows the desires of my heart but still wants me to pray.
- God's care and concern exist regardless of people's circumstances.
God is special. No one is like Him.

God is special—no one and nothing can be compared to Him.

God is unique—no one and nothing can be compared to Him.

God is eternal, holy, and perfect.
God chose a family for Jesus.

Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.

People in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.

Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.

Old Testament Prophets revealed God’s plan for Jesus to be the Savior.

Jesus grew, learned, and had friends.

Jesus grew in mind, body, and in relationships with God and others.

Jesus grew in mind, body, and in relationships with God and others.

Jesus understands what it means to be human.

Jesus performed miracles and healed the sick.

Jesus performed miracles, healed the sick, and restored life.

Jesus performed miracles because He is God’s Son.

Jesus performed miracles to glorify God.
Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus loves all people.

Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.

Jesus’ crucifixion, burial, and resurrection were a necessary part of God’s plan for forgiveness of sin.
## Biblical Concept: Bible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BABIES–2s</th>
<th>3s–PRE-K</th>
<th>KINDERGARTEN</th>
<th>GRADES 1–2</th>
<th>GRADES 3–4</th>
<th>PRETEEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Bible is a special Book.</td>
<td>The stories in the Bible are real.</td>
<td>The stories in the Bible are true.</td>
<td>Bible truths never change.</td>
<td>The teachings in the Bible will last forever.</td>
<td>The Bible is eternal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bible tells about God and Jesus.</td>
<td>I can learn about God and Jesus from the Bible.</td>
<td>The Bible tells what God and Jesus are like.</td>
<td>The Bible helps me know more about God and Jesus.</td>
<td>The Bible is God's message.</td>
<td>The Bible is God's message about Himself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in the Bible told about God.</td>
<td>People in the Bible wrote about God.</td>
<td>People wrote God's words in the Bible.</td>
<td>God helped people know what to write in the Bible.</td>
<td>God inspired people who wrote the Bible.</td>
<td>The Bible is the only written Word of God.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Bible helps me know what to do.

The Bible helps me know what God wants me to do.

The Bible helps me understand how God wants me to live.

The Bible tells me how to live the Christian life.

The Bible applies to personal and social issues.
### Biblical Concept: Creation

#### God made people.
- Babies–2s: God made people different from the other things He made.
- 3s–Pre-K: God created people able to make choices.
- Kindergarten: God created people able to think and solve problems.
- Grades 1–2: God created people in His own image.
- Grades 3–4: God created people in His own image.
- Preteen: God created people in His own image.

#### God made food for people and animals.
- Babies–2s: God planned for people, animals, and plants to grow.
- 3s–Pre-K: God provides for His creation.
- Kindergarten: God's creation follows His plan.
- Grades 1–2: God's world is orderly.
- Grades 3–4: God's created order is governed by His laws.
- Preteen: God's created order is governed by His laws.

#### God wants me to enjoy the things He made.
- Babies–2s: God created the world for people to enjoy.
- 3s–Pre-K: God wants me to think and solve problems.
- Kindergarten: God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy His creation.
- Grades 1–2: Understanding what God is like comes by discovering the things He created.
- Grades 3–4: God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.
- Preteen: God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.

#### God made the world for people to enjoy.
- Babies–2s: God created people able to make choices.
- 3s–Pre-K: God provides for His creation.
- Kindergarten: God's creation follows His plan.
- Grades 1–2: God's world is orderly.
- Grades 3–4: God's created order is governed by His laws.
- Preteen: God's created order is governed by His laws.

#### God wants me to thank Him for His creation.
- Babies–2s: God made the world for people to enjoy.
- 3s–Pre-K: God wants me to make choices.
- Kindergarten: God wants me to think and solve problems.
- Grades 1–2: God's creation follows His plan.
- Grades 3–4: Understanding what God is like comes by discovering the things He created.
- Preteen: God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.

#### God's created order is governed by His laws.
- Babies–2s: God made the world for people to enjoy.
- 3s–Pre-K: God wants me to make choices.
- Kindergarten: God wants me to think and solve problems.
- Grades 1–2: God's creation follows His plan.
- Grades 3–4: Understanding what God is like comes by discovering the things He created.
- Preteen: God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.
God created the world from nothing. God made everything.

God made day, night, plants, sky, sun, moon, stars, animals, water, birds, and fish.

Creation can be credited to God only.

God created the earth and everything in it.

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.
### Biblical Concept: Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BABIES–2s</th>
<th>3s–PRE-K</th>
<th>KINDERGARTEN</th>
<th>GRADES 1–2</th>
<th>GRADES 3–4</th>
<th>PRETEEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God gave me a mommy and a daddy.</td>
<td>I can do what my parents tell me to do.</td>
<td>I can obey my parents.</td>
<td>God helps me know how to honor and obey my parents.</td>
<td>God’s plan is for parents to lead families.</td>
<td>God’s plan is for parents to lead families according to His Word and will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members help me.</td>
<td>Family members help one another.</td>
<td>I can show my family I love them by helping.</td>
<td>Each family member has his own work.</td>
<td>Each family member should make a contribution in a positive way.</td>
<td>Each person in my family has a contribution to make to the family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My family helps.</td>
<td>My family can help other people.</td>
<td>My family can love and care for other people.</td>
<td>My family can show God’s love and care for other people regardless of their circumstances.</td>
<td>My family can show God’s love and care to other people by ministering to their needs.</td>
<td>My family can show God’s love and care to other people by ministering to their needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- God gave me a mommy and a daddy.
- Family members help me.
- My family helps.
- I can do what my parents tell me to do.
- I can obey my parents.
- I can show my family I love them by helping.
- My family can help other people.
- My family can help one another.
- My family can love and care for other people.
- God helps me know how to honor and obey my parents.
- Each family member has his own work.
- My family can show God’s love and care for other people regardless of their circumstances.
- Each family member should make a contribution in a positive way.
- My family can show love and care to other people by ministering to their needs.
- God’s plan is for parents to lead families according to His Word and will.
- Each person in my family has a contribution to make to the family.
Families are part of God's plan for providing my physical, spiritual, mental, social, and emotional needs.

The first responsibility of mothers and fathers to their children is to love each other.

Mothers and fathers are to love each other.

God's plan for a family is for mothers and fathers to raise children.

God's plan for families is found in the Bible.

God made my family.
Biblical Concept: Self

I am special.
I can make choices.
I am learning.

I am special because God made me.
I can make right and wrong choices.
God made me so I can think, work, and play.

People are special because God made them.
My choices can make me happy or sad.
God has made me able to do many things well.

People are God’s most important creation.
I can be trusted to make some good choices.
I can use my talents and abilities in ways that please and honor God.

Each person is unique and of value to God.
I am responsible for my choices.
I can develop and use my abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.

I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
I can take responsibility for my choices and their consequences.
God will help Christians know and use their spiritual gifts.

Babies–2s
Kindergarten
Grades 1–2
Grades 3–4
Preteen

I am special.
I am learning.
I can make choices.

I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
I can develop and use my abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.
I am responsible for my choices.

I am special because God made me.
I can make right and wrong choices.
God made me so I can think, work, and play.

People are special because God made them.
My choices can make me happy or sad.
God has made me able to do many things well.

People are God’s most important creation.
I can be trusted to make some good choices.
I can use my talents and abilities in ways that please and honor God.

Each person is unique and of value to God.
I am responsible for my choices.
I can develop and use my abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.

I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
I can take responsibility for my choices and their consequences.
God will help Christians know and use their spiritual gifts.
God wants me to pray. I can pray.

God wants me to communicate with Him through praying and reading the Bible.

God wants me to pray and read the Bible.

God wants me to communicate with Him and study the Bible daily.
Biblical Concept: Church

People at church love God and Jesus. People at church love and teach me. People enjoy going to church. People sing, talk to God, listen to Bible stories, and talk about God and Jesus at church.

People at church learn about God and Jesus at church. People go to church in different kinds of places. People at church love each other and teach about God and Jesus. People thank God at church. People give money at church.

Churches are part of God’s plan for people. Church helpers teach about God and Jesus. People at church worship, pray, give, sing, read the Bible, and listen to teaching and preaching. People worship at church and bring tithes and offerings.

The church is more than a building; it is Christians who do God’s work. Church leaders are called by God to do His work. People have responsibilities to participate in worship, pray, and to give for the work of their church. Churches ordain people to do certain tasks.

The functions of the church are evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Church leaders teach about God and Jesus. Church helpers teach about God and Jesus. People at church love each other and teach about God and Jesus.

A church is a group of baptized Christians who meet together to pray and do God’s work. Church leaders are called by God to do His work. People worship at church and bring tithes and offerings.

Churches are part of God’s plan for people. Church helpers teach about God and Jesus. Church leaders are called by God to do His work.
God wants people to go to church.

People at church help in different ways.

At church people have different kinds of jobs.

Being a church member involves responsibilities and privileges. Church members are called by God to do His work.

Each believer is given one or more spiritual gifts. Believers use spiritual gifts to do God's work.

Church members have different responsibilities.
### Biblical Concept:

**Community & World**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BABIES–2s</th>
<th>3s–PRE-K</th>
<th>KINDERGARTEN</th>
<th>GRADES 1–2</th>
<th>GRADES 3–4</th>
<th>PRETEEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can help.</td>
<td>I can help others around me.</td>
<td>I can be part of God's work.</td>
<td>God wants people to be involved in His work in their community and the world by participating in mission activities.</td>
<td>God wants people to be involved in His work in their community and the world by participating in mission activities.</td>
<td>God wants us to join Him in His work. We are to be on mission to people of all cultures and ethnicities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People tell about God and Jesus.</td>
<td>Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.</td>
<td>Missionaries tell people about God and Jesus in my country and in other countries.</td>
<td>Missionaries are Christians who share the good news with people in this country and around the world.</td>
<td>All Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus.</td>
<td>God's care and concern exist regardless of people's circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God cares about other people and me.</td>
<td>All people are important to God.</td>
<td>The Bible tells me to love others in my community and in the world.</td>
<td>God wants people to treat one another fairly and with kindness.</td>
<td>God wants us to respect rights and property of others. God wants us to treat others fairly.</td>
<td>God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

God wants us to respect rights and property of others. God wants us to treat others fairly. God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.

Missionaries tell people about God and Jesus in my country and in other countries.

Missionaries are Christians who share the good news with people in this country and around the world.

All Christians are called to be on mission with God.

Missionaries tell people about God and Jesus in my country and in other countries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BABIES–2s</th>
<th>3s–PRE-K</th>
<th>KINDERGARTEN</th>
<th>GRADES 1-2</th>
<th>GRADES 3-4</th>
<th>PRETEEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God cares for me.</td>
<td>God cares for people.</td>
<td>God cares and provides for people.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit is a special helper.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit can support people in times of trouble.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit is the comforter.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus was born.</td>
<td>Jesus is God’s Son.</td>
<td>Jesus is God’s one and only son.</td>
<td>God showed His approval of Jesus by sending the dove at Jesus’ baptism.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit was present at Jesus’ baptism.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit was present in Jesus’ life and ministry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God wants people to learn about Him.</td>
<td>God wants people to do what He says.</td>
<td>God wants people to obey Him.</td>
<td>Jesus promised the early believers that God would send the Holy Spirit.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to give power to believers.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit helps people know, understand, and remember all things about God.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
God can do all things. God's Spirit worked in Old Testament times.
God's Spirit has always existed.
God's Spirit was active in creation.
God cares for me.
### Biblical Concept: Salvation

- **BABIES–2s**
  - God loves me.
  - I can make choices.
  - God gives rules because He loves me.

- **3s–PRE-K**
  - I am special because God made me.
  - I can make right and wrong choices.
  - God gives rules to help me know what to do.

- **KINDERGARTEN**
  - I can make choices.
  - I can begin to recognize when I hurt others.
  - God loves people even when they make wrong choices.

- **GRADES 1-2**
  - God has a plan for me.
  - God is displeased when people choose to do what they want rather than what God wants.
  - God will forgive me if I ask Him.

- **GRADES 3-4**
  - God provided a way for people to become Christians because He loves them.
  - God provided a plan of salvation because He loves me. Sin is choosing my way instead of God’s way.
  - Salvation is admitting sin, repenting, believing Jesus died and rose from the dead, and confessing Jesus as personal Savior.

- **PRETEEN**
  - Sin separates people from God. People can choose to accept or to reject Jesus as Savior and Lord.
  - Without a Savior, the punishment for sin is eternal death and hell.
  - Christians can know that Jesus will be their personal Savior forever.

---

God has a plan for salvation before the beginning of time because He loves me unconditionally. Without a Savior, the punishment for sin is eternal death and hell. Christians can know that Jesus will be their personal Savior forever.
Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus’ death and resurrection make my forgiveness possible.

Salvation is a gift from God. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the one and only Savior of the world.

God loves all people. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Other Levels of Biblical Learning provide basic concepts that lay the foundation for teaching preschoolers and kindergartners about salvation.

Kids are taught about salvation as they become aware of personal sin.
Want to see more?

**These great products follow the Levels of Biblical Learning as they are developed and guide the learning of children within their products.**

Check out a sample of any of these products at lifeway.com/kids.