

Learning As They Grow

Biblical Concepts for Each Stage of a Child's Life: Levels of Biblical Learning®



LifeWay | **Kids**



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).

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline.



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.

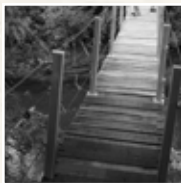
Kids first learn about these concepts at various life stages as they hear parents and church teachers talk about them (Romans 10:14,17). Hearing is only the beginning. The next step is for children to know what the biblical concepts mean as they understand and comprehend Bible truths. Knowing God's Word 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.



God



Jesus



Bible



Creation



Family



Self



Church



Community



Holy Spirit



Salvation



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.

Please remember...



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.



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



BABIES-2s	3s-PRE-K	KINDERGARTEN	GRADES 1-2	GRADES 3-4	PRETEEN
<p>God hears me.</p>	<p>God hears people talk to Him when they pray.</p>	<p>God wants people to pray to Him.</p>	<p>God hears and answers prayer.</p>	<p>God hears people's prayers and communicates with them.</p>	<p>God knows the desires of my heart but still wants me to pray.</p>
<p>God cares for me.</p>	<p>God cares for people.</p>	<p>God cares and provides for people.</p>	<p>God has concern and care for all people.</p>	<p>God loves and values all people.</p>	<p>God's care and concern exist regardless of people's circumstances.</p>
<p>God gives rules because He loves me.</p>	<p>God gives rules to help me know what to do.</p>	<p>God loves people even when they make wrong choices.</p>	<p>God loves and forgives people.</p>	<p>God loves people enough to provide forgiveness for sin.</p>	<p>God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.</p>



God is good.
BABIES-2s



3s-PRE-K
God is special.



KINDERGARTEN
God is special.
No one is like Him.



GRADES 1-2
God is special—
no one and nothing
can be compared
to Him.

GRADES 3-4
God is unique—
no one and
nothing can
be compared
to Him.



God is eternal, holy,
and perfect.
PRETEEN

Biblical Concept:

Jesus



BABIES-2s

God chose a family for Jesus.

Jesus grew and had a family.

Jesus helped people because He loved them.



3s-PRE-K

Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.

Jesus grew like me.

Jesus did things that people cannot do.



KINDERGARTEN

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

Jesus grew, learned, and had friends.

Jesus performed miracles and healed the sick.



GRADES 1-2

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

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

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



GRADES 3-4

Old Testament prophets revealed God's plan for Jesus to be the Savior.

Jesus understands what it means to be human.

Jesus performed miracles because He is God's Son.



PRETEEN

God planned for Jesus from the beginning of time.


Jesus was God in human form.

Jesus performed miracles to glorify God.



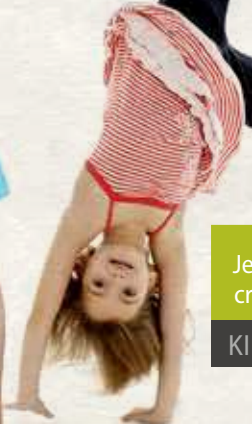
BABIES—2s

Jesus loves me.



3s—PRE-K

Jesus loves all people.



Jesus died on the cross and is alive.

KINDERGARTEN



GRADES 1-2

Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Jesus from the dead.



GRADES 3-4

Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.



PRETEEN

Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection were a necessary part of God's plan for forgiveness of sin.

Biblical Concept:
Bible



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

BABIES-2s

The Bible helps me know what to do.

3s-PRE-K

The Bible helps me know the right thing to do.

KINDERGARTEN

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

GRADES 1-2

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

GRADES 3-4

The Bible tells me how to live the Christian life.

PRETEEN

The Bible applies to personal and social issues.



Biblical Concept:

Creation



BABIES-2s

God made people.

God made food for people and animals.

God wants me to enjoy the things He made.



3s-PRE-K

God made people different from the other things He made.

God planned for people, animals, and plants to grow.

God made the world for people to enjoy.



KINDERGARTEN

God created people able to make choices.

God provides for His creation.

God wants me to thank Him for His creation.



GRADES 1-2

God created people able to think and solve problems.

God's creation follows His plan.

God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy His creation.



GRADES 3-4

God created people in His own image.

God's world is orderly.

Understanding what God is like comes by discovering the things He created.



PRETEEN

God created people in His own image.

God's created order is governed by His laws.

God wants me to feel secure because He made the world, is still at work in it, and cares what happens to me.

KINDERGARTEN

God created the earth and everything in it.



PRETEEN

Creation can be credited to God only.



God created the world from nothing.

GRADES 3-4

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.

GRADES 1-2



3s-PRE-K

God made everything.



BABIES-2s







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



Biblical Concept:

Family



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



God made my family.

BABIES-2s

3s-PRE-K

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

KINDERGARTEN

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

GRADES 1-2

Mothers and fathers are to love each other.

GRADES 3-4

The first responsibility of mothers and fathers to their children is to teach them about God.

PRETEEN

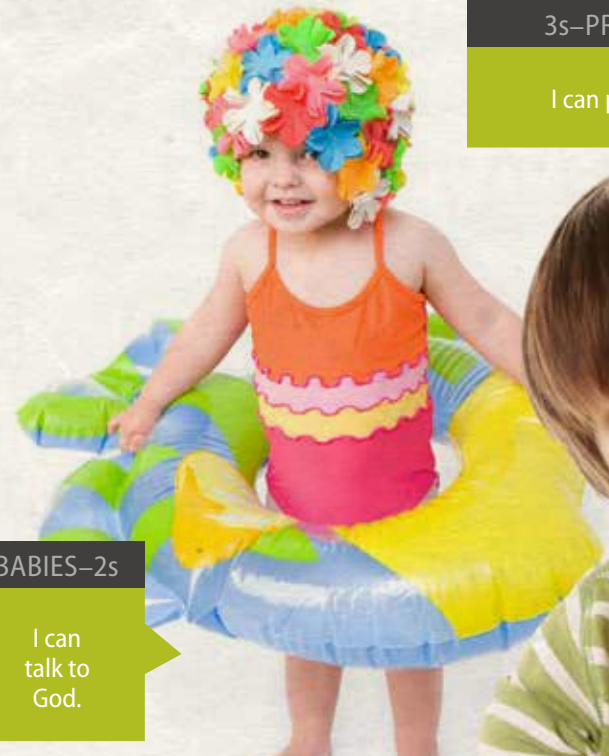
Families are part of God's plan for providing my physical, spiritual, mental, social, and emotional needs.

Biblical Concept:
Self



 BABIES-2s	 3s-PRE-K	 KINDERGARTEN	 GRADES 1-2	 GRADES 3-4	 PRETEEN
I am special.	I am special because God made me.	People are special because God made them.	People are God's most important creation.	Each person is unique and of value to God.	I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
I can make choices.	I can make right and wrong choices.	My choices can make me happy or sad.	I can be trusted to make some good choices.	I am responsible for my choices.	I can take responsibility for my choices and their consequences.
I am learning.	God made me so I can think, work, and play.	God has made me able to do many things well.	I can use my talents and abilities in ways that please and honor God.	I can develop and use my abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.	God will help Christians know and use their spiritual gifts.

BABIES-2s
I can talk to God.



3s-PRE-K
I can pray.



KINDERGARTEN
God wants me to pray.



GRADES 1-2
God wants me to pray and read the Bible.



GRADES 3-4
God wants me to communicate with Him through praying and reading the Bible.



PRETEEN
God wants me to communicate with Him and study the Bible daily.



Biblical Concept:
Church



BABIES-2s	3s-PRE-K	KINDERGARTEN	GRADES 1-2	GRADES 3-4	PRETEEN
<p>People at church love God and Jesus.</p>	<p>People learn about God and Jesus at church. People go to church in different kinds of places.</p>	<p>Churches are part of God's plan for people.</p>	<p>The church is more than a building; it is Christians who do God's work.</p>	<p>A church is a group of baptized Christians who meet together to pray and do God's work.</p>	<p>The church is a fellowship of baptized believers where all people are welcomed and wanted.</p>
<p>People at church love and teach me. People enjoy going to church.</p>	<p>People at church love each other and teach about God and Jesus.</p>	<p>Church helps teach about God and Jesus.</p>	<p>Church leaders teach about God and Jesus.</p>	<p>Church leaders are called by God to do His work.</p>	<p>The functions of the church are evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship.</p>
<p>People sing, talk to God, listen to Bible stories, and talk about God and Jesus at church.</p>	<p>People thank God at church. People give money at church.</p>	<p>People at church worship, pray, give, sing, read the Bible, and listen to teaching and preaching.</p>	<p>People worship at church and bring tithes and offerings.</p>	<p>People have responsibilities to participate in worship, pray, and to give for the work of their church.</p>	<p>Churches ordain people to do certain tasks.</p>





BABIES-2s

God wants people to go to church.



3s-PRE-K

People at church help in different ways.

KINDERGARTEN

At church people have different kinds of jobs.



GRADES 1-2

Church members have different responsibilities.



GRADES 3-4

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

PRETEEN

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



Biblical Concept:

Community & World



 BABIES-2s	 3s-PRE-K	 KINDERGARTEN	 GRADES 1-2	 GRADES 3-4	 PRETEEN
I can help.	I can help others around me.	I can be part of God's work.	God wants people to be involved in His work in the world.	God wants people to be involved in His work in their community and the world by participating in mission activities.	God wants us to join Him in His work. We are to be on mission to people of all cultures and ethnicities.
People tell about God and Jesus.	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 tell the people of the world about Jesus.	God's care and concern exist regardless of people's circumstances.
God cares about other people and me.	All people are important to God.	The Bible tells me to love others in my community and in the world.	God wants people to treat one another fairly and with kindness.	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.

3s-PRE-K

Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.



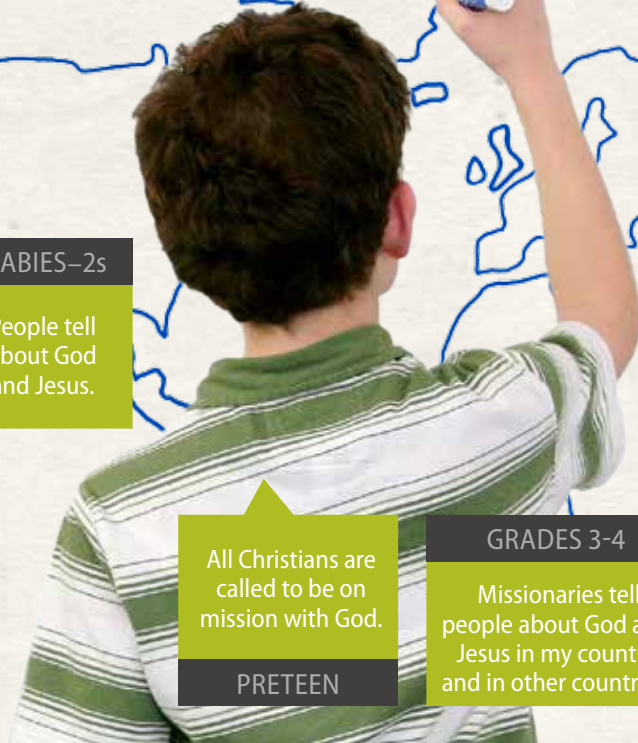
BABIES-2s

People tell about God and Jesus.



All Christians are called to be on mission with God.

PRETEEN



GRADES 3-4

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



KINDERGARTEN

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

GRADES 1-2

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



Biblical Concept:

Holy Spirit



BABIES-2s

God cares for me.

Jesus was born.

God wants people to learn about Him.



3s-PRE-K

God cares for people.

Jesus is God's Son.

God wants people to do what He says.



KINDERGARTEN

God cares and provides for people.

Jesus is God's one and only son.

God wants people to obey Him.



GRADES 1-2

The Holy Spirit is a special helper.

God showed His approval of Jesus by sending the dove at Jesus' baptism.

Jesus promised the early believers that God would send the Holy Spirit.



GRADES 3-4

The Holy Spirit can support people in times of trouble.

The Holy Spirit was present at Jesus' baptism.

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to give power to believers.



PRETEEN

The Holy Spirit is the comforter.

The Holy Spirit was present in Jesus' life and ministry.

The Holy Spirit helps people know, understand, and remember all things about God.



BABIES-2s

God cares for me.

3s-PRE-K

God can do things people cannot do.

KINDERGARTEN

God can do all things.

GRADES 1-2

God's Spirit worked in Old Testament times.

GRADES 3-4

God's Spirit has always existed.







PRETEEN

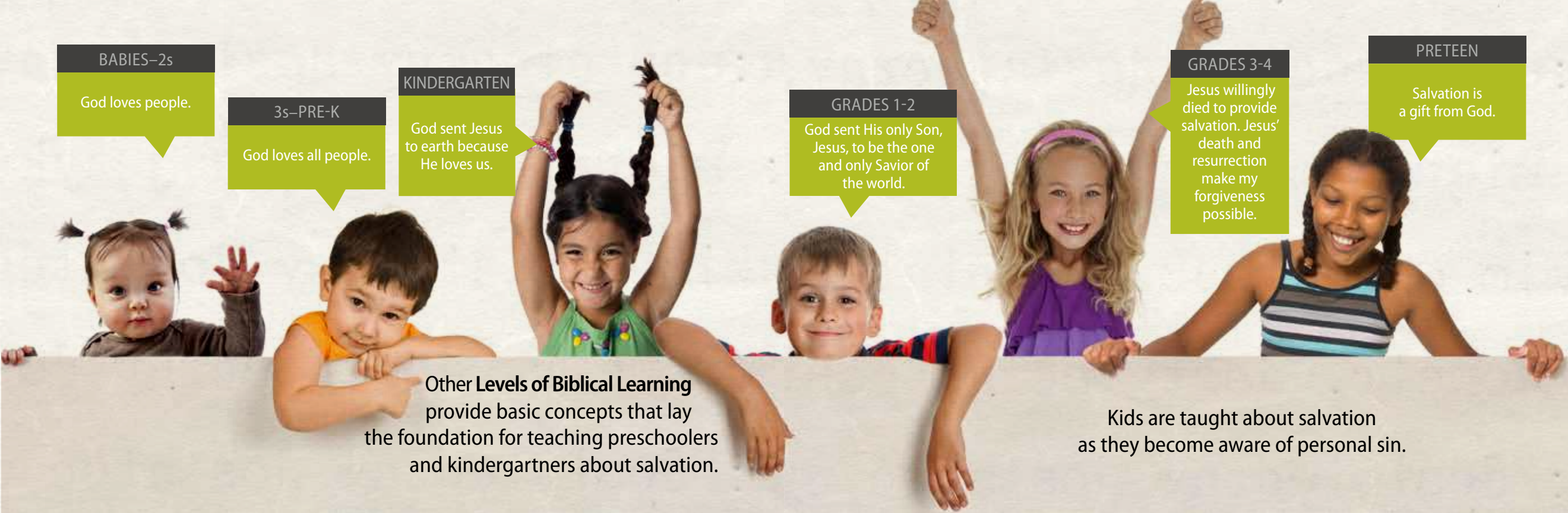
God's Spirit was active in creation.

Biblical Concept:

Salvation



 BABIES-2s	 3s-PRE-K	 KINDERGARTEN	 GRADES 1-2	 GRADES 3-4	 PRETEEN
God loves me.	I am special because God made me.	God has a plan for me.	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.	God had a plan for salvation before the beginning of time because He loves me unconditionally.
I can make choices.	I can make right and wrong choices.	I can begin to recognize when I hurt others.	God is displeased when people choose to do what they want rather than what God wants.	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.
God gives rules because He loves me.	God gives rules to help me know what to do.	God loves people even when they make wrong choices.	God will forgive me if I ask Him.	Salvation is admitting sin, repenting, believing Jesus died and rose from the dead, and confessing Jesus as personal Savior.	Christians can know that Jesus will be their personal Savior forever.



BABIES-2s
God loves people.

3s-PRE-K
God loves all people.

KINDERGARTEN
God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

GRADES 1-2
God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the one and only Savior of the world.

GRADES 3-4
Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection make my forgiveness possible.

PRETEEN
Salvation is a gift from God.

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.



LifeWay | VBS

ParentLife



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

