Learning As They Grow - Preteens

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®, 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.

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.
**God**
- 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 proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Jesus**
- Jesus was God in human form.
- Jesus performed miracles to glorify God.

**Bible**
- The Bible is eternal.
- The Bible is the only written Word of God.

**Creation**
- God created people in His own image.
- God's created order is governed by His laws.

**Family**
- 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.
- My family can show God's love and care to other people by ministering to their needs.

**Self**
- I can appreciate my value as a person God loves.
- I can take responsibility for my choices and their consequences.

**Church**
- The church is a fellowship of baptized believers where all people are welcomed and wanted.
- Churches ordain people to do certain tasks.

**Community & World**
- God wants us to join Him in His work. We are to be on mission to people of all cultures and ethnicities.

**Holy Spirit**
- 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.

**Salvation**
- God had 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.

**Biblical concepts**
- God had 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.
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FAMILY
Families are part of God’s plan for providing my physical, spiritual, mental, social, and emotional needs.

CREATION
Creation can be credited to God only.

BIBLE
The Bible applies to personal and social issues.

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

GOD
God is eternal, holy, and perfect.
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.

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

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

**COMMUNITY & WORLD**
All Christians are called to be on mission with God.

**HOLY SPIRIT**
God’s Spirit was active in creation.

**SALVATION**
Salvation is a gift from God.
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.