

Children's Time Topics

that will help children to become fluent in the language of the Church



- Christian practices and the language of the practices (prayer, hospitality, stewardship, sabbath, diversity, covenant, creation care, gratitude, singing/music, Bible, storytelling, testimony, justice, mission, worship & parts of worship, call, blessing, forgiveness, death)
- Sanctuary “tour” to discover symbols and historical artifacts
- Concrete biblical images for children that take on deeper meaning for adults
- Various styles of prayer, include beautiful objects to hold or gaze upon
- Ask theological questions
- Tell a (Bible) story
- Read and share a picture Bible storybook
- Sing a simple hymn/song together (with the entire congregation)
- Guided meditation
- Concrete object to take with them (stone, shell, seed, etc.)
- Model/learn a new prayer style
- What would you add?*
-
-
-

Children Can Handle Language

- Children learn their native tongue by being exposed to all levels of the language at once.
- Young children’s brains are primed for language as they listen to patterns that their brains will recognize later when they begin speaking words.
- Children stretch the language they have to approximate what is beyond language. When adults do this we call it poetry.

Wondering About a Bible Story

I wonder what part of the story you liked best.

I wonder what part of the story is most important.

I wonder where you are in the story.

I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need.

Wondering About Other Topics

How might that be?

Tell me about...? or What do we know about...?

What is _____ like?

What does _____ do?

What is [theological concept]?

Where is God/Jesus in [this scenario/story]?

Wondering-style Questions About a Bible Story

What is happening in this story?

What do you think happened next?

How do you think _____ felt when _____?

Why did you think _____ said _____?

How is this story unfolding today in the world around us?

How is this story in my life?

Elizabeth Caldwell's Recommended Children's Bibles and Bible Storybooks

A more expansive list is available in Appendix 3 in *I Wonder: Engaging a Child's Curiosity About the Bible* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell.

Preschool to age 6

The Children's Everyday Bible (New York: DK Publishing, 2001)

Children of God Storybook (Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, 2010)

by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The Family Story Bible and *The Lectionary Story Bible* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996) by Ralph Milton

Ages 6 to 8

Shine On: A Story Bible (Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 2014)

Ages 9 to 11

The CEB Student Bible (Nashville: Common English Bible, 2015)

Others

the Bible storybooks written by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Creation's First Light

In God's Name

But God Remembered: Stories of Women

from Creation to the Promised Land

God's Paintbrush

God In Between

Noah's Wife: The Story of Naamah

God Said Amen

Cain and Abel: Find the Fruits of Peace

Adam and Eve's First Sunset: God's

New Day

For Heaven's Sake