

# Teaching Spiritual Development



## With HeartShaper,

- your kids will love, learn, and live God's Word,
- your church will reach kids with special needs,
- your volunteers will lead kids to Christ,
- your teachers will teach Bible skills,
- and you will train yourself and your team!

## Kids show what they learn in age-appropriate ways:

### Toddlers & 2s

#### ♥ Toddlers & 2s can know

- God made all things.
- God loves and cares for them.
- God is kind.
- Jesus loves them.
- Jesus is their friend.
- The Bible tells about Jesus.
- Church is a happy place.

#### ♥ Toddlers & 2s can show these attitudes

- Enjoy trying to sing a song about God or clapping when the teacher leads.
- Listen to and may pray simple prayers to God.
- Enjoy trying to follow an action rhyme.
- Be interested in the Bible and like to pat it and look in it.

#### ♥ Toddlers & 2s can exhibit these desirable behaviors

- Say "Jesus" and "Bible."
- Recognize a picture of Jesus.
- Bow their heads when the teacher prays.
- Say some Bible words and repeat short phrases.
- God wants them to love Him.

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## Preschool

### ♥ Preschool children can know

- God made the world and cares for it.
- God made them, loves them, and cares for them.
- God gives them a family, friends, and others who help them.
- God gives them food, clothing, and a home.
- Jesus is God's Son.
- Jesus grew from a baby, to a boy, to a man.
- The boy Jesus was a helper. He obeyed His parents and God.
- Jesus can do wonderful things because He is God's Son.
- Jesus died, but God made Him live again.
- Jesus loves them and is their special friend.
- Jesus feels sad when they do something they shouldn't.
- The Bible is a special book from God and tells them about God and Jesus.
- God and Jesus hear them when they pray.

### ♥ Preschool children can show these attitudes

- Love God and Jesus.
- Feel special because God made them and loves them.
- Feel that Jesus is a friend.
- Want to be like Jesus.
- Want to pray.
- Enjoy hearing Bible stories.
- Enjoy singing songs to and about God and Jesus.
- Want to obey parents and teachers.
- Want to help others.

### ♥ Preschool children can exhibit these desirable behaviors

- Be kind to other children.
- Give happily to God.
- Sing and pray to thank God.
- Talk to Jesus as a friend.

### ♥ Preschool children can demonstrate these skills

- Know to handle the Bible carefully.
- Point to and repeat simple Bible words.
- Point to main characters in Bible pictures.
- Recognize the word *Bible*.

# Teaching Spiritual Development



## Pre-K & K

### ♥ Pre-K & K children can know

- God loves and cares for them.
- God is powerful.
- God can help them do what's right.
- God wants them to love Him.
- God keeps His promises.
- God sent baby Jesus. Baby Jesus grew up just like them.
- Jesus loves them. He is kind, helpful, strong, and forgiving.
- Jesus can do wonderful things because He is God's Son.
- They please Jesus when they obey God and their parents.
- The Bible is God's Word. It tells them about God and Jesus.
- They can talk to God whenever they want to.

### ♥ Pre-K & K children can show these attitudes

- Love God and praise Him.
- Want to know more about God and the world He made.
- Desire to do simple tasks to show love for God, Jesus, and others.
- Want to hear Bible stories.
- Desire to help others.
- Desire to do right things.
- Show a willingness to share with others.
- Desire to obey God and parents.

### ♥ Pre-K & K children can exhibit these desirable behaviors

- Talk to God giving thanks and praise, as well as asking for help.
- Ask questions about God, Jesus, and the Bible.
- Sing songs about God, Jesus, and the Bible.
- Tell others about Jesus.
- Be kind and helpful to family and others.
- Say a thank-you prayer before each meal.

### ♥ Pre-K & K children can demonstrate these skills

- Know there are two parts of the Bible, an Old and New Testament.
- Know the Bible is made up of different books and begin to recognize names of Bible books.
- Know how to open and hold the Bible correctly.
- Begin to read simple Bible words and say simple Bible verses from memory.
- Retell basic facts about main Bible characters.
- Begin to sequence events in main Bible stories.
- Recognize by sight, words such as *God*, *Jesus*, and *Bible*.
- Know simple definitions of basic Bible terms, such as *worship*, *pray*, and *church*.

# Teaching Spiritual Development



## Early Elementary

### ♥ Early elementary children can know

- Only God and Jesus deserve their worship.
- Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is their Savior and friend.
- They celebrate Christmas because it's the birthday of Jesus.
- The most special thing Jesus ever did was die for them and come back to life.
- God expects them to obey Him and His Word.
- The Bible tells them all they need to know about God and Jesus.
- Miracles show that Jesus is God's Son.

### ♥ Early elementary children can show these attitudes

- Love God, feel He is special, and want to worship Him.
- Love Jesus and want to follow His example.
- Feel confident and willing to tell about Jesus.
- Feel sorry for doing wrong things and want to do right.
- Feel confident and capable of choosing to do what's right.
- Want to do their best work at school, home, and church.
- Feel sad when others are hurt, and happy when good things happen to others.

### ♥ Early elementary children can exhibit these desirable behaviors

- Worship God in a variety of ways.
- Follow Jesus' example of being a good friend.
- Choose to do what God says is right.
- Tell others about Jesus.
- Pray sentence prayers, asking God for help or forgiveness and thanking God.
- Bring a Bible to church and begin to read it.
- Share possessions with others.

### ♥ Early elementary children can demonstrate these skills

- Begin to understand the major emphasis of the Old and New Testaments.
- Learn to read and pronounce names of Old and New Testament books.
- Understand what the punctuation marks mean in a Scripture reference.
- Know how to find Bible verses.
- Identify Old and New Testament main characters.
- Develop Bible reading comprehension skills.

# Teaching Spiritual Development



## Middle Elementary

### ♥ Middle elementary children can know

- God is their creator, Jesus is God's Son, and the Holy Spirit is their helper and guide.
- God meets their needs.
- God hears their prayers and answers them in the way He knows is best.
- God loves them and sent His Son to die for them.
- Sin means doing wrong things and not doing the right things they know they should do.
- Their baptism shows they believe in Jesus' power over sin and death.
- God is willing to forgive them when they do wrong things.
- The Lord's Supper reminds them that Jesus died for their sins.
- They can tell others about Jesus.

### ♥ Middle elementary children can show these attitudes

- Desire to worship God.
- Feel a sense of belonging to their church.
- Be aware of the need for salvation.
- Trust God to help overcome fears and temptations.
- Want to share and help others.
- Accept people of other races, nationalities, and abilities as people whom God loves.
- Understand that God has plans for their lives.

### ♥ Middle elementary children can exhibit these desirable behaviors

- Pray regularly, including prayer for others.
- Read the Bible regularly.
- Give some of their money to God.
- Invite others to attend Sunday school and worship.
- Put God first in plans and activities.
- Exhibit fair play and obey game rules.
- Tell the truth even when it's not easy.
- Show respect for those in authority.

### ♥ Middle elementary children can demonstrate these skills

- Begin to understand the chronology of Bible events; that there's an overall story or theme to the Bible, that history is God's story.
- Better understand the structure of the Bible.
- Navigate within the Bible (both a printed Bible and a digital Bible) to find stories or verses or topics they want to know more about.
- Learn the major emphasis of the Old and New Testaments.
- Begin to understand the major emphasis of each division of books in the Old and New Testaments.
- Grasp why it's important to read and study the Bible.
- Learn how to use a Bible dictionary (printed, online, and app).
- Feel increasingly confident when using the Bible.

# Teaching Spiritual Development



## PreTeen

### ♥ Preteens can know

- God created, loves, and values each person.
- Sin separates people from God, but God's forgiveness provides the way back to Him.
- God continually provides for His people.
- God's plan from the beginning included sending His Son to earth.
- A growing relationship with God is important.
- Jesus, God's Son, wants to be their Savior and friend.
- The Holy Spirit is their helper and guide.
- Their baptism shows they believe in Jesus' power over sin and death.
- The Bible is God's inspired Word and is the guide for their lives.

### ♥ Preteens can show these attitudes

- Desire to worship God.
- Show respect for God, themselves, and others.
- Want to express thanks to God.
- Feel valuable as a child of God.
- Accept and love people of other races, nationalities, and abilities as people whom God loves.
- Trust God in hard times.
- Be aware of the need for personal salvation.
- Feel a sense of belonging to their church.
- Feel a responsibility to tell others the good news about Jesus.
- Want to share and help those in need.

### ♥ Preteens can exhibit these desirable behaviors

- Regularly participate in church activities.
- Encourage friends to learn about Jesus and begin to tell others the meaning of Bible verses.
- Regularly read the Bible and regularly pray for self and others.
- Show respect for all those in authority.
- Develop God-given abilities to participate in the ministry of the church.
- Use Scripture to overcome temptation and solve problems.
- Give with increasing generosity to God.
- Put God first in their plans and activities.
- Serve God by serving others.

### ♥ Preteens can demonstrate these skills

- Recognize that there are different Bible translations and understand some of the differences.
- Find verses in the Bible with increased ease and speed.
- Read and explain Bible verses and apply them to everyday life.
- Use a Bible dictionary (printed, online, or app) to better understand Scripture texts.
- Locate, read, and paraphrase or summarize Bible verses.
- Memorize selected Bible passages and talk about their meaning.
- Value time spent reading God's Word and use the skills they have acquired in personal Bible study.