

PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME...

I am 2 and 3 years old!

1. I learn best by experiencing.
 - a. "Let me see it, touch it, feel it, hear it... maybe even taste it."
 - b. "Let me act out songs and actions to the Bible events."

2. I have a short attention span. I may not sit still very long (3-4 minutes).
 - a. Rotate activities. Some should be quiet and calm and others should be more active and expressive.
 - b. Create a special place for us to do our activities together.

3. I like repetition.
 - a. I will learn by watching and doing what you do.
 - b. I like hearing familiar stories repeated.

4. I am naturally curious.
 - a. I need to ask "why."
 - b. I may have a "one track" mind but it switches tracks often.

5. I can learn about Jesus and God.
 - a. I can learn about key people and key names. But I may need to hear them repeatedly.
 - b. I especially like to learn about Jesus. He is a real person I will hear about often.

6. I need to feel secure.
 - a. I can learn a lot about God's love by feeling love and getting attention.
 - b. Spiritual growth for me has much to do about feelings.
 - c. I can learn that God is loving and protecting when I feel safe and secure.



PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME...

I am 4 and 5 years old!

1. I learn best by experiencing.
 - a. "Let me see it, touch it, feel it, hear it... maybe even taste it."
 - b. "Let me act out songs and actions to the Bible events."

2. I have a short attention span. I may not sit still very long (5-6 minutes).
 - a. Rotate activities. Some should be quiet and calm and others should be more active and expressive.
 - b. Create a special place for us to do our activities together.

3. I like learning by repetition.
 - a. Repeat the same words.
 - b. Then repeat the story and let me fill in the blanks.

4. I like to use my imagination.
 - a. Help me act out the Bible event.
 - b. Let me show you how I might move when we tell the Bible event again.

5. Learning is fun.
 - a. I like new things... new words... and new concepts.
 - b. I don't like trying to learn too many things at one time. Please don't over teach me.
 - c. Instead, notice when I learn one thing and celebrate with me!

6. I am a literal learner.
 - a. I think concretely. Keep your stories simple.
 - b. Don't tell me many analogies that are abstract.
 - c. Trusting God is important to me.

7. I am at the stage where I cannot only understand truths about God but also trust him. You might call this a simple child-like faith.



PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME...

I am a 1st and 2nd grader!

1. I need routine.
 - a. Routines are helpful for my security.
 - b. Give me clear predictable patterns to follow.
 - c. My own space helps me feel safe.

2. Give me variety between quiet and active activities.
 - a. My skills are growing and now I can accomplish small motor activities. I like to see the results of my work.
 - b. Sometimes I need time to think. Help me slow down and give me quiet time to do so.
 - c. Other times, I need to be active and move around while I learn.
 - d. Please let me know what your expectations are, so I can do the right thing.
 - e. I can concentrate for longer periods of time.

3. I need to belong.
 - a. Being part of a group is important to me.
 - b. I like having fun with a group of kids.
 - c. It helps if you help us get to know one another. Especially help us to know each other's names.

4. Full participation is important to me.
 - a. I like to fully participate in worship or actions if I can. For example, if we sing, please make sure I can sing the songs, too. And equally important, I want to successfully perform the actions to the song.
 - b. If we read from the Bible, I like to at least have my Bible open so I can recognize some of the words that I know.
 - c. Please don't make me read out loud, unless I ask to.

5. Please help me connect the Bible events to life.
 - a. I like the Bible events and the story line. Now it is easier to see how they can teach me.
 - b. I'm interested in what happened long ago and how it can help me today.



PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME...

I am a 3rd and 4th grader!

1. Friends are very important to me.
 - a. I am watching very closely how you react to my friends. Please give positive encouragement to them, as well.

2. I still prefer active learning.
 - a. Though I still like quiet, and need it, I prefer more activity in the learning process.
 - b. I have an expanded attention span.
 - c. Although I still like predictable routine, I'm now able to stay with one task for up to 20 minutes.

3. I love using the Bible.
 - a. Show me how to find verses. Let me see it in my own Bible.
 - b. Don't spend too much time letting everyone read out loud. It may go too slowly.
 - c. Please don't force me to read out loud. If I can't read out loud, it doesn't mean I don't like to use my Bible.

4. Discuss how people live their faith. I'm at a stage where I want to know why people live as they do.
 - a. I am interested in how to deal fairly with people. And I am very interested in how God dealt "more than fairly" when he gave us his grace in Jesus.
 - b. The concept of grace is attractive to me. I especially like a positive image of God.



PLEASE UNDERSTAND ME...

I am a 5th & 6th grader!

1. I identify better with older kids more easily than with younger kids.
2. I am sensitive to things that are too “kiddy-like.” For example, I used to like watching cartoon shows and now it reminds me of being a little kid. However I am interested in middle school and the next glamorous step for me: becoming a teenager. But I am not ready to enter that world yet, even if I’m eager to do so.
3. I need to ask self-discovery questions. This is a time period that I’m learning much about who I am as I weigh equally the influence of both parents and my friends. Help me discover myself by asking questions about what I think.
4. I am very sensitive to what peers think. Also, I ask how do I fit in? For some of us, this may make me shy and embarrassed sometimes. For others, I may become loud and annoying as I try for other’s attention. Either way, we are watching each other very closely.
5. Spiritually I am asking, “How does life fit together?” I am trying to see how the Bible makes sense and how it can help me in my life. I am asking deeper questions and seeking how God can work in my life. Take time to listen to some of my questions and even help me ask them. Help me put them in my own words. What you say will help me make sense of spiritual truths.
6. I am ready to study and learn from the Bible... but I still need fun. Encourage me to find answers in the Bible but also help the Bible come alive by giving me relational activities that help me learn.

