

Inside—  
visual milestones  
to help you guide  
kids in their  
spiritual growth!

# LifeWay® | Kids

Levels of Biblical Learning: Grades 1–2

LifeWay | Kids

LifeWay's

# Levels of Biblical Learning

**At LifeWay, we work hard to know kids.** We take

time to understand how they play and how they learn.

And we know you need resources you can count on to connect kids to God's Word—leading them toward knowing Christ and growing in relationship with Him. That's why LifeWay Kids promises to offer foundational resources that are biblically sound, age appropriate, fun and easy to use. These foundational resources help kids hear God's Word, know God's Word, and do God's Word by learning to apply it to their lives.

All of the resources we offer are built on the information in this document called LifeWay's *Levels of Biblical Learning*. This simple but important ministry tool was developed by experts to provide you with visible milestones as you guide kids

in their spiritual growth as they hear, know, and

do God's Word. It provides teachers, parents, and

ministers of preschoolers and children with milestones related

to biblical knowledge, skills, and attitudes at the designated

levels from birth through preteens. *Levels of Biblical Learning*

gives a coordinated approach from birth through preteens by

using ten concept areas—God, Jesus,

the Bible, Creation, Family, Self,

Church, Community & World,

Holy Spirit, and Salvation. In

developing *Levels of Biblical*

*Learning*, we had four

basic assumptions.



**1 The Bible as Our Textbook**—The Bible is the basis for everything taught in Bible study settings. Bible content is also the basis for the development of all teaching procedures.

**2 The Child as Learner**—Preschoolers and children are the focus of our teaching. Their understanding, needs, and interests are important considerations in determining how to approach Bible content. Bible study resources must touch the head, the heart, and the hands (body) of the child to create life-changing experiences.

**3 The Teacher as Guide**—The teacher, whether teaching in an open or closed group Bible study, must focus on the five functions of the church—evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and worship. The teacher must provide activities that will involve children in learning, will guide children to correct information, and will share the biblical revelation. In addition to teaching Bible truths, teachers must live out the biblical message in front of children and parents.

**4 Parents as Primary Teachers**—The primary responsibility for religious instruction of preschoolers and children belongs to parents. The Holy Spirit works through Christian parents as they teach biblical truths in word and action. The church and its ministries must assist and support parents as spiritual leaders by training them and teaching their children.

The ten concept areas offer a broad biblical framework for guiding parents, teachers, and LifeWay curriculum developers in teaching children from birth through sixth grade. It is important to see the correlation and connectivity of the concept areas. Teaching about God and Jesus in the early years play an important role in helping the child understand salvation later in life. The concept areas provide a biblical framework for laying a foundation that becomes the pathway to conversion, spiritual growth, and a biblical worldview. Eight of the concepts are foundational/prerequisite to the more advanced concepts of Holy Spirit and Salvation which are distinctive to first through sixth grade.

### As you read the chart, it is good to remember that:

- **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, it 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.

Adapted from the original introduction to the *Levels of Biblical Learning* written by Thomas L. Sanders. Thomas L. Sanders is Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Education: Childhood Ministry, Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership at Dallas Baptist University.

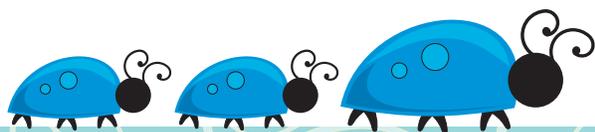
The following information will help you see how the concept areas of *Levels of Biblical Learning* can relate to individual sessions and specific activities in preschool and children's curriculum materials.

<b>Age - Group</b>	<b>Grades 1-2</b>
<b>Concept Area: God</b>	God has concern and care for all people.
<b>Bible Passage and Story</b>	1 Kings 17:1-16 God Helped Elijah
<b>Bible Truth</b>	God provides for His people.
<b>Life Application</b>	I can trust God to provide for me each day.

**Bible-Learning Experience**

PERSONALIZE  
Choice 1: "How Does God Show Care?" Mobiles

Girls and boys will work an activity in the learner guide to identify ways God has concern and care for all people. They will identify in a picture the items that show God's care for them. They will use a compass activity to learn the words of 1 Peter 5:9, *He cares for you*. Teachers will guide children to think about their needs. The children will draw pictures of ways God cares for them and attach those pictures to a mobile on which teachers have taped the words of the memory verse.



# Talking to Children About Salvation



## When talking to a child about salvation:

- \* **Ask follow-up questions.** When a child asks a question, often he does not know exactly what to ask. Get clarification before deciding how to answer a question. For example, you might say, “Tell me more about what you are thinking,” or “What made you ask that question? Where did you hear about this?” Remember, many times the question a child asks may not be the actual question for which he is needing an answer. Avoid asking questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no.”
- \* **Avoid giving more information than a child needs.** Adults can be tempted to tell all they know on a subject. When a child asks a question, only answer what the child is asking. If a child asks for more information, be more specific with your answers.
- \* **Don't jump to conclusions.** A child may ask, “Why did Andy get baptized?” This question may be only a request for information, not a request for the gospel presentation.
- \* **Speak in clear terms.** Avoid symbolic analogies that may distract from discussion and understanding.
- \* **Use simple wording.** Rather than using the phrase “accepting Jesus into your heart,” say the words “becoming a Christian.”



## Steps in talking with a child about God's plan for salvation:

1. **God loves you and has a great plan for you (Psalm 139:13-16).** Talk about these truths: God made the world, God made people, God made you, God wants to have a relationship with people, and God wants to have a relationship with you. Say, “Tell me one way you know God loves you.”
2. **We have all sinned (Romans 3:23).** Everyone must understand that he is separated from God. Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our way instead of God's way. (Give some examples of sin such as disobedience, ungratefulness, untruthfulness, etc.) Then ask the child: “Have you sinned? What does God think about sin?” Point out that everyone has sinned.
3. **Even though we choose to sin, God still loves us and offers to forgive us (Romans 5:8).** Ask, “How do you think it makes God feel when you sin?” Focus on the fact that God loves the child even when he sins. Say: “God promised that one day a Savior would come and not sin and would die for all people. Do you know who that Savior is? Did you know that He died for you?”
4. **Jesus died for us (John 3:16).** Talk about John 3:16 and explain that because sin separates people from God, everyone needs a Savior. Ask, “Do you know why Jesus died?” Say, “Jesus loved you so much. He willingly died for you, so you could be with God forever.” If the child is old enough to understand the resurrection, say, “Jesus rose from the dead, so we could have eternal life.”
5. **You can become a Christian by confessing that Jesus is your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9).**  
Ask, “Would you like to be a Christian?” State that the word *confess* means to say that Jesus is your Savior and that you must:
  - A**dmit you have sinned
  - B**elieve that Jesus is God's Son
  - C**onfess that Jesus is Savior and Lord
6. **Review and follow up.** Encourage a child to tell you in his own words what he understands and believes. Either ask the child to repeat a prayer after you or help the child know what to say in his prayer. After the prayer, read Romans 10:13 and remind him that this verse is a promise. Jesus will be his Savior forever.



## About Baptism:

- \* **Always make distinctions between baptism and becoming a Christian.** Point out that becoming a Christian comes first, and then baptism follows because it is a way of showing he has become a Christian.
- \* **Avoid emphasizing the emotional side of the baptism experience.** Keep in mind that public recognition should not become a motivating factor for making a decision.

# Grades 1-2

<b>God</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Bible</b>	<b>Creation</b>	<b>Family</b>
God is special—no one and nothing can be compared to God.	Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.	Bible truths never change.	God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.	Mothers and fathers are to love each other.
God is Creator.	God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.	The Bible helps me know more about God and Jesus.	God created people able to think and solve problems.	Each person in my family deserves love and respect.
God is everywhere.	Jesus grew in mind, body, and in relationships with God and with others.	God helped people know what to write in the Bible.	God's creation follows His plan.	God helps me know how to honor and obey my parents.
God hears and answers prayer.	Jesus taught that God's house is a house of prayer.	The Bible tells what Jesus is like and how to be like Him.	God tells people to take care of His world.	Each family member has his own work.
God has concern and care for all people.	Jesus shows me through His life and teachings what God is like.	The Bible helps me understand how God wants me to live.	God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy His creation.	God wants families to worship together.
God shows His love to all people in the same way.	Jesus performed miracles, healed the sick, and restored life.	The Bible tells me what God wants me to do through verses and stories about people and events.	God wants me to praise Him for His creation.	God wants me to treat family members fairly and with kindness.
God loves and forgives people.	Jesus wants people to follow Him.	The Bible has truth and meaning for me.	God loves and cares for families in all kinds of situations.	My family can show God's love and care for other people.
God wants people to worship Him.	Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Jesus from the dead.			
God wants me to obey, respect, and honor Him.	Jesus is the only Son of God, and He was sent to be the Savior of all people.			
God is powerful.	Jesus always obeyed God.			
God is fair and can be trusted.	Jesus is in heaven.			
God knows everything.				
God is real, the only true God.				



# Grades 1-2

## Self

My birth and growth are part of God's plan.

People are God's most important creation.

I can be trusted to make some good choices.

I can use my talents and abilities in ways that please and honor God.

God wants me to pray and read the Bible.

I follow Jesus' example when I obey God.

I can be a good example for others.

Good and bad happen to me, but God still loves me.

God has a plan for my life.

God wants me to live every day in ways that please Him.

I need to take care of my body because God created me.

I can say "No" to what I know is wrong.

When I hurt others, I can ask them to forgive me.

God wants my actions, attitudes, and words to be good.

## Church

The church is more than a building; it is Christians who do God's work. *Believer* is another word for a Christian.

Church leaders teach about God and Jesus.

My church meets the needs of other people in my community and around the world.

People worship at church and bring tithes and offerings.

Church members have different responsibilities.

The Lord's Supper is a special event at church. People can remember Jesus when they see the Lord's Supper being observed.

Baptism is a special event at church. Baptism shows that people have accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. Becoming a Christian and being baptized is the way a person becomes a church member.

## Community and World

God's world is made up of people from different nationalities and cultures.

God wants people to be involved in His work in the world.

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

God wants people to pray by name for missionaries and people groups.

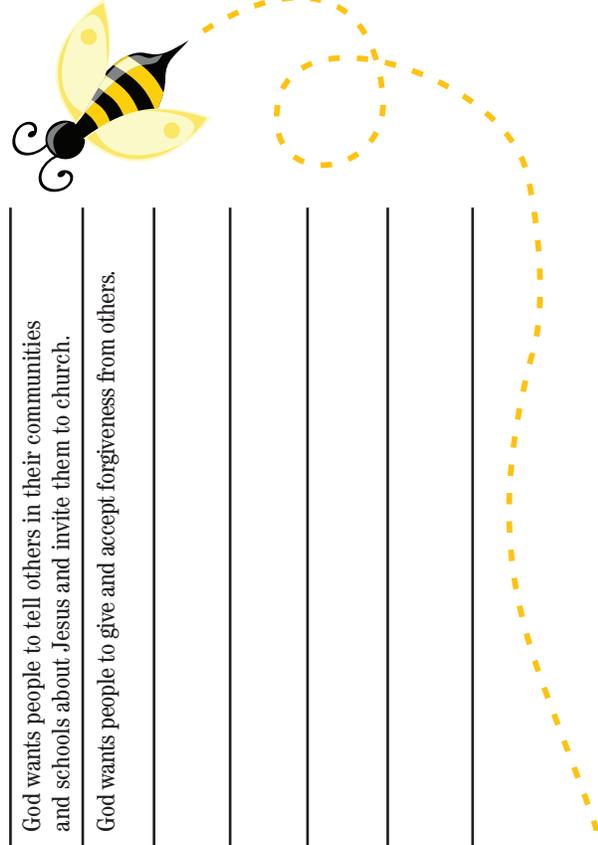
God wants me to cooperate and work with others willingly.

God wants people to treat one another fairly and with kindness.

God wants people to give tithes and offerings so that people of all nations can learn about God and Jesus.

God wants people to tell others in their communities and schools about Jesus and invite them to church.

God wants people to give and accept forgiveness from others.



# Levels of Biblical Learning

by LifeWay Kids

## Grades 1-2



### Holy Spirit

### Salvation

The Holy Spirit is a special helper.

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

God's Spirit worked in Old Testament times.

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

The Holy Spirit helps people know what to do.

God provided a way for people to become Christians because He loves them.

The Bible tells that Jesus came to earth because God loves everyone.

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

God is displeased when people choose to do what they want rather than what God wants.

When people choose to displease God, there are consequences.

God helps me know when it's time to become a Christian.

God will forgive me if I ask Him.

People become Christians by accepting Jesus as their Savior and Lord.





# Foundational Bible Stories

Certain stories are so important that they must be taught frequently during childhood so that the child will understand not only the facts of the story but the biblical principles that it communicates. Listed below are examples of foundational Bible stories that preschoolers and children will study. Boys and girls will learn biblical concepts through these and additional Bible stories.

## Babies–Kindergarten

God Made the World and Everything in It  
Adam and Eve's Choice\*  
God Made Families  
Noah and the Ark  
Joseph  
Miriam and Baby Moses  
Ruth's Family  
Hannah's Prayer and Boy Samuel  
David Helped His Family  
David and Jonathan  
Solomon and the Temple  
God Helped Elijah  
Elisha's Friends Helped  
Daniel Obeyed God and Chose Good Food  
Jesus' Birth and Related Events  
Jesus Went to Church  
Jesus Chose Special Helpers  
Four Friends Who Helped  
Jesus Fed the People  
A Woman Gave Her Money  
The Good Samaritan  
Jesus Visited Mary and Martha  
The Man Who Said Thank-You  
Zacchaeus Met Jesus  
Jesus and the Children  
Jesus Talked to the Woman at the Well  
Children Sang for Jesus  
Jesus Is Alive! \*  
Breakfast with Jesus  
Philip and the Ethiopian  
Timothy Learned About God  
Paul Taught Lydia About Jesus  
Church Helpers

\* Introduced in Kindergarten.



## Grades 1–6

All stories listed for babies—kindergarten and the following:

Cain and Abel  
Abram's Call  
God's Covenant with Abraham \*\*  
The Sacrifice of Isaac \*\*\*  
Isaac and the Wells  
Jacob Tricked Esau  
Joseph's Story  
Moses and the Burning Bush  
The Plagues and the Exodus  
The Ten Commandments  
Joshua and Caleb  
The Fall of Jericho  
Deborah, Gideon, or Samson  
David and Goliath  
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal  
Naaman's Healing  
Daniel's Friends in the Furnace  
Daniel in the Lion's Den  
Esther  
Jesus' Birth and Related Events  
Jesus' Baptism and Temptations  
The Sermon on the Mount  
Jesus Performed Miracles  
Jesus and the Storm  
The Transfiguration \*\*\*  
The Prodigal Son  
The Raising of Lazarus  
Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection  
Jesus' Post Resurrection Appearances  
Jesus' Ascension \*\*  
The Jerusalem Church  
Stephen \*\*  
Peter's Escape  
Paul's Missionary Journeys  
\*\* Introduced in Grades 3-4  
\*\*\* Introduced in Grades 5-6

