

Age Level Faith Formation

Early Childhood (Preschool - Early Elementary):

- **God is like a loving parent:**
Focus on God as someone who cares for them watches over them, and wants to spend time with them.
- **God created everything:**
Introduce the idea that God made the world and everything in it, including them.
- **Simple prayers:**
Teach short, repetitive prayers expressing gratitude and requests for basic needs. teach children that prayer is a conversation that involves talking and listening.
- **Tell the biblical narrative**
Use wondering questions to hear their understanding of the story.

Middle Elementary (Late Elementary - Early Middle School):

- **God is powerful:** Explain that God can do anything and is always present.
- **God is good and just:** Discuss how God wants what is best for people and does what is right.
- **Concept of sin and forgiveness:** Discuss this truth on a deeper level that people make mistakes and often purposely sin but God can forgive them.
- **Importance of following God's rules:** Discuss the Bible as God's gift to us with instructions for living a life that pleases him.

Late Middle School - High School:

- **God's sovereignty:**
Explore the idea that God is in control of everything, even difficult situations.
- **Free will and responsibility:**
Discuss the concept of personal choice and how people can choose to follow God or walk away from him.
- **Deeper theological concepts:**
Discuss more complex ideas for deeper discussion like the Trinity, the nature of Jesus Christ, and the afterlife.
- **Questioning and doubt:**
Encourage open discussion about challenges to faith and how to grapple with difficult questions. Talk about current events (politics, social media, songs, movies, etc.) and compare everything to what scripture tells us is the Christian worldview.

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Helpful websites to teach beliefs about God to children:

Crossexamined.org

childrensministry.com

connectedfamilies.org

treehouseschoolhouse.com