

Children's Ministry Foundational Steps
(Revised 1/19/22)

These Foundational Steps are based on the 2022 Children's Ministry program, which is currently divided into three groups: Preschool to Kindergarten, First to Third Grades, and Fourth to Fifth Grades. The Foundational Steps are to be emphasized each year so that they are repeated. It is expected that stories from the Old Testament and New Testament will be used to teach the basic principles. The goal is that by the end of the final year (Kindergarten, Third, and Fifth Grade), the children will not only know some Foundational Steps of being a Disciple of Jesus Christ, but they will also put these into practice. The basic idea is for each child to engage Mind, Heart, and Hands to know about God and the Church (Mind), to feel God's love and the love of the Church (Heart), and to share God's love with others.

3s, 4s, 5s (Preschool to Kindergarten)

- Connecting to God
 - Know that God loves them
 - Know that God created them
 - Learn song "Jesus Loves Me" (verbal and in sign language)
 - Know that Jesus is God's Son
 - Begin learning "The Lord's Prayer"
 - Begin learning how to pray
 - Hear "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (not to understand, but to have heard this phrase)
- Connecting to the Church
 - Identify a Bible
 - Know the Bible as "God's Word"
 - Feel welcome in the church
 - Know that the church is a safe place
 - Know who is the children's director
 - Know who is the pastor(s)
- Connecting to Others
 - Do simple projects for mothers/fathers
 - Do simple projects to be taken to others (like shut-ins, nursing home, staff, etc.)
 - Begin learning to ask for prayers for others

First – Third Grade (all these by the time they finish Third Grade)

All the items from Preschool to Kindergarten list plus:

- Connecting to God
 - All the items from Preschool to Kindergarten list
 - Begin learning about the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 - Learn the stories of Creation from Genesis
 - Learn some stories of Jesus' miracles
 - Learn two Great Commandments (“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’... and ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39)
 - Learn about the birth of Jesus
 - Learn that Jesus died on the cross
 - Memorize John 3:16
 - Learn that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive
 - Begin reading the Bible in class and at home
 - Know the Lord’s Prayer
 - Learn praying in silence and out loud
- Connecting to the Church
 - Learn that the Bible is divided in the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - Learn about elements in the Sanctuary (acolytes, Bible, cross, communion elements)
 - Begin learning the Apostles’ Creed
 - Know who is the children’s choir director
 - Know who is the music director
 - Learn to pray for some names on the church’s prayer list
 - Learn about and practice elements of worship
 - Learn what the Four Gospels are
 - Receive a Bible in Third Grade
 - Attend a Bible “retreat”
 - Learn about their Bibles (table of contents, Old & New Testaments, etc.)
- Connecting to Others
 - Do simple projects for mothers/fathers/grandparents/etc.
 - Do simple projects to be taken to others (like shut-ins, nursing home, staff, etc.)
 - Begin learning to ask for prayers for others
 - Learn to invite friends to Sunday School, Church, and other Activities

Fourth -Fifth Grade

All the items from First – Third Grade list plus:

- Connecting to God
 - Know that Jesus died for their sins
 - Begin learning about the Holy Spirit
 - Read their Third Grade Bible regularly at home
 - Read through an entire Gospel
 - Learn to lead others in saying the Lord’s Prayer
- Connecting to the Church
 - Know the Apostles’ Creed
 - If willing, participate as acolytes in the worship services
 - Know who is the youth director
 - Know who is the bell choir director
 - Pray for some names on the church’s prayer list
- Connecting to Others
 - Do projects for family members
 - Do simple projects to be taken to others (like shut-ins, nursing home, staff, etc.)
 - Learn to pray for others (in-person)
 - Invite friends to Sunday School, Church, and other Activities