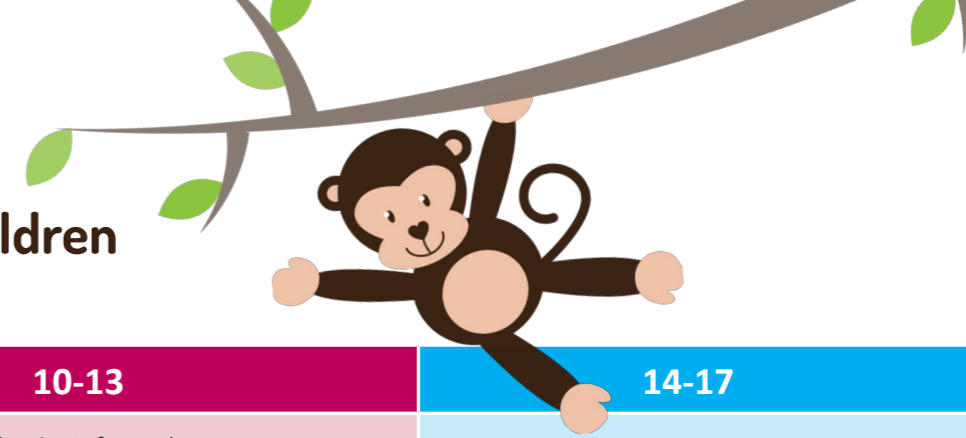


# FAITH THAT ENDURES - A plan for the spiritual development of children



Age	0-2	3-5	6-9	10-13	14-17
<b>Focus</b>	To know they are loved. To feel a godly atmosphere in church and family	To develop respect for God. To hear Bible stories.	Learning the most important stories in the Bible in chronological order. Understanding the gospel. Knowing God's will and obeying it.	Knowing that identity is formed in Jesus. Strengthening the personal relationship with God. Being a part of church with those of their own age as well as all generations. Showing mercy to others.	Getting God's perspective on life as a foundation for good values and to be able to tackle crises. That faith is integrated into all parts of their lives. Being engaged in mission and service.
<b>The child's knowledge of God</b>	God finds me. God loves me. God takes care of me. I can talk with God.	God has created everything. God always loves me. God can do anything. God is good. Jesus wants to be my friend.	God is holy. God has given us laws to protect us. God is faithful. God has spoken to us through the Bible. Jesus can save you. The Holy Spirit can lead and help you. Eternal life is a gift from God.	God has a plan for you. God has given you talents. God can help you make good choices. The church is a family for all Christians.	God has control over everything. God can use all crises to form your life. God has given you special gifts. God wants you to give both your time and money. God wants you to remain sexually pure. Science and creation are not contradictory.
<b>The child's relationship with God</b>	Simple prayer. Being blessed.	Daily prayer. Thanking God. Telling God everything. Asking God for help	Trusting in God. Listening to God. Saying sorry to God. Worshipping God. Accepting Jesus. Praying for others. Having a quiet time.	Being able to seek God's presence by themselves. Seeking God's presence in church. Following a Bible reading plan. Participating in worship. Forgiving others.	Having a daily relationship with God. Seeking God's plan for their life. Giving their life and circumstances to God. Making good choices. Choosing to be a part of the church.
<b>The child's faith in practice</b>	Being there! Blessing others with a smile, happiness and nearness.	Sharing what they have. Helping the family at church.	Being a good friend. Include others in their games. Invite others to church. Give money to concrete projects. Get involved in small mission projects.	Showing mercy to others. Telling others about their faith. Having small jobs in church/Sunday school. Giving their own offering.	Sharing their faith Taking part in mission (locally and globally). Supporting projects and the church. Trying out their talents and gifts.
<b>In the family</b>	Praying for the child. Saying grace and evening prayers. Blessing the child. Reading a picture Bible with them. Singing to the child.	Praying for the child. Saying grace and evening prayers. Blessing the child. Talking about God in daily life. Letting the child see your spiritual life. Thanking God for answers to prayer. Reading a children's Bible with them. Listening to children's worship songs.	Praying for the child. Saying grace and evening prayers. Blessing the child. Talking about God in daily life. Letting the child see your spiritual life. Establishing fellowship with prayer and Bible reading etc. Creating shared experiences by serving together.	Praying for the child. Saying grace and evening prayers. Blessing the child. Talking about God in daily life. Letting the child see your spiritual life. Prioritising conversations with them about faith etc. Allowing room for doubt and questions. Creating a network for friendship with other Christians their age. Creating shared experiences by serving together.	Praying for the child. Saying grace and evening prayers. Blessing the child. Talking about God in daily life. Letting the child see your spiritual life. Prioritising conversations with them about faith etc. Encouraging and support them in their spirituality and service. Showing them you have confidence in them.
<b>In the church</b>	Dedication or christening, baptism	Providing concrete tools to developing everyday faith in the family. Parent's courses on the faith of children. Activities for all generations at church so all can get to know each other. Rituals in Sunday School.	Sunday school with both teaching and activities. Prayer for the children when they begin school and presentation of a children's Bible. Establishing good friendships with other children in the church. Social activities. Sleep-overs. Children's camps	Parental courses about teens and faith. Sharing faith between the generations. Teaching based on themes. Establishing friendships with others of the same age.	Confirmation, youth blessing service or baptism. Sunday services with room for teenagers. Being involved in the Sunday services. Having the chance to regularly serve. Having the chance to have a mentor.
<b>A church for the local children</b>	Playroom Baby hymns Mums' and toddlers group	Church festivals: Easter, Harvest, Christmas Spaghetti services	Children's club Children's camps Children's events Scouts/girl-guides	Tween Club Choir Activity Clubs Camps (both confirmation and otherwise) Social activities	Teen club Camps Social activities

