

Appendix A

Spiritual Formation of the Young Child: A Checklist

Environment

- Warm and inviting
- Emotionally safe, well-managed with minimal stress
- Arranged as a learning community as opposed to a classroom
- Visually displays God's Word and values
- Disciplined (authoritative) and orderly
- Supportive of the uniqueness of each child and culturally responsive

Faculty

- Child-directed in attitude and practice
- Understanding of child development (cognitive, social, emotional, physical, spiritual)
- Warm, loving, open, and inviting
- Have behaviors and speech that exemplify the fruit of the Spirit (models a growing relationship with Christ and a transformed life)
- Enthusiastic in teaching
- Speak often of God and the things He is doing in their lives
- Model biblical relationships: teacher with teacher, teacher with administration, teacher with parents
- Pray for students and engage in spiritual warfare (stand against the enemy and claim their classrooms for Kingdom purposes)

Bible Teaching

- Focused on doing (prayer, worship, helping, etc.)
- Utilizes celebrations and focuses on holidays as teaching tools
- Taught through all the senses
- Leads to an appropriate response (obedience)
- Integrates basic worldview questions into instruction and conversations:
 - God/Jesus created, Jesus loves, God provides (reality)
 - God also made heaven. It is a wonderful place where Jesus' followers will someday live with Him.
 - The Bible is filled with God's words and will for us. What He says is true (truth).
 - There are right and wrong. God defines, in His book, what is right and wrong. God tells us what is of value and what is beautiful (value).
 - God made us in His image. We are His special creation. He made us because He wants a relationship with us (Man).
 - Man sinned and broke the relationship (the problem).
 - Jesus died to restore relationships (redemption, answer to the problem).
 - Jesus is coming again to receive us and establish His kingdom (the future hope).

Content in alignment with spiritual development needs:

- Focus on stories that demonstrate God's care, concern, and trustworthiness toward those who trust in Him. "God is good. He loves and cares for you."

- Reflect the character of Christ (love, care, unconditional acceptance, warmth, giving, forgiveness, empathy) as a means of loving an unseen God.
- Through modeling and stories, the children's picture of God is formed in their minds. Through understanding God's holiness and love, the stage is set to become His child through faith in Jesus.
- Stories of self-sacrifice, submission, and selflessness become meaningful as they participate in acts of kindness toward others. God exemplified this through the giving of His Son (Matthew 25:31-37).
- Chapels geared to the nature and needs of the young child (active, shorter, etc.)
- Frequent opportunities to respond to the Gospel (salvation) message
- Integrates children's literature into Bible instruction as a means of bridging to their lives
- Provides meaningful, developmentally appropriate Bible memory (content, length, vocabulary)
- Forms basis for character integration across the curriculum

Academics

- Developmentally appropriate practices, content, and expectations
- Centered on new experiences, interactive language, activity, and play
- A balance between the affective and cognitive
- Integrate motor activities as critical to cognitive development (30% of daily schedule)
- Social development promoted through success and interactive learning
- God-centered teaching of general revelation
- Focus on clearly defined, integrated outcomes

Families

- Encouraged to participate
- Seen as a critical success factor
- Regularly involved in the school and classroom
- Provided with resources and instruction to assist them in their parenting roles
- Hold the same core spiritual values as the school or participate in parent education opportunities to bring about like-mindedness
- Are interviewed or surveyed as a means of assessing the spiritual growth of children during the early years

Elements for Unobtrusive Observation of the Children

Assessment

- Children:
 - Evidence enthusiasm during worship, prayer, Bible class
 - Pray in class and at home
 - Are developing a language for their faith
 - Provide basic answers to worldview questions
 - Care for one another
 - Appear confident and content
 - Are actively engaged in learning
 - Are respectful and obedient
 - Enjoy school

Appendix B

God's Redemptive Story

This annotated “big story” timeline was referenced in chapter seven. Even though you may be using Bible stories as the foundation for your curriculum, they should be presented, whenever possible, within the context of God’s bigger redemptive story.

I also referred to *The Biggest Story* as an example or model for sharing the story. Become familiar with this version and then retell it in your own words, using language appropriate to the age and backgrounds of your students. When presenting a Bible story to the children, you might use a phrase like, “Remember how people always wanted to do things their way instead of God’s way? Today’s story tells us about one of those times.”

TBS: *The Biggest Story*: Keven DeYoung. Crossway. 2015. Also available in a DVD movie format and an ABC board book for children ages 1 to 3.

In chapter six, there was a reference to Rick Warren’s book, *God’s Big Plans for Me*. This book can identify opportunities to teach the children how God wants them to live and that God has a plan or purpose for their lives. When possible, integrate these stories or use the applications related to God’s plan and purpose for the children as a means of integrating worldview.

GBP: *God’s Big Plans for Me*: Rick Warren. Zonderkidz, 2017.

The following Bible storybooks for young children are referenced throughout the outline:

JSB: *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. Sally Lloyd-Jones. Zonderkidz

TBB: *The Beginner’s Bible*: Catherine DeVries. Zondervan

TBS: *The Biggest Story*: Keven DeYoung. Crossway.

TPB: *The Preschooler’s Bible*. Gilbert Beers. David C. Cook

GBP: *God’s Big Plans for Me: Storybook Bible*: Rick Warren. Zonderkidz

The pages from these books that align with each portion of the timeline are identified for your convenience. Note that some sections have few or no stories at all. This does not mean that they have less importance or that you should not include a preference of your own. Keep in mind, however, that during early childhood, the focus should be on key concepts or ideas. The details surrounding the divided kingdom and its kings, for example, may be beyond their understanding. If a Bible storybook is not referenced in a section of the outline, it is because that book contained no story related to that portion of the outline.

Introduction

God has given us the Bible to tell us a wonderful story about His love for you and me. The Bible is a big book because it is a really big story. The Bible is made up of smaller stories that all belong together. You may have heard many of these stories – stories about Adam and Eve, Father Abraham, Moses, King David, Jesus and His followers, and the apostle Paul. All people have been and are part of this amazing story of God's redeeming love, and everyone means that both you and I are part of the story, as well.

JSB: 12-17

Creation and Man's Purpose:

Eternity Past

Even though the story has a beginning, God had no beginning, and He has no end. He has always been alive, and He will never die. He does not have a body like you and me; He is a spirit. He is good, pure, and almighty. He lives in heaven. God has a plan for this world and for you and me. We will learn about that plan as we follow it through the pages of the Bible.

Creation

Even though God had no beginning, all stories do. Once upon a time, at the beginning of time, God decided that He wanted to create a beautiful world. The very first thing it says in the Bible is that "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." God made the universe, the planets, the Earth, and all of nature. He made animals and plants to live on the Earth, and His most wonderful creation was people.

The Bible says that people were **made in His image**. So, when we see people who love each other and are able to make new things, we can see a little bit of what God is like.

JSB: 12-17

TBB: 9-17

TBS: Chapter 1

TPB: 10-19

GBP: 8-21

Need for Salvation

Fall of Man

God gave them a beautiful garden called Eden in which to live. God told them to care for nature, start a family, and spend time with Him. He did not force them to do these things even though He hoped they would. He wanted them to love Him because they wanted to. **They were able to obey or choose to disobey.** God told them there was one tree in the garden from which they were not to eat because if they did they would die.

Adam and Eve were happy in the garden, but one day, Satan came in the form of a serpent, and he told Eve that God did not really mean what He said about dying if she ate the fruit. Eve listened, was tempted, and then took a piece of fruit from the tree and ate it. She also gave some to Adam. They were now **guilty of disobeying God.** This was the **very first sin**, and because of sin, they could no longer enjoy a **close relationship with God.**

They turned away from God, but God still wanted a friendship with them. He came to the garden and looked for them. **He promised them that someday He would send a Savior who would “crush” Satan and beat the power of sin and death.**

JSB: 28-37

TBB: 18-25

TBS: Chapter 1

TPB: 20-23

GBP: 22-27

Sin Worsens

Adam and Eve had two sons, and their names were Cain and Abel. Like their parents, they had sinful hearts. **God gave them a way that their sins could be forgiven. If they killed an innocent lamb and offered it to God, God would forgive their sins. Instead of a lamb,** Cain chose to bring vegetables from his garden as his offering to God. **Abel did what God had said** and brought a lamb, and God was pleased with Abel's lamb and Abel's obedience.

- Over the years, the number of people increased until there were many people on the earth.
- They too sinned, and God decided that He would start over again

- The story of Noah and the flood
- After the flood, the people did not pay attention to God and were quite proud.
- The story of the Tower of Babel, the beginning of many languages, and as a result, people spread apart (which is what God wanted them to do in the first place).

JSB: 38-55
 TBB: 26-38
 TBS: Chapter 2
 TPB: 24-35
 GBP: 28-35

Channel of Salvation

The Patriarchs

The people may have moved apart and created different countries (nations), but these people **still did not obey God and follow Him**. God decided to choose one man to create a group of people that would follow Him and be an example to all the other people on the earth. They were to show others that there is one true God who cares for them and wants to live among them.

It is time for Father Abraham to enter the story. God told Abraham that he should leave his country and that He would show him a new land in which to live. **God made a promise, called a covenant, to Abraham**. He promised Abraham that He would make Abraham's people (descendants) a great people and there would be as many descendants as there were stars in the heavens. God said that **through Abraham's family, all the people on Earth would be blessed**.

- The birth of Isaac
- Abraham's obedience
- God's provision of a ram for sacrifice in place of Isaac
- Esau and Jacob

JSB: 56-75
 TBB: 39-70
 TBS: Chapter 3
 TPB: 36-63
 GBP: 36-47

Joseph

- Jacob (Israel) and his 12 sons
- Joseph sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and taken to Egypt
- Joseph, the interpreter of dreams, found favor with the king.
- The predicted famine and Joseph's leadership
- Joseph reunited with his family

Even though what Joseph's brothers had done was meant to be bad, God used it for good. God sent Joseph to Egypt to save not only the people there but also his people, the people who belonged to God's promise. **God used Joseph to show the people of Egypt and his family that He was the true God, a God that does what He says He will do.** Joseph's whole family moved to Egypt.

The Israelites, descendants or children of Abraham, became a nation of over a million people. This is exactly what God promised Abraham that he would do. Before Joseph's father died, he blessed his son Judah. **One of Judah's descendants would be a king, and all nations would be blessed by him and obey him (Gen. 49:10).**

JSB: 76-83
TBB: 71-91
TPB: 64-75
GBP: 48-55

The Exodus from Egypt

- Moses
- The ten plagues
- Freedom to return to the land
- The Red Sea

During the last plague, the oldest son in every house died. God, however, provided a way for the sons of the Israelites to be saved. The family was to put the **blood of a lamb** on the doorpost of their house. When the Angel of Death saw the blood, the house would be passed over, and the oldest son would not die. God saved those who did what God had said through the blood of a lamb. The people had a long, hot trip across the desert in front of them.

The trip was very hard. There was no food or water, and they even had to fight a battle against another enemy. **God, as always, was faithful and gave them water, manna, and quail for food and victory in their battle.**

JSB: 84-99
TBB: 92-119
TBS: Chapter 4
TPB: 76-107
GBP: 56-75

The Law

- The Ten Commandments
- The golden calf
- God's judgment upon their idolatry

JSB: 100-107
TBB: 120-123
TBS: Chapter 5
TPB: 108-111

Wandering

After their long journey back to the land promised to Abraham, the people stopped in a place called Kadesh-Barnea. They wondered what they would find when they entered the land, so Moses sent 12 men to go and check it out. When they came back, 10 of the men were really afraid. They said that there were giants in the land and very large cities with walls built around them. Two of the men, **Joshua and Caleb**, were not afraid because they had faith that God would go with them and give them victory.

They believed God would do as He had promised and give them their land. The people complained and wished they were back in Egypt! God was again angry with them **because of their lack of faith in Him and His power.** God made them stay in the desert for 40 more years.

None of the adults within that unfaithful group were allowed to go into the land except for the **two men of faith**, Joshua and Caleb. All the boys and girls and teenagers and those born after what happened at Kadesh-Barnea joined Joshua and Caleb as they entered the promised land.

TPB: 116-127

Conquest

The time finally came when the Israelites were ready to enter the land that was promised to them. Joshua was now their leader.

While the Israelites camped across the Jordan River from the land, two spies were sent into the land. In Jericho, the men were helped by a lady who lived there. Her name was Rahab. She gave them a hiding place, so they would be safe from the soldiers, and told them that the people had heard of their God's mighty acts and that they were afraid of them.

The spies told her that they would make sure that **she and her family would be safe because she trusted them and their God**. After the city was conquered, Rahab joined the people of Israel and became one of them. **Even though she was not an Israelite and had a sinful past, her belief and trust in the God of Israel saved her**. And she even became one of Jesus' grandmothers.

JSB: 108-115

TBB: 124-135

TPB: 128-135

Land Divided

Once they conquered all the areas of the land called Canaan, it was time to divide up the land. You may remember that Jacob had 12 sons. Now, each of those sons had many descendants, and all the Israelites knew which son they were related to. They grouped themselves together into tribes (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Benjamin). Joshua gave each tribe a part of the promised land. The tribe of Levi had been assigned to be the priests who would serve God and assist the people in worshiping God at the tabernacle. So, instead of giving them one part of the land, they were given cities in each of the parts.

The Judges

The Israelites settled in their new land and, just like so many times before, they began to forget all that God had done for them in bringing them to Canaan. **They did not obey God's law**.

For over 300 years, the same thing happened over and over again. The people would sin by not doing what God had told them to do when they entered the land.

They did not drive their enemies out of the land, and they married women who were not Israelites and worshiped their strange gods. God would again punish the Israelites through an enemy army. **The defeated people would cry out to God, repent, and ask God for His forgiveness by worshiping Him and bringing the proper sacrifice.** Because **God is gracious**, He would send them a **deliverer** who would lead them in another victory and back to worshiping God.

- Some of the deliverers were Samson, Deborah, and Gideon.
- Story of Ruth, another one of Jesus' grandmothers
- One of the deliverers, also referred to as a judge, was Samuel. He was raised in the house of God and was a priest, prophet, and leader. Other nations had kings as leaders. The Israelites saw this, and they, too, wanted a king. They asked Samuel to appoint a king. Even though God wanted to be their ruler, the people wanted a person to trust and lead them. They wanted to be like everyone else.

TBB: 136-155

TPB: 136-151

GBP: 82-87

The United Kingdom

Saul was the first king that Samuel anointed. The people were now a kingdom. Like so many kings that would follow him, Saul was disobedient to God. He, for example, after defeating the Philistines, offered sacrifices himself instead of waiting for the priest as God had commanded. God had to punish his sin by not allowing one of his sons to be the next king.

Samuel chose David, the shepherd boy who stood up against the giant that mocked God, to be the next king. **David, from the family of Judah**, continued to trust God, and while he was king, **God continued to keep His promise to Abraham** and the nation of Israel became great. David wrote many psalms, songs of praise to God. One of the psalms sang about how Israel had been blessed to be a blessing to all the nations of the earth (Psalms 67).

God said David's throne would last forever and that He would send a Savior through his family line. David was not perfect. He was also a sinner, but **David repented of his sins, and God forgave him.**

JSB: 116-135
TBB: 156-200
TBS: Chapter 6
TPB: 152-175
CBP: 88-99 and 106-109

The Divided Kingdom

King Solomon

NOTE: This section and the three that follow should be simplified as a time period when the Kingdom and its kings continually fell back into sin.

God provided prophets to warn the people of their sins and the consequences that would happen if they failed to repent. Most of the kings were evil and as might be expected the people again worshiped idols. God's patience ran out. He sent the Babylonians to destroy the temple and city of Jerusalem and take the people away from their land. Even though the nation was evil, **some people among them were faithful.**

There was always a faithful group to keep the belief in God alive. **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel were examples.** They, even when everyone was worshipping idols, worshipped God alone and were willing to die in the fiery furnace rather than deny the one true God. **God saved them because they trusted Him.** This showed the Babylonians that Daniel's God indeed was God Almighty.

JSB: 136-151
TBB: 201-239
TBS: Chapter 6
TPB: 176-199

The Northern Kingdom Conquered

JSB: 159-169
TBB: 247-265
TBS: Chapter 7

Judah Alone and the Babylonian Captivity

JSB: 152-158
TBB: 240-246
TBS: Chapter 7
TPB: 208-219

Return of the Remnant

A new nation arrived and took over Babylon. After many years, the Medes and Persia's king allowed 50,000 Jews to return to their homeland. Zerubbabel was their leader. Esther, an Israelite, had married the king, and God used her to save the Jewish people who had remained in Persia.

The king was tricked by a man named Haman into making a rule that would destroy all the Israelites, but Esther bravely showed the king that he had been tricked and the king spared (did not kill) the people. Once back in the promised land, they rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple.

The priest, Ezra, took about 2000 more Jews back to Jerusalem 80 years later. Ezra taught the Law of God to the people. Then, Nehemiah also brought back another 6000 people to help rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. **A remnant (or a group) of Abraham's descendants was once again back in their promised land.**

JSB: 170-175
TPB: 200-203
GPB: 100-105

Preparation for Salvation

It is at this point that the history, as written in the Old Testament, stops being recorded. God was silent for 400 years, but God's promise to send a Savior to bless all the nations of the earth had not yet happened. **The Prophet Micah, for example, said that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem but that had not yet happened. God had kept His other promises, so surely God would keep this promise, as well.** The people continued to be persecuted by the rulers, and they waited....

This is a good time in the story to pause and think about some of the important truths that God has revealed in this true story.

- God made the heavens and the Earth, including you and me.
- God wanted a relationship with His most special creation — people.
- People wanted things their way and, beginning with Adam and Eve, men and women have had a sinful heart.
- God gave a way to be forgiven — the offering of a lamb.
- God's people would forget Him and disobey Him over and over again.

- God chose a man, Abraham, to be the father of a blessed nation. He promised Abraham a land and that one day one of his descendants would be their Savior.
- The people did become a great nation, and the people of this nation again went their own way. Over and over, God had to punish their disobedience, and they had to repent and bring a sacrifice over and over again. God, in spite of their behavior, remained faithful to them and His promise.
- There always were some people who remembered Him, worshiped Him, and expected Him to do what he had promised
- Now, God was waiting for the right time to send the promised Messiah, a Savior for not only Israel but all the people and nations on the Earth.

Purchase of Salvation

Incarnation: The Long-Awaited Savior

JSB: 176-199
 TBB: 266-307
 TBS: Chapter 8
 TPB: 220-243
 BPB: 116-129

Jesus' Works and Words

JSB: 200-285
 TBS: Chapter 8
 TPB: 244-359
 GPB: 130-176

The Crucifixion: The Final Sacrifice

JSB: 286-309
 TBB: 442-452
 TBS: Chapter 8
 TPB: 360-371
 GPB: 177-188

The Resurrection: Victory Over Death

JSB: 310-317
 TBB: 453-464
 TBS: Chapter 9
 TPB: 372-275
 GPB: 189-197

Ascension

One day, when Jesus was about to return to heaven, He told the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything Jesus had told them to do. He said that He would always be with them.

This command is called the **Great Commission**. If you are hearing this story today, it is because a follower of Jesus is doing what God has commanded. They are obeying the Great Commission. Jesus wanted all people to become part of His story. He wants you to be part of this story, too.

JSB: 318-325
TBB: 466-472
TBS: Chapter 9
TPB: 376-379
GPB: 198-203

Proclamation of Salvation

The Holy Spirit and Acts of the Apostles

JSB: 326-333
TBB: 473-503
TBS: Chapter 9
TPB: 380-411
GPB: 198-203

Explanation of Salvation

The Epistles: Letters to the Churches

JSB: 334-341
TPB: 412-end
GPB: 208-219

Climax of Salvation

Revelation

In the book of Revelation, the last pages in the Bible, we are told parts of God's story that will happen in the future. Satan has been at work throughout the history of the world. Just as he tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God, he has been deceiving people all over the world. Since people are still born with sin in their hearts, wickedness will continue to increase on the Earth. Finally, **Jesus will come back to the Earth** as a conquering king and will defeat the armies of Satan.

Those who have not confessed their sins and asked Jesus for forgiveness will be separated from God forever. Those who chose to believe in and follow Jesus will spend eternity in heaven with God and Jesus and all the faithful people who have put their trust in God and His son Jesus.

GBP: 201-207

Eternity Future

The Bible ends by describing what is happening in heaven now and what will continue through all time. John, a disciple of Jesus, was given a vision in which he saw a great crowd of people, so big no one could count them; **they were from every nation and group of people on the Earth.** They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

They were saying, in a very loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb." God is worthy of worship from all people. Remember that God had promised Abraham that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through and John's vision showed that this has and will be true.

Remember that as the story began, I told you that you and I are also part of the story. **We also have to make a choice about who we will worship and follow.** God loves us and therefore wants us to be His friend and walk with Him. He does not want us to go our own way and be like those who chose to disobey Him. We too are sinners and want to go our own way, and we too need forgiveness. **God has given us a choice. The good news, called the Gospel, is that we can be forgiven through Jesus, the Lamb of God, who died to pay for our sins. We can choose to be followers of Jesus and live with Him forever.**

JSB: 342-348

TBB: 504

TBS: Chapter 10

GPB: 220-223

Appendix C

A Holiday “Curriculum”

The Celebration	Theme	Biblical References
<p>These celebrations are offered as examples and options. Programs should feel free to add or delete based on developmental appropriateness, school calendar, curriculum alignment, and other cultures, etc.</p>	<p>Romans 14:5-8 Regardless of the celebration, celebrate as unto the Lord and for His glory</p>	<p>Not intended for Bible memory but for the basis for the themes.</p>
<p>Labor Day</p>	<p>The importance of calling (designed for a special work) and glorifying God through our work</p>	<p>2 Timothy: 1: 8b -9 Colossians 1:28-29</p>
<p>Grandparents Day</p> <p>Celebrated at different times around the world</p>	<p>Respect for elders and their love and wisdom</p>	<p>Proverbs: 4: 20-22</p>
<p>Halloween</p>	<p>The evening before the church "turned" from darkness into light, declaring the truth in a culture that does not know it</p>	<p>Acts 26:16-18</p>
<p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>In all things, give thanks</p>	<p>Psalm 100: 4-5</p>
<p>Christmas</p>	<p>From heaven to a stable, for you and me</p>	<p>Luke 2:1-20</p>

New Year's Day Chinese New Year is celebrated according to Lunar Calendar	God's faithfulness over the past year and anticipating His presence in the new year	Psalms 89:1-2
Martin Luther King's Birthday	All men are created equal yet unique.	Galatians 3:28 John 8:36 Acts 7:34
Valentine's Day	Abiding in and sharing God's great love	John 15:9-11 1 Corinthians 13
Washington's Birthday	The importance of God's word as the foundation for a country	Deuteronomy 6:1-3
St. Patrick's Day	A focus on missions	Matthew 28:19-20
Pre-Easter, six weeks	Christ's ministry of love	Selected Teaching and Events John 2-11
Easter	He lives	John 20
Earth Day, April 22	Stewardship of God's creation	Genesis 1:28-30
Mother's Day	Honor mothers and their importance to the family	Ephesians 6:2
Memorial Day	Christ calls on Christians to lay down their lives for Him and for the freedoms we enjoy.	John 15:13
Flag Day	Respect for the country and its leaders	Romans 13:1-4
Father's Day	Honor fathers and their importance to the family	Matthew 19:19
National Independence Day celebrations	God has ordained and established nations and governments. Pray for our country and its leaders.	Romans 13

Special Note: Add state or national holidays, where appropriate, that are unique to your country or that represent the cultural diversity within your classroom.