

Christian Education Step Program



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Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten – Step One

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!

Expectation:

Please memorize Jesus Loves Me.

First Grade – Step Two

The Gloria Patri

Reason for Learning:

Each time we gather together in worship we sing our praises to the Holy Trinity: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It goes like this:

**“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Word without end. Amen.”**

Expectation:

Please memorize the Gloria Patri.

Second Grade – Step Three

The Lord's Prayer

Reason for Learning:

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that Jesus gave to His followers as an example of how his disciples should pray. It is found in different versions in the Bible (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4). It is a model prayer, but one intended for daily use. The Lord's Prayer is a vital part of our worship service.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory

Forever.

Amen.

Expectation:

Please memorize the Lord's Prayer.

Third Grade – Step Four

The Ten Commandments

Reason for Learning:

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments for the Hebrew people and for all God's people. Although the laws were directed to individuals, they were intended to help people live together as a community in covenant with one another and with God. Jesus knew the Scripture well. His summary of the ten laws is based on texts in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18).

God calls "those who love me" to observe His commandments (Exodus 20:6). Our children need to learn the commandments so they can observe them as God's people responding in love to God's love.

Ten Commandments

1. Worship only God
2. You shall not worship idols
3. Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not kill
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
OR
You shall not lie about others
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods
OR
You shall not be jealous about your neighbor's goods

Reason for Learning the Greatest Commandment:

God gave Israel this commandment in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:5) and said that it was to be upon the hearts of His people. God told Moses and the people to impress this commandment on our children and that we should talk about it at home. Jesus, when asked what the greatest law was, gave this commandment to the people (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34; and Luke 10:25-28).

The Greatest Commandment:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Expectation:

Please discuss and understand the 10 Commandments and the Greatest Commandment

Fourth Grade – Step Five

Psalm 23 and Psalm 100

Reason for learning:

The Psalms have played a central role in churches; they figure prominently in liturgies and have inspired later writers to compose prayers and hymns for worship. The Psalms enjoy a unique place in the hearts of readers of the Bible.

Psalm 23 was intended for recitation and is one of the most beloved psalms. It portrays Jesus as the shepherd. Explain to the children that in saying “I shall not want” we are saying that we shall lack nothing, that as a shepherd takes care of his sheep, our God will provide everything we, as Christians, need spiritually.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me besides quiet waters, he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil
For you are with me; thy rod and they staff, they comfort me.

Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
Thou anoints my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 100 is an offering of thanks and teaches us to serve the Lord with gladness. It tells us that we belong to God and have been His people for generations. It joyfully tells that God’s promise lives on.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands,
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is God!
It is He who made us, and we are His;
We are His people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
And his faithfulness to all generations.

Expectation:

Please discuss, understand and be able to explain both Psalms.

Fifth Grade – Step Six

The Beatitudes

Reason for learning:

When Jesus was teaching, He presented his disciples with another set of rules to live by called the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). These rules were to be placed by the side of the Ten Commandments. They focus on the spiritual self and are a part of a collection of Jesus' teachings called the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes are tools for daily living.

The Beatitudes

And He began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Expectation:

Please be able to explain the Beatitudes in your own words.

What is being said here? Can you recite the second half of each sentence?

Examples:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, _____

Blessed are those who mourn, _____

Sixth Grade – Step Seven

Footprints in the Sand

Reason for Learning:

Sometimes we feel alone and wonder where God is. This passage was written to remind us that even though we can't always sense God's presence, God is always with us, by our side. Footprints gives us the reassurance we may need to get through tough times.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I had a dream I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's. When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and, to my surprise, I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that is was at the lowest and saddest times in my life. I asked the Lord about it: "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most. The Lord said: "My precious child, I never left you during your time of trial. Where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying YOU."

Expectation:

We want you to be able to tell the Footprints story in your own words

Seventh Grade – Step Eight

1 Corinthians 13

Reason for learning:

1 Corinthians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the people of Corinth, Greece to help them deal with a number of specific problems the apostle had learned that were endangering the church's unity, worship, and faith. In Chapter 13, love is identified as the congregation's life-force and the guide by which every spiritual gift is to be evaluated. According to Paul, love is linked with faith and hope. Love is given to the believer by the Holy Spirit to be used now and as a sign of our future with God. Love is a divine gift. Paul's magnificent description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 is written and is learned to make clear the primary nature of love in the life of the Christian believer and Christian community.

The Gift of Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for Tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete Comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Expectation:

Please be able to explain the meaning of the entire passage in your own words.

Pre-Confirmation – Step Nine

The Books of the Bible

Reason for learning:

The Bible is the foundation of our faith. To make the word living, we must know how to use this valuable resource. Learning the Books of The Bible, including those from the Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament enables us to have ready access to meet the challenges of our daily lives. As Christians, daily devotional readings help us to work together with God. Many will wonder why we call them Hebrew Scriptures now. We do so out of respect for the Jewish faith which uses them, like we do, as “current” scriptures – not “old”.

In 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 the Scriptures say, “When the time came, I listened to you, and when you needed help, I came to save you.” Knowledge of the Bible comforts and strengthens us. Teaching our children how to use the Bible is a gift we can pass on.

THE NAMES AND ORDER OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The Old Testament

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Genesis | 1 | 2 Chronicles | 388 | Daniel | 819 |
| Exodus | 48 | Ezra | 421 | Hosea | 835 |
| Leviticus | 88 | Nehemiah | 430 | Joel | 845 |
| Numbers | 116 | Esther | 444 | Amos | 849 |
| Deuteronomy | 156 | Job | 453 | Obadiah | 858 |
| Joshua | 194 | Psalms | 489 | Jonah | 859 |
| Judges | 217 | Proverbs | 584 | Micah | 861 |
| Ruth | 241 | Ecclesiastes | 614 | Nahum | 868 |
| 1 Samuel | 244 | Song of Solomon | 622 | Habakkuk | 871 |
| 2 Samuel | 275 | Isaiah | 630 | Zephaniah | 874 |
| 1 Kings | 302 | Jeremiah | 698 | Haggai | 878 |
| 2 Kings | 331 | Lamentations | 762 | Zechariah | 879 |
| 1 Chronicles | 360 | Ezekiel | 769 | Maiachi | 888 |

The New Testament

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Matthew | 1 | Ephesians | 191 | Hebrews | 218 |
| Mark | 34 | Philippians | 196 | James | 228 |
| Luke | 56 | Colossians | 199 | 1 Peter | 232 |
| John | 91 | 1 Thessalonians | 203 | 2 Peter | 235 |
| Acts of the Apostles | 118 | 2 Thessalonians | 205 | 1 John | 238 |
| Romans | 152 | 1 Timothy | 207 | 2 John | 242 |
| 1 Corinthians | 165 | 2 Timothy | 211 | 3 John | 243 |
| 2 Corinthians | 178 | Titus | 214 | Jude | 243 |
| Galatians | 187 | Philemon | 215 | Revelation | 245 |

Expectation:

You should know which Section of the Bible a scripture falls into: The Hebrew Scripture, The Psalms, New Testament, the Epistles. An explanation of these sections can be found beginning on Page 3 in the Index of your NRSV Children’s Bible.

Confirmation – Step Ten

The UCC Statement of Faith

Reason for learning:

The Statement of Faith was approved by the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in 1981. As members of the Congregational Church of Burlington, and as a part of the United Church of Christ we believe the following:

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

The Congregational Church of Burlington Mission Statement

Reason for learning:

As a congregation we agreed to live by these guidelines:

We, the Congregational Church of Burlington, share the love and grace of Christ through our daily service to God and our church. As ministers of the faith we seek spiritual growth through prayer, worship, fellowship, and outreach. We listen for God's call to us as a community of faith and seek to actively work together with respect and love.

Expectation:

Please be prepared to discuss the UCC Statement of Faith and our Church Mission Statement with the Superintendent. The goal is to show an understanding of the meaning these statements have for us.