

Some Learnings and Experiences for Growing in the Faith: Eleven- and Twelve-Year-Olds

For developing faith foundations, eleven- and twelve-year-olds need

- to develop a sense of belonging to the faith community;
- to participate in meaningful ways in the worship and work of the congregation;
- to have opportunities for sharing faith stories with friends;
- to be able to affirm self as a child of God; and
- to be guided in developing and practicing thinking skills.

For knowing the Bible and our faith traditions, eleven- and twelve-year-olds need

- to learn the names of all the books of the Bible;
- to use the Bible in study and worship;
- to learn to use age-level-appropriate Bible study tools;
- to learn how the Bible came to be;
- to become acquainted with different translations and versions of the Bible;
- to have their own Bibles;
- to hear the creeds that are used most frequently in worship;
- to know various kinds of writings in the Bible;
- to explore Bible stories within their historical contexts; and
- to increase and use vocabulary related to the Christian faith.

For relating to God and the church, eleven- and twelve-year-olds need

- to have a sense of belonging to both the local church and the larger community of faith;
- to verbalize experiences and questions about God, including doubts;
- to be guided and assisted in practicing spiritual disciplines; and
- to see Christian growth as a lifelong process.

For relating faith to daily living, eleven- and twelve-year-olds need

- to hear and discuss stories of ways others live out their faith;
- to grow in their understanding of the relationship between the Bible message and their own relationships with God;
- to identify and express attitudes, ideas, and feelings about unfairness, injustice, and social evil;
- to clarify and develop their sense of right and wrong;
- to serve with others in the community and world; and
- to grow in their understanding of the meaning of membership in the church.