

Some Learnings and Experiences for Growing in the Faith: Nine- and Ten-Year-Olds

For developing faith foundations, nine- and ten-year-olds need

- to be guided in dealing with conflict through empathy;
- to be given responsibility in helping care for their environments;
- to have experiences with people who are different from them;
- to investigate, experience, and explore their faith;
- to be guided in developing and practicing thinking skills;
- to develop a sense of belonging to the faith community;
- to participate in meaningful ways in worship and the congregation; and
- to be able to affirm self as a child of God.

For knowing the Bible and our faith traditions, nine- and ten-year-olds need

- to memorize and explore the meaning of important Bible stories;
- to learn how to participate in the sacraments;
- to have their own Bibles and to learn how to use the Bible;
- to learn the names of the books of the Bible and to be familiar with the various kinds of books in the Bible;
- to hear and explore the meanings of Bible stories; and
- to learn to use age-level-appropriate Bible study tools.

For relating to God and the church, nine- and ten-year-olds need

- to participate in worship;
- to pray their own prayers;
- to be with adults who are open to children's questions about God, even if adults say they don't know the answers;
- to have a sense of belonging to the faith community; and
- to be guided and assisted in practicing spiritual disciplines.

For relating faith to daily living, nine- and ten-year-olds need

- to be encouraged to consider the rights of others;
- to participate in service projects appropriate to their abilities;
- to relate the joys and concerns of daily living to Bible teachings;
- to be reminded that God expects us to love everyone, including our enemies;
- to learn key Bible verses to think about during the week;
- to hear and discuss stories of ways others live out their faith;
- to identify and express attitudes, ideas, and feelings about unfairness, injustice, and social evil; and
- to be given concrete suggestions and opportunities for ways to be in discipleship.