

Some Learnings and Experiences for Growing in the Faith: Seven- and Eight-Year-Olds

For developing faith foundations, seven- and eight-year-olds need

- to plan and carry out both group and individual activities;
- to be guided in dealing with conflict through empathy;
- to investigate, experiment, and explore;
- to be given responsibility in helping care for their surroundings; and
- to hear stories about and have experiences with people who are different from them.

For knowing the Bible and our faith traditions, seven- and eight-year-olds need

- to recognize the two main parts of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament;
- to hear stories from the Bible;
- to repeat the Lord's Prayer with others;
- to hear a simple explanation of the sacraments;
- to hear stories of people who have helped the church;
- to use Bibles at home as well as at church; and
- to have opportunities to retell simple Bible stories they have heard.

For relating to God and the church, seven- and eight-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; and
- to learn some of the songs and liturgies of the church and to feel part of worship.

For relating faith to daily living, seven- and eight-year-olds need

- to be encouraged to consider the rights of others;
- to participate in service projects appropriate to their abilities;
- to be reminded that God expects us to love everyone, including our enemies;
- to relate the joys and concerns of daily living to Bible teachings; and
- to learn simple key Bible verses to think about during the week.