

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

For developing faith foundations, two-year-olds need

- an attractive, safe space in the church;
- loving, caring adults who help them experience trust;
- to be guided in respecting others' rights and in being friends;
- to have basic love expressed through gentleness and boundaries; and
- to know that God cares for plants, animals, and birds.

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

- to recognize that the Bible is a special book;
- to associate the name *Jesus* with the Bible;
- to hear Bible stories; and
- to hear that God loves them.

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

- to see parents and teachers pray, read the Bible, and talk about God and their own faith;
- to experience trust in others (this will serve as a foundation for trust in God);
- to offer thanks to God through brief prayers and sharing;
- to experience faith through the care of the congregation;
- to know that people gather at church to worship and thank God;
- to develop a sense of belonging at church as a child of God;
- to experience God's love through teachers; and
- to know that church people love and care for them.

For relating faith to daily living, two-year-olds need

- to hear people talk about God, Jesus, and the Bible;
- to see pictures in church classrooms of children's daily experiences;
- to hear teachers and parents pray for food and other daily needs;
- to hear about God's plan for children to grow; and
- to become aware of ways they are growing.