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Spiritual Growth Chart



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Spiritual Growth Charts For Parents To Use With Children Up To Age 13

Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

These charts in this handout are from the book Parent's Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children. The information in these charts will help equip parents in leading their children toward a biblical understanding of God, the need for a relationship with God, and living in accordance to the Word. Below are the five categories specifically addressed in the accompanying charts:

- Who God is
- What God Has Done
- You Can Have a Relationship with God
- You Can Be All God Wants You to be
- You Can Do All God Wants You to Do

Note of Caution: While these charts can be helpful teaching tools for parents, the charts for the older children assume that the child is converted. It is our hope that you could use these charts as a teaching tool even if your child is not converted. It is also worth noting that you may operate from the belief that your child is under the age of accountability and therefore not have the awareness of their need for "new birth." In either of these situations, consider rewording teaching points to better fit your child or your perspective. For example, you may want to put some context around one of the main categories as listed above "You Can Be All God Wants You to Be." You might do this by teaching your child that they can only be what God wants through Christ working in them. This would be an example of valuable truths to instill in your child's heart, along with the reality that even after conversion we wrestle with the flesh and need to be acutely aware of our ongoing need for Jesus.

Directions on How to Use the Charts:

Print off a copy of this document for each of your children and write their name in the space provided. Consider scheduling a time with each of your children to discuss each of the items in the four charts. When you find an item your child adequately understands, cross it off and move to the next item. Circle items that need additional teaching and develop a plan on how to grow your child's understanding in that area. Taking the time to discuss each item with each of your children will help you gain insight into their understanding, which can then direct your daily interactions with them. For example, item 5 in the chart for children ages 0-4 is, "God created everything." As you discuss this item with your child, you may find they could benefit from additional teaching on this truth. This information could help you in directing family devotion time (e.g. reading the creation story).

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." These verses teach us that teaching opportunities are around us virtually all of the time. This also means that the parenting tasks that seem mundane or insignificant can actually be the springboards to teach our children valuable lessons. The most powerful spiritual lessons your child learns will often not be during family devotion time. Knowing what your child is ready to learn can help a parent utilize the countless "teachable moments" encountered throughout the day. For example, a visit to the zoo becomes an opportunity to teach that "God created everything." Know-

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ing what your children do and don't understand about biblical truth can give you direction in how and where they need instruction.

Consider starting with the first chart, regardless of your child's age. The first truth on the 0-4 chart is: "God exists." If your child is not yet five, you can review the 5-6 year old chart to see what is ahead but don't feel like your child must progress faster than other children. If your child is older than 4, continue going through the items until all the items are appropriately understood by your child. By taking the time to start with the chart for 0-4 year olds, you will ensure that your child has the necessary foundation for future growth.

Take your time and don't try to cover all 91 items quickly. Remember, these are items for your child to build and grow over the first 12 years of life. Reviewing the truths over time will help your children learn and will help develop a firm foundation for them. When you find truths that require a deeper understanding than your child currently possesses, take courage that these areas have been identified and can lead to rich discussion and teaching opportunities.

Reviewing these charts is a great opportunity to train up your child. May God bless the time you spend training and teaching your child.

For more information on parenting please visit www.accounseling.org/parenting.

Spiritual Growth Charts For Parents To Use With Children Up To Age 13

Ages 0-4

KNOWING		LOVING	LIVING	
A. Who God Is	B. What God Has Done	C. You Can Have a	D. You Can Be All God Wants You to Be	E. You Can Do All God Wants You to Do

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 1. God exists. | 5. God created everything | 9. Prayer is talking to God in Jesus' name. | 12. God wants you to be good, kind, and loving, just like Him and Jesus. | 14. God wants you to go to church. |
| 2. God loves you. | 6. God created you. | 10. You need to talk to God regularly. | 13. God wants you to see and think good things. | 15. God wants you to obey your parents. |
| 3. Jesus loves you. | 7. God gave us the Bible. | 11. You need to regularly listen to stories about God and Jesus from the Bible. | | 16. God wants you to learn to share your things with others. |
| 4. God wants to | 8. God's Son, Jesus, died for your sins so you can be with God. | | | |

Spiritual Growth Charts For Parents To Use With Children Up To Age 13

Ages 5-6

KNOWING		LOVING	LIVING	
A. Who God Is	B. What God Has Done	C. You Can Have a	D. You Can Be All God Wants You to Be	E. You Can Do All God Wants You to Do

17. God is your Father. He wants to guide, teach, love, protect, and provide for you.
 18. In some ways, you are just like God. He has feelings and thoughts. He can understand you. Jesus showed us who God is and what He's like.
 19. In other ways, you are very different from God. He is everywhere, He can do anything and He knows everything.
 20. Jesus has always been with God and is God.

21. God tells you about Himself, His son, Jesus, and His plan for you in the Bible: The One Big Story.
 22. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you.
 23. God has prepared a place for you in heaven. Jesus is coming back for you.

24. You can have a relationship with God by accepting what Jesus did for you: Salvation.
 25. God wants to have a relationship with you.
 26. You can talk to God through prayer.
 27. You can thank God and still do for you.
 28. You can ask God for wisdom and guidance.
 29. You can read about God and His Son, Jesus, in the Bible or in a Bible storybook. You begin to have personal Bible reading and time with God.

30. God has a plan for you.
 31. The Bible tells you the kind of person God wants you to be.
 32. God's way works best. You can be all God wants you to be by following Jesus.
 33. God wants you to put only good things into your heart.
 34. When you sin, you should ask God to forgive you- and He will.

35. God wants you to spend time with other Christians, both at church and in the community.
 36. God wants you to help others and be nice to them.
 37. God wants you to obey Him and follow Jesus in everything.
 38. God wants you to share and take good care of everything He gives you: Stewardship.
 39. God wants you to understand and memorize Bible verses.

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Spiritual Growth Charts For Parents To Use With Children Up To Age 13

Ages 7-9

KNOWING

A. Who God Is

- 40. You can be sure that God is real.
- 41. There is only one God.
- 42. God exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is called the "Trinity."
- 43. God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is eternal.
- 44. Jesus is both God and Man.
- 45. Nothing exists apart from God.
- 46. God's character is true, honest, loving, compassionate, generous, selfless, forgiving, merciful, trustworthy, faithful, just, impartial, and holy.

B. What God Has Done

- 47. The Bible is true. It is God's Word, and you can trust it.
- 48. God made sure all the stories in the Bible together tell the One Big Story.
- 49. The Bible you have is exactly what God wanted to give you.
- 50. God wants you to learn and study the Bible.
- 51. The word is full of sin. There is an enemy in the world (Satan). Not everyone obeys God.
- 52. Jesus died to save you from the penalty of sin.
- 53. Jesus defeated sin and Satan.
- 54. Jesus is the only way to God.

LOVING

C. You Can Have a Relationship with God

- 55. You read the Bible to learn about who God is (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and what He has done and is doing.
- 56. You can pray your own prayers with your parents.
- 57. Prayer benefits you in many ways.
- 58. Keep praying persistence, tests, and trials.
- 59. You can trust God and turn your life over to Him.
- 60. You should learn to seek God.
- 61. Jesus gives you peace.

LIVING

D. You Can Be All God Wants You to Be

- 62. God wants you to learn and grow and become like Jesus.
- 63. Growth is a learning process.
- 64. Your character should match God's character.
- 65. God wants you to develop your talents.
- 66. God wants you to develop the Fruit of the Spirit.
- 67. God wants you to mature and develop your personality.

E. You Can Do All God Wants You to Do

- 68. Church is God's idea. Jesus is the head of the church. At church you learn about God and encourage each other to follow Jesus.
- 69. God wants you to understand what a blessing people and good relationships are.
- 70. God has taught you right from wrong. He did this to keep you safe and to give you a good life.
- 71. The Ten Commandments are a good guide for life.
- 72. God wants you to share your faith.

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Ages 10-12

KNOWING		LOVING	LIVING	
A. Who God Is	B. What God Has Done	C. You Can Have a Relationship with God	D. You Can Be All God Wants You to Be	E. You Can Do All God Wants You to Do
73. Not everyone believes the truth about God, but there are ways you can respond to their objections. (Handling contrary opinions about God: basic apologetics; other religions)	74. God wants you to explore the One Big Story. 75. God put the Bible together in a fascinating way. 76. You need to learn how to study the Bible. 77. God lets His people serve Him and express their worship of Him in different ways. 78. God gave us an accurate record of His Son, Jesus. 79. God wants you to tell others about what Jesus has done. 80. Jesus will return as Judge and there will be a new heaven and a new earth.	81. You can pray on your own. 82. You can read the Bible on your own. 83. You can learn to worship God and Jesus on your own or in a group.	84. God wants you to choose to grow, learn, and seek His wisdom. 85. God's grace: You don't have to do it on your own. God is working in you by His Holy Spirit. 86. God wants you to find and follow His will for your life.	87. God wants you to choose to commit your entire life and everything you have to Him. 88. God wants you to choose His way because you love Him and want to be like Jesus. 89. God wants you to learn to seek and follow His Spirit's leading. 90. You need to learn how to resist Satan and temptation. 91. You need to get involved in church and find your place in the body of Christ.

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