

The Christ Church of Oak Brook Sunday School: Basic Level Curriculum at a Glance
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From the first month a child is born, the Christ Church of Oak Brook education program has a place for him or her. Since the primary responsibility for spiritual nurture lies in the home, the curriculum begins with a series of parent guides which explain the specific developmental stages a child goes through during the first two years of life. Our **nursery** provides a secure, loving atmosphere where a parent can trustingly leave his or her child.

One-year-olds are growing rapidly both physically and mentally. Their capacity and desire for learning is tremendous. The curriculum material used from Standard Publishing Company seeks to take advantage of this impressionable time to lay valuable spiritual foundations. Primarily, our goal is to help children begin to associate God, including Jesus, and the church with the loving adults and secure environment the one-year-old classroom provides. Supplementary material is given to the parents for use at home.

For the **two, three, and four-year-olds**, materials from the David C. Cook Company, including weekly craft activities and take-home teaching pictures, are utilized. Bible stories from both the Old and the New Testament teach the basic concepts of God's love and care for His people as well as our response in gratefulness to Him.

The Bible Way Curriculum used by the elementary classes seeks to combine the best in educational and theological training for our children. Rooted in God's Word, this material teaches truths for the triune God's covenant children today and prepares them for a personal and corporate commitment to Him.

COURSE TITLE	PARTICIPANTS	CONTENT OVERVIEW EMPHASES
Infants	1-12 months	God, Jesus; the church; love.
Early Walkers	12-18 months	God, Jesus; God's children; love.
Toddlers	18-24 months	God, Jesus; the church; love.
Twos	2-year-olds	God as our heavenly Father; Jesus as God's only begotten Son and our friend; our love for Him
Threes	3-year-olds	God as our heavenly Father and Maker; Jesus as God's only begotten Son and our helper, our response to Him.
Fours	4-year-olds	God as our heavenly Father; Jesus as our Savior and friend; our obedience to Him.
Bible Footprints	5-year-olds	Bible stories and truths to help children explore relationships with God and others.
Bible Steps	grades 1 & 2	Bible stories and truths to help children explore relationships with God and others.
Bible Trails	grades 3 & 4	A history of God's mighty acts from the Creation through the missionary journeys of Paul.
Bible Guide	grades 5 & 6	God's revelation; the sacraments and life in the church; leading students toward commitment.
Bible Crossroads	Grades 7 & 8	Bible Studies: covenant, kingdom, church, discipleship, identity, The Ten Commandments, "Basic Christianity for Young People," Bible Overview, family living.
Non-graded Bible Study	Grades 9-12	Apologetics; proper interpretation of the Bible; the meaning of faith in our triune God; who the Father is and what He is like; who Jesus Christ is, what He does for a believer, and how the believer is to respond; the Person and work of the Holy Spirit; the meaning of mankind; the worship, fellowship, need for and service of the church; Biblical guidelines for discerning and doing God's will; the Biblical worldview for effective service according to God's calling; the end times; the Bible's answers to the great questions of life and eternity; "Marriage and Family Living."

Kindergartners using the *Bible Footprints* material, develop a greater awareness of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Lord of their small but growing world. *Bible Steps*, which is for the **first and second graders**, expands on basic Scriptural truths taught in previous courses while giving vital direction to the children's spiritual growth. In addition, materials from Concordia Publishing House are used for a unit on family living.

Grades three and four enjoy *Bible Trails*, as they become familiar with the history of God's redemptive acts from creation through the missionary journeys of Paul. Finally, *Bible Guide* for the **fifth and sixth graders** studies the Holy Bible, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as sources of God's revelation. A unit on the church and its sacraments deepens the children's awareness of their responsibilities as members of Christ's church. As in earlier grades, materials from Concordia Publishing Company are used for a unit on family living as well.

In **middle school (grades six through eight) seventh and eighth graders** use *Bible Crossroads* in alternate summers to study covenant, kingdom, church history, and other themes which provide organization of their previous learning. Dr. James Dobson's "Preparing for Adolescence" serves as the alternate summer curriculum. From September through May, seventh and eighth graders use a two-year church membership curriculum, prepared by Christ Church Education Department staff members, designed to equip them for making their public confession of faith at the end of the eighth grade. Curriculum material from the Concordia Publishing House is used for the family living series.

Senior high young people experience a wide-ranging format. In summer and winter, selected speakers address specific subjects in a plenary classroom setting for grades nine through twelve to focus on the doctrines of the church, Christ, and Christian ethics. In the spring and fall terms, a rich variety of alternatives is available from among which the youth can choose a traditional class, informative electives, or guided independent study. If enough express a desire, they can even petition for a class to be taught on a subject of importance to them.

Across all ages, the Bible and historic Christian systematic theology, taught on age developmentally appropriate levels, is the basis and main content for all the classes. Curricula are selected from those companies that offer the best (Biblically, theologically, and pedagogically accurate) resources which fit the carefully designed program to meet the educational needs of members and friends of Christ Church.