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Begin with the end in mind.

It is a simple rule for accomplishing significant goals - determine where you want to go, then chart a course to get there.

First Baptist Church loves children. As we think about what we want for our children, we start with a goal: each child knows Jesus Christ and has the tools needed to grow in their faith for the rest of their lives. Our goal is faith now—and a growing faith for a lifetime.

Studies in faith development tell us unsurprising things. When parents pray with their children, when they have family discussions about faith, and when they participate in meaningful Christian service, the likelihood of the child possessing a vital faith in adulthood increases.

Add to those factors a basic knowledge of Scripture, and you have the building blocks of faith development.

This booklet outlines the basics of faith that we attempt to teach every child in our congregation. It shows families what they can expect for their children and it points out the most vital elements of faith that families can

teach and reinforce in order to lay a strong foundation of faith at home. Let's partner together to share a vital faith with every child entrusted to us by God.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME



1. Our Children Know the Books & Divisions of the Bible.

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOKS OF LAW:

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

MAJOR PROPHETS:

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

BOOKS OF HISTORY:

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

I & II Samuel

I & II Kings

I & II Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

MINOR PROPHETS:

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Ionah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

POETRY:

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon



NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

PAUL'S LETTERS

TO FRIENDS:

I Timothy II Timothy

Titus

Philemon

HISTORY:

Acts

GENERAL LETTERS:

Hebrews

James

I Peter

II Peter

I John

II John

II JOIIII

III John Jude

Revelation

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES:

Romans

I Corinthians

II Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

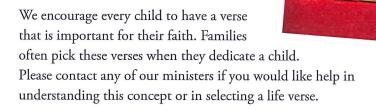
Philippians

Colossians

I Thessalonians

II Thessalonians

2. Our children can quote and use their life verses.



Child's Name:
Life Verse:
Family Member:
Life Verse:
Family Member:
Life Verse:
Family Member:
Life Verse:



3. Our children can locate important Bible verses and references.

OLD TESTAMENT:

- **Exodus 20:12** "Honor your father and mother, so you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
- **Numbers 15:39** "Remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them."
- **Deuteronomy 6:5** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."
- **Deuteronomy 16:17** "Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."
- Psalm 56:3 "When I am afraid I will trust in you."
- Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
- Psalm 119:11 "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- **Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."
- **Proverbs 22:1** "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."
- Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' and I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"
- Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- Nahum 1:7 "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble."

NEW TESTAMENT:

- Matthew 4:10 "Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."
- Matthew 5:44 "But I tell you; Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
- Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- **Luke 2:52** "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."
- Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
- **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
- Romans 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."



NEW TESTAMENT (CONTINUED):

- **Ephesians 2:8** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."
- **Philippians 4:6** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
- Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
- **Colossians 3:23** "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."
- I Thessαlonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- **II Timothy 1:7** "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."
- James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."
- I John 4:7 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."
- Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible.

4. Our children know important Bible passages by name and reference.

The Creation - Genesis 1-2

The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:3-17

A Shepherd's Song - Psalm 23

A Prayer for Forgiveness - Psalm 51

A Psalm of Praise - Psalm 100

The Greatness of God - Isaiah 40

The Baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13-17 or Mark 1:1-11

The Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 5-7

The Model Prayer - Matthew 6:1-15

The Twelve Apostles - Matthew 10:2-4

The Resurrection of Jesus - Matthew 28

The Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20

The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7

The Lord's Prayer - Luke 11:1-13

The First Lord's Supper - Luke 22:15-20

The Comfort Chapter - John 14

The Crucifixion - John 19

Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13

Saul's Conversion - Acts 22:1-22

The Love Chapter - I Corinthians 13

The Faith Chapter - Hebrews 11



5. Our children have a basic grasp of key biblical persons and events in historical perspective.

OLD TESTAMENT

DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	_
	PERSON/GROUP.	EVENT:
The Beginning	Adam & Eve	- Garden of Eden
	Cain & Abel	- Sons of Adam & Eve
	Noah & Sons	- The flood, rainbow promise
2200-2000	Abraham	- Covenant
	Sarah	- Abraham's wife
	Isaac	- Abraham's son
	Abraham	- Willing to sacrifice his son
2000-1800	Isaac & Rebekah	- Twins are born
	Jacob & Esau	- Birthright stolen
	Jacob & Leah	- Had 12 sons
	Jacob	- Name changed to Israel
	Joseph	- Sold into slavery
1800-1600	Joseph	- Became ruler
	Joseph's Family	- Moved to Egypt
	Israelites	- Slaves – 400 years
1600-1400	Baby Moses	- Saved by princess
	Moses	- Burning bush
		- Spoke to Pharaoh
		- Miracles
		- Plagues
		- First Passover
		- Exodus (1450 BCE)
		Wandered 40 yearsReceived the Ten Commandments
1600-1400	Aaron	- Moses' brother
		- First High Priest, Israel

DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	EVENT:
1400-1200	Joshua & Caleb	Tabernacle finishedArk of the CovenantRahab hid spiesMoses diedCanaan conquered
1200-1100	Deborah	- Became a judge
	Gideon	- Became a judge
	People of Israel	- Attacked often
	Ruth	- Followed God
	Eli	- High Priest, 40 years
1100-1000	Samson	- Destroyed a temple
	Samuel	Hannah gave to GodHeard God's voiceFirst prophet of GodIsrael's last judge
	Saul	- Israel's First King
	David	- Killed Goliath
	Jonathan	- Friend of David
	Saul	- Disobeyed God
	David	- Chosen to be King
1000-900	David	 Second King Conquered Jerusalem Defeated Philistines Ark to Jerusalem Sinned with Bathsheba Made Solomon King
	Solomon	Third KingBuilt first templeKingdoms divided at his death
900-800	Northern Kingdom Southern Kingdom Elijah	Israel, ten tribesJudah, two tribesProphet



DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	EVENT:
900-800	Elijah	Kept the food of a widow from being used upCalled down fire from heaven
	Elisha	- Parted Jordan River - Multiplied widow's oil
	Naaman	- Healed from leprosy by Elisha
800-700	Jonah	- Refused to go to Nineveh - Swallowed by a big fish
	Joel .	 Warned of locusts and promised that someday there would be peace
	Amos	- Prophesied to Israel about the poor
	Obadiah	- Warned about helping the enemy
	Micah	- Warned about worshipping idols
	Fall of Israel	- 722 BCE
700-600	Isaiah	Greatest prophetTold wonderful things about GodTold about the coming of Jesus
	Jeremiah	 Threatened for warning the people Told of a time when God would make a new covenant
	Nahum	- Wrote to comfort the people
	Babylonians	- Seized Judah - 606 BCE
	King Nebuchadnezzar	- Greatest King of Babylon - Came to know God
	Daniel	- Taken to Babylon
600-500	Jerusalem	- Fell to Babylonians in 586 BCE
	Judan	- Destroyed in 586 BCE
	Daniel	Placed in Lion's DenTold the future with great accuracy
	Jews	Returned to Jerusalem in 536 BCESecond Temple built
600-500	Esther	- Chosen to be Queen and saved her people
11	Jews	- Rebuilt walls

DATES:

PERSON/GROUP:

EVENT:

PERIOD BETWEEN OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

100 BCE-1 CE

Herod

- Appointed Governor of Judea

NEW TESTAMENT

10 BCE-1 CE

Angel

- Appeared to Mary and Elizabeth

John the Baptist

- Elizabeth gave birth

Jesus

- Born in Bethlehem

- Star shone, angels sang, shepherds came wise men traveled

Joseph/Mary/Jesus

- Fled to Egypt

- Went to Nazareth

Herod

- Died

1-10 CE

Jesus

- Traveled to Jerusalem for Passover

 Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple talking with the teachers

Saul

- Born in Tarsus

10-19 CE

Jesus

- Obedient to his parents

John the Baptist

- Jesus' childhood friend and cousin

- Preached about sin and repentance

- Baptized in the name of Jesus

Saul

- Departed Tarsus to go study

in Jerusalem

19-29 CE

Pontius Pilate

- Made governor of Judea

Jesus

 Baptized by John in Jordan River and the Holy Spirit came as

a dove

- Spent 40 days in the wilderness

and was tempted

- Began his earthly ministry at

about age 30

Andrew, Peter, Philip,

Nathanael

- Jesus called the first disciples



DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	EVENT:
20-29 CE	Jesus	 First miracle, turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana Used a whip to clean out the temple Met a Samaritan woman at the well Healed a man's son in Capernaum, his second miracle Helped the fishermen catch many fish Called the fishermen to be disciples Healed the man who was lowered through the roof by his friends Healed individuals who were sick or who could not walk or see
	Disciples/Apostles	 Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Nathanael, Matthew, Thomas, Simon, James son of Alphaeus, Jude, and Judas Iscariot
	Jesus	- Preached the Sermon on the Mount - The woman washed the feet of Jesus
	Jesus told parables	 Farmer and his seed Mustard seeds Yeast Pearls Fishing net Lost sheep Prodigal son Good Samaritan Lost coin

Some of

Jesus' Miracles

- Calmed the storm

- Fed 5,000

- Walked on the water

- Fed 4,000

- Healed Peter's mother-in-law

DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	EVENT:
30-39 CE	Some of Jesus' Miracles John the Baptist Jesus	 Cast out demons Raised people from the dead Herod killed John Transfigured on the mountain Mary poured perfume on the feet of Jesus Went to Jerusalem Predicted his death and resurrection
Jesus' Last Week	Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	 Entered Jerusalem on a donkey Forced money changers from the temple Taught in the temple Judas agreed to betray Jesus Ate last supper with disciples Gave last teaching to disciples Prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane Betrayed by Judas
	Friday	Arrested and triedJudged to die by PilateKilled on a crossBuried
	Sunday	 Tomb found empty Mary saw Jesus Two men saw Jesus on the Emmaus road Jesus comes to his disciples Gives the Great Commission
The Church Begins	Pentecost	 Ascends to Heaven after 40 days Observed 50 days after Passover God sent the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised The Christian Church was founded
	Peter	 Preached the first Christian sermon 3,000 believed and joined the church



DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	EVENT:
30-39 CE	Peter & Apostles Deacons Stephen Saul/Paul	 Performed many miracles Chosen to serve the people in the church Stoned for preaching about Jesus Becomes a believer on the road
40-49 CE	Philip Dorcas Paul	to Damascus - Followers of Jesus first called Christians - Witnessed to the Ethiopian - Helped many people - Brought Dorcas back to life - First missionary journey
	Barnabus Cornelius Peter Council of Jerusalem James	 Wrote Galatians Accompanied Paul First Gentile to become a Christian An angel rescued him from jail Christians met to talk and make decisions about non-Jews who wanted to be Christians Brother of Jesus Wrote book of James
50-59 CE	Judas & Silas Paul & team	 Joined Paul's missionary team Second missionary journey Wrote I & II Thessalonians Third missionary journey Wrote I & II Corinthians Wrote Romans
15	Priscilla & Aquila Paul	 Friends and helpers of Paul Visited Jerusalem Arrested in Jerusalem but was taken to Rome for trial because he was a Roman citizen Shipwrecked on Malta

DATES:	PERSON/GROUP:	EVENT:
60-69 CE	Paul	 In prison Wrote Ephesians Wrote Colossians Wrote Philemon Wrote Philippians Released and continued to travel and tell about Jesus Wrote I Timothy
	Peter	- Wrote I & II Peter
	Paul	Travels to SpainWrote TitusTravels to GreeceArrested and taken back to RomeWrote II Timothy
	Peter	- Crucified
	Paul	- Was put to death
70-79 CE		- City of Jerusalem is destroyed - Jews begin to scatter
	Jude	Possibly a half brother of JesusWrote book of Jude warning about false teachings
80-89 CE		Persecution of Christians increasesBeing a Christian is punishable by death under Roman law
	John	 Wrote I John to encourage fellowship with God Wrote II John to encourage obedience to God Wrote III John to encourage fellowship with other believers



DATES:

PERSON/GROUP:

EVENT:

90-99 CE

John

- Imprisoned on the island of Patmos

- Received a revelation from Jesus in

a vision

- Wrote the vision in a letter and sent it to seven churches

- Released from Patmos and goes

to Ephesus

- Died about 100 AD

Each person listed above is important to understanding the biblical story. As you read and study your Bible with your child try to place each person into the larger biblical picture.

VITAL EXPERIENCES

Not all of faith development is learning facts. Much of our faith comes from important experiences. Some of these experiences happen in church, at home, or are personal in nature. The next section of this booklet describes experiences we want every child to have.

Our Children Lead in Worship

The church, ministers, and lay leaders will seek to provide opportunities for each child to lead in worship during a morning or special service.

Opportunities will include: singing in a choir, praying, reading Scripture, receiving the offering, greeting, lighting candles, leading a responsive reading, taking part in a litany, sharing musical or dramatic gifts, or speaking.



Understanding that each of God's children is gifted in different ways, we will seek to find a way for each child to serve. A child who attends services regularly will be more comfortable with taking a leadership role. We help children become familiar with worship words and their meaning.

We hope that all adults will also grow to feel comfortable taking a leadership role in worship.



2. Our children understand the meaning and importance of our church ordinances.

First Baptist Church observes two ordinances: Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism is the act of using water as a symbol of beginning a new life. In New Testament days, a new Christian was immersed (put under the water) and raised out of the water. Baptism is a way to picture the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It also shows that the old life of the Christian has been buried and that he has been raised to live a new life. Baptism does not save you. It is an act of obedience and a witness of the person's new faith in Jesus Christ as Savior (Mark 1:9-11, Acts 8:26-38, Romans 6:4).

The Lord's Supper is a way of remembering that Jesus' body was broken and his life was given for the forgiveness of sin. As we come to the



Lord's Supper table, we are to ask first God for forgiveness for things we have done wrong and then spend time in worship. The bread represents Jesus' body that was broken and the cup represents the blood he shed for us (I Corinthians 11:23-29).

The Lord's Supper is reserved for those who have been baptized.

3. Our children can verbalize a non-memorized prayer.

We lead children to realize that a prayer from the heart of any believer is heard by the heart of God. We do not need big words and long sentences to pray.

We encourage children to address God as loving and wonderful; to tell God about what they have done wrong; to ask forgiveness; to thank God for what he has done for them and others; ask God to help others. We also help children put their needs into requests to God and to end their prayer "in Jesus' Name."

4. Our children have opportunities to respond to the call of the Gospel.

We do not manipulate children or force them to make a decision for Jesus. We do, however, want every child to hear a clear, age-appropriate presentation of how a person becomes a Christian. We provide help for families who want to have this discussion with their children.

5. Our children have opportunities to consider ministry as a vocation.

We know that God's children are called and need to service. We lead each child to understand we are all witnesses for God, whatever our future path takes. However, some individuals are called to minister vocationally. We want to awaken a child to the possibility that, later in life, God might extend such a personal call.



6. Our children are familiar with the foundational hymns of our church.

Part of the distinctiveness of First Baptist Church is our worship. We will teach our children the core hymns that are often sung in worship. When a "Faith Development" hymn appears in the order of worship, it is marked with an asterisk.

Faith Development Hymns

(Preceded by hymn numbers in "Celebrating Grace" hymnal.)

418	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
175	All Glory, Laud and Honor
339	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
587	Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
110	Away in a Manger
71	Be Thou My Vision
619	Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine
194	Christ the Lord is Risen Today
306	Come, Christians, Join to Sing
295	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
471	Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
223	Crown Him with Many Crowns
159	Fairest Lord Jesus
546	Give Me Jesus
285	God of Grace and God of Glory
48	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
68	He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought
127	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
177	How Deep the Father's Love for Us
425	How Firm a Foundation
58	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

It Is Well with My Soul

573

- 1 Holy, Holy, Holy
- 603 Jesus Loves Me
- 102 Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come
- 310 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
- 415 Lift High the Cross
- 510 Lord, Here Am I
- 59 My Lord Is Near Me All the Time
- 371 Now Thank We All Our God
- 79 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- 103 O Come All Ye Faithful
- 566 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- 601 O How I Love Jesus
- 107 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- 191 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- 354 Praise Him! Praise Him!
- 335 Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him
- 319 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- 134 Silent Night, Holy Night
- 280 Speak, O Lord
- 124 The First Nowell
- 17 This Is My Father's World
- 570 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
- 349 To God Be the Glory
- 509 Trust and Obey
- 627 Victory in Jesus
- We Are Called to Be God's People
- 61 We Gather Together
- 186 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- 7 Worthy of Worship



7. Our children can recognize Core Values and Mission Statement.

Our Core Values

- In character... Christlikeness
- In service... Leadership
- In relationships... Family
- In heritage... Baptist
- In all things... Prayer

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of First Baptist Church is to be a community of believers where we seek to mold our lives after the heart of Jesus Christ, and where we seek to be his hands in mission and ministry.

8. Our children recognize the work of God in the world.

God is revealed to us in very active ways; through prophets or messengers, through the Bible and through his son Jesus Christ. God continues to work through nature, people and history. We need to be willing to see and recognize God in today's world.

Our children understand what 'Christlikeness' means.

Because of the sacrifice that Jesus made, it is easy to accept him as Savior and 'become' a Christian. The harder task is 'being like Christ.' The familiar and popular phrase, "What would Jesus do?" sounds simple, but is the essence of being 'Christlike.' Jesus worshiped God; he prayed; he knew the scriptures; he was loving and compassionate and "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). He instructs his disciples, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37).

10. Our Children understand what It means to be the Hands of Christ.

Our church motto is "Seeking His Heart... Being His Hands." Christ ministered with his hands throughout his ministry, setting examples for us. We need to minister as he did to anyone, anywhere using whatever gifts and resources are available. When we do, we are offering our hands for Jesus to use.

To understand fully what it means to be the Hands of Christ we need to learn about how people around the world are 'Being His Hands' in missions and ministry. We cannot all go and minister to another people in another place but we can pray and give so that everyone has the opportunity to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

11. Our children plan and serve in Hands of Christ ministries.

Children are not too young to serve Jesus. Needs are everywhere and if we keep our eyes open with a Christlike spirit we will find one that we can address. Often it takes a whole church to respond to a



need. Other times, one person or

one family can make a difference. We help children ask God for guidance and wisdom as they consider ways they can serve. Some ministries are organized by the church, while others come from the child's own faith.



12. Our Children participate in a church related camp or retreat.

As children grow, they need opportunities to make and build strong relationships with other Christians.

They must learn to rely on themselves and Christian friends in times of fellowship, study, growth, and need. A camp



or retreat experience provides just such a concentrated opportunity.

13. Our Children learn about the history of Baptists, our church and our basic Baptist beliefs.

It is hard for all of us to appreciate what we have and who we are if we do not know from where we have come and what we believe. We teach our children the basic historical background of what it means to be part of First Baptist Church.

NOTES:		
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The Blueprint is updated from The Building Blocks of Faith, written for First Baptist Church by Priscilla J. Tunnell, who served as the Minister of Faith Development, 1997–2011. We give thanks to Miss Prissy for her foundational work.



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