

TEACHERS AND LEADERS: PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

FAITH DEVELOPMENT – STAGE ONE – “*GOD IS LIKE MOMMY/DADDY*”

Ages from two to six years

The material below is based on the work of James Fowler as it is described in the LEAD book *Faith Passages and Patterns* by Thomas A. Droege (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983).

At this age: People/children develop a basic sense of trust. They rely on those who provide care, love, and nurture. They identify God as a caring, loving parent who protects and nurtures.

Factors which affect this expression of faith:

1. Remember random segments of stories.
2. Cannot always distinguish fact from fantasy. confusion.
3. Lack abstract reasoning skills. misunderstood and will unlearned later.
4. Are fragile and have limits. limits.
5. Trust adults, usually. over teaching concepts.
6. View God as a friend to be talked to. free prayer to God.
7. Learn best through actions of others (more so than words).

Implications for leaders:

1. Tell simple, single-focus stories.
2. Listen carefully to detect points of
3. Don't teach abstract ideas that will be need to be
4. Know and respect their abilities and
5. Don't take advantage of their trust by
6. Seek opportunities for spontaneous
7. Exemplify God's love and