

# K12 Stepping Stones

## Phases of Development: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

### What's Going on with my 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader?

#### *Competency*

During these years, your child is going through changes that you might find delightful! He realizes now that there are different perspectives than his own, and he is not the only person vying for his parents' or teacher's attention. His peer groups and friends will become even more important to him, and he will want to seem competent in front of them. You now have a child who is still dependent on you but willing and able to handle many tasks without support. As you are attentive to your child's need to learn and appear competent, you can guide him in practical applications to living a life of faith.

### How Do I Share my Faith with my 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader?

As a parent or caregiver, you have the ability to influence your child's faith more than anyone else because of the sheer amount of time you have together that no one else has. School-aged kids are ready to learn about a God who loves them and how to show love to others. As you help your child achieve competency in different areas of his life, you have the opportunity to demonstrate practical life application that reflects the values of our loving God.

The Bible teaches us that we should make talking about God part of our everyday life:

*<sup>5</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup>These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.<sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup>Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9**

The above passage tells us that we should talk about faith with our children, and talking to them about our faith should be natural. You can tell your child about God every day, any time of the day, but there are natural rhythms built into most family's schedules that will lend themselves to these learning opportunities. During these times, look for opportunities to teach and to show your faith:

- Morning Time
- Drive Time
- Meal Time
- Bed Time

## What Do I Want my 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader to Know?

- **He is loved by you, and he is loved by God.**
  - *"You were created by God to be you! He loves you so much."*
  - *"I will always love you, no matter what!"*
- **God sent Jesus to save us.**
  - *"No one is perfect; only Jesus is! How do you think He'd handle this situation?"*
  - *"I love hearing your questions about Jesus. He welcomes our questions, too."*
- **God made the world and everything in it.**
  - *"Which do you like better, the mountains or the ocean? Do you think God enjoyed making one more than the other?"*
  - *"Our friend Yohana is from Tanzania. I love hearing him explain how they worship God in his country."*
- **God made his body, and his body is beautiful.**
  - Start having conversations about the changes your child can expect to see in his body.
  - Begin having conversations about sex and sexual integrity appropriate to your child's maturity level.
- **Simple Bible Verses**
  - Download the Parent Cue app. You will find the Bible verse that your child is learning for the month.
- **The Parts of the Bible**
  - The Bible has two parts: The Old and the New Testament.
  - The Bible has 66 books.
- **God wants him to love God and love others.**
  - *"I know you feel sad for your friend. What do you think you could do to cheer him up?"*
  - *"When we visit with Mrs. Martin at the retirement home, we show her that we love her and God loves her. This is a way to show Jesus that we love Him, too, because Mrs. Martin is important to Him."*

## What Can I do to Encourage my 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader's Faith?

Your child is now aware that other people exist in the world besides herself. She wants to seem competent in front of these people that she is in front of every day. Use this desire for competency to teach your child about God's love and His love for others in the following ways:

- **Serve:** Encourage your child to act on her desire to help others in need. Allow her to suggest ways to serve others, and help her carry out her plans.
  - Help a sibling with his chore just because!
  - Take the trashcans to the curb for an elderly neighbor.
  - Bring cookies to those who work at the fire department.
- **Spend Quality Time with Her:** Your child is at the beautiful age when she is able to do things with you and still *wants to* have your help. Look for activities to do together. Check out [studio252.tv](http://studio252.tv) for fun activities and the Parent Cue app for great discussion-starters.
- **Pray:** You can pray any time. Look for natural moments to pray with your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, and pray for those things that seem important to her. Allow your child the opportunity to pray, as well.
  - *Morning Time:* “Alex, will you pray that God helps us to love others and love Him today?”
  - *Drive Time:* “Dear God, Sophia seems really nervous about her test today. Please give her peace and the ability to recall what she studied.”
  - *Meal Time:* “Caleb, will you thank God for the meal we are about to eat and our friends who are joining us for dinner?”
  - *Bed Time:* “Dear God, thank you for this awesome day. I loved getting the afternoon to spend at the park with Grace and to talk with her.”
- **Sing:** Follow K12Worship on Spotify, and play the songs your child is learning in K12 while you’re driving or making dinner.
- **Read:**
  - Encourage your child to read books. Ask her about the characters in the books—their strengths and weaknesses, what they value, etc. Click [here](#) for book ideas.
  - Help your child read her Bible. You can find short devotions at [studio252.tv](http://studio252.tv).
- **Give:** Teach your child the concept of tithing by encouraging her to give a portion of her allowance to church.
- **Go to Church:** Pick a service time and attend that service weekly. Consistent attendance allows your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grader to develop relationships with her small group leader and the kids in her small group. She will learn the importance of church community by having her own!

