

Third Grade

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 520 WEEKS AND COUNTING

THIS YEAR YOU WILL PROVOKE DISCOVERY SO YOUR CHILD WILL TRUST GOD'S CHARACTER AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAMILY.

As your third grader gains more independence, this is a great year to encourage personal devotional time. Help them develop a habit of spending time alone with God. But, don't let their faith become private; continue having other faith conversations as you go about your days together.

Your third grader is keen for comparison. They love to compare movies, sports, teams, ice cream flavors....and people. This tendency often leaves kids wondering just how well they measure up. The way you answer their questions, listen to their stories, and show up consistently will help you encourage their efforts.

SAY THINGS LIKE...

- "Can I pray about that with you?"
- "When I first trusted Jesus..." (Share your faith story).
- "Our family sets aside 10% of what we make to give to our church."
- (Talk about how you manage finances as a response to God.)
- "You can trust God no matter what."
- "Exodus is part of the history of the Israelite nation."
- "I'm not sure where that passage is. Let's look it up together."
- "Don't ever tire of doing the right thing." 2 Thessalonians 3:13
- (Repeat and memorize simple Bible verses together.)



CONNECTION POINT: MORNING TIME

Be a coach.

Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.



CONNECTION POINT: DRIVE TIME

Be a friend.

Interpret life during informal conversation as you travel.



CONNECTION POINT: MEAL TIME

Be a teacher.

Establish values with intentional conversation while you eat together.



CONNECTION POINT: BED TIME

Be a counselor.

Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.

THINKS LIKE A SCIENTIST

**WANTS TO KNOW,
"DO I HAVE FRIENDS?"**

IS MOTIVATED BY FUN

You help them learn when you...
GIVE THEM A CHALLENGE

You capture their heart when you...
DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS

You coach their moral abilities when you...
INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN IN.

YOUR THIRD GRADER IS CHANGING...

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THE PHASE WHEN FAIRNESS MATTERS MOST, DIFFERENCES GET NOTICED, AND YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC KID THINKS ANYTHING, “SOUNDS LIKE FUN!”

PHYSICALLY

- Continues losing baby teeth including molars (9-12 years).
- Grows approximately three inches and gains seven pounds, typically in spurts.
- Plays hard, tires quickly, and benefits from short “breaks.”
- Needs 10-12 hours of sleep each night.

MENTALLY

- Able to concentrate on one activity up to 30 minutes.
- Increasingly aware of other’s feelings.
- Recognizing patterns & symbolism.
- May enjoy reading books both for fun and for learning.
- Focuses on one thing at a time and struggles with abstract concepts.
- Has a highly definitive perspective (things are either right or wrong).

SOCIALLY

- Enjoys cooperative, group activities.
- Places a high value on fairness and consistency.
- Shows gender preference for friends.
- Starts to gather in larger friend groups and responds to peer pressure.

EMOTIONALLY

- Tends to be enthusiastic, energetic, and impatient.
- Overall feels more independent and confident.
- Developing their sense of humor with riddles, magic tricks, and jokes.
- May be quick to label themselves (“athletic” or “not athletic”...).
- Needs to experience moderate challenges and success.