

Practice Sheet on Appropriate Activities

Using the information we have talked about in our discussion of stages of “Human Development and Faith Development,” read the following list of activities, statements by a teacher, and topics of study. Decide whether each one is appropriate for the age group suggested, giving a rationale for each answer.

1. The teacher plans for the six-year-old class to make a timeline of the period from King Saul’s reign to the Fall of Jerusalem.
2. The teacher, who is quite short, says to 13-year-old Maria, “Please get that book down from the top shelf. You are the only one in the room tall enough to reach up there.”
3. Psalm 19 says about God: “He has set a tent for the sun, which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber.” Would this be an appropriate verse to teach to 7-year-olds? Would it be appropriate for 13-year-olds?
4. The teacher says to her five-year-old student, “While you are in class you must sit still!”
5. The teacher greets the fifteen-year-old students as they come in. She tells them, “Today we are going to talk about the time when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.”
6. Another teacher decides to use the same lesson about Abraham and Isaac. Her students are seven years old.
7. The nine-year-olds are asked to look up the Ten Commandments (as they are presented in Mark 12:30-33) and tell how they are related to Jesus’ words: “This I command you, to love one another” (John 17).
8. The teacher says to a student arriving for class, “Well, Anna, I am glad to see that you are finally here on time after being late two weeks in a row!” Anna is 14 years old.
9. The teacher says, “Very good, Helena—you have your book open and you are ready to begin.” Helena is six years old.
10. The teacher asks, “Class, did King David live before or after Jesus Christ?” The students are nine years old.
11. The class has a discussion of what happened when they were baptized. Some have brought pictures of their baptism to share. The students are eight years old.
12. The teacher talks to the class for ten minutes about loving pets and taking care of them. The students are five and six years old.
13. A class of fifteen and sixteen year old students reads the story of the woman taken in adultery (John 8: 3-11) and discusses the way Jesus dealt with her.
14. A class of ten-year-olds studies the stories of Abraham, Ruth, and Timothy. They talk about how each of these people had to leave home, and how God guided each one.
15. A class of eight-year-olds learns the story of Joseph and his brothers. They role-play the story with a “coat of many colors” that the teacher has sewn together from colorful pieces of cloth.
16. A scientist who is an Orthodox Christian is invited to talk to a class of twelve and thirteen-year-olds about his work and his faith. After his talk, he stays to answer the students’ questions.
17. A teacher says to a sixteen-year-old student, “Your question about ordination to the priesthood is important. I don’t really have a good answer. Let’s both try to find out more about it this week, and talk about it again during our next class.”
18. Another teacher says to the same sixteen-year-old student, “What do you mean, you’re not sure you believe that Christianity is the true faith? You must never question that!”
19. The teacher says to his six-year-old students, “Today we are going to learn to make the sign of the cross. What does it mean when we make the sign of the cross?”

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20. A group of children who are seven years old plan and take part in a procession for Palm Sunday.

21. The five-year-olds are going into church together. Their teacher whispers to them, "Remember, church is a holy place where we must never touch anything. God is watching us, and He does not want us ever to touch His holy things."