

## Teaching Multiple Ages Day-By-Day

The Disciple Curriculum was written, designed, and tested to be used in families with multiple ages. There are several “layers” of activities incorporated into the curriculum, each layer presenting a new level of difficulty in language use and thinking skills. The diagram below shows these layers:



The foundation of the curriculum is the Word of God itself. The memory passages are memorized, providing students with an intimate, first-hand knowledge of the NIV translation of many key Scriptures. You will be awe-struck at the depth your children can discuss, study, read, and write about God’s Word once they have memorized it. The memory passages are written to music that will draw them into the emotions of the story. Even your smallest children will respond to the Word of God presented in this way. This is why we say that memorization is the foundation of the curriculum.

You can expect all of your children to start here, whether they are 1 or 18. Children who are able to do higher “layers” of activity will also continue to do all the layers below their highest layer. For example, a 6 year old who is able to read and write (but perhaps not yet with confidence) should be expected to do all the activities which include Memorization, Discussion & Drawing, and Reading & Study. A 16 year-old can be expected to do all of the activities in the study. And a 2 year old will be able to learn the songs, but may not be able to participate in any of the formal reading/writing aspects of the study. (However, most preschool aged children, if given a paper and markers, can sit some days while listening to a story or discussion, and, if trained to do so, will learn more than you think!)

Here’s an idea of how a lesson might go if you had a preschooler, a 1st grader, a 5th grader, and a high school student:

1. Sing passage all together. Dismiss preschooler to do something tactile.
2. Continue with reading, discussion, study, and/or drawing portions of lesson. Dismiss first grader.
3. Continue with summarization exercises. Dismiss 5th grader.
4. Continue with any supplemental exercises with high school student.

# Teaching Multiple Ages Year-By-Year

Although The Disciple Curriculum is only in the beginning stages of development, it is projected to become a full 12-year Bible training and Christian discipleship education. These 12 years will be divided into three 4-year phases.

**Phase 1 (Original Study Phase):** Students will learn the story of redemption and the central story of the gospel through Scripture memorization, study, and reading. *Phase 1 is appropriate for ages 6-10 doing the studies for the first time.* Studies for each of these first four years are entitled as follows:

- Year 1: The Creator
- Year 2: The Shepherd-King
- Year 3: The Seed
- Year 4: God With Us

**Phase 2 (Supplemental Phase):** Students will cycle back through the studies listed above at a higher level of reading, study, and writing, and add supplemental reading and memory passages to their understanding of the stories they are studying. Students who begin the Curriculum in high school should begin at this Supplemental Phase. Students who completed Phase 1 as early elementary aged students should repeat the cycle at the Supplemental level. *Phase 2 is appropriate for returning students ages 10-14 and first time students ages 15-adult.*

- Year 5: The Creator w/Supplement
- Year 6: The Shepherd-King w/Supplement
- Year 7: The Seed w/Supplement
- Year 8: God With Us w/Supplement

**Phase 3 (Guidance Phase):** Students who have completed Phases 1 and 2 (or high school students who have completed Phase 2) can continue in a “Guidance Phase” which will help them to form habits of prayer and Bible study, to articulate the gospel message in a variety of situations, to serve in the church and in the world, and to discern the Lord’s calling in their lives. Study materials will guide them in using God’s Word to empower them in their lives. Studies will emphasize the use of God’s word in all works of preaching, teaching, evangelism, service, and family life. Continued gospel emphasis for students who are not professing believers. *Phase 3 is appropriate for ages 15-adult.*

It is important for you to understand that the phases of the curriculum indicate knowledge of Biblical content, not grade level or educational level.

Many people who start The Creator with their young children wish they could have covered all the layers of the study; by cycling through a second time, you can build on what your children learned the first time around, and because they’ve already covered it once they will immediately be ready to dive in at a remarkably deep level

of study.

As you progress through each year of study, all of your family members will participate *in that year only*. In other words, you will not need to be teaching more than a single year at any given time. You should start with The Creator (Year 1) and progress in order through the 4 Years of study, gauging your highest layer of study to your oldest student. As your children grow in their ability to participate at the various “layers” (see “Teaching Multiple Ages Day-By-Day), you can add them into the daily study more and more each year. On the next pages are a two scenarios to show you how you can rotate through the studies for the first 8 years with various ages of children.

### Scenario 1: Starting With Younger Children

This family had 3 children from ages 6 to 1 when they began using The Disciple Curriculum. Here is how their children were taught together through the first 8 years and beyond:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	The Creator	The Shepherd- King	The Seed	God With Us	The Creator	The Shepherd- King	The Seed	God With Us	The Creator	The Shepherd- King
Peter	6 years old Early Reader	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old w/Supplement	11 years old w/Supplement	12 years old w/Supplement	13 years old w/Supplement	14 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	15 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*
Tom	4 years old will pick up some memory passages	5 years old can be expected to learn memory passages	6 years old Early Reader	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old w/Supplement	11 years old w/Supplement	12 years old w/Supplement	13 years old w/Supplement
Lucy	1 year old exposure through listening to songs	2 years old will pick up some memory passages	3 years old will pick up some memory passages	4 years old will pick up some memory passages	5 years old can be expected to learn memory passages	6 years old Early Reader	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old w/Supplement

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### Scenario 2: Starting With Older Children

This family had 4 children from ages 13 to 7. Here is how their children were taught together through the first 8 years and beyond:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	The Creator	The Shepherd- King	The Seed	God With Us	The Creator	The Shepherd- King	The Seed	God With Us	The Creator	The Shepherd- King
Susie	13 years old w/Supplement	14 years old w/Supplement	15 years old w/Supplement	16 years old w/Supplement	17 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	18 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*				
Sam	11 years old w/Supplement	12 years old w/Supplement	13 years old w/Supplement	14 years old w/Supplement	15 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	16 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	17 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	18 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*		
James	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old	12 years old	13 years old w/Supplement	14 years old w/Supplement	15 years old w/Supplement	16 years old w/Supplement	17 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	18 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*
Jenny	7 years old Early Reader	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old w/Supplement	12 years old w/Supplement	13 years old w/Supplement	14 years old w/Supplement	15 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*	16 years old The Disciple Curriculum Guidance Phase*

### Scenario 3: Starting With All Preschoolers

This family started the curriculum when their children were all preschool-aged. Here is how their children were taught together through the first 8 years and beyond:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	The Creator	The Shepherd-King	The Seed	God With Us	The Creator	The Shepherd-King	The Seed	God With Us	The Creator	The Shepherd-King
Manuel	3 years old will pick up some memory passages through listening	4 years old will pick up some memory passages	5 years old Early Reader	6 years old Early Reader	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old	10 years old	11 years old w/Supplement	12 years old w/Supplement
Maria	newborn	1 year old exposure to songs will prepare the way for transition into study	2 year old will pick up some memory passages	3 years old will pick up some memory passages	4 years old will pick up some memory passages	5 years old Early Reader	6 years old Early Reader	7 years old	8 years old	9 years old
Tony	unborn	unborn	newborn	1 year old exposure to songs will prepare the way for transition into study	2 years old will pick up some memory passages	3 years old will pick up some memory passages	4 years old will pick up some memory passages	5 years old Early Reader	6 years old Early Reader	7 years old