

# Session 7: Adapting for Different Ages

***Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!  
For the Kingdom of God belongs to those  
who are like these children. Mark 10:14***

## Creating a StoryClub Environment

In creating an environment for kids to be excited about following Jesus, we need to:

- 1. Create Communities that Care:** It is important to create groups where children are known, loved, and cared for. In your culture, how do you show children that they really matter? How can children know they are being cared for? Remember one of the universals for everyone, everywhere is that people want to belong. Here are some ways in which you can do that:
  - Create a safe environment where mistakes are part of the learning process.
  - Experience an encouraging environment free from sarcasm and humiliation.
  - Expect the best from each child; use positive words and actions.
  - Communicate confidence in the child's ability.
  - Model positive non-verbals (75% of what we communicate is non-verbal).
  - Create a sense of community and practice using the "one-another verses" outlined in God's Word. For example: pray, encourage, love, spur each other on, forgive, be patient, serve, carry each other's burdens.
- 2. Invite Participation and Ownership:** Learning Bible stories is all about everyone participating and not just the leader doing all the talking. Sometimes give the children choices as to how they want to do something so they feel a greater part of belonging to the group.
  - Work in pairs or groups.
  - Recite things in unison or sing a song.
  - Have someone call out a number and that is how many answers you need.
  - Individually – have them raise their hand.
  - Have an object to pass around, such as a ball, a toy, or a puppet.



### 3. Children Want to Make an Impact

- Select jobs they help with.
- Include them in your planning whenever you can. You may want to appoint a junior leader who collaborates with you.
- Older children can help the younger children.

### 4. Have Fun!

- Create elements of surprise.
- Incorporate games into the lesson.
- Celebrate what children do well.
- SMILE!

## BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER

Encouraging and building one another up in the Lord, is critical for a group to be filled with the love of Jesus Christ. Getting to know each other is only the first step in developing relationships where people are genuinely loved and accepted for who they are. To build genuine community, you must create an environment where you can practically live out these “one-anothers” found in the scriptures:

- Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10)
- Accept one another...as Christ accepted you (Romans 15:7)
- Serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13)
- Carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Be patient, bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2)
- Forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Bear with each other (Colossians 3:9)
- Encourage each other (I Thessalonians 4:18)
- Spur one another on to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)
- Do not grumble against each other (James 5:9)
- Pray for each other (James 5:16)
- Offer hospitality to one another (I Peter 4:9)



# The Development of Children by Age Groups

The ages of children used below are based on the United States system. The descriptions may not work for your children. Use these generalizations to think about the children in your club.

- What are they like?
- What are they thinking?
- How are they acting?
- What are they going through?
- How can you best respond to their characteristics? Make your own list based on your observations.

Please note that the KIDStory training is based primarily for children ages of 5-13. You may have younger or older children that attend your club so the additional information may help you make adjustments for them.

Click on the links below for the age groups you are most interested in to understand their characteristics and what elements to include when leading them.

- Ages 3-4: <https://bit.ly/3-4yroids>
- Ages 5-7: <https://bit.ly/5-7yroids>
- Ages 8-12: <https://bit.ly/8-12yroids>
- Ages 13-15: <https://bit.ly/13-15yroids>
- Ages 16-18: <https://bit.ly/16-18yroids>



## Ask Yourself

1. What are two things you can do this week to create a KIDStory environment?
2. What three adjustments do I need to make based on the characteristics of the children that I am leading?

**Join us for Session 8 on how to start StoryClubs with your family and in your home.**

**For more information on Kids Around the World, go to:**  
**[katw.org](http://katw.org)**

