
ELEMENTARY



What is a Phase?

A phase is a timeframe in a kid's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future.

Why does this matter?

Every phase in a child's life has significant relationships to influence, present realities you need to understand, and distinctive opportunities for you to leverage to lead and guide their discipleship journey. We need to understand what's changing in every phase physically, mentally, relationally, culturally, emotionally, and spiritually so we can leverage our influence as we partner together.

The REALITY of the ELEMENTARY PHASE

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Phase Profile: The phase when...unfiltered words make you laugh, homework makes you cry, and life becomes a stage where your kid shouts "Look at Me!" Children are asking, "Do I Have Your Attention?"

2nd & 3rd Grade Phase Profile: The phase when...fairness matters most, differences get noticed, and your enthusiastic kid thinks anything "sounds like fun!" Children are wondering, "Do I Have What It Takes?"

4th & 5th Grade Phase Profile: The phase when...friends are best friends, games are for competition, and your confident kid will insist, "I've Got This." Children are questioning, "Do I Have Friends?"

What Do Elementary Children Need From The Church?

Elementary school is a season of discovering how the world works and how to have fun in it. Kids want to laugh and play and learn and connect. That's why we have to engage their interests. Elementary-age kids are primarily motivated by fun. So if you're trying to motivate children with too many restrictive rules, it likely won't work. But when you guide them with love, you introduce healthy and

reproducible principles that will help them win in life and in friendship. Then you influence them to make wiser choice and treat others with kindness.

Most of us know that young children are honest, that they will say anything (and everything) to anyone. But we also know that older children won't open up about tough questions or fears unless they have established trust within that relationship.

How do you establish trust with a child? Through consistency. Children need consistent leaders so relationships can be built and they need messages on repeat. They learn best through repetition!

So What's Our Role?

Our role is to **ENGAGE** their interests. By engaging their interests, listening to them, having fun with them, and by validating their questions and thoughts, they will learn to trust God's character and experience God's family.

Children in the Elementary Phase are in the process of **DISCOVERY**. They are discovering wisdom, discovering faith, and discovering friendship. They are learning who they are and they need the help of their family as well as trusted adults to process through these changes. With the combined influence of a committed small group leader (SGL) and the family, together children can learn to make the wise choice, trust God no matter what, and treat others the way they want to be treated.

