Children’s Time Topics
that will help children to become fluent in the language of the Church

☐ Christian practices and the language of the practices (prayer, hospitality, stewardship, sabbath, diversity, covenant, creation care, gratitude, singing/music, Bible, storytelling, testimony, justice, mission, worship & parts of worship, call, blessing, forgiveness, death)

☐ Sanctuary “tour” to discover symbols and historical artifacts

☐ Concrete biblical images for children that take on deeper meaning for adults

☐ Various styles of prayer, include beautiful objects to hold or gaze upon

☐ Ask theological questions

☐ Tell a (Bible) story

☐ Read and share a picture Bible storybook

☐ Sing a simple hymn/song together (with the entire congregation)

☐ Guided meditation

☐ Concrete object to take with them (stone, shell, seed, etc.)

☐ Model/learn a new prayer style

☐ What would you add?


Children Can Handle Language

• Children learn their native tongue by being exposed to all levels of the language at once.

• Young children’s brains are primed for language as they listen to patterns that their brains will recognize later when they begin speaking words.

• Children stretch the language they have to approximate what is beyond language. When adults do this we call it poetry.
Wondering About a Bible Story
I wonder what part of the story you liked best.
I wonder what part of the story is most important.
I wonder where you are in the story.
I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need.

Wondering About Other Topics
How might that be?
Tell me about...? or What do we know about...?
What is _____ like?
What does _____ do?
What is [theological concept]?
Where is God/Jesus in [this scenario/story]?

Wondering-style Questions About a Bible Story
What is happening in this story?
What do you think happened next?
How do you think _____ felt when _____?
Why did you think _____ said _____?
How is this story unfolding today in the world around us?
How is this story in my life?

Elizabeth Caldwell’s Recommended Children’s Bibles and Bible Storybooks
A more expansive list is available in Appendix 3 in I Wonder: Engaging a Child’s Curiosity About the Bible by Elizabeth F. Caldwell.

Preschool to age 6
Children of God Storybook (Grand Rapids: Zonderkidz, 2010)
by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
The Family Story Bible and The Lectionary Story Bible (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996) by Ralph Milton

Ages 6 to 8
Shine On: A Story Bible (Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 2014)

Ages 9 to 11
The CEB Student Bible (Nashville: Common English Bible, 2015)

Others
the Bible storybooks written by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
Creation’s First Light
In God’s Name
But God Remembered: Stories of Women from Creation to the Promised Land
God’s Paintbrush
God In Between
Noah’s Wife: The Story of Naamah
God Said Amen
Cain and Abel: Find the Fruits of Peace
Adam and Eve’s First Sunset: God’s New Day
For Heaven’s Sake