

WELS Theology Curriculum Guiding Principles (Infancy - 5K) & Standards (1st - 12th Grades): CONFIDENT WITNESSES

Picture of a Graduate Statement: CONFIDENT WITNESSES who are able to clearly, logically, and passionately defend and communicate the hope they have in Jesus to an unbelieving world															
	Infants	Toddlers	3K	4K	5K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	MS Grade 6	MS Grade 7	MS Grade 8	HS (9-10)	HS (11-12)
	Guiding Principles					Standards									
	Continuum for Developmentally Appropriate Practices														
Knowledge Acquisition: Reason for Being a Confident Witness	Hear important truths about Jesus.	Hear important truths about Jesus.	State all the things they know about Jesus.	State all the things they know about Jesus.	State what they know about Jesus and his great commission.	Identify important Biblical truths about Jesus' redemptive work and the great commission.	Identify and describe important Biblical truths about Jesus' redemptive work and the great commission.	Identify and describe important Biblical truths about Jesus' redemptive work and the great commission.	Summarize important biblical truths about Jesus' redemptive work and the great commission to develop an understanding of their reason for the hope they have and their call to share it.	Summarize important biblical truths about Jesus' redemptive work and the great commission to develop an understanding of their reason for the hope they have and their call to share it.	Examine a Christian's reason for the hope they have and their call to share it by examining biblical accounts, figures, and passages and by reflecting on their own abilities and opportunities to witness.	Examine a Christian's reason for the hope they have and their call to share it by examining biblical accounts, figures, and passages and by reflecting on their own abilities and opportunities to witness.	Explain a Christian's reason for the hope they have and their call to share it by incorporating biblical accounts and passages with increasing ability and by identifying their own abilities and opportunities to witness.	Explain a Christian's reason for the hope they have and their call to share it by incorporating biblical accounts and passages with increasing ability and by identifying their own abilities and opportunities to witness.	Demonstrate their reason for the hope they have and their call to share it as preparation to be a confident witness, using their unique abilities to make the most of every opportunity to witness.
Skill Acquisition: Building Understanding of and Relationships with Others	Hear how God created all people uniquely and are in need of a Savior	Hear how God created all people uniquely and are in need of a Savior	Recognize God created all people uniquely and are in need of a Savior.	(with teacher guidance) Discuss how God created all people uniquely and are in need of a Savior.	(with teacher guidance) Discuss how God created all people uniquely and are in need of a Savior.	Discuss the varied backgrounds of people in order to share God's Word with them.	Describe the varied backgrounds of people in order to share God's Word with them.	Identify, discuss, and develop basic communication skills with a mission mindset.	Identify, discuss, and develop basic communication with a mission mindset.	Develop the skills to openly listen and to respectfully respond with a mission mindset.	Develop skills to openly listen and to respectfully respond. Develop self-awareness and awareness of others with a mission mindset.	Develop skills to openly listen and to respectfully respond. Develop self-awareness and awareness of others with a mission mindset.	Articulate a mission mindset that exhibits self-awareness and awareness of others and builds relationships for the purpose of sharing the gospel.	Articulate a mission mindset that exhibits self-awareness and awareness of others and builds relationships for the purpose of sharing the gospel.	Analyze interpersonal communication skills and demonstrate self-awareness and awareness of others with a mission mindset to effectively share the gospel with people from diverse backgrounds.

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						Standards										
Integration: Preparation to Communicate with Others (Apologetics)	Determined to not be developmentally appropriate prior to grade 1.					Discuss biblical accounts that contend with false worldviews, values, and teachings in order to communicate the hope in Jesus.	Discuss biblical accounts that contend with false worldviews, values, and teachings in order to communicate the hope in Jesus.	Describe biblical accounts that contend with false worldviews, values, and teachings, in order to communicate the hope of Jesus.	Identify teachings contrary to those in the Bible and state God's truth in order to communicate hope in Jesus.	Identify key concepts of worldviews, values, and teachings in the Bible and state God's truth in order to communicate hope in Jesus.	Identify approaches to address worldviews, values, and teachings contrary to those in the Bible in order to select appropriate ways to communicate the hope of Jesus.	Engage in counterpoints presented by worldviews, values, and teachings contrary to those in the Bible to develop appropriate ways to communicate the hope of Jesus.	Engage in counterpoints presented by worldviews, values, and teachings contrary to those in the Bible to develop appropriate ways to communicate the hope of Jesus.	Formulate responses to a variety of worldviews, values, and teachings that will proclaim or defend Jesus to an unbelieving world.	Formulate responses to a variety of worldviews, values, and teachings that will proclaim or defend Jesus to an unbelieving world.	
Application: Practice Proclaiming and Witnessing (Evangelism)						Hear other people sharing the hope they have in Jesus.	Hear other people sharing the hope they have in Jesus.	(with teacher guidance) Practice telling friends about Jesus.	(with teacher guidance) Practice with increasing ability telling friends and family about Jesus.	Practice with increasing ability telling friends and family about Jesus.	Describe a biblical account about Jesus with a classmate or friend and its importance to their life of faith.	Describe a biblical account about Jesus with a classmate or friend and its importance to their life of faith.	Witness your faith in Jesus by connecting a biblical account with a personal application.	Witness your faith in Jesus by connecting a biblical account to a modern day application.	Witness your faith in Jesus by connecting a biblical account or passage to a modern day application.	Select and rehearse appropriate strategies of witnessing with increasing complexity, based on various modern day applications.