

WELS Theology Curriculum Guiding Principles (Infancy – 5K) & Standards (1st – 12th Grades): DISCERNING DISCIPLES

Picture of a Graduate Statement: DISCERNING DISCIPLES who distinguish and apply God's law and gospel faithfully in all areas of their life.

	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														
	Continuum for Developmentally Appropriate Practices										Standards				
Acquisition: Law and Gospel	Hear God's truths of Law and Gospel.	Hear God's truths of Law and Gospel.	Hear God's truths of Law and Gospel.	(with teacher guidance) Discuss God's truths of Law and Gospel.	(with teacher guidance) Recognize God's truths of Law and Gospel.	Recognize and express God's Word as truth in both Law and Gospel.	Recognize and express God's Word as truth in both Law and Gospel.	Examine God's Word as truth in both Law and Gospel through provided Biblical accounts and passages.	Examine God's Word as truth, categorizing provided Bible passages that illustrate the truths of law and gospel.	Examine God's Word as truth, categorizing both provided and self-selected Bible passages that illustrate the truths of law and gospel.	Examine God's Word as truth, differentiating between justification and sanctification by applying the appropriate use of law and gospel.	Examine God's Word as truth, applying justification, sanctification, and the appropriate use of law and gospel to the life of a disciple of Christ.	Examine God's Word as truth, analyzing the Biblical teachings of sanctification, justification, and law and gospel to create an accurate description of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.	Examine God's Word as truth, analyzing the Biblical teachings of sanctification, justification, and law and gospel to create an accurate description of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.	Examine God's Word as truth, assessing and applying an accurate description of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in the areas of sanctification, justification, and law and gospel to one's own life.
Understanding: God's Truth, Worldviews, & Other Teachings	Hear biblical accounts where people did and did not remain faithful to God's truths.	Hear biblical accounts where people did and did not remain faithful to God's truths.	Retell biblical accounts where people did and did not remain faithful to God's truths.	Retell biblical accounts where people did and did not remain faithful to God's truths.	Identify people in biblical accounts who did or did not remain faithful to God's truths.	Identify and discuss the blessings of remaining faithful to God's truths and consequences of not remaining faithful.	Identify and discuss the blessings of remaining faithful to God's truths and consequences of not remaining faithful.	Compare and contrast the blessings of remaining faithful to God's truths with the consequences of not remaining faithful.	Recognize and discuss the difference between God's truth and false worldviews, comparing and contrasting biblical values with values promoted in society.	Recognize and discuss the difference between God's truth and false worldviews, comparing and contrasting biblical values with values promoted in society.	Identify false worldviews, values, and teachings promoted in society and other religions; explain how they can threaten one's relationship with God.	Identify false worldviews, values, and teachings promoted in society and other religions; explain how they can threaten one's relationship with God.	Apply the Bible's teachings to a variety of false worldviews, values, and teachings in order to be prepared to give an answer and respond.	Apply the Bible's teachings to a variety of false worldviews, values, and teachings in order to be prepared to give an answer and respond.	Evaluate various false worldviews, values, and teachings in light of God's Word to distinguish truth from error in order to be prepared to give an answer and respond.
Application: Biblical Discernment	Hear biblical accounts about being a disciple of Jesus.	Hear biblical accounts about being a disciple of Jesus.	Hear what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.	(with teacher guidance) Discuss living as a faithful disciple of Jesus	(with teacher guidance) Discuss and practice living as a faithful disciple of Jesus	Discuss the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Discuss the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Discuss the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Discuss the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Discuss the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Articulate the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Articulate the difference between living as a faithful disciple of Jesus and living as one who follows worldly ideas.	Develop skills to articulate and explain faithful discipleship of Jesus in everyday life.	Develop skills to articulate and explain faithful discipleship of Jesus in everyday life and to universally apply law and gospel.	Incorporate law and gospel in practical ways that demonstrate discipleship in everyday life and toward all people, while preserving biblical truths and doctrinal unity.
						Practice fruit of the Spirit in everyday life with God's Word as a guide.	Practice fruit of the Spirit in everyday life with God's Word as a guide.	Demonstrate fruit of the Spirit toward all people by using God's Word as a guide instead of worldly ideas.	Demonstrate fruit of the Spirit toward all people by using God's Word as a guide instead of worldly ideas.	Demonstrate fruit of the Spirit toward all people by using God's Word as a guide instead of worldly ideas.	Demonstrate fruit of the Spirit toward all people by using God's Word as a guide instead of worldly ideas.	Demonstrate fruit of the Spirit toward all people, while preserving biblical truths and doctrinal unity.	Demonstrate fruit of the Spirit toward all people, while preserving biblical truths and doctrinal unity.		