

## WELS Theology Curriculum Guiding Principles (Infancy – 5K) & Standards (1st – 12th Grades): THANKFUL CHILDREN

Picture of a Graduate Statement: THANKFUL CHILDREN of God who delight in communing with God through public worship as well as personal devotion and prayer.															
	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														
<b>Acquisition: Christian Gratitude as a Response</b>	Witness expressions of gratitude as children of God.	Listen to or <b>participate</b> in simple expressions of gratitude as children of God.	<b>Participate</b> in simple expressions of gratitude as children of God.	<b>Participate</b> in expressions of gratitude as children of God.	<b>Express</b> gratitude as children of God by participating in simple forms of worship.	<b>Identify</b> the reasons for and characteristics of being a thankful child of God, drawing from biblical accounts.	<b>Identify</b> the reasons for and characteristics of being a thankful child of God, drawing from biblical accounts, worship settings, and everyday life.	<b>Describe</b> the reasons for and characteristics of being a thankful child of God, drawing from biblical accounts, worship settings, and everyday life.	<b>Explain</b> the reasons for and meaning of being a thankful child of God, connecting the explanation to biblical accounts.	<b>Explain</b> the reasons for and the meaning of being a thankful child of God, connecting the explanation to biblical accounts and to reflections on worship settings and everyday life.	<b>Reflect</b> on personal experiences and blessings, connecting them to God's provision and grace and living worship-filled lives in all settings.	<b>Reflect</b> on personal experiences and blessings, connecting them to God's provision and grace, and <b>connect</b> gratitude to identity and purpose in Christ.	<b>Demonstrate</b> in multiple settings gratitude for their new identity and purpose that is found through God's grace in Christ.	<b>Demonstrate</b> in multiple settings gratitude for their new identity and purpose that is found through God's grace in Christ by further developing personal skills.	<b>Demonstrate</b> in multiple settings gratitude for their new identity and purpose that is found through God's grace in Christ by further developing personal skills and by encouraging others to do the same.
<b>Understanding: Importance of Public Worship</b>	Witness worship, singing songs and listening to God's Word.	Listen to or <b>participate</b> in forms of worship, such as singing songs and listening to God's Word.	<b>Participate</b> in forms of worship, such as singing songs and listening to God's Word.	<b>Participate</b> in forms of worship, such as singing songs and listening to God's Word.	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Identify</b> simple elements of active worship (for example: listening to God's Word or singing hymns).	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Identify</b> simple elements of active worship (for example: listening to God's Word, remembering their baptism, or singing hymns).	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Describe</b> simple elements of active worship (for example: listening to God's Word, remembering their baptism, or singing hymns).	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Identify</b> increasingly complex elements of public worship (for example: the liturgy or the seasons of the church).	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Describe</b> the purpose of increasingly complex elements of public worship (for example: the liturgy or the seasons of the church).	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Recognize and explain</b> how each element of public worship and Bible study deepens a relationship with God and strengthens faith.	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Recognize and explain</b> how each element of public worship and Bible study deepens a relationship with God and strengthens faith.	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Analyze</b> the importance of the Means of Grace (Gospel, Baptism, and Lord's Supper) as a vital part and blessing of public worship and as a means to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities. <b>Analyze</b> the importance of the Means of Grace (Gospel, Baptism, and Lord's Supper) as a vital part and blessing of public worship and as a means to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities, examining and appreciating the variety of opportunities that exist for public worship. <b>Articulate</b> the importance of the Means of Grace as a vital blessing of public worship to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.	<b>Participate</b> in worship activities, valuing and incorporating meaningful opportunities for public worship into their life. <b>Articulate</b> the importance of the Means of Grace as a vital blessing of public worship to deepen a relationship with God and strengthen faith.
<b>Integration: Personal Spiritual Growth Opportunities</b>	Witness prayer and devotions.	Listen to prayer and devotions.	<b>Participate</b> in prayer and devotions.	<b>Recite</b> prayers and participate in devotions.	(with teacher guidance) <b>Participate</b> in personal devotion activities, such as prayer and meditating on God's Word.	(with teacher guidance) <b>Participate</b> in opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	(with teacher guidance) <b>Participate</b> in opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	<b>Discuss and practice</b> opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	<b>Discuss and practice</b> opportunities for personal spiritual growth including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	<b>Demonstrate</b> a variety of personal spiritual growth practices, including prayer, devotions, and meditating on God's Word.	<b>Demonstrate</b> a variety of personal spiritual growth practices. <b>Recognize and articulate</b> the importance of these activities as a means to deepen and strengthen faith.	<b>Demonstrate</b> a variety of personal spiritual growth practices. <b>Recognize and articulate</b> the importance of these activities as a means to deepen and strengthen faith.	<b>Demonstrate</b> a variety of personal spiritual growth practices. <b>Develop and prioritize</b> personal lifelong habits as a means to deepen and strengthen faith.	<b>Demonstrate</b> a variety of personal spiritual growth practices. <b>Develop and prioritize</b> personal lifelong habits as a means to deepen and strengthen faith.	<b>Demonstrate</b> a variety of personal spiritual growth practices. <b>Integrate and commit</b> to personal lifelong habits as a means to deepen and strengthen faith.