

The logo for Discovery Land, with the word "DISCOVERY" in multi-colored letters and "LAND" in blue letters.

DISCOVERY LAND



ON TRACK MAP

A home + church discipleship plan for spiritual growth

Ages birth through
6th grade





*It is a great privilege and challenge to teach the children in our sphere of influence to know Christ and follow Him! Thankfully, God doesn't call us to do this on our own. God gives children a family and a church who can work together and encourage each other. This **On Track Map** (OTM) is a tool designed to help the church and family work together to lay out a clear discipleship path for the children God has entrusted to us. It includes spiritual goals for birth through 6th grade.*

We think you'll be happy to know that many of the ideas in this booklet are woven throughout the Discovery Land program and leader training. By utilizing the Discovery Land resources, your children will encounter most of the concepts in the OTM!

If you feel your children are "behind" in this discipleship plan, do not worry. We encourage both parents and teachers to review prior age groups and build on those basics. Our God is good, and we can trust Him to fill in the gaps.

While this is a really helpful resource, we want to stress that the OTM should not be used as a checklist for being a "good Christian." The elements of the OTM are meant to point children to Jesus so they can grow into resilient disciples of Him. Let's join together in praying for the next generation of Christ followers. May they be truly ready for today, tomorrow, and eternity!

*For the sake of the Kingdom,
The Discovery Land Global Team, in partnership with your local church*

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You'll notice that this tool gives you a lot of things to think about! If you have questions, if you're feeling stuck, or if you're needing ideas for how to bring this to life for the kids in your circle of influence, reach out to the child discipleship leader in your church.

SECTION ONE: BASIC THEOLOGY

The concepts listed in the Basic Theology section provide kids with a foundation that can lead them to salvation and spiritual transformation. They also help them establish a biblical worldview - a way to view the world that is grounded in God's Word. We've designed the goals for each age group to build on each other. We hope that kids understand the Basic Theology concepts for their specific age group by the time they are ready to move into the next age group.





WHERE DO I FIND TRUTH?

Birth-3

- Knows that the Bible is God's Word
- Knows God's Word is true
- Sees love for the Bible modeled
- Learns to respect God's Word
- Learns basic Bible lessons
- Begins to memorize God's Word and is introduced to the Top 12 Bible verses

Preschool

- Knows that God gave us the Bible
- Understands that the Bible teaches us about God, ourselves, and the world around us
- Is introduced to the Bible timeline
- Continues memorizing God's Word

K-2nd

- Understands that the Bible is completely trustworthy
- Knows that God's Word impacts their life
- Understands that the Old Testament records events that happened before Jesus came to Earth as a baby and that the New Testament records what happened after
- Recognizes selected people, places, and events from Scripture
- Can find books, chapters, and verses in their Bible
- Has memorized the books of the Bible
- Continues memorizing God's Word
- Is introduced to the fact that Christianity is different from other religions

3rd-5th

- Acknowledges that God's Word is inspired by the Holy Spirit, who guided chosen men as they wrote the Bible
- Recognizes that the Bible reveals God's big redemptive plan
- Understands that Christianity is different from other religions
- Realizes that the Bible should impact how they live and think
- Knows the Bible is proven to be historically accurate
- Can navigate through the Bible confidently
- Has memorized the Top 12 Bible verses
- Continues memorizing God's Word

6th

- Can use Scripture to explain their faith
- Can give historical evidence that the Bible is true
- Understands that we see prophecy fulfilled in Scripture
- Is able to elaborate on key events of the Bible timeline
- Understands basic beliefs of two other world religions and how Christianity is different
- Continues memorizing God's Word



WHO IS GOD?

Birth-3

- Knows that God is love
- Knows that God is everywhere
- Knows that God is the creator of the world
- Knows that God created all people

Preschool

- Knows that God is perfect
- Knows that God is powerful
- Knows that God is good
- Knows that God hates sin
- Realizes that heaven is a real place, and that's where God lives
- Understands that Jesus came to Earth as a baby



K-2nd

- Knows that God is holy
- Knows that God loves everyone
- Begins to understand that God is eternal
- Can identify some promises of God, and knows God keeps His promises
- Is introduced to the concept of the Trinity
- Realizes that hell is a real place and it includes eternal separation from God
- Begins to understand that Satan is the enemy of God and of us

3rd-5th

- Understands that God is in control and reigns over everything
- Understands that God is just
- Understands that Jesus is fully human and fully God
- Knows that Jesus understands the human experience
- Begins to understand the Persons of the Trinity

6th

- Begins to understand how the Trinity functions
- Recognizes that the Holy Spirit lives in those who have been saved by Jesus

WHO AM I?

Birth-3

- Knows they are loved by God
- Knows they are created by God

Preschool

- Understands that God knows everything about them
- Can identify sin, and understands that all people sin
- Understands that we have each been separated from God because of our sin
- Understands that God created us male and female, and that it is good

K-2nd

- Is introduced to the concept of being made in the image of God
- Knows that our bodies are gifts from God
- Understands that God has a plan for our lives
- Can define sin ("anything I think, say, or do that is against God")
- Understands that when we are saved we become children of God

3rd-5th

- Understands that all people (and only people) are made in the image of God
- Recognizes that we were designed to find our hope and purpose in Christ
- Understands that we are created to glorify God
- Understands that we glorify God by loving Him and obeying His commands
- Recognizes that God created us to have relationships with other people
- Recognizes that the pain and brokenness in the world is due to sin

6th

- Recognizes that God designed marriage
- Understands that God created each of us with unique gifts and strengths



HOW CAN I KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?

Birth-3

- Is introduced to the Gospel message through the Wordless Book colors and key concepts

Preschool

- Can express Gospel basics using the Wordless Book colors and key concepts
- Understands that God saves us through Jesus
- Understands that Jesus died, rose again, and is alive
- Has heard and been given an opportunity to respond to the Gospel invitation

K-2nd

- Can recite Scripture (used in the Wordless Book) to support the Gospel message
- Recognizes their need for forgiveness
- Understands that salvation comes only from God, through Jesus
- Recognizes that we are saved by grace, not works
- Understands that we are forgiven and seen as clean (righteous) by God when we trust in Christ as our Savior
- Understands that, when we are saved, we enter God's family
- Understands that we have assurance of salvation

3rd-5th

- Is able to put the Gospel message into their own words, using the Wordless Book as a guide
- Understands that, in Christ, we are new creations and are born again when we are saved
- Understands that when we are saved, we receive the Holy Spirit as a gift
- Understands that, in Christ, we have victory over sin
- Recognizes that there is strong historical evidence that proves the resurrection of Christ

6th

- Can communicate their personal testimony in both verbal and written form
- Understands that those who have been saved by Jesus will spend eternity with Him in heaven, our true, eternal home
- Understands that Christ will return and establish His Kingdom here on earth

SECTION TWO: CHRISTIAN LIVING

When we know God through trusting in Jesus, we can begin living for Him! The Christian Living section provides life application points that encourage kids to put their faith in action as they live as part of the family of God. They are taught how to respond to God in worship and obedience, so they can live victorious lives through Christ! We've designed the goals for each age group to build on each other. We hope that kids understand the Christian Living concepts for their specific age group by the time they are ready to move into the next age group.



THE CHURCH

Birth-3

- Is welcomed into a safe and loving church community
- Is prayed for by their church community
- Is introduced to the idea that the Church is all of the people who follow and love Jesus Christ

Preschool

- Is introduced to the idea that the Church is a family
- Knows why we give money to God and learns how to give money to God
- Is introduced to the concept of believer's baptism

K-2nd

- Understands that the members of the local church family care for each other
- Recognizes and appreciates those who serve in the local church
- Learns that God commands us to meet together regularly with other believers
- Learns believer's baptism is an act of obedience
- Has been given an opportunity to be baptized
- Is introduced to the practice of the Lord's Supper





3rd-5th

- Recognizes themselves as part of the global Church
- Is introduced to the biblical ways that the people in the church care for each other
- Desires to serve God in the local church
- Is introduced to the concept of spiritual gifts
- Understands serving is not about what we want but about what God wants us to do
- Understands the purpose of the Lord's Supper and has been invited to participate in the practice of local church communion
- Understands what tithing money is used for

6th

- Demonstrates interest in being with their church family
- Has developed meaningful relationships with at least three adults in their local church
- Has at least one close Christian friend
- Has been given opportunities to use their unique gifts to serve in the local church
- Can confidently pray with other believers in their church family



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Birth-3

- Recognizes prayer is talking to God
- Knows God hears us when we pray
- Is introduced to prayer basics (bow head, fold hands, and close eyes to focus on God)
- Understands we can worship God through music

Preschool

- Can give simple prayer requests when prompted
- Understands we can pray anytime and anywhere
- Understands only God deserves our worship
- Worships God through music outside the church

K-2nd

- Understands prayer includes praise, confession, thanksgiving, and asking/petition
- Understands the process of asking for forgiveness of sin: admit, confess, repent
- Knows God answers prayer requests three ways: yes, no, or wait
- Prays for the needs of others
- Recognizes and gives thanks for answered prayer requests
- Understands that worship is about focusing on God and giving Him praise for who He is
- Can list ten names or characteristics of God

3rd-5th

- Understands that God speaks to us through His Word, and we can find comfort in His Word
- Begins to pray out loud in small groups or with a friend
- Spends time in prayer outside the church
- Understands different ways a person can worship (obedience, service, prayer, music, art, etc.)
- Demonstrates sincerity and focus in worship

6th

- Incorporates different elements of prayer (praise, confession, thanksgiving, petition) into their prayer life
- Intentionally sets aside time for prayer outside the church
- Is introduced to the idea of praying according to God's will
- Can confidently explain why we worship only God
- Worships God in everyday life

EVANGELISM

Birth-3

- Talks about Jesus

Preschool

- Is learning to share the Gospel message with others using the Wordless Book tool
- Is introduced to the concept of world missions
- Participates in world missions through special projects
- Begins to understand the need for missionaries



K-2nd

- Is able to share a basic Gospel message with others using the Wordless Book as a guide
- Understands that not everyone knows and trusts in Jesus
- Has compassion and prays for those who don't know Jesus as their Savior
- Invites friends to church
- Is introduced to different types of mission work, and is invited to participate in age-appropriate projects
- Prays specifically for mission projects and missionaries

3rd-5th

- Is able to share the Gospel with others using the Wordless Book as a guide
- Understands the urgency of the Gospel message
- Understands the need for local and global evangelism
- Lives out the Gospel message by demonstrating the love and character of Christ through words and actions
- Is challenged to pray and consider if God's plan for them is to be a vocational missionary

6th

- Can explain the Gospel to others using Scripture and their own words
- Demonstrates a desire to see people saved through Jesus
- Is challenged to pray for specific countries or lost people God places on their hearts

DAILY LIVING

Birth-3

- Is introduced to obedience to God's Word
- Begins to care about and share with others

Preschool

- Is introduced to the fruit of the Spirit
- Begins making decisions based on God's way rather than their own way when prompted (is introduced to the concept of wisdom)
- Completes the weekly family challenge in Tracker Jr., or interacts with God's Word throughout the week

K-2nd

- Can name the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5
- Begins applying God's Word to real-life situations
- Is encouraged to turn to God and His Word when experiencing fear and anxiety
- Learns how to win and lose in a God-honoring way
- Is encouraged to practice setting aside time each day for Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship with God
- Completes the weekly family challenge in Tracker's Treasures, or interacts with God's Word throughout the week
- Is introduced to a biblical worldview through the 4 Rights

3rd-5th

- Understands that God helps us live His way through the Holy Spirit
- Shows the fruit of the Spirit in their own life
- Demonstrates the ability to show grace to others
- Desires and is able to make God-honoring choices when using media
- Understands that sin has consequences
- Completes the weekly family challenge in Tracker's Treasures, or interacts with God's Word throughout the week

6th

- Recognizes spiritual fruit in their own life
- Demonstrates a biblical worldview through the 4 Rights
- Works to honor God in their relationships
- Actively uses God's Word to resist temptation
- Spends time daily in prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship with God

"My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God." – Proverbs 2:1-5



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