



FORMING FAITH AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

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The Ten Faith Factors Shaping Each Stage of Life from Birth to Age 29

Note: These factors are rooted in child development, adolescent development, adult development, and faith development.

Young Children (Ages 0 to 5)	Older Children (Ages 6 to 10)	Young Adolescents (Ages 11 to 14)	Older Adolescents (Ages 15 to 18)	Young Adults (Ages 19 to 29)
1. Feels valued and accepted	1. Connects to safe and stimulating adults and peers	1. Yearns to be part of a group that matters	1. Discovers a balance between acceptance and independence	1. Finds a unique place in the world with value and acceptance
2. Develops caring relationships	2. Thrives with consistent support and care	2. Craves support and fights it	2. Redefines meaningful support	2. Discovers an adult support system
3. Follows a curiosity for learning	3. Engages in learning and discovery	3. Feels conflicted about learning	3. Yearns to learn and succeed in meaningful ways	3. Explores curiosities and masters deeper learning
4. Celebrates milestones	4. Enjoys milestones	4. Celebrates milestones while resisting them	4. Enjoys meaningful milestones	4. Redefines and celebrates milestones
5. Tries meditation and prayer	5. Explores meditation and prayer	5. Wonders about meditation and prayer	5. Meditates and prays with questions	5. Meditates and prays
6. Serves and helps others	6. Develops fairness, justice, & compassion	6. Balks at some service; deepens others	6. Creates a commitment to service	6. Becomes more compassionate
7. Attends worship services	7. Participates in worship services	7. Attends worship services with resistance	7. Participates in worship in ways that reflect a personal faith journey	7. Worships in ways that fit a personal value system
8. Observes adults who have purpose and meaning	8. Mimics adults who have purpose and meaning	8. Longs for meaning while wondering about it	8. Explores meaning and purpose	8. Searches for deeper purpose and meaning
9. Experiments with a personal spirituality	9. Becomes exposed to more religious and spiritual experiences	9. Desires religious and spiritual belonging	9. Questions religious and spiritual beliefs	9. Tinkers and challenges religion and spirituality
10. Explores how faith and life interact	10. Discovers how faith and life interact	10. Experiments with ways to integrate faith into life	10. Deepens faith integration while continuing to question	10. Develops an integrative faith independent of others

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The Seven Stages of Parents of Faith

Stage 1—Wondering and Imagining—During the waiting process (of adoption and/or pregnancy), adults wonder what it will be like to be parents and to have a child join them. It's the Advent time of parenting. Many parents see this as a sacred experience, spending time in wonder and prayer. (Pre-Birth)

Stage 2—Caring and Nurturing—During the first two years of a child's life, parents meet the child's needs and provide great care and nurture, which lays the foundation for spiritual formation. By giving young children a lot of faith experiences at home and away from home, children develop the critical foundation they need for their faith journey. (Birth to 2 years)

Stage 3—Testing and Treasuring—When children begin to resist and explore limits, parents become tested themselves. How will they respond to these displays of power while treasuring their child from a faith perspective? Parents can talk with children about God, pray with them, take them to worship services, introduce children to people of faith, and love their children deeply while setting clear boundaries, all what children need for their faith journey. (2 to 5 years)

Stage 4—Supporting and Strengthening—During the elementary-school years, parents support their child's spiritual and overall development, strengthening ties to other people and to important institutions, such as church and school. When parents pray, eat together as a family, attend worship services, and have conversations about faith, they help strengthen their child's faith journey. (6 to 10 years)

Stage 5—Experimenting and Encouraging—While young adolescents experiment with different identities, parents discover that they, too, need to experiment with new ways to interact with their young adolescent while encouraging him or her to develop a personal faith. Parents continue to model their faith by attending worship services regularly, doing service projects, praying, reading scripture, and talking about faith. (11 to 14 years)

Stage 6—Guiding and Questioning—High-school-age young people need parents who help them make sense of their world and their future. While older teenagers question various aspects of faith, parents need to question how they can continue to model and talk about faith issues that bring them closer to their teenager rather than drive them apart. Parents need to continue showing that their faith matters to them by talking about it, attending worship services, and doing other faith practices, such as prayer and meditation. (15 to 18 years)

Stage 7—Launching and Fostering—As young adults leave home and find their way in the world, they need parents who remain connected to them while letting them go. Parents continue to serve as faith models for their young adults, providing a safe place for young adults to grapple with faith issues. When parents have a strong religious commitment (meaning they attend worship services regularly and talk about the importance of their faith), the more likely young adults will find a religious grounding. (19 to 29 years)

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Seven Strategies for your Family-Centered Ministry

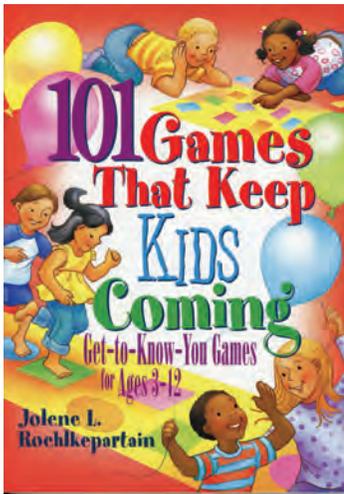
Transform your children's ministry by focusing on one or more of these seven strategies. Write your ideas next to the strategy that intrigues you.

Strategy	Your Ideas
Strategy #1: Rethink relationships	
Strategy #2: Develop relationships between children	
Strategy #3: Focus on relationships between children and adult leaders	
Strategy #4: Form relationships with and between parents	
Strategy #5: Connect volunteers to each other	
Strategy #6: Create ways for families to be together	
Strategy #7: Make children more visible in your congregation	

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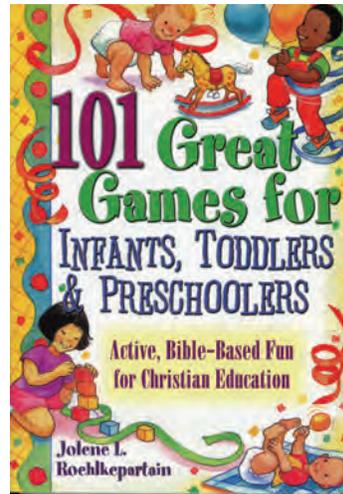
Making Faith Active

These four books highlight scripture-based games that you can play with children and include in your lessons and programs. They're easy and ready to use.



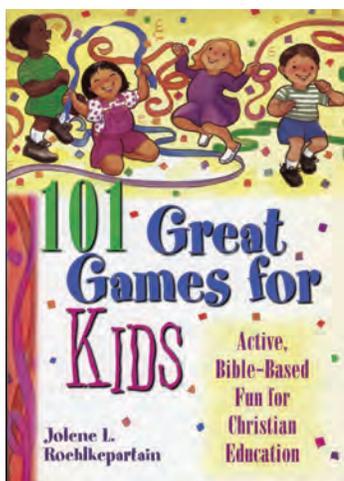
Help children get to know each other—even when they live in different communities.

Many children resist coming to programs and events because they simply don't know the other children. Playing getting-to-know-you games and community-building games from *101 Games That Keep Kids Coming* by Jolene Roehlkepartain can keep kids engaged and form strong friendships between children. Published by Nashville-based Abingdon Press. Available through Amazon.



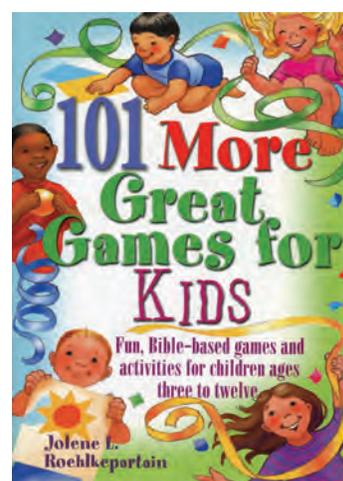
Bible-based games for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Even as babies are beginning to crawl, toddlers are learning to speak, and preschoolers are starting to cooperate with playmates, they can begin to discover God's Word and God's world through play. *101 Great Games for Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers* by Jolene Roehlkepartain include fun ways for children to discover scripture. Published by Abingdon. Available through Amazon.



The best-selling book that started this four-book series.

101 Great Games for Kids bring scripture to life through active games that get kids ages 3 to 12 up and moving rather than sitting in their chairs. Written by Jolene Roehlkepartain, this book makes it easy for professionals and lay leaders to use a quick idea when creating lesson plans. Published by Nashville-based Abingdon Press. Available through Amazon.

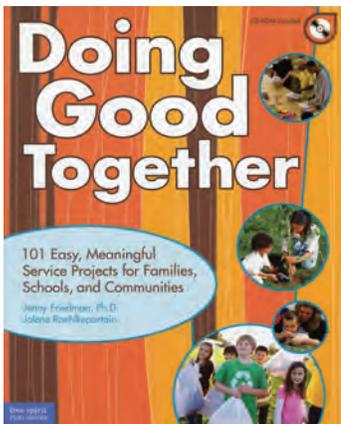


After *101 Great Games for Kids* came out, readers asked for more.

101 More Great Games for Kids features upbeat, easy-to-use activities. Written by Jolene Roehlkepartain, it is divided into four sections: activities for ages 3-5 years, grades K-3, grades 4-6, and groups of mixed-age children. There are scripture and topical indices included. Published by Nashville-based Abingdon Press. Available through Amazon.

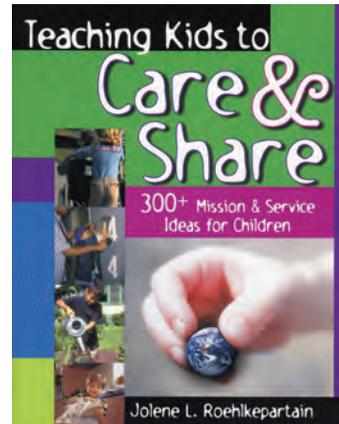
Volunteer Activities

Make it easy for children and also families to volunteer together with the ready-to-use, easy service projects in these two books.



Easy service projects that families can do with their children and teens.

Find 101 easy, meaningful service projects for families to do together. *Doing Good Together* by Jolene Roehlkepartain and Jenny Friedman also includes a CD-ROM with ready-to-use handouts, helpful organizations, and recommended resources. Published by Free Spirit Publishing, Minneapolis. Available at DoingGoodTogether.org.

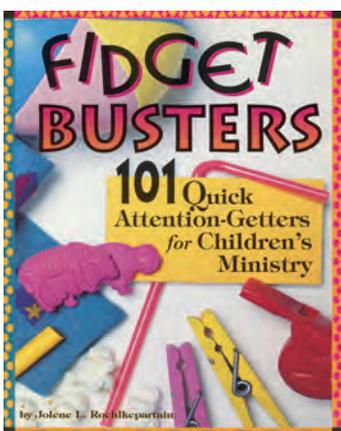


Ready-to-use, simple activities to get children to care and help.

Teaching Kids to Care and Share by Jolene Roehlkepartain includes 300 inventive, hands-on activities for 3- to 5-year-olds, 6- to 9-year-olds, and 10- to 12-year-olds. The book also has ready-to-use reproducible pages and a scripture index. Published by Abingdon Press, Nashville. Available on Amazon.com.

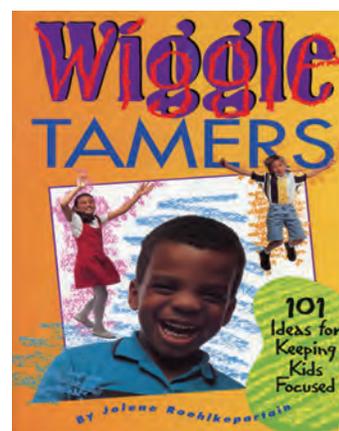
Dealing with the Unexpected

What do you do when chaos erupts—or kids get bored? These books are full of ideas.



The best-selling book that gives quick ideas when kids get bored.

These quick activities settle kids down so you can focus everyone back on your lesson. You get fidget busters for preschoolers, kindergartners to third-graders, fourth- to sixth-graders and children of all ages. *Fidget Busters* was written by Jolene Roehlkepartain and was published by Group Publishing. Available through a free PDF.



101 ideas of what to pull out of your hat when kids get the wiggles.

Be ready when the wiggles invade your classroom. Activities require little or no preparation, burn up kids' excess energy, and keep you in control of your classroom. *Wiggle Tamers* by Jolene Roehlkepartain was published by Group Publishing in Loveland, Colorado, and is now available through a free PDF.

DO YOU

REACT

OR

RESPOND

to your kids



"Stop that crying right now!"

"If you two don't stop fighting, I'm turning this car around!"

"What?! You spilled your juice again!"

"Darn right it's not fair. Life's not fair. Get used to it."

"Another 'C?' What's going on with you?"

"That's enough whining, young lady."

"I've had it with you!"



"You look upset, do you need a hug?"

"I am pulling over. When the car is quiet, I will continue driving."

"Oops, let's get a rag and get that mess cleaned up."

"I can tell you're upset about my decision."

"It looks like you are struggling in math. Is there anything I can do to help?"

"Please use a calm voice when asking me for something."

"I'm feeling frustrated right now, I'm going to take a walk to calm down."

