

# GET READY TO TELL THE STORY!

## CLASSROOM FAITH ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST

Is your classroom faith-friendly?

You have an important role in providing the children in your classroom with some of their first experiences with Bible stories and faith development. Look around your classroom and think about what you do with the children. If the statement on the checklist is true, place a check in the 'true' column. If the statement is false, place a check in the 'false' column.

### Availability of learning materials ...

Children's Bibles are readily available for children's use.  true  false

Bible story props/toys (puzzles, Nativity sets, etc.) are readily available.  true  false

Classroom has an altar area and children are encouraged to use it.  true  false

At least 10 Bible story books (other than Bibles) are available for use.  true  false

### Children's use of learning materials...

Games, materials and activities are used regularly to help children learn and review the Bible story.  true  false

Children are encouraged to draw pictures based on the Bible stories.  true  false

Children in the class engage in shared Bible story time daily.  true  false

Children are *actively involved* in Jesus Time and other activities.  true  false

### What the teacher or assistant does...

The teacher sends home materials that encourage parents to help their children learn Bible stories. (Devotionals, Book buddies, etc.)  true  false

The teacher helps the children learn Bible songs.  true  false

The teacher helps the children learn to pray.  true  false

The teacher believes it is important for and helps children to learn appropriate worship behavior.  true  false

The teacher is enthusiastic about providing classroom activities that promote faith development (art projects, games, etc.)  true  false

The teacher introduces new words/ideas to children while reading Bible stories.  true  false

The teacher integrates faith development and Bible stories throughout the day and takes advantage of ‘teachable moments’.  true  false

The teacher has and uses faith-based materials to decorate the classroom and bulletin boards.  true  false

### The teacher’s and assistant’s background...

The teacher is Christian.  true  false

The teacher is familiar with Bible stories.  true  false

The teacher has received training in sharing Bible stories with young children (college, workshops, ECCLT).  true  false

### About the classroom and school, preschool, center...

The classroom has a planned sequence to introduce Bible stories.  true  false

Several classroom projects or events through the year supplement a Bible story or promote faith development (cards for shut-ins, Christmas program).  true  false

The school/center offers large group faith development activities (Chapel).  true  false

The school/center presents children with a children’s Bible to use at home.  true  false

It is obvious to parents and visitors that they are in a Christian classroom/school/center by the items on display.  true  false

All classrooms, hallways and entryway have a cross on the wall or an altar.  true  false

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Count the number of statements marked TRUE and put that number on the line. See the chart below to see how ‘faith-friendly’ your classroom is! \_\_\_\_\_

**18-25** Classroom faith environment has many supportive elements. WAY TO GO!

**9-17** Classroom faith environment has some supportive elements. Room to Improve!

**0-8** Classroom faith environment has few supportive elements. Needs Improvement!

Adapted from *Get Ready to Tell the Story* by Laurie Schneider, Ohio District, LCMS Early Childhood Spring Workshop, 2016.