



# Lifeway™ kids



# Keeping Preteens Engaged All the Live Long Day

My people, hear my instruction; listen to the words from my mouth. I will declare wise sayings; I will speak mysteries from the past—things we have heard and known and that our ancestors have passed down to us. We will not hide them from their children, but will tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed. He established a testimony in Jacob and set up a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children so that a future generation—children yet to be born—might know.

Psalm 78:1-6

# Who are today's preteens?

Physical

Mental

Social/Emotional

Spiritual



# Nines

## MENTAL

- have lengthening attention span
- are able to be involved in experiences that deal with feelings and thinking
- accept carefully worded criticism
- are beginning to think abstractly

## SPIRITUAL

- are often beginning to feel the need for a Savior
- are growing conscious of themselves and of sin
- want to do things the right way and may feel ashamed when wrong
- think in terms of right and wrong more than good and evil



## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- need to be able to let off steam and may take out feelings on others
- are interested in own community and country
- are beginning to feel that the group is as important as self
- are great talkers and need to be allowed to talk
- change moods quickly



## PHYSICAL

- like to draw and sketch
- have slow, steady growth and good muscle control
- girls' bodies usually develop more quickly than boys





# Tens

## SPIRITUAL

- are developing concepts of love and trust
- are developing a conscience and a value system

## MENTAL



- are continuing to think abstractly
- are imaginative, creative, and curious
- have developed basic reading and writing skills
- can express ideas, understand cause and effect, solve problems, and plan

## PHYSICAL

- like to use abundant energy and physical skills



## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- are motivated most by own interest and think of themselves, using own experiences
- can operate comfortably within a group
- like acceptance and encouragement; can become easily discouraged





# Elevens



## MENTAL

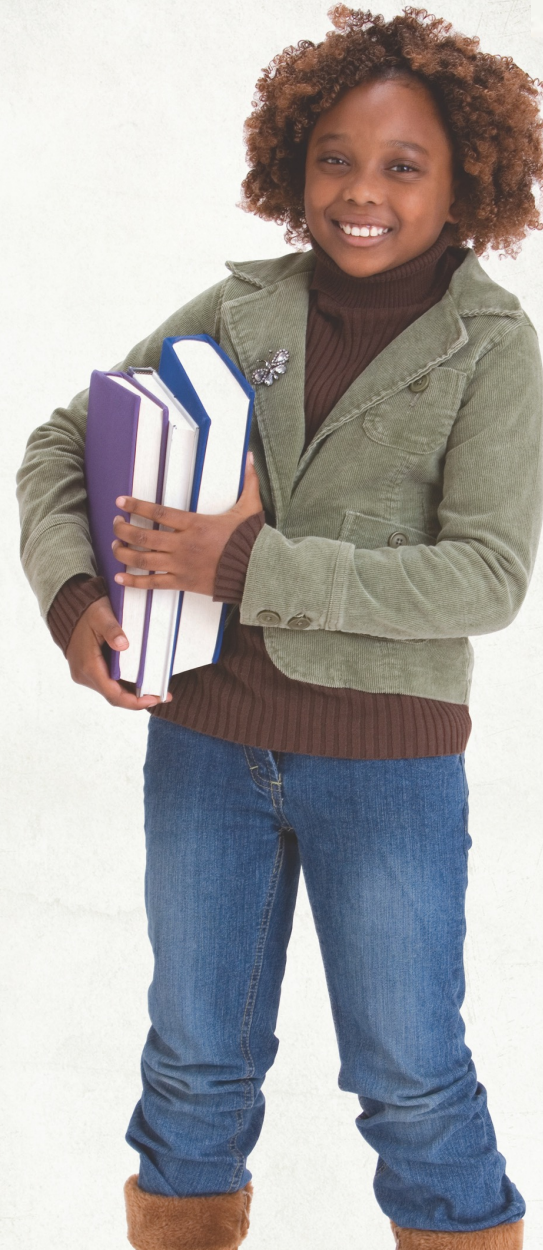
- are capable of deep thoughts
- can cope with success and failure
- can concentrate when interested
- think quickly and memorize easily

## SPIRITUAL

- have formed concepts of personal worth
- are ready for spiritual answers and directions
- can make many choices, but may not follow through on long-term commitments

## PHYSICAL

- have good coordination and muscle skills



## SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL

- can accept rules, organization, responsibilities, and leader-follower roles
- like to win and improve on achievements
- recognize and appreciate individual differences





# Twelves

## SPIRITUAL

- feel deeply about own experiences; can be sensitive to others
- beginning to adopt a religious belief system of their own

## MENTAL



- can distinguish between fact and fiction
- can accept and work toward short-term goals
- can discern time and space relationships

## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- are aware of sex roles; have changing attitudes toward the opposite sex
- have deep need for companionship and approval of peers
- are ready for responsibilities and opportunities for self-direction
- are easily influenced emotionally and can cope with some feelings



## PHYSICAL

- are approaching puberty; girls usually ahead of boys





# What do preteens need?

Trust

Love

Accomplishment

Freedom

Security

Acceptance

Guidance

Independence

# How do preteens learn?

Verbal

Logical

Visual

Physical

Musical

Relational

Reflective

Natural



# What can I do?

Evaluate your teaching ...

Are you prepared?

Are you present?

Are you providing?

# Provide Physically

Provide opportunities to move

Provide games that require fine motor skills

Provide opportunities for him to show his skills

Provide competitive opportunities

Provide a safe place



# Provide Mentally

Provide abstract thought puzzles

Provide opportunities to memorize Scripture

Provide opportunities for deep thought

Provide creative outlets

Provide opportunities to fail

# Provide Socially/Emotionally

- Provide large/small group experiences
- Provide opportunities for deep discussion
- Provide space for disagreement
- Provide an emotional safe space
- Provide opportunities to show empathy

# Provide Spiritually

Provide deep dives into Scripture

Provide answers to spiritual questions

Provide guidance for acceptable behavior

Provide a listening ear

Provide access to the Holy Spirit





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