

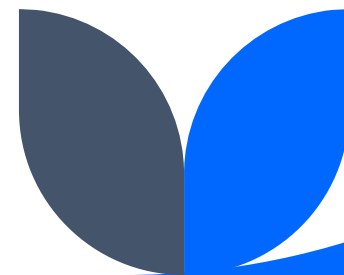
Spiritual and Psychological Development: Age 4-10



Servant Meeting 1/14/2024

Overview

- Erik Erikson Stages of Development
- Spiritual and Psychological Considerations
- Age of Accountability
- Resilience
- Disruption and Attention Issues
- Maccabean Martyrs



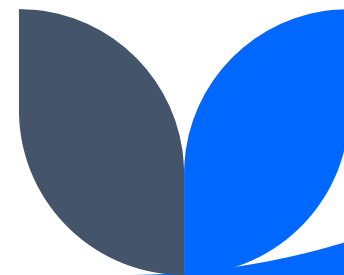
**“I have no greater joy
than to hear that my
children walk in truth.” 3**

John 4



“and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” – 1

Corinthians 9: 20-22



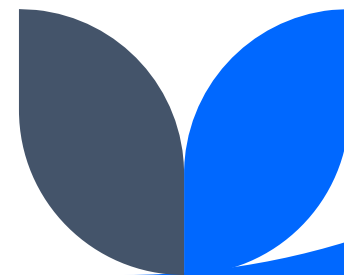
Erikson's Psychosocial Stages

Stage	Crisis	Description
Infancy (0 - 1 year)	Trust vs. Mistrust	Children who are treated with consistent love and care and have their needs met by their parent they should develop the capacity for trust.
Early Childhood (2 - 3 years)	Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt	Children should be encouraged to exercise free will and try out new skills. Discouragement (or lack of encouragement) may lead to sustained self-doubt.
Play Age (4 - 6 years)	Initiative vs. Guilt	Children should be encouraged to be independent. If a child's independent initiatives and play activities are overly controlled, they may develop sustained guilt.
School Age (7 - 12 years)	Industry vs. Inferiority	A sense of industry is a desire to be creative and productive. A school child should be encouraged in their creative and productive endeavours. If belittled for incompetence, a sense of inferiority may set in.
Adolescence (13 - 18 years)	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Young people seek a sense of self and their place in the world. If they feel they lack a sense of belonging to any identity group, they may develop uncertainty about their identity that lasts into adulthood.
Young Adulthood (Early 20s)	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Young adults commit their efforts to developing intimate relationships with significant others. If they are unsuccessful, they will develop a sense of isolation.
Adulthood (Late 20s - Late 50s)	Generativity vs. Stagnation	Generative adults contribute to society and the raising of future generations through parenting. Self-absorbed adults stagnate and fail to contribute to the flourishing of their societies.
Old Age (60s onward)	Ego Identity vs. Despair	As people enter their twilight years, they reflect on their contributions to society. Those dissatisfied with their lives will develop a sense of despair as they face the looming end of their lives.

Play Age: Initiative vs Guilt (Age 4-6)

- Psychosocial Conflict: Initiative vs Guilt
- Major Question: Am I good or bad?
- Basic Virtue: Purpose
- Important Events: Exploration, Play

(VeryWell Mind, Kendra Cherry, MEd)



School Age: Industry vs Inferiority (7-12 Age)

- Psychosocial Conflict: Industry vs Inferiority
- Major Question: “How can I be good?”
- Basic Virtue: Competence
- Important Event: School



Ages 3-5 (Pre-School, Early Childhood to Play Age)

- Enjoy Visuals and Enjoy Being Read to
- Curious and Eager to Learn ; Enjoy talking about their accomplishments and Abilities
- Beginning to Learn Right from Wrong and Understanding Punishment and Consequence
- Spiritual Application: Think of ways they can role play the lesson or Bible story being discussed, artistic expression, prayer (can repeat after Servant/Parent and some like to pray out loud)
- Sensory Applications: Building things, things that they can touch and experience (David's sling, armor, helmet, etc.)
- Do not like to sit for long periods of time, think **literally** and not **figuratively** yet
- Visual Learning in Context of Spirituality and Bible Reading



Ages 6-7 (Play Age to School Age)

- More aware of others around them , More Increase in Reading and Art
- Enjoy being read to, Begin to listen to stories more
- Learning to distinguish fact from fantasy
- Spiritual Application: Increase in more visual aids, Increase in pictures, videos (David and Goliath)
- Verbal Affirmation and Approval
- Break Down Lesson in Various Parts as well
- Can Begin Reading more and can read more Scripture at this age



Ages 8-10

- Respect for Adults and Heroes
- Faith in God is beginning to mature
- Love to learn about faith and Bible Heroes
- Obedience now more connected to morality vs. punishment
- Pray with great faith, show obedience more discernment, recognize other gender more, more self aware, and more insecure about looks body
- Socializing more, and more control of their emotions, sense of humor!
- Spiritual Application: Begin to utilize interpretations more of scripture and relay understanding (Symbolism of David and Goliath and what it means at symbolic level)



Age of Accountability

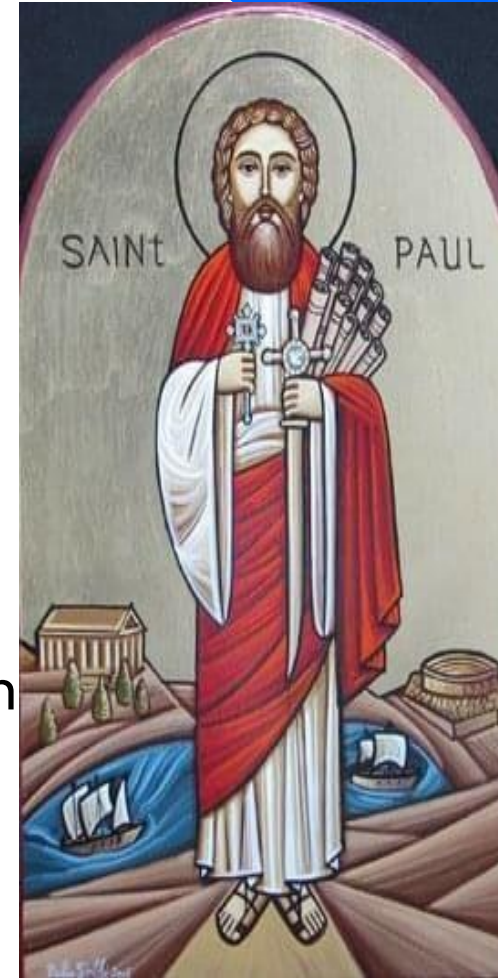
- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
-2 Corinthians 5:10
- What is age of Accountability?
- Confessions of St. Augustine
- In these phases of development important to emphasize personal accountability the good, and the bad.
- Foundation for Repentance, and encouragement of confession with Abuna and what it entails.
- Sooner the Better



Resiliency

“Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.”- 2 Corinthians 11:25-30

- Paradise of the Desert Fathers
- Resiliency Early On Sets Tone for Future
- Prevention of Future Depression, Anxiety
- Defense Mechanisms



Disruptive Behavior/Attention Issues

- Common Complaint
- Root Cause
- Comprehensive involvement, Family, School, Servants, Counseling, or Physician if affecting functionality and school
- Reassurance
- Depending on Phase of Development some may be transitioning and adapting
- Discipline and Love and Respect



Maccabean Martyrs

- 2 Maccabees Chapter 7: The Model Family
- “They fearlessly acknowledged themselves as followers of the True God, and refused to eat pig’s flesh, which was forbidden by the Law.”
- “The eldest brother acted as spokesman for the rest, saying that they preferred to die rather than break the Law. He was subjected to fierce tortures in sight of his brothers and their mother. His tongue was cut out, he was scalped, and his hands and feet were cut off. Then a cauldron and a large frying pan were heated, and the first brother was thrown into the frying pan, and he died.”
- “The next five brothers were tortured one after the other. The seventh and youngest brother was the last one left alive. Antiochus suggested to Saint Solomonia to persuade the boy to obey him, so that her last son at least would be spared. Instead, the brave mother told him to imitate the courage of his brothers.”
- “The child upbraided the king and was tortured even more cruelly than his brothers had been. After all her seven children had died, Saint Solomonia, stood over their bodies, raised up her hands in prayer to God and died.”
- Accountability/Strength, Resiliency, Spiritual/Emotional Maturity
- Church Fathers Referenced as well
- Good Example of Parenting and Development



Final Thoughts

- Each age responds differently and comprehends spiritual realities differently
- Shift more from sensory, visual to more interactive and then more in depth and applicable as they age, more reflective on the self
- Within each age each child is different
- Our Role as servants to know each child specifically and see what their needs are
- Emphasis on Freedom, Accountability, Resiliency, Foundations of Repentance, Prayer and Role of Scripture



Resources

Coptic World Kids Youtube

Holy Pimoly

Bible Picture Books Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty

Bible Pictures

Photo Saint Books

Mission Bible Class

The Science of Adolescent Learning and Growing

Southern Diocese Sunday School Curriculum

VeryWell Mind, Kendra Cherry, MSED (Psychosocial Development Guide)

CDC Developmental Milestone Checklist

“Simply Psychology Attachment Theory in Psychology”- McLeod

“Ages and Stages”- Schaefer

“Raising Them Right, A Saint’s Advice on Raising Children”-Theophan the Recluse

Orthodox Church in America, Maccabean Martyrs

