

Thrilled by the word!

How can we grip 8-11's with simple Bible studies?

What is an 8-11 year old?

Pick two 8-11 year olds you know.

	#1	#2
How would you choose to spend an hour with them?		
What frustrates them? What makes them sad?		
1:1- how would you engage them in the Bible?		
What is your prayer for them?		

8-11 year olds are *just the same* as you in every way that matters: Identity!

- *Created in God's image to worship* *They find their home in him*
- *Created for relationship with others* *They exist to be loved and to love*
- *Living in a broken world* *They hurt. They know they can't do it*
- *Damaged by sin* *Their hearts don't cry to Christ as their rock*
- *Christ died to redeem them* *They have one they can go to for healing*
- *Longing for the new creation* *There is a place of peace and contentment*

→ How does that change the way we walk into the room?

8-11 year olds are *different* to you in some ways: Developmentally!

Physically

- Lots of energy. *We need to release that energy to get the best from them.*
- Speed and accuracy in playing games. *Rules and competition matter.*
- Girls are beginning puberty. *'God's preparation for adulthood'*

Emotionally

- Generally cheerful, fun-seeking, becoming more balanced emotionally, more easy going. *Little adults*
- Defining their identity: look for criticism of others and aggressive friendships.
- They are becoming more self-conscious. *Actions/ singing harder. Large groups hold a new fear. Public criticism hurts.*
- Peer groups acceptance matters. *Can we create a peer group?*

Spiritually

- Finishing the house and moving in. *They are living it*
- Grasped good vs bad. Now developing godly vs ungodly. *Fruit of the Spirit.*
- They can grasp so much of God's truth and have not yet been hardened to God's Word. *Willing and able, irresp of background or belief.*
- They still tell friends about God when excited about God. *After a sleepover; normal to invite friends if they enjoy Church.*
- Their world has recently become hostile. *Because of diverging peer group.*
- Able to apply gospel to themselves and their friends. *Starting to be able to analyse, weigh up, compare, contrast, draw conclusions.*



Socially

- Almost able to talk at an adult level. Still disorganised.
- Want to play with members of the same sex. *Looking for same sex role models.*
- Less dependant on adults, while still enjoying them. *Offer role models not absolute authority.*
- Developing individual leadership qualities. Can be trusted with responsibility. *Appeal to their desire to lead their peer group. How has God gifted them?*

Intellectually

- Good memories. Most reading well. Clear logical thought. Struggles with deep understanding.
- Still think literally, but understand that life is more complex. *Talk about case studies.*
- Can concentrate for 8-9 minutes. Have a break, then resume. *Bible study then group discussion.*
- Daydreamers, so sometimes hard to keep them with you – you have to engage them in discussion and debate. *Every individual has to be engaged.*

→ What make this age group difficult to teach?

→ What make this age group great to teach?

Luke 7: 36-50

Theme: Jesus had forgiven the sinful woman so she adored him... recklessly and awkwardly.

Aim: Let's love Jesus hugely (, recklessly and awkwardly) out of thanks for our forgiveness.

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner.'

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.'

'Tell me, teacher,' he said.

⁴¹ 'Two people owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[c] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?'

⁴³ Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.'

'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned towards the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?'

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'