



Please remember that not every word will be appropriate to introduce at every age level. However, once a word is introduced it can be communicated and expanded upon throughout each age level. One way to continue the conversation with your child is to ask about specific words, what those words mean, and how the words are used as a part of the Church and a part of your child's life.

**EC:** Early Childhood definition

**EE:** Early Elementary definition

**ME:** Middle Elementary definition

**PT:** Preteen/Middle School  
definition





## Abomination (uh-BAHM-uh-NAY-shun)

**PT:** An **abomination** is something or someplace that is sinful. It is an offense to God. When people put other things in place of God this is an **abomination**. For example, worshiping false gods or setting up idols is an **abomination**.

*“The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God,”*  
(Deuteronomy 7:25).

**Think About It:** God should always be first in your life, in your worship, and in importance. Anything else is detestable or an **abomination**.

## Acceptance (ik-SEP-tuns)

*Note:* Before the preteen age this is demonstrated to children through actions and words. They experience and learn to offer **acceptance** through parents and other teachers.

**PT:** Welcoming and showing love to others as they are. As Christians, we are to **accept** everyone, even when we cannot agree with them or approve of what they do.

*“**Accept** one another, then, just as Christ **accepted** you, in order to bring praise to God,”* (Romans 15:7).

**Think About It:** You have Jesus’ love and **acceptance**. He makes you whole. You can give this love and wholeness to others as you show them Jesus’ love.



## Accountable (uh-KOUN-tuh-bul)

*Note:* Before middle elementary age, children learn responsibility through the teaching guidance of parents and other teachers.

**ME/PT:** To be responsible for one's actions.

*“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give **account**,” (Hebrews 4:13).*

**Think About It:** Taking responsibility for what you do and say and think is a part of growing up. You also grow as a Christian when you admit your responsibility to obey God.

## Adoption (uh-DAHP-shun)

**PT:** God’s action to make the repentant sinner His very own child.

*“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty,” (2 Corinthians 6:18).*

**Think About It:** You know that your mom and dad love you. God loves you even more! You are God’s child when you choose to love, serve, and obey Him. He becomes your Father.



## Advent (AD-vent)

**EC:** The four weeks before Christmas.

**EE:** The four weeks before Christmas when Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

**ME:** A word that means "coming." The four weeks before Christmas are the **Advent** season when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

**PT:** A word that means "coming." The four weeks before Christmas are the **Advent** season when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. This preparation may include praying, fasting, and thinking about one's spiritual life.

*"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord,'"* (Luke 2:9-11).

**Think About It: Advent** is a special time when we anticipate or look forward to the celebration of the good news that Jesus, our Savior, is come! How do you and your family celebrate this special time?



## Advocate (AD-vuh-kut)

**PT:** One who speaks on the behalf of another. The Holy Spirit speaks for God to the world. Jesus speaks on our behalf to God, the Father.

*“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One,” (1 John 2:1).*

**Think About It:** Who is someone that helps you when you need help? This person speaks to others for you. Like when Mom or Dad talks to the doctor and tells her what is wrong when you are sick. The Holy Spirit is an **advocate**. He speaks to you. He helps you know what God wants for you. Jesus is an **advocate** too. He talks to God, the Father, for you. When you pray, you can know that God hears.

## Agape (ah-GAH-pay)

**PT:** This word means love. It is Greek. It is used in the New Testament to describe God’s love and Christian love that loves without expectation of love in return.

*“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’” (Luke 10:27).*

**Think About It:** Who do you know that loves you? Do you return that love? Do you know that God loves you. He is the ultimate love. God loves all people, even those who do not love Him in return.



## Altar (AWL-ter)

*Note:* This word can be confusing for children. They learn of altars in the Old Testament, and then they see altars within the church today.

**EC:** The **altar** is a place set aside where people can worship and talk with God.

**EE:** The **altar** can be used to sacrifice to God, as in the Old Testament. It is a place where people talk with God and ask forgiveness.

**ME:** The **altar** is a place where people sacrifice to gods. The **altar** of the Old Testament is where people sacrificed to and worshiped the one true God. Jesus became the once and for all time sacrifice. Christians live their lives to be pleasing to God. The **altar** in a church of today is where people seek forgiveness from God for sin, and talk with Him.

**PT:** The **altar** is a place where people sacrifice to gods. The **altar** of the Old Testament is where people sacrificed to and worshiped the one true God. Jesus became the once and for all time sacrifice. Christians live their lives as “living sacrifices” obediently living to be pleasing to God. The **altar** in a church of today is where people seek forgiveness from God for sin, and talk with Him.

*“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ,” (1 Corinthians 11:1).*

**Think About It:** What are the different types of **altars** that you have seen or heard about? What do you think it means to live to please God so that each day you are putting your whole self on the **altar**?



## Anoint (uh-NOYNT)

**EE/ME:** To put oil on someone's head. Kings, priests, and prophets were **anointed** in the Bible. This act showed that God had chosen them to do something special [important] for Him.

**PT:** To put oil on a person for healing purposes or to show that the person has been called to serve God in a special way. We also say that God **anoints** us when He gives us His Holy Spirit.

*"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and **anoint** him with oil in the name of the Lord," (James 5:14).*

**Think About It:** Have you ever been in a service when someone who needed to be healed was **anointed** with oil? This is one way we can show that we believe in God's faithfulness and power to heal. We can also trust in God to **anoint** us to live for Him. This happens when God calls us to do something special. Do you know anyone **anointed** to serve God?

*Note:* There are times that two age levels are presented together. This simply means that depending upon the development of your child, you can introduce a word successfully with the given definition at either age.





## Antichrist (AN-ti-KRIEST)

**PT:** Any group, individual, or movement that denies Jesus Christ is God's Son and the Savior of the world.

*"Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the **antichrist**—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also," (1 John 2:22-23).*

**Think About It:** What are some ways that people deny Jesus as the Son of God? How do you show your belief in Jesus as the Son of God?

*Note:* The antichrist named in the book of Revelation is the enemy of Jesus. This is something that can be confusing for children and is generally not recommended for discussion in childhood.

## Apostle (uh-PAHS-ul)

**ME/PT:** One who is "sent out" on a special mission for another person. Jesus called certain people to be His **apostles**. These included the 12 disciples and Paul. The task of the **apostles** was to preach the gospel so people would become followers of Jesus Christ.

*"It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up," (Ephesians 4:11-12).*

**Think About It:** God called the first **apostles**. God still calls you to live for Him and share Jesus' love with others. What is one way that you show Jesus' love?



## Armor of God (AHR-mer of GAHD)

**ME:** Our protection against evil. When we put on this **armor** we can stand strong against temptation, and make right choices each day.

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full **armor of God** so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full **armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand,”* (Ephesians 6:10-13).

**Think About It:** Read Ephesians 6:10-18 with your family. Talk about how the **armor of God** helps you to live with courage for Him.

## Ascension (uh-SEN-shun)

**EE:** Jesus’ **ascension** was when He returned to heaven to be with God.

**ME/PT:** Ascend means to move upward. The **ascension** of Jesus Christ was when He “moved upward” and returned to heaven after His resurrection.

*“He [Jesus] was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven,’”* (Acts 1:9-11).

**Think About It:** Have you ever imagined what it will be like when Jesus returns? How would you describe His return? How does it feel to know Jesus will return?



## Assurance (uh-SHOOR-uns)

**PT:** The Holy Spirit gives **assurance** or certainty of salvation to people who believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as Lord and Savior.

*“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full **assurance** of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful,” (Hebrews 10:22-23).*

**Think About It:** God is unswervingly faithful. That means we can count on Him not to change. How do you count on God to keep His promises?

## Atonement (uh-TOHN-munt)

**PT:** All of God’s actions, especially Jesus’ suffering and death on the Cross, which made it possible for people to be freed from sin and live in fellowship with God.

*“For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make **atonement** for the sins of the people,” (Hebrews 2:17).*

**Think About It:** What can you say to Jesus for His work of **atonement**? How can you live to be more like Him?

## Atoning sacrifice (uh-TOHN-ing SAK-ruh-fies)

**PT:** The ultimate **atoning sacrifice** was Jesus’ suffering and death on the Cross, which makes it possible for repentant sinners to receive forgiveness of sin by faith.

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many,” (Mark 10:45).*

**Think About It:** Jesus’ death on the Cross makes it possible for your forgiveness. How can you praise Jesus for this **atoning sacrifice** in something that you do today?