

And JESUS increased in
WISDOM and STATURE
and in FAVOR
with GOD and MAN.
Luke 2:52



Middle School Age (10-14)



Physical Milestones

-Adolescence is a time of change throughout the body.

-A growth spurt usually occurs near the time of puberty.

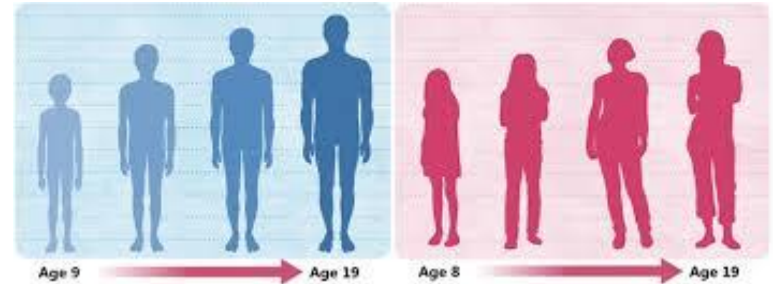
-Girls begin to start their periods.

-Boys grow facial and body hair.

-Weight gain 20-30 lbs (double their weight)

-Height 12-15 inches (3 inches/year)

-To support large increases in height and weight your preteen and teenager will be hungrier, will eat more and need to sleep more.



Cognitive Milestones

- Start to understand concepts like power and influence
- Question things and don't take everything at face value
- Think about how current actions affect the future
- Worry about things like climate change and war
- Memorize information more easily
- Use flexible thinking, like changing approaches as needed
- Begin developing a worldview and a basic set of values
- Want to contribute and make their own money
- ABSTRACT thinking



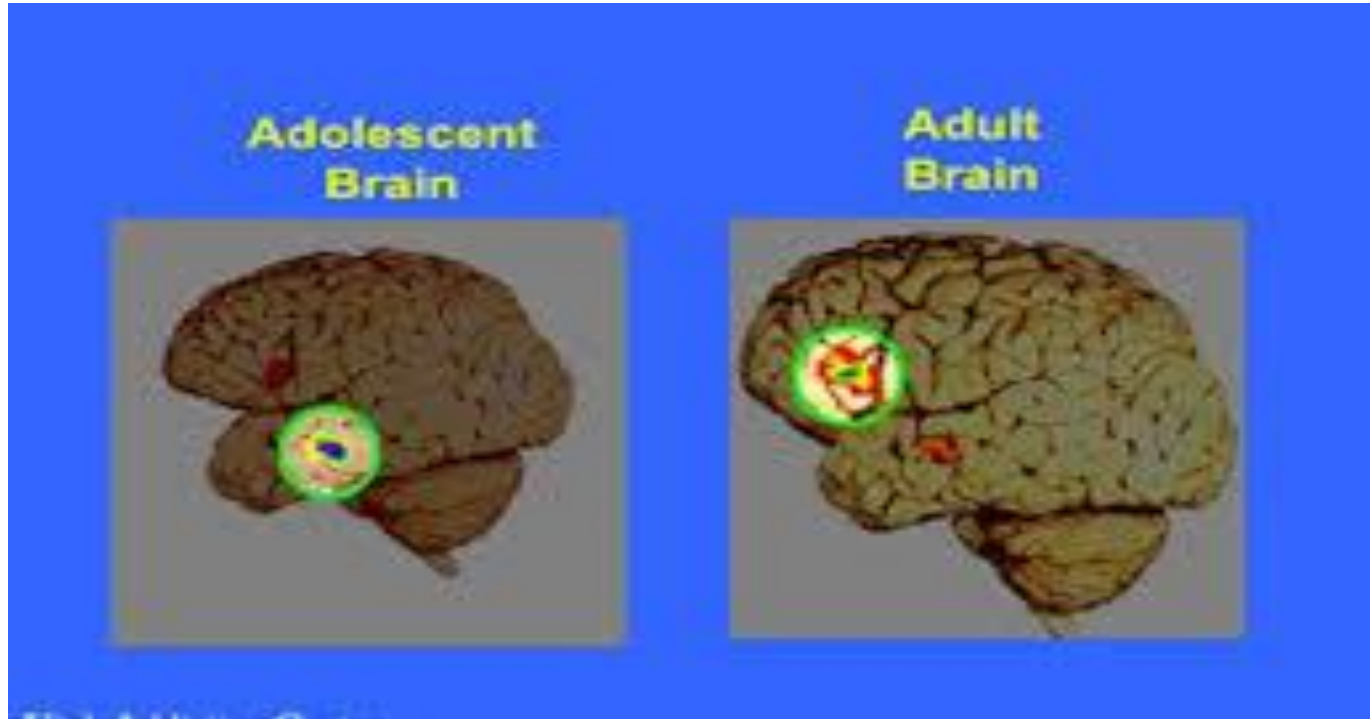
Language Milestones

in middle school, kids often:

- Use metaphors, slang, text speak, and other ways of talking
- Are interested in having discussions, debates, and arguments just for the sake of it)
- Start to “get” attention from body language,
- tone of voice, and other nonverbal language cues
- Go through “what if” scenarios talk through other ways of problem solving
- Use writing/Blogging/Vlogging to describe personal experiences



BRRRRRRRRRAIN !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Social and Emotional Milestones

- [Bow to peer pressure](#) to be like others
- Have experiences with [bullying](#) or [cyberbullying](#)
- Be sensitive to other people's opinions and reactions, and think the whole world is watching them



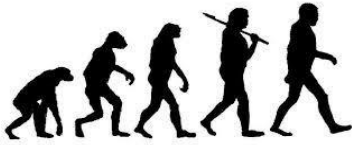
Social and Emotional Milestones

- Develop a sense of pride in accomplishments and awareness of their challenges
- Keep secrets (often just having secrets is more important than the secret they're keeping)
- Have a better awareness of [what's appropriate to say in conversation](#)
- Are introspective and need more privacy
- May test out new clothing styles and try on “personalities” while figuring out where/how to fit in



Topics Introduced In Middle School

Evolution



Homosexuality (LGBT)



Religion



Feminism



Freedom



Pro Choice (Abortion)





**IS THE CHURCH
JUDGEMENTAL,
BORING AND
IRRELEVANT?**



Train up a child in
the way he should go:
and when he is old, he
will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Spiritual Milestones

Regular prayer: “O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear your word, and understand and do your will, for I am a sojourner upon the Earth.” St John Chrysostom

Church service:

Singing spiritual songs: Music is powerful, it changes your mood, the way you feel, and change your heart. Be careful what music you allow in your soul, it can and will control you.

Rev Up Sunday School:



**10 OF THE BIGGEST COMPLAINTS YOU'LL HEAR
ABOUT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

...and how to fix them

Have More Fun:

- Do something different each week. Hitting a doughnut shop once a quarter might not be a bad idea!
- Try meeting in a different room once in a while. Meet outside when the weather permits.
- Talk about whatever interests your kids. Let kids tell you what would be fun for them; then do whatever is feasible.
- Allow for something crazy now and then, such as having an air-band contest using kids' favorite Christian artist tapes.
- Make learning fun. Don't play games for the fun part and then make kids sit down and shut up for a serious Bible study. Play games kids like, if they can be tied into the class theme. Having fun studying the Bible can get kids excited about scripture.
- Have kids act out Bible stories. Or use creative writing and have kids write advice to Bible characters facing a decision.

Bible Application is Weak

- Listen to your kids. Ask them what they think; what they feel.
- Don't settle for pat answers. Kids will talk to you if they know you really care and will listen.
- Find out what issues are really bothering kids, then tailor your lessons to hit those issues.
- Look over the lessons for the coming quarter and decide which ones can be slanted to cover the topics your kids need to learn about. If some just don't fit, find a different approach. For example, if kids want to talk about the pressure to have the right "things," take them to a mall for a Bible study on God's view of possessions.
- Help kids serve. These kids can be doing things. They can be helping the poor and getting involved in community needs, Kids are old enough to help others and will love it if given the chance. Arrange to take your kids to a nearby homeless shelter or an elderly person's home.
- Let kids clean, paint, rake, shovel or whatever is needed. And when it's all over, talk about why they did it.

