

# 8 & 9 Year Olds

## Age Group Characteristics

### Emotional

- *For most, it is a time of high self-esteem*
- *Developing a sense of humor*
- *Have gained some control of emotional outbursts*
- *Beginning to experience guilt*

### Mental

- *Learning to express thoughts in writing*
- *Beginning to read between the lines*
- *Can remember more than one thing at a time*
- *Think in terms of steps and processes*
- *Developing a better concept of time*

### Spiritual

- *They can feel a personal closeness to God*
- *They pray with tremendous faith*
- *Everything is black or white*

### Physical

- *Beginning to participate in sports activities*
- *Boys and girls start developing different characteristics.*

### Social

- *Tensions develop between opposite sexes*
- *Developing better group skills*
- *Deep respect for adult authority*
- *Heroes*



### Teaching 8 & 9 Year Olds

- *Plan activities that will utilize their ability to interpret what they read. Allow them to think about what took place in the story and whether it was right or wrong or why someone acted as they did.*
- *Encourage them in their faith and habit of prayer.*
- *Help them understand that guilt leads us to God.*
- *Teach them the unconditional nature of God's love.*
- *Point them toward Christian heroes and role models.*